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Anaconda Times

OCTOBER 24, 2007 PROUDLY SERVING LSA ANACONDA

Photo by Sgt. Jasmine Chopra

Joint Distro Center

Servicemembers come together to work toward one mission

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Web Image

Pets: Why give them up?

Beware of furry little critters, they carry a killer disease

Page 4

Web Image

Weekly sports

Check out this week's football picks, new sports column

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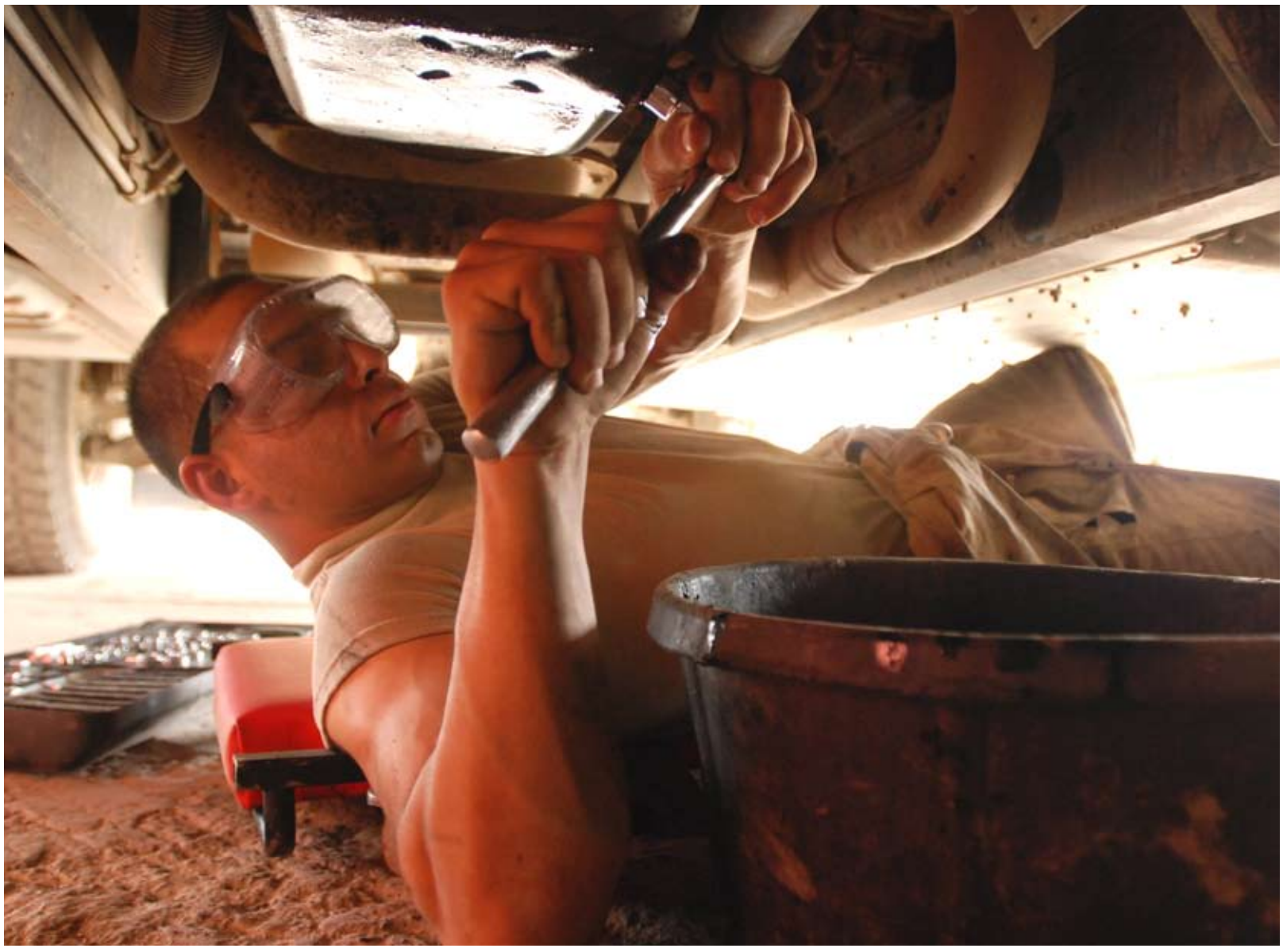

Photo by Spc. Jennifer L. Sierra

Pfc. Richard Soto, an all-wheeled vehicle mechanic with the 403rd Inland Cargo Transportation Company, tightens the oil pan plug with a rachet after draining the oil out of a humvee here. The 403rd is one of the 13th CSSB's down trace units which ensure vehicles are properly maintained before heading out on combat logistic patrols in support of the 316th ESC's, theatre wide logistics mission.

Working together toward one mission

by Spc. Jennifer L. Sierra
Anaconda Times staff

LSA ANACONDA, Iraq — The mission of the 316th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) is to provide command and control of logistical needs throughout the area of operations in Iraq. However, this task would not be possible if it were not for the dedication of the 213th Area Support Group's (ASG) supply team, commonly known as the S-4.

The S-4 serves as an intermediary between the 316th and its subordinate units. They ensure units have what they require in order to complete their mission.

> "We make it easier for companies to get their job done instead of worrying where to get new up-armor items, such as safety glass for turret gunners."
>
> Capt. Chad Moore
> 213th ASG

"We want to make sure subordinate units have everything they need so they can focus on their mission," said Capt. Chad Moore, the 213th ASG brigade staff logistics officer in charge.

Master Sgt. James Montes, the brigade S-4 noncommissioned officer in charge with the 213th, echoed Moore's mission statement. "If they can't get something they need for their mission, we get it for them," he said.

For example, the 13th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion (CSSB) is one of the many units which benefits from the ASG's mission.

"The 213th ASG, specifically the S-4 and SPO (support operations) sections, serve as an 'extension' to the efforts rendered by the 13th CSSB. They are the 'bosses.' Where we can't, they can in this tedious, meticulous task we are charged with in this fight on terror," said Sgt. 1st Class Tony R. O'Neal, the battalion maintenance supervisor for the 13TH CSSB.

According to O'Neal, this support relationship allows the 13th CSSB to successfully carry out its part of the 316th's logistics mission.

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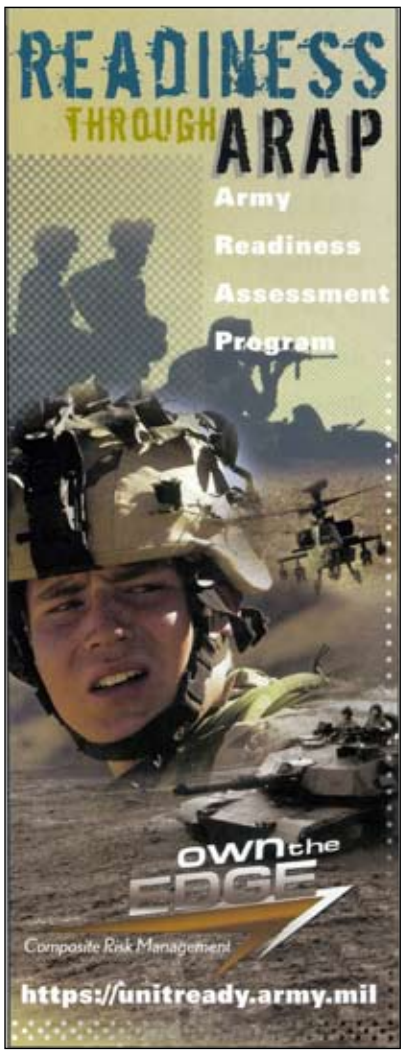

Leaders, Soldiers meet with CRC to discuss safety

by Staff Sgt. Dave Lankford
Anaconda Times staff

LSA ANACONDA, Iraq — Leaders gathered here recently to discuss safety objectives as well as what can be done to insure every measure is taken to keep troops safe on the ground.

Col. Anthony Saab of the U. S. Army Combat Readiness Team, (CRC), based out of Ft. Rucker, AL, sat down with Soldiers and leaders here to learn what their main safety concerns are. This was one of many stops for the CRC on their 30-day tour of Iraq.

The main purpose of their visit was to discuss the safety of Soldiers here in Iraq, and introduce the Army Readiness Assessment Program (ARAP). To accomplish this, Col. Saab met with commanders concerning the safety of their Soldiers and units, as well as met with the Soldiers themselves, said Warrent Officer Joseph Majid, the 316th ESC's safety officer.

Members of the CRC met with Soldiers in the form of a sensing session, with a minimum of 15 Soldiers who were willing to air concerns. However, the turn-out may have proved larger than expected

"Safety officials were not permitted in the sensing sessions for privacy reasons so there may have been more," Majid said.

The second objective was to discuss ARAP, which is a web-based program that examines safety initiatives at the battalion level. This gives commanders true data on their unit's readiness posture. It is a program which is intended to assess leadership, communication and policies as they relate to composite risk management.

The ARAP program is scheduled to be discussed in more detail at a safety conference to be held here Oct. 25. All senior leaders are encouraged to attend; but, the conference is open to everyone.

Courtesy photo

From left to right: Col. John Campbell, Brig. Gen. Gregory E. Couch, and Col. Anthony Sabb.

Provost Marshal Office: Weekly police blotter

Week of Oct. 7- 13

The PMO conducted: (142) security checks, (30) traffic stops, issued (21) DD Form 1408 Armed Forces Traffic Ticket, registered (126) vehicles on the installation, (25) Common Access Cards were turned in to PMO, and (0) lost weapons were reported.

The PMO is currently investigating: (1) assault case, (6) cases of Larceny involving Personal/Government Property, and (2) General Order-1 violation.

PMO Recommendations: Traffic Accident-Safety is paramount during traffic accidents. Immediately stop your vehicle if involved in a traffic accident. Render aid to any injured personnel, if able. Request assistance from other motorists until emergency responders arrive on-scene. Do not depart (flee) the scene of an accident, and ensure the accident is immediately reported to your unit first sergeant and/or commander. Pull your vehicle immediately over (not impeding the flow of traffic). All vehicle occupants will remain inside of vehicle when pulled over, unless asked to exit the vehicle by the patrolman. Practice situational awareness while operating of any vehicle.

Crime Prevention: Contact your appropriate housing office for replacement of exterior pod lights. Personal safety awareness: never leave your door unlocked, always secure personal and government items and never travel alone, when possible.

Photo by Nic Wagner

The Provost Marshal Office believes in "one team, one fight" as they make their move and cross the finish line during the shadow Army 10-Miler here Oct. 7. From left to right (Air Force): Senior Master Sgt Brian Creswell, Staff Sgt. Tamara Acfalle, Senior Airman Patrick Gargan and Staff Sgt. Jeremy Gamache.

ANACONDA TIMES 316th ESC Commanding General, Brig. Gen. Gregory E. Couch

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12th Combat Aviation Brigade
402nd Army Field Support Brigade
20th Engineer Brigade
213th Area Support Group
1/82nd Brigade Combat Team
3rd Sustainment Brigade
82nd Sustainment Brigade
507th Corps Support Group
1st Sustainment Brigade
CJSOTF-AP

The longest serving safety officer in Iraq

by Spc. Jay Venturini
Anaconda Times staff

LSA ANACONDA, Iraq — For many servicemembers stationed here, serving honorably and getting on a plane that will take them back to the states is their main goal. However, for Sgt. Major Kenneth Hinckley, a Forces Command safety officer attached to the 316th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), it is not.

Hinckley is the longest serving safety officer in Iraq. His tour started at Camp Liberty with the 1st Combat Aviation Brigade in Nov. 2004. He later served under the 3rd Infantry Division, the 4th ID and the 256th Brigade Combat Team (BCT) before transferring to LSA Anaconda in Dec. 2006.

"I stayed here because I wanted to make a difference in safety," said Hinckley. "I saw these staggering numbers of people being killed and I said 'I've got to do something about this.'"

Hinckley has gone on over 200 convoys and patrols with different units to see if Soldiers were following proper safety procedures.

"Every Soldier is a safety officer," said Hinckley. "All I can do is instruct people to where they become safety officers, and that's from privates to generals."

"I get mad at every accident, because most of them are preventable. They occur due to leaders not enforcing safety procedures like seatbelts and gunner harnesses. Safety is a human trait; it is not a mechanical one," he ardently remarked.

Along with being an enforcer when it comes to safety, Hinckley believes in mentoring young Soldiers in all aspects of the Army.

"A sergeant major's job is to mentor and educate young Soldiers and young NCOs; that's our main mission. If we don't do that, we're failures," said Hinckley.

Hinckley, who has over 30 years in the active Army, including being a combat medic with the 356th BCT from the Florida National Guard, has always known what he wanted to do in life.

Hinckley comes from a family rich in military history. His father was one of the first master chiefs in the Air Force. His twin brother, Keith Hinckley is a retired sergeant major, who is returning to LSA Anaconda as a contractor. He also has two sons in the Army, Jarrod Hinckley, who is a combat medic, and Andrew Hinckley, who is also in the medical field. He is also a proud grandfather of eight grandchildren.

"I picked up an Army training manual when I was very young and saw pictures of Soldiers shooting rifles and throwing grenades and I said 'they'll pay you to do this?' and I knew right then what I was going to do with my life," said Hinckley. "I'll stay until I'm 60 (years old). They'll have to cut the uniform off of me," he stated.

Courtesy photo

Sgt. Maj. Kenneth Hinckley, a Forces Command safety officer, pictured here with fellow Soldiers is the longest serving safety officer in Iraq.

> "A sergeant major's job is to mentor and educate young Soldiers and young NCOs; that's our main mission. If we don't do that, we're failures."
>
> Sgt. Maj. Kenneth Hinckley
> Force Comm.

Worship services

PROTESTANT – TRADITIONAL
Sunday 7:30 a.m. Air Force Hospital Chapel
9:30 a.m. Provider Chapel
10:30 a.m. Freedom Chapel (West Side)
5:30 p.m. Tuskegee Chapel (H-6)
7:30 p.m. Air Force Hospital Chapel

PROTESTANT-GOSPEL
Sunday 11 a.m. MWR East Building
Noon Freedom Chapel (West Side)
2 p.m. Air Force Hospital Chapel
3:30 p.m. Tuskegee Chapel (H-6)
7 p.m. Provider Chapel

PROTESTANT-CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP
Sunday 9 a.m. MWR East Building
10 a.m. Town Hall(H-6)
2 p.m. Freedom Chapel (West Side)
6:30 p.m. Eden Chapel
7 p.m. Freedom Chapel (West Side)
Wednesday 8 p.m. Tuskegee Chapel(H-6)

PROTESTANT –LITURGICAL
Sunday 9 a.m. Episcopal (Freedom Chapel)
11 a.m. Lutheran (Provider Annex)
11 a.m. Episcopal (Tuskegee H-6)

PROTESTANT- MESSIANIC
Friday 7 p.m. Freedom Chapel

PROTESTANT-PRAYER SERVICE
Saturday 7 a.m. Signal Chapel

PROTESTANT-SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST
Saturday 9 a.m. Provider Annex

PROTESTANT-CHURCH OF CHRIST
Sunday 2 p.m. Tuskegee Chapel (H-6)

ROMAN CATHOLIC MASS
(Sacrament of Reconciliation 30 min prior to Mass)
Saturday 5 p.m. Tuskegee Chapel (H-6)
8 p.m. Freedom Chapel (West side)
9:30 p.m. Air Force Hospital Chapel
Sunday 9 a.m. Tuskegee Chapel (H-6)
11 a.m. Provider Chapel
Mon-Sat 5 p.m. Tuskegee Chapel (H-6)

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MEETING
Sunday 2 p.m. MWR West

LATTER DAY SAINTS- (LDS)-(MORMON)
Sunday 1 p.m. Provider Chapel
3:30 p.m. Freedom Chapel
7 p.m. Tuskegee Chapel (H-6)

JEWISH SHABBAT SERVICES
Friday 7 p.m. Signal Chapel

ISLAMIC SERVICES
Friday 12 p.m. Provider Chapel

PAGAN/WICCAN FELLOWSHIP
Thursday 7 p.m. Eden Chapel

BUDDHIST FELLOWSHIP
Tuesday 7 p.m. Eden Chapel

2-147th father and son pilots work together in Iraq

by Sgt. Brandon Little
12th Combat Aviation Brigade

LSA ANACONDA, Iraq — Chief Warrant Officer Tim Kelly has been a pilot for almost 40 years. During these four decades, he has been on two combat tours in Vietnam and flown with many other pilots.

However, this deployment with Task Force XII has given him a once in a lifetime opportunity … to fly with his son.

"We've flown together on four missions so far," said Kelly, a UH-60 Black Hawk pilot with B Co. 2nd Battalion, 147th Aviation Regiment. "He's doing a great job. He reminds me a little of myself when I was younger."

His son, Chief Warrant Officer Ben Kelly, is also a pilot in B Co.

"Having gone through so much training in flight school, I already knew a lot but he did teach me a few tips and tricks to flying," said Kelly's son. "I have a lot of respect for his experience."

Sometimes a pilot's knowledge and experience can be the difference between life and death.

"I know that he's my son, but in the cockpit we are both professional," said Kelly. "When I think about him sitting next to me, it feels a little different but I have to treat him the same as I do any other pilot."

Photo by Sgt. Brandon Little

(From left to right) Chief Warrant Officers Tim and Ben Kelly, UH-60 Black Hawk pilots with B Co. 2nd Battalion, 147th Aviation Regiment fly together as a father son team in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Ben Kelly has not made it to the position of pilot in command of the aircraft yet; so when they fly together, his father knows best.

"One pilot has to operate the aircraft and the other has to operate the radio," said Tim Kelly. "It works better when both pilots alternate these responsibilities."

The elder Kelly would know what works best. In addition to the Black Hawk, he has flown CH-47 Chinooks, OH-58 Kiowa Warriors, Bell UH-1s or "Hueys" and even the fixed wing C-12 Huron.

"My father had a big role in my decision to become a pilot," said Ben Kelly. "When I was younger, he flew planes for a civilian company (in addition to military aircraft) and he let me fly with him."

The fact that this father and son team deployed together was more than a coincidence.

Tim Kelly, the father, was a colonel in the Oregon National Guard. When he learned his son's National Guard unit in Hawaii was scheduled to deploy to Iraq, he decided he wanted to hop back in the saddle one last time.

"I wanted to finish out my career the way it started, as a pilot, not behind a desk," said the senior Kelly.

Since he had started out his pilot career as a warrant officer, his state adjutant general allowed him to be transferred to his son's unit only if he took a reduction in rank.

> "We've flown on four missions together so far. He's doing a great job. He reminds me a little of myself when I was younger."
>
> Chief Warrent Officer Tim Kelly
> 147th AVN REG

"I thought it would be cool to fly together," said Ben Kelly. "I also thought it would be an opportunity for us to spend time together."

The Kelly's aren't the only father and son duo in the 2-147th.

Staff Sgt. John Lowe and his son, Pfc. Cody Lowe, are helicopter maintainers in the 2nd Battalion, 147th Aviation Regiment.

Although a father and son both serving in the military is not uncommon, they say, it is a once in a life-time opportunity to serve at the same time.

"I thought one day this would be a good story to tell my grandson," said Tim Kelly. "I'd tell him about how his dad and I flew over Baghdad together."

Airman sustains 'million-dollar' neck wound in combat

by Tech. Sgt. D. Clare
332nd Air Expeditionary Wing PA

BALAD AIR BASE, Iraq — Airman 1st Class Michael Brady, a combat cameraman for the 732nd Air Expeditionary Group, received the Purple Heart and the Iraqi Campaign Medal from Brig. Gen. Burt Field, the 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing commander, at the Air Force Theater Hospital (AFTH) here Oct. 14.

The Airman, who deployed from Vandenberg Air Force Base, Calif., was performing an "in-lieu-of" tasking for the Army by providing visual information support for soldiers when he was wounded in the neck by enemy fire near Ad Diwaniyah, Iraq, Oct. 12.

Brady received initial treatment at the 28th Combat Support Hospital in Baghdad. Despite the severity of his injury, doctors at the AFTH said Brady will likely recover the ability to speak.

"They told me in Baghdad that this was a million dollar wound (like in Forrest Gump)," he wrote in a letter to his family in the company of his fellow Airmen after receiving the medals.

According to Col. Karl Bosworth, 732nd AEG commander, the Air Force is arranging to have Brady's parents meet him at Walter Reed Army Medical Center where he is expected to recover.

"Sending a wounded warrior home is one of the most emotional parts of our job," said Bosworth. "And we're very thankful and blessed that Michael is going to go home to recover. Sending him home to his family is a very good thing."

The 732nd AEG is responsible for more than 1,400 Airmen performing "in-lieu-of" taskings in Iraq. These Airmen fill a variety of non-traditional combat and combat support missions to augment the Army.

Photo by Master Sgt. John Nimmo, Sr.

Airman 1st Class Michael Brady, a 732nd Air Expeditionary Group combat cameraman, receives the Iraq Campaign Medal and the Purple Heart from Brig. Gen. Burton M. Field, commander of the 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing, at the Air Force Theater Hospital here Oct. 14.

"We have a lot of Airmen out there fulfilling some very challenging tasks. They're patrolling with the Army and engaging the enemy," said Bosworth. "When someone is injured, it affects us all because we're a family."

No mongoose were harmed in the writing of this editorial - OK, just one…but he asked for it

by Staff Sgt. Dave Lankford
Anaconda Times staff

Web Image

LSA ANACONDA, Iraq — Dear Mrs. Lankford, we regret to inform you that your son was killed by a big friggin' bird…

It may sound crazy, but back in '96, I spent a few months with the 2nd Royal Australian Regiment in Townsville, Australia. Naturally, we had numerous safety briefs before we left. But of all the creepy, crawly things that inhabit the otherwise spectacular country, the one a lot of us feared most was a very large, flightless bird called the cassowary. This thing looks like a cross between a six-foot tall, blue turkey and a T-Rex, and from what we were told, it kills more people in Australia every year than crocodiles or sharks.

Fate has a lot of options when deciding how we meet our maker. Some people slip away peacefully in their sleep while others go out in a blaze of glory on the battlefield. One thing I know for sure, I don't want my headstone to read, "He put up one hell of a fight, but in the end, Big Bird took him out."

So what's the point? There are no killer birds in Iraq. This is true, but it has just come to my attention that some of the local mongoose population may have joined the insurgency. One of the little buggers is now chillin' with 70 virgin varmints at the big habitrail in the sky. I know what you're thinking; it was just a cute, fuzzy little mongoose. But this little critter was packing a serious payload…rabies.

According to Dr. Charles Rupprecht, Chief of the Rabies (from rabies) Program at the Centers for Disease Control, rabies is an acute progressive encephalitis. All mammals are potential carriers and can transmit the virus through a bite or scratch. Bats and carnivores are among the most common reservoirs.

"More than 55,000 people die each year, usually in developing countries of Asia, Africa, and Latin America. Rabies has the highest case to fatality rate of any infectious disease. Once clinical signs appear, death occurs within 7 to 10 days. There is no cure," said Rupprecht.

Now, Dr. Rupprecht is an expert in his field, but let's face it, anytime a medical doctor says the words "no cure," I'm going to get a second opinion from someone I know and trust. So, I asked Master Sgt. Patrick Cavanaugh, the 316th medical operations noncommissioned officer in charge, for a second opinion. I didn't like his answer either.

Staff Sgt. Dave Lankford

"You're gonna die. It's 99.9 percent fatal. There's a few cases of people that have made it through and not died, but for the most part it's guaranteed," Cavanaugh said. "You're gonna die."

Now, I've known Master Sgt. Cavanaugh long enough to know that when he gives you his medical opinion you can pretty much bet the farm on it. But don't worry; I'm not going to give you the bad news without the silver lining.

Everyone has heard horror stories of the endless series of rabies shots in the stomach required to treat the virus, but that's not even the worst part.

"In the old days the shot was made of horse serum, and you could have a reaction to the horse serum; it was pretty gruesome, but it was still better than death," said Cavanaugh.

Yeah, just barely if you ask me. But, here's the silver lining I promised you; the shots are no longer made of horse serum and they are no longer injected in the stomach. The best part is, when the rabies vaccination is administered before clinical signs appear you will live. I say again, you will live.

As always, an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. The best advice is the same thing you've been told since your first days in the military…leave the wild life alone. An animal's normal behavior is to avoid humans. Very rarely will a wild animal approach a human. So what appears to be a sign of affability or even affection may be symptoms of rabies, Cavanaugh said.

A person who is bitten might say, "it wasn't afraid of me, so I was going keep it as a pet," or, "I love all animals…even if they're foaming at the mouth." Cavanaugh has heard it all before, and is not one to mince words. His response to excuses like these is simple; "You're an idiot. Don't handle the wildlife."

Now, my understanding is that the Soldier bitten by the insurgent mongoose was not doing anything wrong. The sneaky little varmint infiltrated his building, and when the Soldier politely asked it to leave it bit him right through his boot. The next time, instead of the mouth, the Soldier needs to put his boot in the mongoose's fourth point of contact.

It may seem like I'm singling out our little mongoose friends, but Rikki Tikki Tavi isn't the only offender. Again, any mammal can contract and spread rabies. The important thing is to watch the animal's behavior, and if you are bitten report it. Sure, it is against regulations to keep pets here, but you will heal a lot quicker from an article 15 than you will from being dead.

As Soldiers, we all know if something does not look right it is probably not. Stay safe out there, and leave the wildlife alone.

Combat Stress
Control
785th Medical Company (CSC)
433-2402

Individual counseling by appointment or walk-in

Command referrals

Services for combat and operationally stressed soldiers

Relaxation Techniques
Monday to Saturday
3:30 to 4 p.m.

Stress Management
Monday and Thursday
10 to 11 a.m.

Home Front Issues
Monday and Thursday
5 to 6 p.m.

Conflict Resolution
Wednesday and Saturday
11 a.m. to noon

Anger Management
Tuesday and Friday
11 a.m. to noon

Anxiety Awareness
Wednesday
3 to 3:30 p.m.
Saturday
10:30 to 11 a.m.

Sleep Hygiene
Monday and Thursday
6 to 6:30 p.m.

Goal Setting
Monday and Thursday
11 a.m. to noon

Depression Awareness
Wednesday
2 to 3 p.m.
Saturday
10 to 10:30 a.m.

Communication Skills
Tuesday and Friday
10 to 11 a.m.

Relationship Skills
Wednesday
9 to 11 a.m.

for more information, email: tammy.phipps@us.army.mil
433-2402

National American Indian Heritage Month

by Staff Sgt. Leander Yazzie

A Batterty, 5-5 Air Defense Artillery

With the approach of American Indian month, we thought we would take a minute and share a bit of the culture with you as we prepare for a full month's activities throughout November. Please feel free to participate in all events and become a little more knowledgeable on the rich history and culture of our fellow American Indian servicemembers.

"Fry bread Blues" will be the theme of one of the many events that will take place in November. Festivities are scheduled to begin at 6 p.m., Nov. 17 (location to be determined). The following is a brief history of how the fry bread came to be.

As with many cultures around the world, Native Americans have an all-purpose flat bread that is a staple of their cuisine. Fry bread is considered a food of intertribal unity and is made at all Indian powwows. The dough is a variation of that used for flour tortillas, consisting of wheat flour, shortening, salt, and water, leavened with baking powder or yeast. Navajo Fry Bread is a regional favorite of Arizona and New Mexico, and fry bread with honey butter is a specialty of New Mexico.

Although considered a "traditional food," Navajo fry bread actually evolved in the mid-19th century. Beginning in 1860, approximately 8,000 Navajos spent four years imprisoned at Fort Summer, New Mexico and were given little more than white flour and lard to eat. American scout Kit Carson and his troops drove the Navajo people from their lands by destroying their means of survival. They killed sheep, goats, and horses; poisoned wells; burned orchards and crops; and destroyed shelters and anything else that was of value to the Navajo. Carson and his troops then rounded up thousands of starving Navajo and sent them on the "Long Walk" to Fort Sumner at Bosque Redondo, New Mexico. This was truly one of the saddest events in American history.

The U.S. government provided those on the reservation with wheat flour as part of a commodities program. Because of this, lard and wheat flour became the main ingredients in the making of Navajo fry bread. The Navajo women had to make the best of what was often considered poor-quality rations in reservation camps and the varying availability of government-issued commodities. They thus created fry bread.

If you are interested in future activities or would like to volunteer to help during American Indian Heritage Month, please contact Staff Sgt. Kurt W. Chebatoris at DSN (318) 433-2011 or email: kurt.chebatoris@iraq.centcom.mil.

Scheduled events for November

Nov. 10: Heritage Hunt

Nov. 22: Thanksgiving

Nov. 25: 5k Run

Nov. 30: Powwow

Thursdays in November: Movies with American Indian themes will be played every Thursday at the MWR building

Dinning facilities will have Native American displays throughout the month of November.

***All activities and events are subject to change.*

Photo by Pfc. Gaelen Lowers

(Above and below)The installation winner of Operation Rising Star, an Army wide competition, Sgt. Jason Mead of Sierra Vista, Ariz. and the 582nd Field Artillery, sings at Forward Operating Base Q-West Oct. 14.

A new star has risen at Q-West

by Pfc. Gaelen Lowers

3rd Sustainment Brigade

FOB Q-WEST, Iraq — The Army had a new rising star Oct. 16 when Sgt. Jason Mead, Bravo Co., 582nd Field Artillery, won the Operation Rising Star competition here.

Operation Rising Star, sponsored by the Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation Command, is a worldwide singing competition building on the success of Military Idol and moving the program into a new and exciting era. It has modeled itself off of the television hit show American Idol. The contest is open to active duty, National Guard and Reserve personnel from all service branches and gives cash prizes ranging from 3rd place to 1st place receiving $100 to $500 respectively. The first place installation winner gets an additional $500 which goes to that Soldier's unit's funds.

Local Operation Rising Star competitions are scheduled for 42 installations and camps across the United States, Germany, Iraq, Japan and Korea.

Mead, who also won FOB Q-West's local singing competition Q-West Idol, said that it felt pretty good to win the competition. He said he had never really sang in front of an audience before and was just seeing if the shoe fit.

The top winners from each installation will be paired against each other through the first round of competition where only judges vote. The judges will select the top 12 performers to advance to the on-line finals. The web-viewing audience will then determine the top six finalists to advance to the final round. The final round will be voted on by web viewing audience only and the winning performer will be named the 2007 Military Rising Star and will win a cash prize of $2000, 2nd and 3rd place winners will win $1000 and $500 respectively.

The 2007 Army wide finals will be hosted on-line at www.OpRisingStar.com.

Online viewers will vote Nov. 13 through 26 for their favorites to help narrow the field to six finalists. Online voting between Nov. 27 and Dec. 3 will determine the Army wide winner, which will be announced Dec. 7.

Courtesy story

(From front left to right) Cpl. Amy Marano, 3-158 AVN, Staff Sgt. Rogelio Cortez, 5-158 AVN, Pfc. Damaris Rivera, 2-159 AVN, Pfc. Janell Ritz, 5-158 AVN and Spc. David Olson, David 2-147 AVN. (Back row: left to right) Spc. Lacarno Billips, 2-159 AVN, Pvt. Benedict Victoriano, 2-159 AVN, Spc. Marc Williams, 412th SPT BN and Spc. Christopher Goldman, 412th SPT BN.

Convoy Café Wins Quarterly Food Service Award

by Maj. Christopher E. West
316th ESC

LSA ANACONDA, Iraq — Looking for a great place to eat that has a warm, friendly, professional staff and offers a cozy atmosphere to satisfy your appetite? Looking for an eatery that features a full complement of dining choices, including a full service main line, a snack line, a salad bar, a soup bar, and a wide array of beverages? Well look no further than the Convoy Café located here on the west side of the base. This dining facility (DFAC) recently won the best DFAC award for the 2007 fourth fiscal quarter which recognizes outstanding food service operations.

"This award recognizes excellence in food service sustainment operations here. It is not just focused on the military, but the teamwork involved between KBR, the Tamimi staff (a KBR subcontractor), and the military contracting officer technical representatives," said Lt. Col. Charles E. Frost, the 316th ESC assistant chief of staff for logistics and also a DFAC inspecting official.

Competing against five other DFACs here, the Convoy Café crew out bested its contenders by effortlessly exceeding the standards of the 97 question food service inspection checklist. Key areas evaluated included food preparation, food sanitation, food presentation, administrative reports, maintenance, and customer satisfaction.

"We are honored to win this award," said Staff Sgt. Rogelio B. Cortez, the noncommissioned officer in charge of the DFAC. "We have a well-trained staff of military and civilian workers who prepare and serve healthy delicious meals each and every day. We train as a team and take pride in providing our customers with one of the best dining environments in the military. As a matter of fact, we plan on making this award a permanent quarterly tradition for the remainder of our tour here," he further remarked.

A crystal like plaque was presented to the food service team by Col. Ralph Romine, the LSA Anaconda garrison commander, during a recent ceremony Oct. 9. Individual certificates of recognition were also presented by Frost to the military and Tamimi staff for their superior food service support.

"The Convoy Café is not only a great place to eat, but it is also a great place to get away from the daily grind of the mission, and with football season up and running, fans now have a place to unwind, to root for their favorite team, and to keep up with the latest scores," said Cortez.

Courtesy photo

(From left to right) Rewat Bahadur Magar, Uzzal Mandal, Dudhraj Bomjan, Atiq ur Rahman, Aita b Rai, Suman Hhan, and Omkar Kandel.

LOGISTICS, from Cover

"The 13th CSSB mission is just a small but significant part of the 316th ESC's mission, from the combat power of its critical fleet, to the tracking of in-bound and the pushing out of invaluable supplies and materials needed by the many other war fighters in our theatre of operation," he said.

Moore stressed the importance of ensuring that subordinate units have everything necessary to accomplish their mission.

"We make it easier for companies to get their job done instead of worrying where to get new up-armor items, such as safety glass for turret gunners… We are here to help them get items not commonly available through the Army supply system," he said.

"Our number one job is making sure the Soldiers that are leaving the base have everything they need to accomplish their mission," he further remarked.

Photo by Spc. Jennifer L. Sierra

Staff Sgt. Myrna Rivera, platoon sergeant with the 240th QM Co., works on a generator at the 13th CSSB motor pool.

Editorial Note for Oct. 17 AT

The centerspread in the Oct. 17 edition of the Anaconda Times contained an error in spelling. The correct spelling should read as follows: Command Sgt. Maj. Stacey E. Davis.

At the public affairs office we endeavor to provide accurate information in our stories and photo informaton. If you find any errors please notify us via email at: anaconda.times@iraq.centcom.mil

Command Sgt. Maj. Stacey E. Davis

Pushing pallets through

Photo by Sgt. Jasmine Chopra

Lance Cpl. Christian Martinez a traffic management specialist with Combat Logistics Battalion 1, affixes a net over a pallet loaded with supplies that will be transported to an Army camp in western Iraq Oct. 11, here. Marines, Army, Air Force, Navy, and civilian transporters team up to make sure supplies get to where they need to be when they need to be there.

by Sgt. Jasmine Chopra

Anaconda Times staff

AL ASAD, Iraq — By working as a team, Army, Marine, Navy, Air Force and civilian transporters move supplies here a whole lot faster than before to the troops who need them.

At the Joint Distribution Center (JDC) you will see partnerships in action throughout the immense area.

The JDC is the central point of cargo routing via ground convoy or airlift.

Servicemembers at the JDC receive, stage, document and coordinate distribution of equipment and supplies for the benefit of troops on forward operating bases, combat outposts and fighting positions throughout theater, said Navy Lt. Craig Bishop, JDC officer-in-charge, with Cargo Transfer Platoon 3.

"It truly is a joint operation and cargo is touched by Army, Navy, Air Force and Marines," he said. "This is a unique environment for Navy cargo handlers and a once in a lifetime opportunity," said Bishop. "We are supporting Soldiers and whenever possible we airlift cargo. Anything we can get on airlift means it's not going to go on a convoy which means we have helped keep Soldiers off dangerous roads," he said. "It's not our normal mission, but it's one we are happy to do."

Various types of stock, including everything from water to medical supplies, to heavy machinery and vehicles, rolls through the JDC. Transporters work seven days a week, 12 hours a day.

By recently consolidating logistical agencies into one location, supplies are moving through quicker and with less hassle.

"We used to push about 50 pallets (of supplies) a day, now that we are all centrally located, we are close to about 200 pallets in a given day," said Bishop. "That's with the same amount of manpower."

Some of that equipment moved includes Marine howitzers and light armored vehicles which are transported to positions throughout western Iraq by Army personnel.

"It truly is a joint oper
touched by Army, Navy,
rines.This is a unique env
cargo handlers and a onc
portunity."

"Marines don't have the ca
heavy gear, so we help them
out," said Spc. Maxim Melam
and equipment operator with the
fer Company.

Melamed said he has drive
Navy, vehicles for Marines, wor
side-by-side with Air Force t
specialists and while he initial
there might be tension, growin
have led to great working rela
ships.

"I had preconceived notions, but when you are all working the same mission, pretty much all that matters is, 'can you do your job well and get the mission done?'" he said. "It really doesn't matter where you trained or what component you are with, making sure stuff gets to the proper location quickly is what matters.

Photo by Sgt. Jasmine Chopra

. Christopher Lawrence, a truck driver with the 25th Transportation Company, secures a howitzer to the flatbed of an Army heavy equipment transporter.

partnerships

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Navy Lt. Craig Bishop
Cargo Transfer Plt. 3

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Photo by Sgt. Jasmine Chopra

Marine Lance Corporals Christian Martinez (left) and Geremy Jones (right) both traffic management specialists with Combat Logistics Battalion 1, build pallets filled with supplies bound for camps throughout Western Iraq.

1st BSTB secures Iraqi highways alongside Iraqis

by 1st BSTB Staff
1/82nd Brigade Combat Team

Courtesy Photo

Iraqi Highway Patrolmen and 1st BSTB Soldiers train on search techniques.

SOUTHERN Iraq— The 1st Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division is partnering with Iraqi Security Forces and Iraqi civilians to secure highways crucial to coalition convoys and local commerce.

From conducting Route Security missions with Iraqi Highway Police to awarding construction contracts that influence tribal leadership throughout Southern Iraq, 1st BSTB is accomplishing a challenging mission while always striving to honor and respect all Iraqis' rights to a better way of life.

The 1st BSTB recognized that the IHP was crucial to the long-term vision of Iraqi highway security, so the battalion promptly contacted the nearest IHP station. The Soldiers found the IHP critically limited on personnel and equipment, but enthusiastic to begin joint patrols with Americans. In only four short months, 1st BSTB Soldiers have made huge strides in forging a relationship with the local IHP.

Even after several COPs were closed and local security was transferred to the Iraqis, the IHP leadership maintained dialogue with our military leaders who had moved on to new assignments. This proved invaluable when Soldiers recently discovered a newly placed cache of mortar rounds along a MSR. The Soldiers contacted an old friend, Sgt. Maj. Ahmed of the IHP, who responded to the site within 30 minutes. Ahmed and his IHP team removed the rounds and delivered them to Iraqi EOD for disposal.

"We are happy to help you with this. After all, you help us so much!" Ahmed said.

This single incident not only reinforced the genuine spirit of strong relationships with the Iraqis, it also highlighted the growing capabilities, competence and professionalism of the IHP. As evident by Ahmed's welcomed assistance, the IHP can now respond quickly to vehicular accidents and IED detonations on the road.

To the north, Soldiers have witnessed the IHP improve their interaction with Iraqi communities, growing recognition and respect as a competent police force. One recent mission to the village of Al Haji Abbas represented a number of firsts. The IHP had never before patrolled near Al Haji Abbas; this was also the IHP's first patrol focused on meeting and directly supporting the local population.

The local Sheikh and the IHP captain openly discussed security issues in the village, creating a bond of trust. Villagers and their children were surprised and delighted to witness their own highway patrolmen, rather than coalition forces, handing out candy and small toys.

"This mission today was a success because the IHP handed out goodies to the local children, showing their commitment to duty and good faith in public service.

> "This mission today was a success because the IHP handed out goodies to the local children, showing their commitment to duty and good faith in public service."
>
> Sgt. 1st Class Randolph Delapena
> 1st BSTB

But the real success story here is that the IHP enjoyed the experiences of both joint patrolling and CMO (civil military operations)," said Sgt. 1st Class Randolph Delapena, of the 1st BSTB.

This partnership between 1st BSTB, the IHP and Iraqi civilian leadership is a blueprint for success in the complex society of Iraq. Cooperation between coalition forces and Iraqis is the key. Every day 1st BSTB Soldiers, noncommissioned officers and junior officers work closely with Iraqis, deepening bonds of trust and respect. With continued commitment, southern Iraq will become an example of security and stability.

Courtesy Photo

A 1st BSTB Paratrooper plays a little soccer with Iraqi children during a civil military affairs mission.

Keeping secrets to protect families: IAF heroes

Commentary by Staff Sgt. Jared Marquis
506th Air Expeditionary Group

KIRKUK REGIONAL AIR BASE, Iraq — I am not the type of person who gets choked up easily, however, I recently experienced one of those moments that makes it hard to hold back.

I got the opportunity to meet the first four pilots going through the Iraqi Flying Training School in Kirkuk. Not only will these guys be the future leaders of the Iraqi Air Force (IAF), but they are literally risking their lives to do so.

It is hard to fathom the personal risk these students take by being here, not to mention the risk to their families. Like every member of the military, I am thanked for my service and the sacrifices we all make to wear the uniform of the U.S. military. I am appreciative every time, but my sacrifice seems small compared to theirs.

How many people would join the U.S. military if we faced the dangers they do? They cannot tell their friends or extended family what they are doing. In most cases, only their immediate families know. If word got out, not only their lives, but the lives of their families would be in danger. One even made the comment that he could not tell his future wife what he was doing for fear word would spread. I share everything with my wife, yet he cannot.

I asked myself, as I listened to them explain the dangers they face-- could I do this if I not only faced the dangers while deployed, but dangers from my neighbors at home as well? I do not know. Would I be able to put my family at risk as well? That is what makes these guys so heroic. They are here at personal risk because they believe in their country; they believe by sacrificing themselves and their families, they are building a better Iraq.

You get a different view of how important the mission is when you meet patriots like these. I was honored just to be in the same classroom with them. Now that I have seen first hand how important our help is, I cannot imagine leaving them to do it by themselves.

I now feel a personal responsibility to these four individuals. I want more than anything to see them succeed and I would be willing to do whatever it takes to make sure that they do. Not just for them, but for the people like them and the people they are going to be protecting once they become pilots.

They are truly amazing; all four are in their early to mid-twenties, yet to get here, they not only had to attend college, but learn English and pass the rigorous tests administered by the IAF. They are not here by accident and they are not under any type of enlistment or commissioning contract. They are free to leave any time they choose, yet they show up every day. They are committed to their course of action.

They accepted a responsibility I could not even comprehend when I was their age. Yet, when you talk to them, it is completely selfless. They are not here for themselves. They are just four average guys who believe in their country and want to make a difference. I truly believe that these four individuals are holding the weight of the future IAF on their shoulders.

They are already great men and leaders in my opinion and I will hope and pray for their success everyday, because as they said when we parted ways, I am now their friend.

Photo by Senior Airman Jeremy McGuffin

52nd Flying Training Squadron leadership stand in formation as the first students to the school arrive Oct. 1. This flight was officially the first sortie flown by the school as the four Iraqi Air Force students took control of the aircraft for a few minutes in transit to see what it is they are working towards. The school will instruct the students in both fixed-and rotary-wing piloting.

> "How many people would join the U.S. military if we faced the same dangers they do?"
>
> Staff Sgt. Jared Marquis
> 506th AEG

America's warrior

by Spc. Jay Venturini

A snapshot of servicemembers in the Global War on Terrorism

Photo by Spc. Jay Venturini

Full name and rank: Senior Chief Rodney Ourso
Unit: Navy Customs Battalion Delta Company
Time in service: 20 years.
Age: 42
Hometown: Pinson, Ala.
Family: Wife and two daughters.
Pastimes: Hunt, fish and spend time with my family.
Life-changing event/moment: My daughters being born. It was the only time my wife has seen me cry.
Lesson Learned: Take it as it comes. I always look for the good in things. People look at thing negatively, that's not any way to go through life. Things have a way of working out.
The person I admire the most: My dad. He raised me right. He never was negative. I have two brothers and a sister and he did a great job with all of us.
Why I joined the military: I wanted to see the world and experience things that people back home don't get to experience. You see it on TV and in the movies and it appealed to me.
If I wasn't in the military I would be: Doing my civilian jobs as a firefighter and running an air-conditioning company.
The one thing I would change about the Navy: I would have more tours landside to be more adaptable to different missions.
The one thing I think the Navy got right: Instilling the core values in young Sailors. The Navy also got the equal opportunity program right.
What makes a good Sailor?: Someone who is dedicated to the service, but not someone who is so dedicated that they are blind to reality and just say yes to everything. It's someone willing to stand up and say "maybe there is a better way to do this."
What makes a good leader?: Someone who will listen. A good leader has to make the right choices. They also have to be open to ideas from the Sailors under them.
Motivations in life: Trying to do what's right, that's what drives me. Making sure things are done correctly. Also my family is my motivation.
Goals: My number one goal is to bring all my people home safe. Also to have all my people, including myself, grow through this experience.
Hardest part of my job here: Being away from my family.
Best part of my life: The people I'm with, and the mission we have. There are some good Sailors over here. It is definitely a pleasure to work with them.

Football on the FOB: Weekly NFL picks

Sgt. Rob "on the FOB" Pinches

Rob's Picks Week 8

Sunday, October 28:
Indianapolis @ Carolina
Do we really have to sit through all these other games? Can't we just skip ahead to Nov 4th's Pats/Colts game? Colts 34, Panthers 17

Oakland @ Tennessee
The Raiders aren't looking too bad these days, however, the Titans are showing that they have more talent than they get credit for. Raiders 21, Titans 24

Cleveland @ St. Louis
Is it really fair that the Browns get to face both the Rams and the Dolphins in the same season? Well, the Pats do get six free wins playing in the AFC East so we'll allow it. Browns 27, Rams 20

Philadelphia @ Minnesota
The Eagles have been struggling all season (I mean they barely beat the Jets!), and Adrian Peterson is on a roll. I don't think the Eagles have what it takes to stop him. Eagles 17, Vikings 21

NY Giants @ Miami (in London)
Okay, I know I've said this before, but I think the Fins can take this one. It seems fitting in a year of letting their fans down, they win a home game that's played in London, far from any season ticket holders. Giants 21, Dolphins 31

Pittsburgh @ Cincinnati
I wonder if any of my readers (do I have any?) are glad that the Steelers went with Tomlin over Wisenhunt? Steelers win this shootout d/t the fact that they actually know how to play defense. Steelers 34, Bengals 27

Detroit @ Chicago
I keep going with the Martz formula in picking Detroit. It hasn't gone as horribly wrong as I would have thought. Lions 21, Bears 20

Jacksonville @ Tampa Bay
The Jags and Bucs duke it out for state bragging rights. Jeff Garcia is playing well for the Bucs, however, the Jags have a little guy out of Cal named Jones-Drew who owns defenses. Jaguars 31, Buccaneers 20

Houston @ San Diego
Will the Chargers please decide on whether or not they want to be an elite team and play accordingly; some of us are trying to pick games here! Fortunately for me, the Texans don't present too much of a threat. Texans 14, LaDainian Tomlinson 28

Buffalo @ NY Jets
Bills/Jets? Not exactly Colts/Pats (or even Raiders/Titans for that matter). We'll have a winner only because we have to. Wait, I forgot about ties. Bills 6, Jets 6.

New Orleans @ San Francisco
The Saints stumble into San Fran and find themselves over matched. Saints 20, 49ers 27

Washington @ New England
Redskins get the short straw this week and have to lose to the Pats. Anyone want to guess at Brady's touchdown totals? Redskins 10, Patriots 38

Monday, October 29
Green Bay @ Denver
The Packers will surprise a shaky Broncos team trying to cling to play off hopes. Look for a good-enough game by Favre against a solid Bronco secondary. Packers 28, Broncos 27

Let us know what you think of Rob's picks of the week and you just might see them in an upcoming edition of the Anaconda Times.

Email us at:
anaconda.times@iraq.centcom.mil

Subject: Rob's Picks

Predicting the unpredictable in baseball

Weekly sports column by Spc. Jay Venturini

Well it's that time of the year again, when most of the teams are at home watching all the craziness that is the baseball playoffs.

If you would have told me back in April that it would be the Rockies and Diamondbacks fighting for the national league title, I would have laughed in your face. In the American League, Boston has always been in the thick of things, and Cleveland continues to be an up and coming team. Sure enough, this is what we've got on our hands.

Without question, Diamondbacks surprised everyone when they started out strong at the beginning of the season, and kept strong during the dog fight with the Padres at the end of the season for the crown in the West. They had a great year; I just don't see them having the firepower on offense to compete for a World Series ring.

Cleveland looked great in the division series against the Yankees and was impressive in tying the Red Sox for the best regular season record. Their pitching made all the difference along Travis Hafner leading the offense. I say give the Tribe a few years to become a legitimate threat to take the American League title, but I don't see it happening this year.

There is no reason we shouldn't be watching the Rockies and Red Sox fighting for the World Series title. The Rockies have been riding the hottest streak I have ever seen, winning 14 of the last 15 games to get into the playoffs. On paper, Colorado shouldn't even be in the playoffs but that just proves how much momentum can affect a team.

Unfortunately, if everything goes the way it should, they won't be singing "Rocky Mountain High" as the Red Sox take the series in five games. Boston is just too powerful on offense with David Ortiz and Manny Ramirez in the middle of the lineup and the pitching staff is the best in baseball anchored by Josh Beckett.

The Red Sox nation should be celebrating their second World Series title this century. But the great thing about this game is, things usually don't go according to plan. So let's sit back and see what happens.

Spc. Jay Venturini

Upcoming sports on AFN

Wednesday 10/24/07
New York Rangers @ Pittsburgh Penguins live 2:00 a.m. AFN/xtra
Nashville Predators @ Los Angeles Kings live 5:30 a.m. AFN/xtra

Thursday 10/25/07
Buffalo Sabres @ Carolina Hurricanes live 2:00 a.m. AFN/xtra
World Series: game 1 live 3:00 a.m. AFN/sports
Minnesota Wild @ Calgary Flames live 4:30 a.m. AFN/xtra

Friday 10/26/07
Boston College @ Virginia Tech live 2:30 a.m. AFN/xtra
World Series: game 2 live 3:00 a.m. AFN/sports
MLS Soccer: Teams TBD replay 7:30 a.m. AFN/xtra

Saturday 10/27/07
Boise State @ Fresno State live 4:00 a.m. AFN/xtra
Buffalo Sabres @ Florida Panthers replay 8:00 a.m. AFN/xtra
College Football: Teams TBD live 7:00 p.m. AFN/sports
College Football: Teams TBD live 10:30 p.m. AFN/sports

Sunday 10/28/07
World Series: game 3 live 3:00 a.m. AFN/sports
College Football: Teams TBD replay 10:00 a.m. AFN/xtra
College Football: Teams TBD replay 1:00 p.m. AFN/xtra
NASCAR Busch Series: Sam's Town 250 replay 4:00 p.m. AFN/xtra
NFL Football: Teams TBD live 8:00 p.m. AFN/sports

Monday 10/29/07
NFL Football: Teams TBD live 1:00 a.m. AFN/xtra
World Series: game 4 live 3:00 a.m. AFN/sports
Detroit Red Wings @ Vancouver Canucks live 5:30 a.m. AFN/xtra

Tuesday 10/30/07
World Series: game 5 (if necessary) live 3:00 a.m. AFN/sports
Green Bay Packers @ Denver Broncos live 3:30 a.m. AFN/xtra

Army improves humvee refit efficiency

Courtesy Story

Army News Service

WASHINGTON — The Army has cut to a fraction the time it takes to rebuild battle-damaged Humvees with a new assembly-line process at Red River Army Depot, Texas.

Red River today was one of 12 Army commands to receive the Shingo Prize Public Sector Award for Excellence in Manufacturing and Achievement, called by Business Week "the Nobel Prize for Manufacturing." And Red River was one of only three Army depots to receive Shingo's Gold Medal.

In 2004, Red River was overhauling only about three Humvees per month, according to the Army Materiel Command. Now an average of 23 rebuilt Humvees roll out of the depot daily.

Lean Six Sigma principles were used to transform business practices at the depot, Red River Commander Col. Douglas Evans told an audience Wednesday at the "Warrior's Corner" exhibit at the Association of the U.S. Army annual meeting.

"We could not have accomplished this without the help of every employee," Col. Evans said. He added that when he arrived at the depot two years ago, he told everyone the he was "all about changing people, or changing people.." He said employees embraced the mindset of business transformation and now he has staff members with yellow, green, brown and black belts in Lean Six Sigma.

Red River, near Texarkana, runs both a reset and recap program for Humvees. Under recap, the Army is changing old Humvees to one of the new variants, Evans said. Under reset, the Army is rebuilding up-armored Humvees damaged in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The depot has used an assembly-line or "flow" process to recap Humvees for some time, and that program is actually what earned the depot its Shingo award. But Evans said the reset program is what underwent the biggest changes most recently.

A "bay" process was used for resetting Humvees a few years ago, Evans said. A Humvee would be parked in a bay for up to 450 work hours as one employee was primarily responsible for overhauling the vehicle. And only the parts that needed to be replaced were changed out.

"Now we strip them down to the frame," said Mike Cox of the depot's Business Management office. He said everything is now replaced either with new or reconditioned parts.

This makes the Humvees more reliable, according to Evans. He said in the past, reset Humvees would sometimes have engines that seized up or other parts go bad, just weeks after leaving the depot, giving the program a bad name.

Replacing everything is actually no more expensive than replacing selected parts, said Michael Lockard, chief of Enterprise Excellence at Red River.

Even though more funds are now spent on parts, fewer man-hours make up the difference, according to Col. Evans. In fact, he said that 65 additional Humvees were rebuilt in FY06 with no additional funding.

The difference comes from "flow, velocity and efficiency," according to Lockard. That comes from adapting the type of assembly-line system that had been used for recap.

"We minimize the scope of work, minimize the cost and maximize the number of vehicles reset," he said.

In the flow process, a Humvee is supposed to move down the line to a new station about every 15 minutes, Evans said. With each employee on the line specializing in one job, he said workers become more efficient and finish that job much faster than if they were working on the entire vehicle.

"A lot of companies are now coming to Red River to benchmark against us," Evans said.

The depot has also initiated a number of partnership programs with private industry, Lockard said, and Red River is helping a number of companies by picking up Defense-related repair work that those firms didn't have the capacity to complete.

Red River is always looking for more work because its processes are constantly becoming more efficient, providing the opportunity to increase capacity, Lockard said. He said the depot plans to begin using the flow or line process to refit larger vehicles within the next year.

Want to see your shoutouts here?

Your family can email us, send pictures at:

anaconda.times@iraq.centcom.mil

Subject: Shout outs

SUSTAINER REEL TIME THEATER

(Schedule is subject to change)

Wednesday, Oct. 24
5 p.m. 3:10 to Yuma (R)
8 p.m. The Brave One (R)

Thursday, Oct. 25
5 p.m. Shoot'Em Up (PG-13)
8 p.m. We Own the Night (R)

Friday, Oct. 26
2 p.m. Mr. Woodcock (PG-13)
5 p.m. Resident Evil (R)
8 p.m. 30 Days of Night (R)

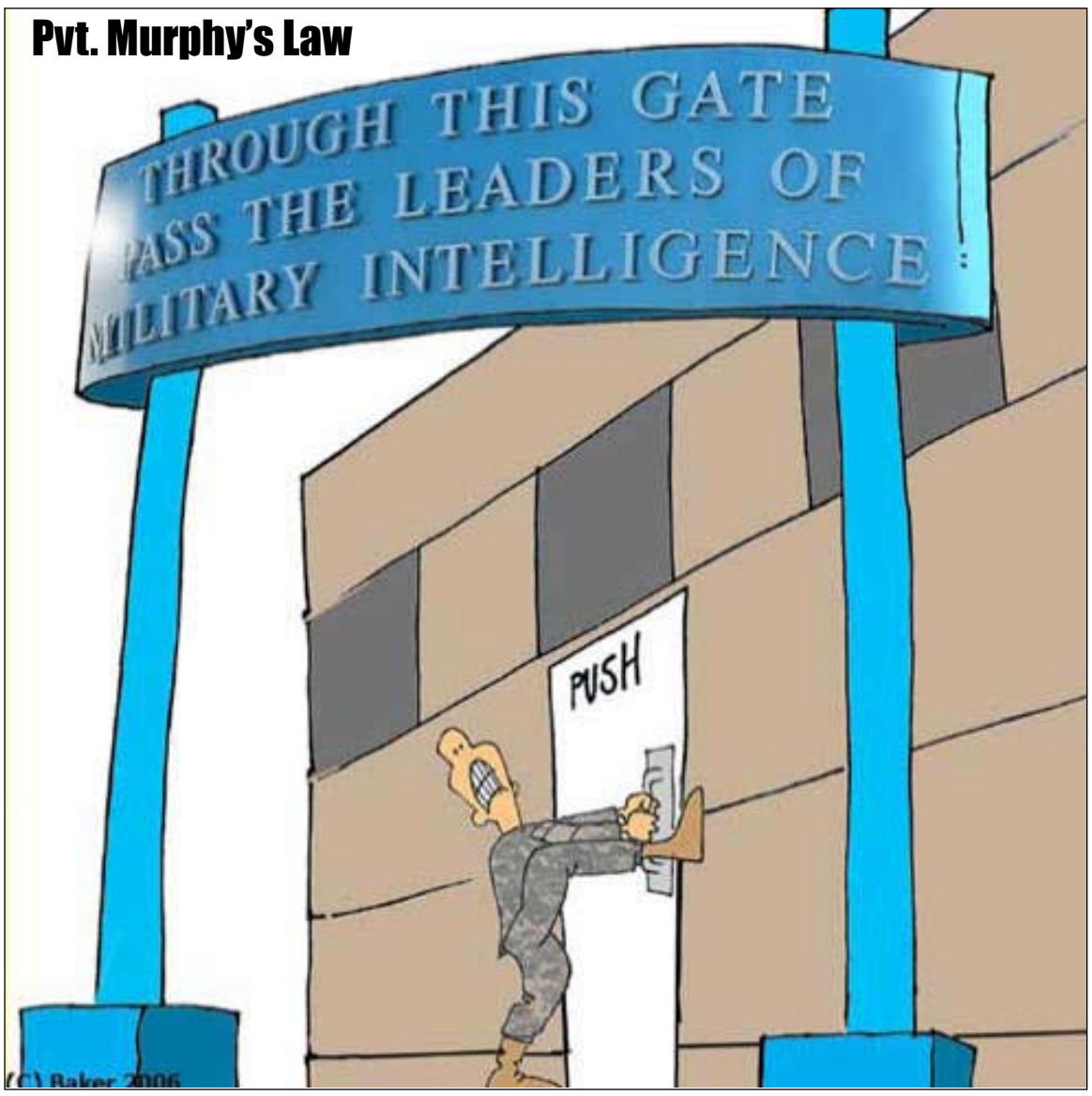
Saturday, Oct. 27
Sustainer Theater presents Talents from ANACONDA!
Talent Show begins at 8 p.m.

Sunday, Oct. 28
2 p.m. 30 Days of Night (R)
5 p.m. Mr. Woodcock (PG-13)
8 p.m. Resident Evil (R)

Monday, Oct. 29
5 p.m. 30 Days of Night (R)
8 p.m. Halloween (R)

Tuesday, Oct. 30
5 p.m. Mr. Woodcock (PG-13)
8 p.m. 30 Days of Night (R)

Pvt. Murphy's Law



ANACONDA ACTIVITIES

INDOOR POOL
1-Mile swim: Saturday- 10 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.
aqua training: Thursday- 7:45 p.m.
swim lessons:
- *beginners:* Tuesday- 6 p.m.
- *intermediate:* Thursday- 6 p.m.
- *advanced:* Saturday- 6 p.m.

EAST FITNESS CENTER
basketball tournament: all week- 7 p.m.
Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu: Monday, Wednesday and Friday- 8 p.m.
Kyu Kyu Kempo: Sunday- 2 p.m.
modern army combatives: Tuesday and Thursday- 8:30 p.m.
open court volleyball: Sunday- 6 p.m.
Shotokan Karate Do: Thursday- 6:45 p.m., Saturday- 8:30 p.m. and Sunday- 5:30 p.m.
step aerobics: Monday, Wednesday and Friday- 5:30 p.m.
swing dance: Sunday- 7:30 p.m.
wrestling & physical fitness class: Tuesday- 6 p.m. and Saturday- 7 p.m.

EAST RECREATION CENTER
8-ball tourney: Monday- 3 p.m. and 8 p.m
9-ball tournament: Wednesday- 3 p.m. and 8 p.m.
Battle Field 2: Thursday- 8 p.m.
Country Dance Class: Thursday- 7 p.m.
Dominoes: Friday- 8 p.m.
Hip Hop Dance Class: Friday- 7 p.m.
karaoke: Monday- 8 p.m.
model building: Sunday- 1 p.m.
poetry/ open mic: Sunday- 7:30 p.m.
poker tourney: Sunday- 6 p.m.
salsa dance class: Saturday- 7 p.m.
swing dance: Tuesday- 7p.m.
salsa dance class: Wednesday- 8:30 p.m.
ping pong tourney: Tuesday- 3 p.m. and 8 p.m.

WEST RECREATION CENTER
412th ASB talent show: Saturday- 9 p.m.
8-ball tourney: Wednesday- 1 p.m. and 8 p.m
9-ball tournament: Monday- 1 p.m. and 8 p.m.
All-star dominoes tourney: Friday- 8 p.m.
Dungeons & Dragons: Saturday- 8 p.m.
Friday nights in Balad: Friday- 8 p.m.
foosball: Tuesday- 1 p.m. and 8 p.m.
Green Bean karaoke: Wednesday and Sunday- 8 p.m.
Hip Hop dance lessons: Saturday- 9 p.m.
Halo 2 Tourney: Thursday- 1 p.m. and 8 p.m.
Magic: The Gathering: Sunday- 8 p.m.
Middle Eastern dance class: Thursday- 10 p.m.
ping pong tourney: Tuesday- 1 p.m. and 8 p.m.
salsa dance class: Wednesday- 8:30 p.m.
Texas hold 'em: Saturday- 1 p.m. and 8 p.m.

WEST FITNESS CENTER
4-on-4 volleyball tourney: Friday- 7 p.m.
5-on-5 basketball tourney: Saturday- 7:30 p.m.
aerobics: Monday, Wednesday and Friday- 7 p.m.
Dodge ball game: Tuesday- 7:30 p.m.
open court basketball: Thursday- 7 p.m.
open court soccer: Monday- 7 p.m.
Push/Pull Competition: Saturday- 7:30 p.m.
soccer tennis tourney: Wednesday- 7 p.m.

- HOW? The Special Recruiter Assistance Program (S-RAP)
- WHO? Active Duty Soldiers regardless of age or rank. S-RAP offers soldiers who have served on the front lines to convey their experiences to their locals communities.
  - S-RAP participants will serve in a temporary duty (TDY) up to 14 days in conjunction with ordinary leave.
  - Eligible for The Referral Bonus Pilot Program of $2,000 (www.2K.army.mil)
- WHEN? Currently deployed soldiers may apply for this program, but will not participate until completion of their current deployment.
- HOW TO APPLY? www.2k.army.mil or www.usarec.army.mil
- For more information contact SFC Arias at froilan.arias@iraq.centcom.mil or DSN 433-2502.

Do you or someone you know have an interesting story to tell?

Does your unit serve a special function others may not be aware of?

At the Anaconda Times, we want to tell YOUR story, so email us and we'll do the rest.

anaconda.times@iraq.centcom.mil

'Wagonmasters' ending their longest year

by Sgt. 1st Class Nicholas Conner
15th Sustainment Brigade

CAMP TAJI, Iraq — In cavalry terms, they are almost close enough to let the horses smell the barns. For Fort Hood Soldiers from the 15th Sustainment Brigade (SB), the 15 months of riding the trails, literally, of Iraq is at an end.

Having left Central Texas in August 2006, 'Wagonmaster' troops will be the first forces of the 1st Cavalry Division to return from what some have dubbed "the longest year".

As the largest brigade element in the Multi-National Division-Baghdad area, 15th SB provided support operations to 13 brigade combat teams and multiple corps level units totaling over 100,000 coalition forces.

"We're very proud of the fact that the biggest move of supplies in history was during WWII; known as the Red Ball Express," said Col. Aundre Piggee, commander, 15th SB. "We executed a Red Ball Express on a weekly basis; the number of supplies we pushed around Iraq."

The deployment marked numerous historical firsts for the 15th SB. Transformed under the Army's modularization plan just prior to deployment, the brigade assumed command of over 4,200 active duty, reserve and National Guard troops from the United States, Puerto Rico and Germany; spread over the southern two-thirds of Iraq.

Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Nicholas Conner

Sgt. Justin Garza, 15th Brigade Troops Battalion, 15th SB, waits for his final flight out of Camp Taji Oct. 13. The Harker Heights, Texas native spent 15 months deployed with the 'Wagonmasters'; three months longer than the brigade anticipated.

Piggee is quick to point out, that of the additional 30,000+ Soldiers brought to Iraq since January 2007 as part of the surge, the majority of which the 15th SB supports, his brigade received no additional logistical troops.

"We've been able to provide that support without any degradation to combat forces," he said.

As the center of logistical gravity, 15th SB Soldiers measured mission success in numbers followed by lots of zeros. 'Wagonmaster' troops logged over 4.3 million miles over the most dangerous roads in the world. Heavy equipment transporters provided almost 17,000 concrete barriers to the 30 joint security stations and combat outposts in and around the Baghdad area. 15th SB tankers delivered enough fuel to turn the Houston Astrodome into a high octane aquarium; more than 190 million gallons.

"I don't think there is any other situation that can compare (to the 15th SB's) support situation," said Maj. Jeff Foster, support operations officer for the 15th SB. With MND-B being called the largest division size element ever assembled, he said, essentially, the brigade supports a traditional corps or larger element.

The key, Foster explained, was the 15th SB's distribution capabilities. By constantly pushing supplies to combat forces, brigade logistical planners could ensure units always had five to ten days on hand.

"We were able distribute supplies throughout the (area of operations) in a way that anticipated requirements versus reacting to them," he said.

That mindset transferred itself to other 15th SB operations. The brigade maintenance staff oversaw and coordinated the installation of over 10,000 vehicle up-armor enhancement kits to high mobility, multi-wheeled vehicles; saving countless lives from improvised explosive devices and insurgent attacks. Soldiers worked around the clock shifts adding re-enforced steel, ballistic glass and improved, motorized gun turrets for coalition combat troops.

"This was the first time that (15th SB) maintenance Soldiers got to step forward in a life saving way for the maneuver units," said Maj. Tom Cunningham, support operations maintenance officer for the 15th SB. "Vehicle armor enhancements, especially the latest improvements, became the modifications that allowed the brigade maintenance troops to step into their own."

Piggee and the Soldiers of the 15th SB now hand the reigns over to the 1st Sustainment Brigade, out of Fort Riley, Kan. As they brush off Iraqi dust and dirt from the last 15 months, the mission now is to reunite with loved ones on Fort Hood's Coopers Field. When history looks back to this place and time, "Wagonmaster" troops can confidently attest that they did "Support the Action."

Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Nicholas Conner

(Above) Iraqi armored vehicles from 3rd Brigade, 9th Iraqi Army Division drive onto the back of 15th Sustainment Brigade heavy equipment transports. Unable to move themselves, 'Wagonmaster' troops provided the Iraqis movement support for the 450 mile trip from Taji to Basra. (Left) Two Soldiers from 68th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 15th Sustainment Brigade, remove part of a gun turret from atop a high mobility multi-wheeled vehicle. Brigade troops, in both Camp Taji and Baghdad, worked constantly to install improved armor and motorized gun turrets to protect coalition forces from the dangers of road side bombs.

Anaconda holds soccer tournament

Photo by Spc. Jay Venturini

A player kicks in a corner kick during the soccer tournament at the MWR West, Oct. 14. The tournament featured teams that fashioned many different Countries colors including Mexico, Iraq, Uganda and United States.

Photo by Spc. Jay Venturini

(Above) A player kicks in a corner kick during the soccer tournament.
(Below) Players battle for possession of the soccer ball during the soccer tournament.

Photo by Spc. Jay Venturini

(Above) Player fends off his opponent during the soccer tournament.
(Below) A Ugandan player attempts to get the soccer ball past the Team Alpha goaltender during the soccer tournament. The Ugandans made quick work of Team Alpha, defeating them 7-0.