

AnacondaTimes

NOVEMBER 7, 2007

PROUDLY SERVING LSA ANACONDA



Photo by Spc. Thomas Keeler

MRAPs now on ground

New tactical vehicles have arrived here

Page 8



Photo by Maj. Everett Spain

Making a difference

TF XII helps Iraqi girl receive prosthetic legs

Page 11



Photo by Spc. Jay Venturini

Providing jobs for local Iraqis

LSAA employs citizens for camp beautification

Page 7



Photo by Spc. Jaime Avila

Pvt. Racine Ramirez checks patient's breathing at a cooperative medical engagement held in As Sanawah, Iraq Oct. 21. The Iraqi Army and Coalition Forces teamed up to provide the residents of As Sanawah with much needed medical care.

Cooperative medical engagement helps hundreds of Iraqi patients

by Spc. Jaime Avila

1st BCT, 82nd Abn. Div.

AS SANAWAH, Iraq - Working side by side with the Iraqi Army, Coalition Forces had the opportunity to provide medical assistance to over 1,000 people in the Albu Ewhaid Village in the outskirts of As Sanawah.

"I think it went great. Our providers were working side by side with Iraqi Army doctors and medics to provide the proper medical care to the people in the village," said Capt. Assad Raza, a Fontana, Ca. native and 1st Brigade Combat Team (BCT), 82nd Airborne Division medical planner.

The event kicks off the unit's

"It was a great day to be a medic. I don't know when we will have another one, but I hope the command sees this as an asset and puts more on the calendar."

Sgt. 1st Class Vincent T. Johnson
1st BCT

medical commitment to the local people and the Iraqi Army.

"This is the first cooperative medical engagement (CME) we have done as a brigade since we got to Iraq and it was a dynamic event," said Doctor (Maj.) Michael Tarpey, a Chicago, Ill. native and brigade surgeon for 1st

BCT.

Due to the remote location of the village, limited medical care has been available to its citizens in the past.

"I think we helped them out tremendously, because in some of the locations within our joint operations area some families

hadn't received any medical care in a long time," said Sgt. 1st Class Vincent T. Johnson, an Atlanta, Ga. native and senior healthcare noncommissioned officer in charge for 1st BCT.

In addition to providing the people with medical care, Iraqi soldiers were handing out water, blankets and toys to patients. Coalition Forces were also giving out items that would help the people feel comfortable.

"We also provided some of the children with shoes, clothing, toys, food, water and a number of things that would make their lives a little bit easier."

See **MEDICAL**, Page 6

'At ease' with the 316th CSM



Command Sgt. Maj. Stacey E. Davis

Lately there have been too many unsafe acts unnecessarily committed by servicemembers within this command. Just a few weeks ago, there were two separate weapon discharge incidents which occurred after the units had completed their scheduled live fire training. Thankfully, no one was injured in either occurrence.

Another mishap that causes me concern is one that involved a Soldier who was burned on the

hand while incinerating items at a burn barrel. As I later learned, this Soldier was not briefed, supervised, nor properly trained. And, to make matters worse, the Soldier was not wearing gloves. Now I am certain that this Soldier knew the task to accomplish; but not the conditions or standard to safely perform it.

Somewhere along the process, there was a failure of leadership to provide purpose and direction in all three of the events I have mentioned. Leaders, from the squad leader level all the way up to the command leadership team, must be proactive in ensuring that servicemembers under their charge understand the task, know the conditions associated with the task, and the established standard

expected, always keeping in mind the dynamic of safety.

Each time we lose a Soldier, Sailor, Airmen, Marine or civilian staff member because of uncalled-for negligence, we diminish our capability to be an effective combat multiplier. Our motto is to "Sustain the Victory." How can we effectively do that if we continue to let apathy take precedence over reason and good old-fashioned common sense? Safety is everyone's business. Servicemembers, squad leaders, platoon sergeants, and first sergeants are safety officers. Platoon leaders and company commanders are safety officers. The commanding general and I are safety officers. If you have not figured out yet, we all are safety officers! We must be the keeper of the standard; it is the legacy that we will leave to those who follow. We must know what right looks like and never deviate from it. And we must do the right thing daily—and without fail—and demand the same from those we lead.

Our nation is counting on us to do exactly that. They are counting on us to be good stewards of their sons and daughters who have answered the call to duty and put boots on the ground. We must not fail them. We must maintain that warrior spirit of positivity and lead by example as well as set the example. The best thing about making a mistake is that you can learn from it and in the process become a better person. I trust that each of you will do exactly that.

NCOs lead the way!

Command Sgt. Maj. Stacey E. Davis

Command
sergeant
major



NCOs
lead the
way!

Provost Marshal Office: Weekly police blotter

Week of Oct. 20- 26

The PMO conducted: (140) security checks, (32) traffic stops, issued (16) DD Form 1408 Armed Forces Traffic Ticket, registered (107) vehicles on the installation, (26) Common Access Cards were turned in to PMO, and (1) lost weapon was reported.

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

PMO Recommendations: UXO/Suspicious Package Safety: Safety first and always, if you locate a UXO or suspicious package im-

mediately secure the area. Prevent anyone from approaching the UXO or suspicious package. Send a runner to contact the PMO and standby until arrival of emergency responder personnel.

Crime Prevention: Your government identification card is just as important as your weapon, always protect and secure it. Bicycle theft prevention: secure you bicycle to designated sources (bike racks) with lock and chain. Bicycle operators must obey all traffic rules and regulations.

by: Air Force Staff Sgt. Mark Hill, PMO



Courtesy Photo

PMO celebrates their first Annual Halloween Party, and MPs are always working. They seized a contraband cell phone with Pornographic material and Alcohol at the party, our biggest bust to date. Happy Halloween! Be Safe!

ANACONDA TIMES

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

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82nd Sustainment Brigade
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1st Sustainment Brigade
CJSOTF-AP

Time of year for suicide awareness

by Spc. Thomas Keeler

Anaconda Times staff

LSA ANACONDA, Iraq – In light of extended deployments, and with servicemembers on their second and third tours, it's time to call attention to the threat of suicide as the holiday season approaches.

“What is accentuated this time of year is people feel disconnected because the holidays are this emotional grounding time,” said Lt. Col. Bruce Farrell, a former garrison chaplain here. “It's a time of reconnection, the new year, families gathering.”

Chaplain Farrell adds that being homesick is a good thing – it means you have a strong home.

In September, the U.S. Army and the Department of Defense joined the nation in observing National Suicide Prevention Week, Sept. 9 – 15. The Army also released its 2007 Army Suicide Event Report, which showed a continued increase in suicides Army-wide.

Suicide numbers are trending upward, according to the report, though the report found no conclusive correlation between the increase in suicides and increased deployments.

Though no single group is immune, the typical profile of an Army suicide is of a young, white male, 18 to 24 years of age, at the rank of E-1 to E-4 and trained in the 11 series of MOSs.

Even Sgt. Maj. of the Army Kenneth O. Preston has expressed concern at the increase.

“Everyone has a role to play when it comes to suicide prevention, and it is essential that leaders and caregivers at every level are involved and do their part to screen, evaluate, and safeguard our most valuable assets,” said Preston in

“The chain of command needs to create and continue an environment in which it is acceptable to speak about such things as depression and sadness.”

Chaplain (Maj.) Mark Nuckols
316th ESC

a joint September memo with Secretary of the Army the Hon. Pete Geren and the Army Chief of Staff Gen. George W. Casey Jr.

Chaplain (Maj.) Mark Nuckols, command chaplain for the 316th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), agrees.

“The chain of command needs to create and continue an environment in which it is acceptable to speak about such things as depression and sadness,” said Nuckols. “Combat stress, both here at the Patriot Clinic and the mental health section of the hospital, as well as the chaplains on both the Air Force and Army side and the suicide prevention programs that are in place, are all attempting to create that environment.”

Department of the Army Pamphlet 600-24, titled “Suicide Prevention and Psychological Autopsy,” provides guidance for the chain of command in suicide prevention activities and establishes the Army Suicide Prevention Plan.

“It all comes down to senior NCOs and commanders assisting those NCOs to create that environment,” said Nuckols. “We do need to take care of one another. That's the foundation of suicide prevention, taking that seriously.”

*Is your buddy in crisis?
If your buddy is in crisis, remember:*

ACE



Ask your buddy

- Have the courage to ask the question, but stay calm
- Ask the question directly, e.g. Are you thinking of killing yourself?

Care for your buddy

- Remove any means that could be used for self-injury
- Calmly control the situation; do not use force
- Actively listen to produce relief

Escort your buddy

- Never leave your buddy alone
- Escort to the chain of command, a Chaplain, a behavioral health professional, or a primary care provider



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

Maintenance team hands over mission

by Senior Airman Terri Barriere

332nd Air Expeditionary Wing

BALAD AIR BASE, Iraq - A cool breeze blows through the dark flightline as members of the 64th Expeditionary Rescue Squadron (ERS) maintenance team here wait anxiously. In minutes, a C-5 Galaxy lands and the crew descends upon it with haste. Their mission: to unload two HH-60 Pave Hawk helicopters as quickly as possible. Their goal: to get home.

After being deployed for more than 140 days, the combat search and rescue team from Moody Air Force Base (AFB), Ga., is ready to hand the mission over to its part-time owner, the team from Nellis AFB, Nev.

"Our mission tonight is getting these helicopters ready to fly," said Staff Sgt. Andrew Cazier, a crew chief with the 64th ERS. "Everyone works together as a team to get the helicopters unloaded and stable--it's truly a team effort. I'm especially excited about tonight's mission because this one means it's time for us to go home."

While deployed to Balad, the crew was responsible for maintaining readiness for

"I love this job because of the satisfaction you get out of knowing you helped rescue someone... I enjoy making the aircraft flyable and safer for the aircrews - our inspections save people's lives."

Air Force Staff Sgt. Andrew Cazier
64th ERS

short-notice mobilization, deployment and employment of HH-60 helicopters, this meant ensuring they were 100 percent mission capable at all times.

Master Sgt. Javier Nagoire, lead production supervisor, said it's a full time effort to make certain all the aircraft are always mission ready.

"We have the same job at home, but the difference here is we are constantly on alert--we're not running training missions over here --the ops tempo is much higher," he said. "If we don't keep our aircraft maintained and we're not able to support a mission then that is on us. We maintain so they can fly."

As with any mission, the maintenance crew faced certain adversities while operating in a deployed environment.

Cazier said being deployed is difficult at times because of the extreme operating conditions. The team met the summer heat head on, having to battle severe temperatures and the corrosion caused by it.

Despite these small setbacks, the crew's enthusiasm for the mission never wavered.

"I love this job because of the satisfaction you get out of knowing you helped rescue someone," said Cazier. "Our motto is 'So others may live,' and every time we launch an aircraft, there could be a possible rescue. I just enjoy the rush of getting that call and getting right out there and getting things done to get the aircraft out there saving lives. I enjoy making the aircraft flyable and safer for the aircrews. Our inspections save people's lives."



U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Joshua Garcia

Members of both the 64th Expeditionary Rescue Squadron and the 332nd Expeditionary Maintenance Squadron download two HH-60 Pave Hawk helicopters from a C-5 Galaxy here, Oct 17. Teamwork is essential in getting both helicopters downloaded safely and efficiently.

LSA
Anaconda's

Collage of Talent
Holiday Showcase

A call to ALL talent...

We are looking for:
* Dancers, Singers, Bands, DJ's, Poets, Martial Artists,
and all performers in general

Date: 13th of December
* Rehearsals begin on 7 Nov 07

POC: LTC Kelly Grumelot
Email: kelly.grumelot
@iraq.centcom.mil

Iraqi, U.S. Paratroopers cordon, secure area

by Maj. Virginia A. McCabe

1st BCT, 82nd Abn. Div.

BAGHDAD - The Iraqi Army extended a needed hand on the evening of Oct. 22 by conducting an impromptu cordon of an improvised explosive device (IED) discovered by the Paratroopers of 3rd Battalion, 319th Airborne Field Artillery Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division.

The Paratroopers were conducting a convoy carrying various classes of supply along a main road when they spotted an IED on the shoulder of the road. While establishing security to protect both the Paratroopers and the local residents, Iraqi Army soldiers patrolling in the neighborhood offered assistance. The convoy readily accepted the offer by the Iraqi

Army.

Iraqi Army soldiers and U.S. Paratroopers secured the IED scene until a local explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) team arrived. Numerous local citizens, not recognizing the danger, attempted to pass through on their morning business. The combined effort of the two armies ensured that no one was injured due to the IED.

Upon arrival of the EOD team, the IED was disarmed and removed from the area.

The Iraqi Army soldiers and 82nd Airborne Division Paratroopers successfully completed this hasty security mission and were able to continue with their missions knowing that they had protected the convoy and the local citizens from danger.

Pilot receives medal for valor

by Sgt. Brandon Little

12th Combat Aviation Brigade

LSA ANACONDA, Iraq- "The whole flight was eight minutes out, eight minutes back," said Chief Warrant Officer Terrance Lee, a C-23 Sherpa pilot. "You don't think about those things (while flying), it's only while you're lying in the bed in the hospital, that's when...lots of things go through your head."

Lying in that hospital bed gave him plenty of time to think about his actions and the events that took place Jan. 4.

Lee's decision to take control of the airplane, and safely land on Logistics Support Area Anaconda after an enemy attack, earned him the Distinguished Flying Cross presented Oct. 25.

As an infantryman in Vietnam, he had been shot at before, but this is the first time he had ever been shot at in 32 years of flying, said Lee.

"We work very hard on training our crews for emergencies," said Lt. Col. Pat Weber, the commander of Operational Support Airlift Command. "We try to make training as realistic as possible just in case an emergency like this happens."

When the flight first began, Lee's job as the right seat pilot was to help fly the



Photo by Sgt. Brandon Little

Chief Warrant Officer Terrance Lee, a pilot in Task Force XII, conducts his preflight checks in the cockpit of a C-23 Sherpa. Lee was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for action taken to land his plane after receiving an enemy attack Jan. 4.

plane and to assist the pilot in command, Chief Warrant Officer Brett Krass.

"We got about 24 miles from here when we came across a hard-top road by a water canal," said Lee. "We saw a pick up truck, and Mr. Krass tried to avoid it."

By the time the pilots saw the vehicle, it was too late. Their only choice was to make a hard right turn to maneuver away from it.

"Unfortunately, it exposed the left side of the aircraft

and we took 14 rounds," he said. "I felt a whack in my leg, and I knew something had hit me but I didn't really feel any pain."

The rounds ripped through the aircraft and wounded Lee, Krass and one of the two passengers on the plane.

"I was more concerned about Brett (the other pilot), than I was about myself," said Lee. "Luckily, we had a flight surgeon onboard and he took control of treating the wounded."

Sgt. Alex Johnston, the flight engineer for the aircraft, helped Krass out of the cockpit so he could receive medical attention.

"This was only my third time flying in country," said Lee. "Fortunately, Mr. Krass put direct to Balad in the (navigation) box before he got out of his seat."

Since the plane had

See **PILOT**, Page 6



Scheduled activities for National American Indian Heritage Month

Nov. 10
Heritage Hunt
East MWR
at 7 a.m.

Nov. 17
Fry bread Social
Outdoor pool
at 6 p.m.

Nov. 25
5k Run
Holt Stadium
starting at 6 a.m.

Nov. 30
Social gathering
Time/Place TBD

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

Dining facilities will have
Native American displays and
foods throughout the month of
November.

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

Equal Opportunity leadership course graduation



Photo by Spc. Jay Venturini

Graduates of class 08-07 equal opportunity leadership course class pose for a photo at the Blackjack Education Center here Oct. 27. The class consisted of 30 Soldiers from five different locations throughout the Iraq theater. The 316th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) will conduct several more classes throughout the year.



Medical refresher training



Photo by Spc. Jennifer L. Sierra

Staff Sgt. Mark A. Maczuga, optometry team noncommissioned officer in charge, HHC, 82nd SB, Sgt. William E. Beachem, senior line medic, HHC 3rd Brigade Special Troops Battalion, and Spc. Season J. Westbrook, medic for Task Force Iron Claw, attached to 1st Brigade, 2nd Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment, check vital signs of a casualty during a simulated scenario as part of the Emergency Medical Technician- Refresher course held here.



Photo by Sgt. Brandon Little

Chief Warrant Officer Terrance Lee, displays the Distinguished Flying Cross he was awarded for action taken to land his plane after receiving an enemy attack.

PILOT, from Page 5

two injured pilots, and a broken radio, Johnston remained in the cockpit to aid Lee in returning to here and landing the plane.

"We made a low-altitude, high-speed pass right between the runways, and then we made a hard turn and landed," he said. "That's when we discovered we had a blown tire."

Landing any aircraft with a blown tire can have a tragic outcome; but luck once again showed favor to the disabled aircraft and its crew.

Flight engineers are trained in what to do just in case of an event like this, so Sgt. Johnston was very knowledgeable in steering an aircraft, said Lee.

After the plane landed safely, rescue crews

and firefighters rushed toward the aircraft to evacuate the passengers.

"We are very proud of him and the rest of crew on that plane," said Weber. "It took a real crew effort to land that plane, and they each had a crucial job to perform."

In addition to his role as a pilot, Lee is also the battalion safety officer, and he is responsible for the more than 10,000 hours of safe flying this battalion has done, said Weber.

Although he has helped his battalion fly thousands of safe hours, this 16 minute flight will be one that he says he will remember for many years to come.

"He displayed the same courage and character in the air plane that day as he does at work every day," said Weber. "Mr. Lee is a real citizen Soldier, and a true professional."



Photo by Spc. Jaime Avila

Iraqi soldiers carry a man to a waiting vehicle that will take him home after being seen by Iraqi medics at a cooperative medical engagement at As Sanawah, Iraq. The Iraqi army and Coalition Forces team up to provide medical assistance to the residents of As Sanawah.

MEDICAL, from Cover

er," said Johnson.

They also had a number of wheelchairs for patients who needed them.

"We offered and handed out a number of wheelchairs and I'm sure that helped them out because we had a few people who had to be carried in by family members," said Johnson.

This was a well-orchestrated event by the Iraqi Army, the Muthanna Provincial Reconstruction Team and Coalition Forces to benefit the people creating a greater bond in fellowship and trust.

"We provided comprehensive medical care to the indigenous people and we also had the opportunity to win the hearts and minds of the people in that particular area," said Johnson.

The Iraqi Army might not have the best of equipment or materials but they have the motivation and determination to care for their people.

"They have the will to give the proper care to the communi-

ty... there is progress, but there is still room for improvement," said Raza.

While several organizations were involved in the planning, gathering of supplies and executing the CME, the Iraqi Army was in the lead because they wanted to provide the essential treatment for their citizens.

"The Iraqi Army was the main presence there and the base of the event for the people. Not to mention the real significant contribution they made to the command and control for the security of the event and the provision of medical care," said Tarpey.

Although the CME required a lot of hard work by all involved, the final outcome of being able to treat families and seeing them smile was the ultimate reward.

"It was a great day to be a medic. I don't know when we will have another one, but I hope the command sees this as an asset and puts more on the calendar," said Johnson.

Anaconda provides jobs for local Iraqis

by Spc. Jay Venturini

Anaconda Times staff

LSA ANACONDA, Iraq – One of the main Coalition's goals is to offer the Iraqi people the means to provide for themselves. One of the ways Coalition Forces assist in this effort is by providing jobs to local Iraqis on military installations.

Of the many jobs offered to Iraqis here are beautification projects and performing odd jobs around the base.

"They do pretty much anything," said Airman 1st Class Justin Williams, a local national escort for Detachment 1, 332nd Expeditionary Mission Support Group (EMSG). "When we get requests for support we know that our guys will get the job done. They work quickly and efficiently."

The Iraqis have taken on projects such as painting the Black Jack Education Center and clearing the ground of trash and plants to make way for a new helipad at the Air Force Theater Hospital. They have also done numerous beautification missions at different housing areas and along the roads.

"They have done many great services around LSA Anaconda," said Airman 1st Class Justin Offett, a member and local national escort for Det. 1, 332nd EMSG. "They are a great asset to have."



Photo by Spc. Jay Venturini

Iraqi workers, along with the help of Airman 1st Class Justin Williams, a local national escort for Detachment 1, 332nd Expeditionary Mission Support Group, remove garbage from one of the housing areas here. The Iraqis work on the installation six days a week earning \$10 per day.

The Iraqis work six days a week for \$10 per day, which is more than enough to live on in the local villages. Along with providing valuable services here the Iraqis are also gaining other skills, such as learning English, which makes

them candidates to become interpreters.

Another benefit of having Iraqis working on post is forming stronger ties to the local villages.

"I like working for the Americans," said one Iraqi

"I love working with the Iraqis. There is nothing holding us back from being friends with them."

Airman 1st Class Justin Williams
332nd EMSG

worker. "It's a good job, I make good money and I'm learning to speak English."

"Most of my family works on the camp," said another. "The money is very important for me and my family."

Through working with each other everyday the Iraqis and their escorts have developed a great relationship, which makes the work day more enjoyable for everyone.

"I love working with the Iraqis," said Williams. "There is nothing holding us back

from being friends with them. We've never had any problems with them. They are some great people."

With Iraq moving closer to self sufficiency Coalition Forces throughout theater have been making it easier for Iraqis to make a good, honest daily wage to support themselves and their families.

"We are definitely making a difference in their lives," said Offett. "They love coming to work and (they) get the job done."



Photo by Spc. Jay Venturini

(Above) Airman 1st Class Justin Offett, eats a homemade lunch with the Iraqi workers here. Because Offett works with the same Iraqis everyday they have a great working relationship as they perform various beautifying missions throughout the installation.

(Right) Airman 1st Class Justin Williams greets an Iraqi worker as another work day begins.



M
Ana



RAPs phase out M114s

conda receives first of many new fighting vehicles

by Spc. Thomas Keeler

Anaconda Times staff

LSA ANACONDA, Iraq – The military's newest fighting vehicles are now on the ground.

Five new Mine Resistant Ambush Protected (MRAP) vehicles, which arrived here Oct. 27, will replace the M1114 vehicles the Army currently uses in theater.

With more scheduled to arrive, Lt. Col. Jeff Meo, 402nd Army Field Support Brigade commander from Army Material Command, says the MRAPs will provide more protection for Soldiers out on combat logistics patrols.

"The MRAP is mine protected with a 'V' hull, which allows it to 'push off' the explosion when it's hit," said Meo.

In addition to being up-armored, the interior seating has also been redesigned.

"The MRAP has seats that flex with an explosion, and what that does is absorb a lot of the energy so Soldiers aren't injured," he said.

The MRAPs that arrived here were the first Army MRAPs to arrive in theater outside of Baghdad. The vehicles were unloaded from the plane via engine r u n -

"The MRAP is mine protected with a 'V' hull, which allows it to 'push off' the explosion when it's hit. The MRAP has seats that flex with an explosion, and what that does is absorb a lot of the energy so Soldiers aren't injured."

Lt. Col. Jeff Meo
402nd AFSB

ning offload, from a Russian cargo jet large enough to carry the vehicles, according to Chief Master Sgt. Adriene Benton, air transportation manager with the 332nd Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron. After refueling, the vehicles were driven from the freight yard to the Retrograde Property Accountability Team (RPAT) yard.

"The Soldiers will come in as a group, usually at a company level, and we will issue 18 to 30 vehicles at a time," said Meo. A week of maintenance and drivers training is required before Soldiers are ready to take the MRAP on the roads. The training includes a night driving route around LSA Anaconda.

Units issued the MRAPs will leave their old vehicle behind for deprocessing. The Marine Corps, which runs the MRAP vehicle program, began using the new vehicles in operations earlier this year. But not all MRAPs are designed to the same specifications. In order to promote competition and improve quality of effort, the Marine Corps issued contracts to five of the manufacturers who submitted a design.

"We have seven variations with five different manufacturers, so every time you come out you may see a little different vehicle," says Meo.

This shipment of the five MRAPs here is the first of many. Manufacturers are scheduled to deliver many more of the vehicles to Iraq over the coming weeks and months.

"They are pushing these things out the door as fast as they can," said Meo. The MRAP is one of many measures the Department of Defense is employing to help shield service personnel from hurt, harm and danger.

Photo by Spc. Thomas Keeler

Air Force Master Sgt. William Muck, a fuels manager for the 332nd Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron (ELRS), pumps diesel fuel into the first of five new MRAP vehicles that arrived here Oct. 27.



The simple life: spartan camp life requires servicemembers rely on each other

by Sgt. Jasmine Chopra

Anaconda Times staff

CAMP HIT, Iraq- For servicemembers living in spartan camps throughout Iraq, daily showers are never guaranteed, food is prepared by America's arguably bravest chefs, and recreational activities include washing one's own clothes by hand when the enormous field expedient washing machine is out of order.

Simple facilities seem primitive compared to the amenities on a large installation. But for Marine Lance Cpl. Robert Gorda, a member of the 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment (1/7 MR), who prepares food in a steaming hot trailer kitchen for hungry servicemembers here, this sometimes frugal camp life is where it is at.

Gorda feeds hundreds of Marines and Soldiers here and is not alone in his appreciation for the simple life.

"The sunsets are beautiful (here)," said Spc. Rebecca Ibarra, a shower, laundry and clothing repair specialist with the 488th Quartermaster Company (QM Co).

If Soldiers and Marines want clean laundry, chances are Ibarra or one of her coworkers has a hand in it. Ibarra operates the Laundry Advanced System, which is basically a gigantic and powerful mobile washing machine, capable of washing up to 400 pounds of laundry per hour. Whether it is



Photo by Sgt. Jasmine Chopra

Sgt. James German, a mechanic and member of a personal security detail with the 507th Corps Support Group, refuels his vehicle before hitting the road.

a Soldier or a Marine, they rely on Soldiers in the 488th QM Co. to give them clean clothes everyday.

"Anyone can appreciate how good it feels to have clean

clothes, especially if you've had to go without them for a while," said Ibarra. There are no civilian contracted laundry services here. Soldiers maintain shower tents, pump their own gas, repair vehicles, build things, and even cut each other's hair.

"Living on a small, isolated camp means we all have to rely on each other," Ibarra said.

Relying on one another has led to unexpected inter-service friendships.

"There really are no tensions between the Marines and Soldiers. I've made some really good friends (here)," said Spc. Adam Sheppard, a

"Living on a small, isolated camp means we all have to rely on each other."

Spc. Rebecca Ibarra
488th QM Co.

utilities equipment repairer, with the 3637th Maintenance Company.

Although it is not his military occupational specialty, Sheppard is a skilled mechanic and repairs Marine vehicles.

"I've worked on up to five vehicles in one day," he said.

His Marine friends appreciate the help.

"I'd say his skills as a mechanic are pretty much awesome," said Marine Cpl. Bryan Cole, a motor transportation mechanic with 1/7 MR. "If we didn't have Sheppard, we would make do, but having him to depend on has been a big help," said Cole.

The camaraderie of shared hardship is what makes this camp such a special place to live, work and serve.



Photos by Sgt. Jasmine Chopra

(Above) Cpl. Eugene Cepin, a shower, laundry and clothing repair specialist with the 16th Quartermaster Company loads laundry into the laundry advanced system which is capable of washing and drying up to 400 pounds of laundry per cycle. (Right) Marine Cpl. Lee McCurdy, prepares lunch in a mobile kitchen trailer for hungry servicemembers here. Temperatures inside the field kitchen often exceed 120 degrees Fahrenheit. He and other cooks with the 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment feed hundreds of Marines and Soldiers everyday.



Task Force Ready crew helps Iraqi girl get back on her feet



Photo by Maj. Everett Spain

19-year-old Suham Hassan Ka-Naan sits with her brother and several Soldiers from Assassin Troup, 3rd Squadron, 1st Cavalry Regiment in the back of a Task Force XII UH-60 Black Hawk. Soldiers from Task Force Ready's A Co. 5-158th Aviation Regiment flew the girl, a double amputee, to a prosthetics clinic in Baghdad where she was fitted for her new prosthetic limbs Oct. 21.

by Sgt. 1st Class Chris Seaton

12th Combat Aviation Brigade

LSA ANACONDA, Iraq- The crews of Alpha Company (A Co.) 5th Battalion, 158th Aviation Regiment are familiar with flying important people. In just a few months in Iraq, the 'VIP Company' has carried Coalition Force military leaders, famous news reporters and more.

But on an otherwise normal day in October, they got the chance to carry someone who they considered truly special: a 19 year old Iraqi girl named Suham Hassan Ka-Naan.

"I read about her story in 'Stars and Stripes' about a month ago," said Chief Warrant Officer Eric Hildebrandt, an A Co. pilot. "I remember being very touched by the story, so it was a pleasure to get to meet her."

In 2004, Suham lived near the front gate of a U.S. base near Baghdad. She lived the life of a normal teenage girl; until one night an insurgent rocket fired at the base fell short and struck her family's home.

The blast took both of her legs.

In the years since the attack, Suham has learned to live without legs, and with the idea that she would never walk again. She's learned to rely on her brother to carry her wherever she goes.

Aug. 4, the Soldiers of Assassin Troup, 3rd Squadron, 1st Cavalry Regiment were clearing the village, searching for extremist militia members when they met Suham. They decided to help her.

Over the past few months, with the help of the Assassin Troup Sol-

diers, she has started to receive the medical attention needed.

Oct. 21, she and her brother boarded a 'VIP Company' UH-60 Black Hawk which transported her to Forward Operating Base Washington in Baghdad, and the prosthetics clinic where she was to be fitted with her new legs.

"All the crew members were excited to be a part of it," said Chief Warrant Officer Richard Oros, the pilot in command of the mission. "The crew chief (Spc. Chuck Broadwater) said she had a big smile on her face the whole flight. After living with tragedy like that, if you can bring a smile to somebody's face, everybody feels good."

Though transporting an Iraqi girl to a hospital may seem like a small thing, its impact on the war on terrorism is huge, said Task Force Ready Commander, Lt. Col. Jack Bone. "The lasting effects of what is being done for this girl will not only impact her, but also her family, her community and so on," he said. "The military aspect plays a tremendous role in (helping to win the support of the Iraqi people) and in my mind, we are winning that fight on a daily basis."

Though this is not the first time Task Force XII Soldiers have had the opportunity to directly impact the people of Iraq, the crews on board say this is the one they'll remember the longest.

"I wish we could do more of these things," said Hildebrandt. "I don't really think of it as helping an Iraqi. Citizenship doesn't play any part of it. For me, it's about helping another human being."

America's warrior

by Spc. Jennifer L. Sierra

A snapshot of servicemembers in the Global War on Terrorism

Full name and rank: Spc. Johanna Noelle Ethelbah.
Unit: 561st Medical Com. (Dental Service)- Grafenwoehr, Germany.
Job Title: Medical Logistics Specialist.
Time in service: 3 ½ years.
Age: 23.
Hometown: Whiteriver, Ariz.
Tribe: White Mountain Apache Tribe.
Family: Mother, Glenda.
Pastimes: Coming home for the first time right after Advanced Individual Training and Basic Training and knowing that I made my mother proud with my accomplishments.
Life-changing event/moment: Joining the Army and leaving my family and home for the first time.
Lesson Learned: The first time for anything is always the hardest (e.g. leaving home).
The person I admire the most: My mother.
Why I joined the military: To get off of the reservation and try to make something out of myself, go to school, see the world and serve my country.

If I wasn't in the military I would be: In school getting my degree.

What makes a good Soldier: Your morals and values.

What makes a good leader: Being able to accept constructive criticism, adjust fire and drive on.

Motivations in life: Anything to make my mother proud.

Goals: The biggest goal I have is to go home with my degree and work on my reservation for my people and make any changes to help the people on my reservation.

Hardest part of my job here: Trying to keep up with all the clinics I support along with my additional duties.

Best part of my life: Anytime I get to spend with my mother.

**National American Indian Heritage Month: Honoring warriors past and present.

In honor of National American Indian Heritage Month, we are recognizing servicemembers with Native American heritage on the Month of November.



Photo by Spc. Jennifer L. Sierra

This far by faith...the saga of the Native American experience

by Maj. Christopher E. West

316th ESC PAO

It has been said that with the sunrise comes the dawning of a new day, a new beginning—an opportunity to learn from the errors, misdeeds, and abuses of yesterday, and to labor for a better tomorrow today. History has shown that adversity often gives birth to a greater good and connects us all in a manner that reaffirms our oneness as a human race. Certainly the plight of Native Americans is a compelling example of this idea.

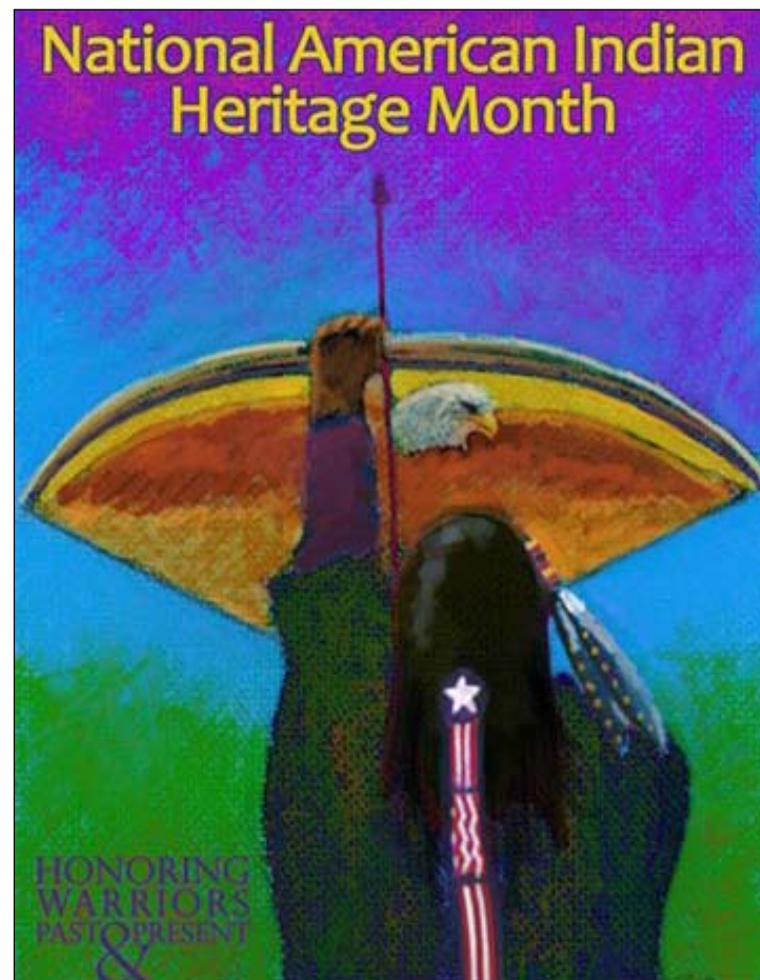
According to a recent U.S. Census report, Native Americans make up less than one percent of the total U.S. population but represent half the languages and cultures in the nation. Their unique spiritual, artistic, and literary contributions, together with their vibrant customs and celebrations, have helped to shape and enrich our country for the better. Yet it is their indomitable spirit and sheer determination which serves as a testament to oppressed people everywhere that trouble, heartache, and pain can not last for ever. That forced hardship, racial prejudices, and ethnocentric behavior can not and will not deter or quench a faith that has weathered bitter Indian Wars, the hypocritical Indian Removal Act, the mer-

ciless trail of tears, demeaning stereotypes and numerous other tribulations.

In short, the Native American saga is our saga. Whether black, white, brown, red, or yellow in skin tone, let us ever strive to be more tolerant as well as embrace our pluralistic heritage which defines and unites us as a nation. The month of November has been designated as Native American Indian Heritage Month. As such Capt. Kevin McNamara, the deputy public affairs officer, and I will present a series of articles which will highlight the history, struggles, triumphs, and accomplishments of our true blood brothers and sisters, the Native Americans.

Because faith is the substance of things hoped for and the evidence of things unseen, let us reaffirm our appreciation and respect for the traditions and way of life of all people, regardless of their ancestral heritage. By doing so, we will preserve an important part of our collective culture for generations yet to come.

**Editor's Note: In honor of National American Indian Heritage Month, we will be running articles that provide deeper knowledge and understanding of our Nation's Native American ancestry.*



Ambush in Oregon: Prosecution of Indians for War Crimes was unique

by Fred L. Borch and Robert F. Dorr

Special to the Army Times

In 1873, a military commission held a trial for six American Indian warriors of the Modoc tribe. It became an event unique in Army history.

In October 1864, the Modoc tribe signed a treaty with the United States in which the tribe agreed to give up ancestral lands on the Oregon-California border and move 30 miles north onto the Klamath Indian Reservation in Oregon.

Within a short time, the Modocs regretted their decision. In early 1870, they left the reservation and returned to their homelands. Led by their chief, Kientpoos, better known by the moniker "Captain Jack," the tribe of 371 men, women and children set up camp in an area near Lake Tule that was littered with volcanic rock and commonly called the "lava beds."

White settlers in the area were nervous. The Modocs had a fierce reputation based on an attack they'd made on a wagon train of settlers in the 1850s.

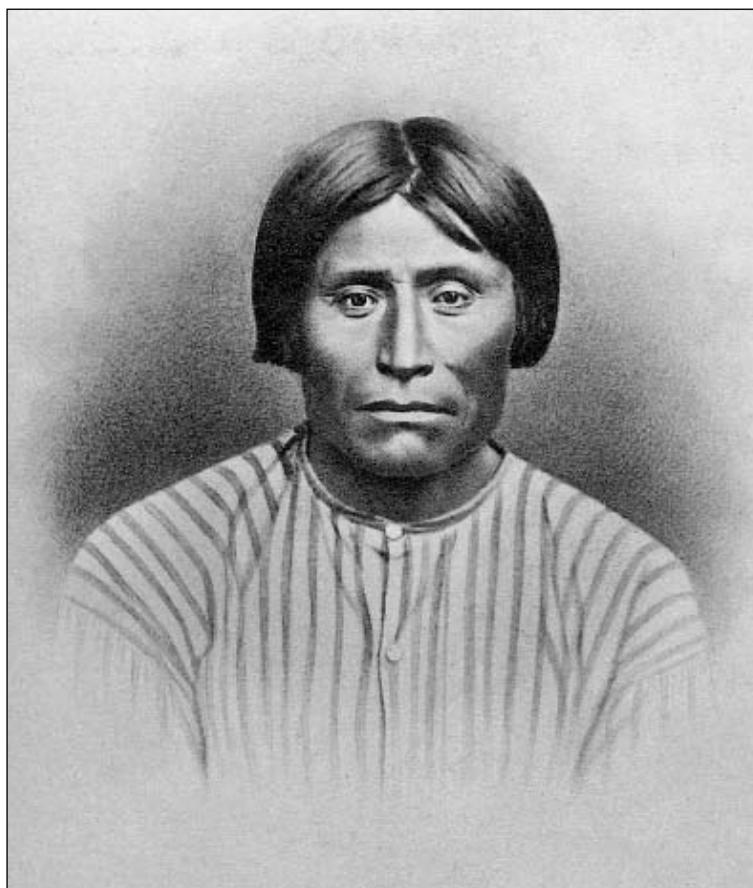
The Army's mission was to enforce the treaty and force Captain Jack and his Modocs to return to the reservation. The Modocs resisted. Months

of fighting culminated on January 29, 1873, when the Modocs defeated a numerically superior force of U.S. soldiers and territorial militia.

In an attempt to negotiate an end to this small war, the Secretary of the Interior appointed a special "peace commission" headed by Brig. Gen. Edward R. S. Canby, the acting commander of the Military Division of the Pacific. Canby, 56, was popular and had an impressive Civil War record; he had earned accolades when he restored order in New York City following the draft riots of 1863. Other members of the peace commission were the Rev. Eleasar Thomas, L.S. Dyar, and Alfred Meacham.

On Good Friday, April 11, 1873, the four commissioners went to meet Captain Jack and the Modocs. All had agreed to come unarmed. There were some warning signs that the peace commissioners might be in danger, but Canby insisted that the negotiations should continue because he thought so many soldiers in the area would intimidate Captain Jack and his band.

Soon after the men began to parley, they reached an impasse. Then, on signal from Captain Jack, two Modocs who'd been hiding be-



National Archives

Modoc chief Kientpoos, better known as "Captain Jack," was tried by a military commission for murder in 1873.

hind rocks began firing at the commissioners. Captain Jack pulled out a pistol and shot Canby in the face, killing him instantly. Rev. Thomas was also killed in the gunfire. Dyar and Meacham survived, although the latter was badly wounded. The Modocs

escaped, but were later captured.

The entire United States was outraged that Canby had been killed while "under a flag of truce." Local civilian authorities wanted to try the Modocs, but the U.S. Attorney General and the Judge

Advocate General agreed that a military commission should hear the case. The Modocs were akin to a foreign nation, and consequently a state of war existed between them and the United States. While Modocs who killed soldiers in battle had immunity as combatants, their murder of Canby and Thomas was a violation of the law of war.

On July 1, 1873, a military commission of five officers heard evidence against Captain Jack and five other Modocs. All were found guilty of murder; four were sentenced to death. After President U.S. Grant approved the sentences, they were hanged at Fort Klamath, Ore. on October 3, 1873.

By today's standards, the military commission was flawed. The Modocs did not have defense counsel, the trial lasted a mere four days, and the five officers who decided the case were hardly impartial. But the case remains unique---the only time in history the Army prosecuted Native Americans for violating the law of war.

This article first appeared in the Oct. 8, 2007 edition of the Army Times and is reprinted with permission from the authors.

Upcoming sports on AFN

Wednesday 11/7/07

New York Rangers @ New York Islanders live 3:00 a.m. AFN/xtra
 College FB: Central Michigan @ Western Michigan live 3:30 a.m. AFN/sports
 Seattle Supersonics @ Sacramento Kings live 6:00 a.m. AFN/xtra
 Denver Nuggets @ New York Knicks replay 4:00 p.m. AFN/sports
 Cleveland Cavaliers @ Golden State Warriors replay 9:00 p.m. AFN/sports

Thursday 11/8/07

College FB: Ohio @ Akron live 3:30 a.m. AFN/xtra; replay 2:00 p.m. AFN/sports
 Miami Heat @ San Antonio Spurs live 4:00 a.m. AFN/sports; replay 8:00 p.m. AFN/sports
 New Orleans Hornets @ Portland Trail blazers live 6:30 a.m. AFN/sports

Friday 11/9/07

College FB: Louisville @ West Virginia live 3:30 a.m. AFN/xtra
 Detroit Pistons W Chicago Bulls live 4:00 a.m. AFN/sports; replay 9:00 a.m. AFN/sports
 Dallas Mavericks @ Golden State Warriors live 6:30 a.m. AFN/sports; replay 1:30 p.m. AFN/sports
 MLS playoffs: Teams TBD replay 9:00 a.m. AFN/xtra

Saturday 11/10/07

College FB: Rutgers @ Army live 4:00 a.m. AFN/xtra; replay 2:00 p.m.

AFN/sports

Denver Nuggets @ Washington Wizards live 4:00 a.m. AFN/sports
 Cleveland Cavaliers @ Sacramento Kings live 6:30 a.m. AFN/sports
 College FB: Teams TBD live 8:00 p.m. AFN/sports
 College FB: Teams TBD live 8:00 p.m. AFN/xtra
 College FB: Teams TBD live 11:30 p.m. AFN/sports
 College FB: Teams TBD live 11:30 p.m. AFN/xtra

Sunday 11/11/07

College FB: USC @ California live 4:00 a.m. AFN/sports
 NASCAR Busch Series: Arizona Travel 200 replay 5:00 p.m. AFN/xtra
 NFL FB: Teams TBD live 9:00 p.m. AFN/xtra
 NFL FB: Teams TBD live 9:00 p.m. AFN/sports

Monday 11/12/07

NFL FB: Teams TBD live 12:00 a.m. AFN/sports
 NFL FB: Teams TBD live 12:00 a.m. AFN/xtra
 Indianapolis Colts @ San Diego Chargers live 4:15 a.m. AFN/sports; replay 3:00 p.m. AFN/sports; replay 9:00 AFN/sports
 Detroit Pistons @ Seattle Supersonics live 5:00 AFN/xtra

Tuesday 11/13/07

San Francisco 49ers @ Seattle Seahawks live 4:30 a.m. AFN/sports
 College BB: New Mexico State @ Duke replay 11:00 a.m. AFN/sports
 College BB: Wisconsin-Green Bay @ Ohio State replay 1:00 p.m. AFN/sports
 College BB: Youngstown State @ UCLA replay 3:00 p.m. AFN/sports

(Schedule is subject to change)

SUSTAINER REEL TIME THEATER

Wednesday, Nov. 7
 5 p.m. Superbad (R)
 8 p.m. The Simpsons Movie (PG-13)

Thursday, Nov. 8
 5 p.m. Dan in Real Life (PG-13)
 8 p.m. Stardust (PG-13)

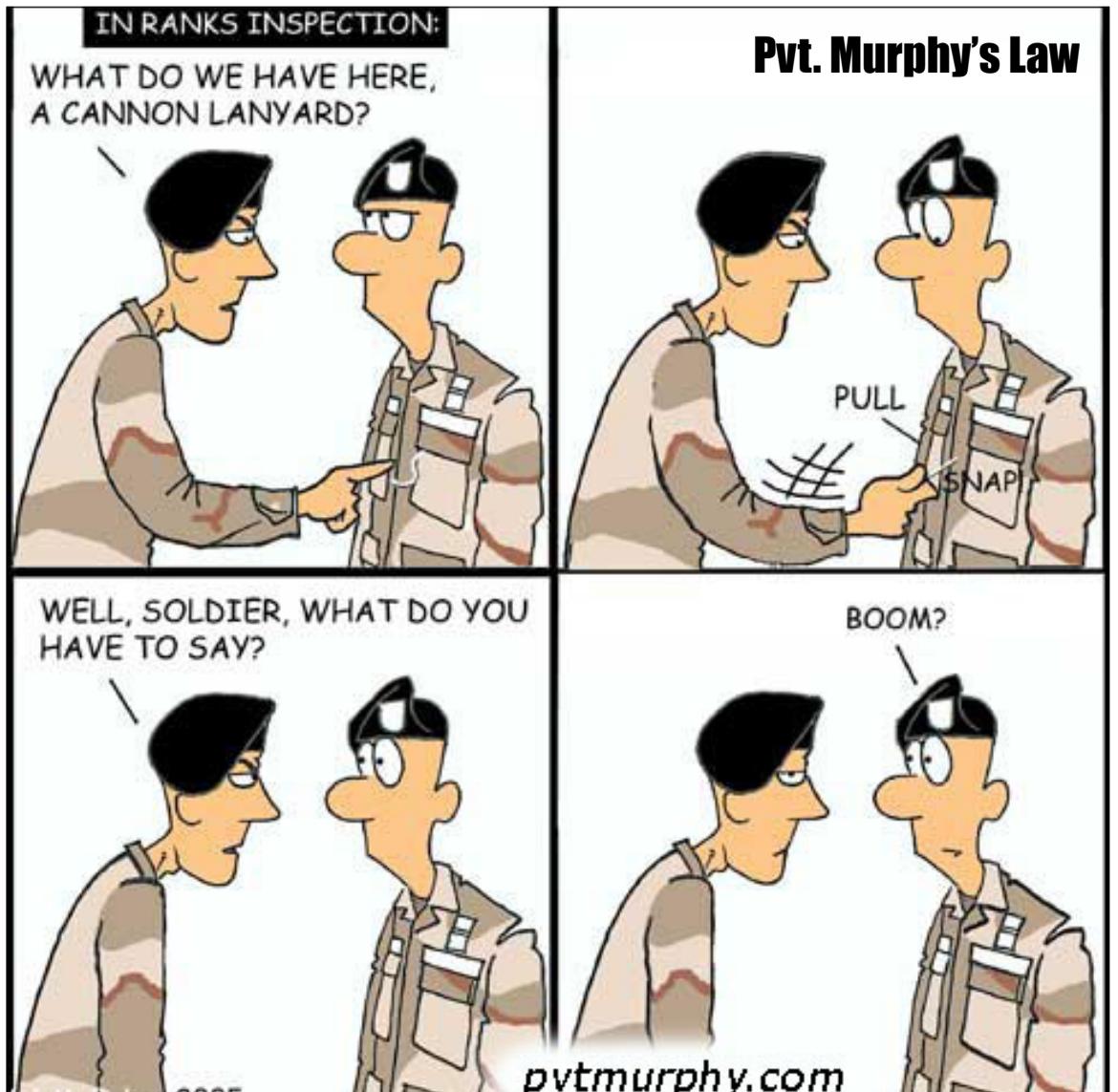
Friday, Nov. 9
 2 p.m. 3:10 to Yuma (R)
 5 p.m. Sydney White (PG-13)
 8 p.m. Bee Movie (PG)

Saturday, Nov. 10
 Naturalization Ceremony

Sunday, Nov. 11
 Naturalization Ceremony

Monday, Nov. 12
 5 p.m. The Kingdom (R)
 8 p.m. Bee Movie (PG)

Tuesday, Nov. 13
 5 p.m. Bee Movie (PG)
 8 p.m. 3:10 to Yuma (R)



ANACONDA ACTIVITIES

INDOOR POOL

aqua training: Thursday- 7:45 p.m.

Endurance and pacing:

Saturday- 10 a.m. and 7:30 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

8-ball tourney: Wednesday- 1 p.m. and 8 p.m.

9-ball tournament: Monday- 1 p.m. and 8 p.m.

Battlefield 2 Tourney: Thursday- 1 p.m. and 8 p.m.

Dungeons & Dragons: Saturday- 8 p.m.

urday- 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.

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

3-on-3 basketball tourney: Saturday- 7:30 p.m.

6-on-6 volleyball tourney: Friday- 7 p.m.

aerobics: Monday, Wednesday and Friday- 7 p.m.

open court basketball: Thursday- 7 p.m.

open court soccer: Monday- 7 p.m.

soccer tennis tourney: Wednesday- 7 p.m.

Task Force XII Halloween 5K: Wednesday- 6 a.m.

Whiffle ball game: Tuesday- 7:30 p.m.

8 p.m. West MWR

STARTS



Friday Nights

Bones



Historical timeline: the history of Veteran's day

1918: World War I, then normally referred to simply as The Great War (no one could imagine any war being greater!), ended with the implementation of an armistice [temporary cessation of hostilities—in this case until the final peace treaty, the infamous Treaty of Versailles, was signed in 1919] between the Allies and Germany at the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of November, 1918.

1919: November 11: President Wilson proclaims the first Armistice Day with the following words: "To us in America, the reflections of armistice Day will be filled with solemn pride in the heroism of those who died in the country's service and with gratitude for the victory, both because of the thing from which it has freed us and because of the opportunity it has given America to show her sympathy with peace and justice in the councils of the nations..." The original concept for the celebration was for the suspension of business for a two minute period beginning at 11 A.M., with the day also marked by parades and public meetings.

1920: On the second anniversary of the armistice, France and the United Kingdom hold ceremonies honoring their unknown dead from the war. In America, at the suggestion of church groups, President Wilson names the Sunday nearest Armistice Day Sunday, on which should be held services in the interest of international peace.

1921: Congress passes legislation approving the establishment of a Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington National Cemetery. November

11 is chosen for the date of the ceremony. According on October 20, Congress declares November 11, 1921 a legal Federal holiday to honor all those who participated in the war. The ceremony was conducted with great success.

1926: Congress adopts a resolution directing the President to issue an annual proclamation calling on the observance of Armistice Day. Throughout the 1920s and 1930s, most states establish November 11 as a legal holiday and at the Federal level, an annual proclamation is issued by the President.

1938: Congress passes legislation on May 13 making November 11 a legal Federal holiday, Armistice Day. The United States has no 'actual' national holidays because the states retain the right to designate their own holidays. The Federal government can in fact only designate holidays for Federal employees and for the District of Columbia. But in practice the states almost always follow the Federal lead in designation of holidays.

1941- 1945/1950- 1953: World War II and the Korean War create millions of additional war veterans in addition to those of the First World War already honored by Armistice Day.

1954: On June 1, President Eisenhower signs legislation changing the name of the legal holiday from Armistice Day to Veteran's Day.

1968: Congress passes the Monday Holiday Law which established the fourth Monday in October as the new date for the observance of Veteran's Day. The law is to take effect in 1971.

1971-1975: The Federal observance of Veterans

Day is held on the fourth Monday of October. Initially all states follow suit except Mississippi and South Dakota. Other states changed their observances back to November 11 as follows:

1972- Louisiana and Wisconsin; 1974- Kentucky, Arkansas, Connecticut, Georgia, Maine, South Carolina, West Virginia; 1975- California, Florida, Idaho, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Carolina, Utah, West Virginia, Wyoming

1975: Legislation passed to return the Federal observance of Veteran's Day to November 11, based on popular support throughout the nation. Since the change to the fourth Monday in October, 46 states had either continued to commemorate November 11 or had reverted back to the original date based on popular sentiment. The law was to take effect in 1978.

1978: Veteran's Day observance reverts to November 11.



Web Image

Unknown U.S. Soldier from the North Africa American Cemetery.

1-9 FA denies enemy access to key terrain

by Staff Sgt. Dave Lankford

Anaconda Times staff

LSA ANACONDA, Iraq – Every military operation begins with security. The 1st Battalion, 9th Field Artillery (FA) here is charged with terrain denial, which is an essential piece of this mission.

The villages and farms surrounding the logistics support area here were at one time home to countless insurgents, and the townspeople and farmers were either powerless or too frightened to do anything about it. The result was frequent and well aimed indirect fire attacks which earned the camp its infamous nickname “Mortaritaville.”

To disrupt these attacks, it is necessary to determine where they are being launched from. This key terrain must then be occupied by friendly forces to deny access to the enemy. This is called terrain denial.

“The intelligence gurus send us where they think we’re most likely to get an indirect fire attack from. We go there to interdict, to make sure the anti-Iraqi forces don’t have maneuver capability to use that terrain against us. We go there so they can’t,” said 2nd Lt. Andrew Holler, Alpha Battery, 1st Platoon Leader, 1-9 FA.

There are several options when conducting terrain denial operations. The first is mounted patrols. This type of patrol offers several benefits including the ability to cover large areas in a short amount of time. It also offers the security of an up-armored vehicle as protection from small arms fire and IED attacks.

The second is static mounted terrain denial. This is much the same as a mounted patrol and offers the same security benefits. The major difference is the patrol takes ground and holds it. This is not a roving patrol. It is exactly as it is described: static.

The final option is among the most effective methods of terrain denial; however, it is also the most risky. It is the dismounted patrol.

“The dismounted patrols are very effective because the enemy can see the trucks coming; trucks make a lot of noise. As we dismount it gives us the ability to spread out more. We can cover more terrain at one time and it also gets us eyes in places where the vehicles can’t get us,” said Holler.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Dave Lankford

Spc. Mikkia Newsome, 514th Maintenance Company based out of Fort Drum, N.Y., leans into the M107 .50-caliber long range sniper rifle from a concealed position over-watching the terrain denial patrol. As a well trained shooter, she can engage targets out to 2,000 meters with deadly accuracy. This has earned the Philadelphia, Pa. native the nickname, “Bad Person Beware.”

When conducting a dismounted patrol there is nothing between the friendly forces and the enemy but air and opportunity. This type of patrol requires teamwork, experience and nerves of steel.

“I’ve got a really sharp group of NCOs. We work really well together. We’ve established a way of doing things so the NCOs don’t have to give the Soldiers much instruction,” said Holler. “Everyone just knows their place.”

With the sound of explosions and small arms fire in the distance and dogs barking all around one would think it would be difficult to focus on the mission. This ability comes with experience, and is not only crucial to accomplishing the mission, but the survival of the men on the patrol.

“When we first got here we wanted to react to everything. You’d hear an explosion and you’d want to run and get everyone back in the trucks. It’s in no way complacency, but you learn; ‘ok, that’s small arms fire. I’m going to make a note of it but is it really affecting what I’m doing here?’” said Holler.

An obvious result of the

terrain denial mission is the decrease in effective mortar attacks on the base, but one benefit most Soldiers never get a chance to see is the effect on the surrounding communities.

“We have a pretty good presence in the villages. There are places that are less friendly

than others, but we try to interact with the people as much as possible and build rapport with them,” said Holler.

Holler also believes many people see the intelligence reports which predict likely attacks, and when the attacks don’t occur they just assume it was due to poor intelligence.

“They put the predicted attack slides out all the time and I think it’s important not to write them off. People look at the slides and think they predicted an attack and it didn’t happen,” said Holler. “Well, there’s a pretty good chance we were out there making sure it didn’t happen.”



Photo by Staff Sgt. Dave Lankford

As darkness descends on LSA Anaconda, Spc. James Trettenero, 1-9 FA command driver and gunner, adjusts his equipment before heading out on a terrain denial patrol.

Anaconda's leanest, meanest participate in October biathlon



Photos by Spc. Jennifer L. Sierra

(Above) Capt. Greg J. Whelan, ammunition supply officer with the 316th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), jumps off the curb to cross the finish line during the October biathlon. Whelan was the overall first place winner of the biathlon held here Oct. 28. (Below) Capt. Katherine J. Malcomb, the assistant S-3 for Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 3-158 Assault Helicopter Battalion (Task Force Storm), begins the final stretch of the five-kilometer run portion of the October biathlon.



Photos by Spc. Jennifer L. Sierra

(Above) Donald Langhorne pushes himself to reach the edge of the pool to complete the 1,000 meter swim portion of the biathlon. (Below) Tech. Sgt. Jon Phillips, the load planning supervisor for the 332nd Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron, Aerial Port Flight, hurries out of the pool after completing the 1,000-meter swim portion of the biathlon.



Photo by Spc. Jennifer L. Sierra

Maj. Daniel M. Ruiz, battalion tactical operations officer in charge with the 5-158th Aviation Regiment, takes a deep breath as he prepares to exit the pool and begin the five-kilometer run portion of the October biathlon.