

AnacondaTimes

NOVEMBER 21, 2007

PROUDLY SERVING LSA ANACONDA



Photo by Pfc. Andrea Merritt

Wanted: Golden spurs

15th PSB Soldiers go for
13-hour Spur Ride

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Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Neil K. Simmons

Thanksgiving is almost here

DFACs prep, make
Thanksgiving trimmings

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Photo by Sgt. Jasmine Chopra

Heritage Hunt

Servicemembers learn
about tribes through hunt

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Photo by Spc. Jennifer L. Sierra

178 servicemembers recited the Oath of Allegiance Nov. 11 during the Veterans Day naturalization ceremony held here. Servicemembers traveled to LSA Anaconda from various locations throughout the area of operations to participate in the largest naturalization ceremony in theater to date.

LSAA, 316th ESC host largest naturalization ceremony ever in Iraq

by Sgt. Jasmine Chopra

Anaconda Times staff

LSA ANACONDA, Iraq – In thick Arabic, Spanish, and other foreign accents, 178 servicemembers and naturalization candidates recited the Oath of Allegiance here Nov. 11, in the largest naturalization ceremony to date in Iraq. Secretary of Homeland Security, Michael Chertoff, led the candidates in the oath.

“So help me God,” said Spc. Yasser Affifi, a linguist with 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division. A smile appeared on his face upon completing the last clause of the

“I can’t think of people who are more deserving of citizenship than those who are fighting to defend the country even before they are citizens. They understand that freedoms don’t come free and they are willing to make sacrifices even before they reap the benefits of citizenship.”

Secretary Michael Chertoff
Department of Homeland Security

Oath of Allegiance, marking his official passage to U.S. citizenship.

So excited was he about his naturalization ceremony, Affifi brought his very own American flag to the ceremony.

“Before, I was an Egyptian serving in the U.S. Army, now I am an American serving my country,” he said.

The ceremony was held on Veterans Day at the Sustainer Theater, under the auspices of

the 316th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) (ESC).

“Not too many years ago this theater was the site of entertainment and events under a different kind of regime led by a brutal dictator. That we can transform this space into a hallowed place in which the oath of freedom and citizenship is administered, is a true illustration of the transformative power of the kind of work that you (candidates) do in carrying the torch of freedom,” said Chertoff.

One new citizen who understands well what life under

See **CITIZENS**, Page 7

From the office of the commanding general

Dear fellow servicemembers and civilian staff personnel:

As we ready for the upcoming Thanksgiving holiday, let us take time to remember not only our friends and loved ones both near and far, but also our fellow servicemembers who have answered our nation's call to duty and, like each of you, are serving in harm's way. Let us also remember those less fortunate among us.

For those serving in support of the Global War on Terrorism, Thanksgiving dinner may be in some provisional camp or post far from home or even on board an aircraft carrier deep in the midst of hostile waters. Regardless of where you are, please take time to show gratitude to those who are absent from the dinner table. May they forever be in our hearts and prayers.

Moreover, let us not forget the wisdom demonstrated by the courageous pilgrims who crossed the chilly Atlantic Ocean destined for our beloved homeland over 400 years ago. Traveling for nearly two months under less



Web Image

than desirable conditions, these gallant men and women endured terrible storms and suffered extreme physical

hardships. Yet they were able to find strength for the journey through the singing of sacred songs which gave

them hope and encouragement.

After a challenging sea voyage of more than 66 days, they landed near what is now Plymouth, Massachusetts. About 102 people started the journey from England to the New World; however, fifty-six of them made it. Forty-six of them died due to the elements of nature. Upon learning how to grow food from Native Americans, the early travelers, because of their faith in God, called for a day of fasting and prayer to thank Him for His many blessings.

Like the pilgrims of old, we too give thanks to the Almighty for all of His countless blessings as well as for the freedoms we enjoy. Let us ever learn from the early settlers who thanked God and humbly sought His wisdom and blessing. May we always live by that same trust and hope.

Happy Thanksgiving and continue to sustain the victory!

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

Provost Marshal Office: Weekly police blotter

Week of Nov. 3 - 9

The PMO conducted: (190) security checks, (21) traffic stops, issued (14) DD Form 1408 Armed Forces Traffic Ticket, registered (127) vehicles on the installation, (29) Common Access Cards were turned in to PMO and (0) lost weapons were reported.

The PMO is currently investigating: (1) Assault case and (7) cases of Larceny Government/Personal Property.

PMO Recommendations: LSAA Regulation 190-5; A driver who unsafely operates a vehicle without proper control due to environmental, road, weather or vehicle conditions is

in violation of: lack of due care and attention (i.e. causing a vehicle accident due to inattentiveness, improper backing, not using a spotter, or improper turning, not using headlamps during darkness or not using windshield wipers, if needed).

Drivers will not utilize a cell phone while driving. Other devices that distract the driver's attention should not be used, unless absolutely mission essential, i.e. global positioning systems and other modern communication or navigation devices. When possible use these devices only when the vehicle is safely stopped.

by: Air Force Staff Sgt. Mark Hill, PMO



Photo by Spc. Jennifer L. Sierra

Air Force Master Sgt. Isaac Resurreccion, operations senior non-commissioned officer of the Provost Marshal Office coordinates traffic control points with the 561st Medical Co. (Dental Services) during the Veterans Day five-kilometer run.

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

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CJSOTF-AP

512th creates steeple for Argonne Chapel

by Staff Sgt. Bryant Maude

1st Sustainment Brigade

CAMP TAJI, Iraq – Thanks to the efforts of some 512th Maintenance Company Soldiers and the curiosity of some church goers, the Argonne Chapel here will soon have a steeple for all to see.

“Too many people said, ‘Where is the chapel?’ when I would invite them to church. I realized we needed something to distinguish the facility as a place of worship,” said 1st Sustainment Brigade chaplain, Chaplain Terrence Hayes.

Not too long after the idea took hold in his mind, Hayes was talking to some Soldiers working around the chapel and discovered he could help. “I asked them what they did and they said they were welders, etc. So the light bulb went on; ‘Hey, how about a sturdy metal steeple?’” inquired Hayes.

Once he found someone who could help he did what anyone looking for a steeple design would do. “I typed in ‘steeple’ on Google and out came this design,” said Hayes.

After reviewing the chap-

“I imagine that white spire pointing skyward as a daily reminder for us to look toward the One who made heaven and earth.”

Chaplain Terrence Hayes
1st SB

lain’s design, Chief Warrant Officer Bill Moore with the 512th enlisted the assistance of Spc. Scoot Yavorsky, also with the 512th, and the two of them went to work. “Normally we don’t do these types of projects, but you got to take care of the chaplain,” stated Moore.

“It’s been fun,” said Yavorsky. The two metal workers spent about 10 hours creating the steeple and were about finished when the chaplain came to see the progress.

“I imagine that white spire pointing



Photo by Staff Sgt. Bryant Maude

Chaplain Terrence Hayes of the 1st Sustainment Brigade admires the new steeple created by a few Soldiers of the 512th Maintenance Company based out of Manheim, Germany. Once painted the steeple will be mounted to the top of the 1st Sustainment Brigade’s Argonne Chapel on Camp Taji, Iraq.

skyward as a daily reminder for us to look toward the One who made heaven and earth,” said Hayes. “Many, many thanks

to Chief Moore and Spc. Yavorsky of the 512th Maintenance. That spire will stand there for a long time.”

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)
11 a.m. Chapel Heights(4155)
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)
2 p.m. Chapel Heights(4155)
6:30 p.m. Eden Chapel
7 p.m. Freedom Chapel (West Side)
9:30 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 (Chapel Annex)
3:30 p.m. EPISCOPAL (Tuskegee H-6)

PROTESTANT --MESSIANIC

Friday 8:30 p.m. Freedom Chapel (West Side)

PROTESTANT—PRAYER SERVICE

Saturday 7 a.m. Signal Chapel

PROTESTANT—SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST

Saturday 9 a.m. Provider

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)

Sunday 9 a.m. Tuskegee Chapel (H-6)
11 a.m. Provider Chapel

Mon-Fri 11:45 a.m. Provider Chapel

Mon-Sat 5p.m. Tuskegee Chapel (H-6)

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MEETING

Sunday 2p.m. MWR-West Side

LATTER DAY SAINTS-(LDS)-(MORMON)

Sunday 1 p.m. Provider Chapel
3:30p.m. Freedom Chapel (West Side)
7 p.m. Tuskegee (H-6)

JEWISH SHABBAT SERVICES

Friday 7 p.m. Signal Chapel

ISLAMIC SERVICE

Friday Noon Freedom Chapel (West Side)

PAGAN/ WICCAN FELLOWSHIP

Thursday 7 p.m. Eden Chapel

BUDDHIST FELLOWSHIP

Tuesday 7 p.m. Eden Chapel

USO announces arrival in Iraq with luau

by Spc. Thomas Keeler

Anaconda Times staff

LSA ANACONDA, Iraq – Hosting the ‘Escape to Paradise – Hawaiian Luau Party’ at the east side outdoor pool Oct. 28, the United Services Organization (USO) has effectively announced its arrival here.

Although the USO is currently operating centers in Kuwait and Afghanistan and has previously helped arrange and sponsor entertainment in Iraq, the USO center here will be the first in the Iraq theater since the start of the war.

“Hopefully by the first or second week of December we’ll have our center up and going,” said Angela Durko, who will direct the new USO center when it opens.

Durko, along with Linda Robinson, are the only two USO staffers currently on the ground. The two of them are working around the clock to build awareness and stage events while construction teams complete work on the center.

“We have a mobile office right now: it’s the car,” said Durko.

But the Hawaiian luau was a success. For several hours, servicemembers and civilians spent a relaxing Sunday afternoon by the pool, enjoying soft drinks and listening to music. The signature event of the luau was a “best guitar” competition, which included a dozen or so participants and went on for more than an hour.

The five-judge panel was led by Brig. Gen. Gregory E. Couch, commanding general, 316th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary). The best guitar winner was Air Force



Photo by Spc. Thomas Keeler

Pfc. Shaun Kirby a member of the 502nd Engineers competes in the Best Guitar competition before the panel of judges, led by Brig. Gen. Gregory E. Couch (far left), at the Escape to Paradise – Hawaiian Luau Oct. 28. Kirby finished second in the competition.

Tech. Sgt. Ronnson Norris, a garrison chaplain assistant from the Provider Chapel.

The USO has put on other events here, most notably the 5K run on Halloween morning. Nearly 500 runners showed up, some in costume. Amazon gifts cards and magazine subscriptions were awarded to the top finishers. And in the trick-or-treat spirit, Durko and Robinson distributed Halloween candy at two dining facilities that evening.

Robinson has also brought the USO’s United Through Reading program here, which

she operates each Friday afternoon from the base hospital.

“We are doing events right now to get the USO name out there,” said Durko. “And once the center is up and going, we’ll have center activities as well as sponsored events.”

The center will have televisions, refreshments and computers, including a game room where guests can compete against each other.

“We’ll have a head-to-head Xbox competition so that people can come in and play each other, and we’re hoping to have a game room for a Wii system too,” said Durko, adding that the interactivity of the Wii will require a little bit more room than normal. Game systems and electronics are scheduled to arrive over the next few weeks.

When the center opens, one or two more workers will arrive to help keep it running.

The USO Center is scheduled to be located in Building 4131, near the east side MWR. Durko and Robinson are working with the MWR to coordinate an activity over Thanksgiving.

The USO, founded in 1941, is a private, non-profit organization whose stated mission is to extend “a touch of home”

to military members serving stateside and around the world, providing MWR-type services to servicemembers and their families.

“It was cool to be here and to escape everything,” said

Durko after the Escape to Paradise – Hawaiian Luau. “Once you’re in there, you forget what goes on out here for a little while. Everyone was telling us that,” she remarked.



Photo by Spc. Thomas Keeler

(Above) Angela Durko (left) and Linda Robinson posed in front of their make-shift office. They are anxiously awaiting the opening of the soon-to-be USO here.

Date: Nov. 21, 2007

Time: 8:30 p.m.

Location: Sustainer Theater

MWR
www.mwr.com

Star Stripes
www.starstripes.com

National Guard Soldiers use civilian skills, hobbies to build, beautify, protect

by Sgt. Jasmine Chopra

Anaconda Times staff

LSA ANACONDA, Iraq- Take a look at the exquisite French provincial table or grandfather clock handcrafted by Spc. Don Dilbeck, and it's hard to believe he is a chef.

Watch Staff Sgt. Ernest Mallahan hammer nails into wooden planks while balancing on narrow beams high above the ground and you might not know he is actually a truck driver.

For several Soldiers with the 118th Maintenance Company, including Dilbeck and Mallahan, carpentry and masonry is their job even though it is not their military occupational specialty (MOS).

Drawing on their hobbies and civilian job skills, these California National Guard Soldiers are building wooden structures, furniture and fixtures that improve conditions here.

"For me, building stuff is like watching a great movie," said Dilbeck. "It's fun and relaxing," said the Lathrop, Calif. native.

He often comes to the woodshop on his days off to craft things. He was supposed to work in force protection but



Photo by Sgt. Jasmine Chopra

Staff Sgt. Ernest Mallahan affixes beams of wood to create the roof of a structure Oct. 30 here. Although carpentry and masonry is not his military occupational specialty, his 26 years of civilian experience in construction, including work on skyscrapers in San Francisco, secured his position as woodshop noncommissioned officer in charge with the 118th Maintenance Company.

when his first sergeant saw Dilbeck's talent and skill for woodwork in Texas during pre-mobilization training, he decided to assign him to the woodshop instead.

"The company needed a brace to ship a forklift in a con-

"You see it a lot in the Guard and Reserves, Soldiers using their civilian job skills and training for the benefit of the Army."

Staff Sgt. Ernest Mallahan
118th Maint. Co.

ex from Texas to Iraq. They had some wood and a handsaw, and I said, 'Is that all you've got?' So I pulled out my own electric saw from my duffle bag and I built that brace fast," Dilbeck said.

He brought his tools with the intention of using them for recreation, but they ended up getting him a job he loves, he said. He has four MOSs in total, none of which have anything related to carpentry.

For Mallahan, it was his 26 years of civilian experience in construction, including work on skyscrapers in San Francisco, that secured his position as woodshop noncommissioned officer in charge.

"You can't be afraid of heights," he said while nailing down planks of wood atop the 15-foot high would-be roof of a deck he is building.

Mallahan served here in 2003 too. Then, LSA Anaconda lacked many of the structures it presently has.

"Let's just say it was a lot more primitive here back then," said the San Mateo, Calif. resident.

He and other Soldiers quickly built buildings, furniture and fixtures to make living and working conditions better then, and continue to improve conditions now.

Mallahan, Spc. Everardo Rubalcava of Fairfield, Calif. and Spc. Derrick Yang of Humboldt County, Calif., also with the 118th, are currently working on a large-scale deck project spanning more than 200 feet in length. Although Rubalcava and Yang are shower, laundry and clothing repair specialists, they learned how to build from their fathers.

"I started in construction with my dad in 1987 and I've been building since," said Rubalcava. He enjoys building things more than he does his MOS, he said.

Yang pointed out Soldiers often fulfill duties that are not in their official job description, yet manage to get the job done.

"You see it a lot in the Guard and Reserve, Soldiers using their civilian job skills and training for the benefit of the Army," said Mallahan. "It's good for Soldiers too, because they get to do work they enjoy and are very good at."



Photo by Sgt. Jasmine Chopra

Spc. Derrick Yang of Humboldt County, Calif., a shower, laundry and clothing repair specialist with the 118th Maintenance Company, drills screws into wooden planks to create a roof on a structure here Oct. 30. Although it is not his military occupational specialty, he is currently working on a large-scale project spanning more than 200 feet in length. Yang learned how to build from his father.



Scheduled activities for National American Indian Heritage Month

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

Nov. 30
Social gathering
MWR East
from 2-6 p.m.

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



Anaconda Times Correction for Nov. 14

The story titled "Pocket change makes difference in children's future" was written and photographed by Staff Sgt. Dave Lankford.

Order of the Spur hopefuls compete for golden spurs

by Pfc. Andrea Merritt

1st Sustainment Brigade

CAMP TAJI, Iraq – Approximately 40 Soldiers from the 15th Personnel Services Battalion undertook a long, grueling test Oct. 28 to join the ranks of their fellow cavalry troopers.

To join the Order of the Spur, Soldiers had to undergo a Spur Ride, a grueling 13-hour event that requires completing a series of physically and mentally challenging tasks set by their command in order to earn their golden spurs.

A traditional Spur Ride is done in a garrison environment and at the end of the event troopers would receive silver spurs.

“Usually Soldiers would be awarded golden spurs just for being in a combat environment, but I wanted to do things the traditional way,” said Command Sgt. Maj. Timothy Livengood, the 15th PSB command sergeant major.

There were four squads, which had 10 people each. Everyone had to take off their rank and get a new one assigned to them for the purposes of the exercise. There were privates parading as staff sergeants and vice versa.

The Soldiers were up and ready to begin the challenge by 5 a.m. and even before the first task began, they caught a glimpse of what was in store for them.

“We started off by getting accountability and doing pre-combat checks and pre-combat inspections. If they didn’t do something right, they would get punished. They spent the first hour doing push-ups, rifle PT... and after all that they had to march a half mile to the first station,” said Livengood.

The first station the Soldiers completed was the obstacle course, then they marched a half-mile to the second station which was the vehicle station.

The squads had to conduct preventative maintenance checks and services on the vehicle, change a tire and recover the vehicle, which involved pushing it.

The first two stations had taken a toll on the Soldiers’ upper body, but the task that claimed their lower halves was Signal Hill.

At the hill, each Soldier in the squad had to carry their



Photo by Pfc. Andrea Merritt

Capt. Richard M. Strong, Charlie Detachment, 15th Personnel Support Battalion, 1st Sustainment Brigade, Detachment Commander makes his way through the barbed wire portion of the spur ride conducted by the 15th PSB.

15-pound rucksack and run .06 miles to the top of the hill and back as a team within seven minutes.

Since no one made it in the time allotted, they took a five minute break and tried it again. On the second try, the teams had 10 minutes to run the hill.

“The second time everybody made it in less than ten minutes,” said Livengood.

“I was in a lot of pain due to the fact that half way through the ride I developed blisters on the back of both of my feet,” said Spc. Yvonne Adams, a training clerk for Detachment C, 15th PSB.

The obstacle course, vehicle station and Single Hill were only a few of the tasks completed that day, but the memories will remain with the Soldiers a lifetime.

“I can honestly say this was the best team-building and physical training exercise I have ever completed,” said Adams.

“The minutes seemed like hours all through the day and as we went on to each station they seemed to only get more

intense,” said Pvt. Nicole Behrens, a personnel clerk with the 15th PSB.

“It’s three days later and my body is still aching from

using all those muscles I never knew existed, but all in all every second was worth it,” said Behrens. “I have hung my spurs on the wall and

when I look at them I just smile remembering the accomplishments that my fellow comrades and I achieved together.”



Photo by Pfc. Andrea Merritt

Soldiers from the 15th Personnel Services Battalion put their muscles to the test as they attempt to recover a downed up-armored HMMWV as part of a recent Spur Ride. Approximately 40 Soldiers from 15th PSB endured the challenges in an effort to earn their spurs.

CITIZENS, from Cover

brutal conditions is like, is Spc. Lamine Toure, a supply specialist with 1st Battalion, 30th Infantry Regiment. Three years ago, when Toure was living in the devastated Ivory Coast, he never imagined he would be serving in the U.S. Army in Iraq, he said.

"This day means everything to me. All my life I have wished to become an American. It is the best feeling for me and my family."

Toure's wife, Nan Aissata, and their 4-month old twin boys, Muhame Lamine and El Hadjah, live in Abidjan, Ivory Coast. Toure hopes to bring his family to the U.S. as soon as possible.

"The situation in Ivory Coast is too difficult. I want a better future for my wife and babies. I think we will have this in America," he said.

Toure, who is a practicing Muslim, said his company has made every effort to help him practice his faith.

According to U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) more than 40,000 servicemembers are not American. These foreign-born men and women have pledged commitment to the U.S. Constitution by serving in the military and many are availing themselves of a July 2002 executive order making members of the Armed Forces immediately eligible to apply for citizenship.

"I can't think of people who are more deserving of citizenship than those who are fighting to defend the country even before they are citizens. They understand that freedoms don't come free and they are willing to make sacrifices even before they reap the benefits of citizenship," said Chertoff.



Photo by Sgt. Jasmine Chopra

Spc. Lina Jergees, a linguist with the 177th Military Police Brigade, receives a U.S. flag from the 316th ESC senior enlisted leader, Command Sgt. Maj. Stacey E. Davis Nov. 11. Along with 177 other servicemembers, Jergees earned U.S. citizenship in the largest naturalization ceremony in Iraq to date. The ceremony was held on Veterans Day, adding significance to the event.

Making sacrifices is common for Spc. Lina Jergees, a linguist with the 177th Military Police Brigade, who has helped support her family since joining the Army. Jergees was born in Baghdad, so becoming an American citizen on Veterans Day in the country she was born in was "especially beautiful," she said.

"It's not always easy to be here," said Jergees. "Sometimes it is sad for me to see Iraqis outside the wire because I remember what it was like to be here. It's a big challenge serving in the Army, and I wanted it. I feel so lucky to be an American now. I hope that my work here will build that

bridge between Soldiers and Iraqi people," Jergees said.

Emilio T. González, the director, USCIS, himself an Army veteran, presented each recent citizen with a certificate of naturalization.

Brig. Gen. Gregory E. Couch, the 316th ESC commanding general, congratulated each new American veteran-citizen.

"It is fitting that these wonderful warriors be granted citizenship on Veterans Day," said Couch.

Naturalized servicemembers also received a U.S. flag from the 316th ESC senior enlisted leader, Command Sgt. Maj. Stacey E. Davis.

Approximately 4,000 servicemembers have earned U.S. citizenship while serving abroad since 2004.

For more information on how you can become a U.S. Citizen go to: <http://www.uscis.gov/portal/site/uscis> or contact your battalion S1.



Photo by Sgt. Jasmine Chopra

Secretary of Homeland Security, Michael Chertoff, (center) attended the largest U.S. naturalization ceremony in Iraq to date. Others in the photo include, (from left to right), 316th ESC senior enlisted leader, Command Sgt. Maj. Stacey E. Davis, Brig. Gen. Gregory E. Couch, the 316th ESC commanding general and Emilio T. González, himself an Army veteran and current director, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services.

CG awards Order of Saint Martin medallion

Photo by Spc. Jay Venturini

Chief Warrant Officer Jeremy Gula, the 316th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) G4 property book officer, receives the Honorable Order of Saint Martin medallion from Brig. Gen. Gregory E. Couch, the 316th ESC commanding general. These medallions are only given out to quartermaster Soldiers. Receiving one is considered a distinguished honor and noteworthy achievement.

DFAC workers prepare for



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Neil K. Simmons

A contract worker at Oasis dining facility here puts some finishing touches on a giant turkey decoration Nov. 14 for display during Thanksgiving. More than 100 different decorative pieces were constructed using plywood, wire, aluminum foil, salt dough and foam at this DFAC alone.



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Neil K. Simmons

(Left) A contract worker at Oasis dining facility here puts some finishing touches on a giant turkey decoration for display during Thanksgiving Day meal preparation.



or Thanksgiving holiday



Photos by Sgt. 1st Class Neil K. Simmons

Pictured above are examples of the many different decorations constructed for LSAA's Thanksgiving Day dinner. A dining facility contractor cuts foam pieces to be glued to a Thanksgiving decoration. Frosting was used to affix hundreds of such pieces to the salt dough exteriors.

Talking Turkey: Preparing for Thanksgiving Dinner on LSAA

by Capt. Kevin McNamara

302nd Mobile Public Affairs

What does it take to feed 20,000 Soldiers, Sailors, Airman, Marines, Coast Guardsmen and civilian contractors a Thanksgiving meal? Perhaps, more than you might think.

Dining Facility (DFAC) number one, located here, is sponsored by the 213th Area Support Group, a Pennsylvania Army National Guard unit, based out of Allentown, Pa. The Brigade Food Service Technician overseeing Thanksgiving meal preparations at this DFAC is Chief Warrant Officer Michael St. John. This is St. John's first big meal, where he is in charge. "This is the first time I am in charge of a dining facility of this size that can feed, on average, over 7,000 meals per day," he said. St. John, has been deployed before, to Af-

ghanistan.

"This is the largest type of dining facility operating in Iraq," said St. John. The base has several other DFACs. There are two with the 7,000 meal per day feeding capacity. The Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners are the two largest meals prepared in DFACs and require a lot of pre-planning and preparation by the food service staff. St. John said preparations for the Thanksgiving meal and the food displays, started several weeks ago. Over 9,500 meals are expected to be served at DFAC one on Thanksgiving Day alone.

"The workers here are happy to support our troops," he said. "All of us in this dining facility...military members and contractors...are here to make the lives of our servicemembers (and civilian staff) easier and this deployment better," said St. John.

What it takes to feed all of LSA Anaconda for the Thanksgiving Meal:

- 9,000 lbs of turkey
- 7,650 lbs of steak
- 4,000 lbs of ham
- 3,500 lbs of shrimp
- 5,800 lbs of potatoes
- 17,000 lbs of vegetables
- 3,000 pies
- 500 lbs of cranberry sauce
- 300 lbs of fruit cocktail
- 200 gallons of gravy
- 10,000 servings of stuffing
- 12 large sheet cakes

***The above information was provided by Chief Warrant Officer Michael St. John, the DFAC one Officer in charge

316th ESC hosts Heritage Hunt during NAIHM

by Sgt. Jasmine Chopra

Anaconda Times staff

LSA ANACONDA, Iraq – In an effort to share the poignant history, timeless wisdom, and rich culture of Native American tribes, the 316th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) (ESC) sponsored “Heritage Hunt,” Nov. 10, a competitive event that had participants learning about all things Indian while racing to points throughout the camp.

“We hope that participants will leave here with a better understanding of the contributions Native American people have made to not just American culture, but to the world,” said 1st Lt. Thomas Bourne, 316th ESC adjutant, and himself of Cherokee ancestry.

Participants were given a tribe and tasked with learning facts about their tribe. Then they had to race from point to point throughout LSA where Heritage Hunt staff quizzed them about their tribe. To advance to the next point, competitors had to answer questions correctly. Whoever got through all the points the fastest won. Questions posed included, “What is the Trail of Tears?”

In one of the darkest epi-



Photo by Sgt. Jasmine Chopra

The winning team of the Nov. 10 Heritage Hunt was comprised of 1st Lt. Paul Aldaya (left) and 1st Lt. William Conners (right), both platoon leaders with 3rd Battalion, 158th Aviation Regiment. Conners, whose ancestry includes Saint Regis Mohawk, said winning the hunt was especially joyful for him given his Native American heritage. 1st Lt. Thomas Bourne, 316th ESC adjutant, donned his native Cherokee head dress and ceremonial face paint for the event.

sodes of American history, their land, herded them the U.S. Army forcibly into makeshift camps with removed Cherokee from minimal facilities and food,

MNC-I deputy commander tours LSAA MRAPs



Photo by Staff Sgt. Dave Lankford

LSA ANACONDA, Iraq - Maj. Gen. James E. Simmons, Multi-National Corps-Iraq deputy commander, visited with students and instructors at a mine resistant ambush protected (MRAP) vehicle class held here Nov. 6. Simmons brought a multitude of reporters with him to the event to give them a chance to ask questions of both the instructors and students, as well as see the new MRAP first hand.

“I am proud of my Native American heritage and identify with it a lot. Growing up, my family taught me traditional Indian crafts. I visited relatives on reservations, and that’s why I made a point to come out to this event. We put in 110 percent into this.”

1st Lt. William Conners
3/158th AVN BDE

and then forced them to travel thousand of miles to reservations. Many Cherokee died, hence the name: Trail of Tears.

“I hope this event sparked (competitors) curiosity and they will want to learn more about American Indian and Alaskan Native heritage,” said Staff Sgt. Elginette Powell, personnel noncommissioned officer-in-charge with the 316th ESC. “There are just so many surprising and interesting things to learn about the culture.”

The winning team was comprised of 1st Lt. Paul Aldaya and 1st Lt. William Conners, both platoon leaders with 3rd Battalion,

158th Aviation Regiment.

Conners, whose ancestry includes Saint Regis Mohawk, said winning the hunt was especially joyful for him given his Native American heritage.

“I am proud of my Native American heritage and identify with it a lot. Growing up, my family taught me traditional Indian crafts. I visited relatives on reservations, and that’s why I made a point to come out to this event. We put in 110 percent into this.”

The organizers of the hunt also put in 110 percent and saw to it the event built bridges of understanding and awareness among competitors.

This far by faith...a brief history of the plight, struggles of Native Americans

by Maj. Christopher E. West

316th ESC PAO

About 20,000 years ago the Bering Strait, a land bridge, connected Russia and present day Alaska. It also served as a passage way for groups of indigenous people soon to be known as Native Americans. Many of them were hunters and gatherers. However, some were also farmers and resourceful builders who were able to establish great civilizations from as far north as modern day Canada all the way Deep South to Mexico and Peru.

As with any people, there were often battles between rival tribes. Nevertheless, once dominance and common rule was attained, sophisticated political systems emerged which helped those in power govern smaller tribal bands through recognized legislative bodies, both prior to and after the arrival of European settlers.

Though initially cordial and cooperative with the European pioneers, many Native Americans became skeptical of their intent and open aggressiveness. This suspicion eventually resulted in bloodshed and a fractured fellowship between the two clashing cultures.

After the American Revolution, there were no treaties signed between the Native



Web Image of the Trail of Tears

Americans and the European settlers which gave recognition to Native American territorial claims. The first formal treaty between the two occurred in 1795 which specified the boundaries of "Indian Territory" from "U.S. Government" terrain. However, with the continued western movement into new land, the boundaries originally outlined in the Indian Territory agreement were sharply re-

defined and ultimately evolved into what is now known as today's reservation concept.

In 1830 Congress passed the Indian Removal Act which officially allowed the eviction of all Native Americans east of the Mississippi to Indian Territory west of the Mississippi. The Native Americans resisted and the U.S. Government sent Soldiers in to force them to comply. This act resulted in the Indian Wars in

the latter half of the 19th century to include the dreadful Trail of Tears, where Native Americans were forced to march westward with countless dying along the way.

While on the Trail of Tears, Native Americans were not always able to give their deceased a proper burial. Instead, the singing of John Newton's lyrics "Amazing Grace" had to suffice. On many a night one could hear

them melodically moan: "Through many dangers, toils and snares I have already come; 'Twas Grace that brought me safe thus far and Grace will lead me home."

Out of the ruins of misfortune always springs forth a new hope and determination. Hard trials come to fortify the fatigued in their hour of trouble; for they are the energetic building blocks of

faith. Certainly the Native American experience is no exception to this precept. Their rich culture and traditions continue to thrive despite the adversities they as a people have endured. Time will not erase nor History destroy their numerous contributions, their character, and their strength which continues to enrich and inspire our nation and world for the better.

America's warrior

by Spc. Jennifer L. Sierra

A snapshot of servicemembers in the Global War on Terrorism

Full name and rank: Airman 1st Class Stephanie M. Moreno.

Unit: 332nd Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron/Provost Marshal Office.

Job Title: Military Police/Patrolman.

Time in service: 1 ½ years.

Age: 21.

Hometown: Portland, Ore.

Tribe: Chumash.

Family: Five siblings, mom and dad.

Pastimes: Coffee shops, movies, vintage shopping, cooking (dinner parties), and live venues.

Life-changing event/moment: Graduating from high school.

Lesson learned: The world is yours, make something of yourself.

The person I admire the most: My father, the most humble selfless person I know.

Why I joined the military: Working two jobs, 60 hours a week was too

much for me at 19; I needed a more secure job.

How has your Native American heritage impacted your military career: I think my native american heritage has affected me in a way not typical to some other people. I did not grow up on a reservation. I did not even grow up in the state that my tribe is from (Santa Barbara, CA-The Coastal Band of the Chumash Nation), so I do not have a great understanding of my heritage. I grew up knowing that I am half native, though I always considered myself being native only. Because I did not grow up around my culture, I gained a deep curiosity for it. I would go to PowWows as a kid and I guess you could say this passion developed of wanting to learn more about my culture. It is from my lack of 'heritage' knowledge that I realized later in life that my ambition is to become a cultural anthropologist. I suppose this is the biggest impact my

heritage has had on my life.

If I wasn't in the military I would be: In college studying cultural anthropology.

The one thing I would change about the Air Force: Honestly, I don't think it's physical enough; we need more PT (physical training).

What makes a good Airmen: Understanding that you're in the military... so, accept the work you have to do and don't complain about it.

What makes a good leader: Someone who listens to everyone, and is fair but firm.

Motivations in life: To make my parents proud.

Goals: Cross train into Survival, Evasion, Resistance, and Escape and get a degree in anthropology.

Hardest part of my job here: Issuing traffic citations in a warzone. Who wants to do that?

Best part of my life: Everything; I've been very blessed!

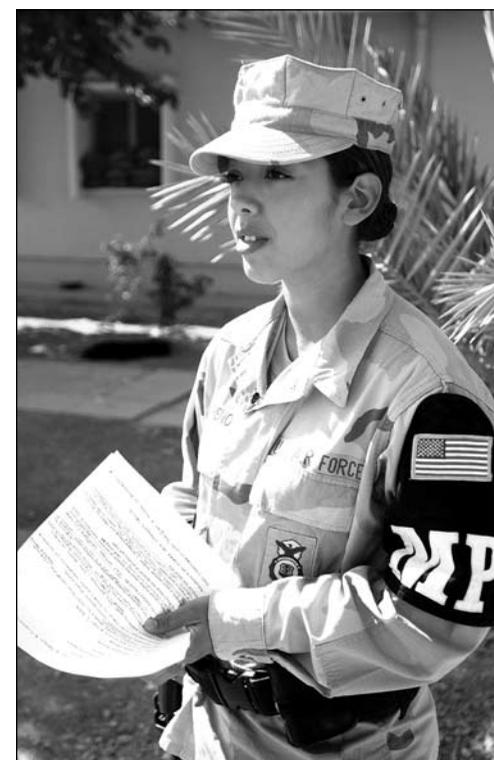


Photo by Spc. Jennifer L. Sierra

New Black Hawk Unveils Latest Helo Technology

by J.D. Leipold

Army News Service

WASHINGTON - The Army's latest version of the Black Hawk helicopter, the UH-60M, paid a call on the Pentagon Wednesday to show off its various upgraded technical capabilities.

While this was the "M" model's maiden flight into the Washington area, the newest version was introduced to the Army in late October when a single bird flew from the Sikorsky factory in Connecticut directly to Fort Campbell, Ky., for a preview to the 30 Black Hawks which begin delivery to the 159th Combat Aviation Brigade, 101st Airborne Division next month.

The UH-60M will gradually replace the 25-year old "L" model and become the Army's medium-lift helicopter capable of assault, medevac and cargo missions as well as command and control, aerial sustainment, and search and rescue. It will also be looked at as a follow-on helo to special operations units according to Chief Warrant Officer Gene McNeill, who is presently serving as a test pilot and trainer on the "M" model at Sikorsky.

McNeill, with two Iraq tours behind him and a 20-year veteran of the "L" model has made four cross-country trips and logged some 40 hours of cockpit time. He's impressed and a believer in the new technology, particularly the digital avionics suite that makes the bird more user-friendly to crew and passengers regardless of mission.

"The Mike model will do everything the Lima will do... but the "M" will do it so much better," he said. "What I like about this aircraft is the extreme precise accuracy of navigation using imbedded GPS and INS technologies. That translates to increased situational awareness on the battlefield at all times.

"With a digital moving map you know exactly where you are with relationship to the earth; it enables you with ease and comfort to navigate, fly and execute your mission a lot

better because you also don't have to do manual calculations; the aircraft's digital suite makes everything faster and they can be done while the aircraft is on-the-fly," McNeill said. "That also allows one pilot to fly the aircraft while the other serves as the mission operator."

Another digital advantage "M" pilots will have at their disposal is the capability of downloading all flight information from an office computer to a two-gigabyte PC-MCIA card which can then be inserted into one of four slots for up to eight gigabytes of data, then downloaded to the Black Hawk's computer system.

"What that means is I can walk out to my aircraft with a flight plan and my entire mission loaded onto the card... all my intelligence data, my frequencies, my waypoints, then dump them into my aircraft and load it into the flight management system," McNeill said. "You can't do that in the "L" model."

Another element to the new Black Hawk is its "threat intervisibility" system. This system allows for terrain data and known enemy in the field plotted on the map via a grid location. It allows the pilot to keep the aircraft masked below terrain at stand-off distances or threat engagement zones.

"If I climb too high, the system will flash red meaning that I'm within range of various bad-guy weapons systems, so it assists me by telling me to fly lower and keeps me out of harm's way," McNeill said. "The classified system contains known capabilities of friendly and enemy weapons systems. That means we can plan our routes and have a decreased

probability of being shot at... that's a huge advantage."

The multi-function display can be switched almost as quickly as it takes to press the button - from cautionary advisory pages, to maps, pilot instrumentation, calculator pages - all those screens are interchangeable and compressed into computers without needing to have extra gauges or having to spend valuable time making calculations such as fuel burn-rate.

"I can now determine based on head winds whether I'm going to make it there, which allows me to plan alternate routes on-the-fly; those are things that would have taken several minutes on the "L," but now I can do them in a matter of seconds," McNeill said.

McNeill, who is also a maintenance officer, said another major difference between the "L" and "M" models is the onboard Integrated Vehicle Health Management System or IVHMS, a series of sensors throughout the aircraft which constantly collect information crucial to the Black Hawk's health.

"If it rotates, gyrates, vibrates, it's been processed by the IVHMS and can be downloaded and extracted," he said. "To do my routine maintenance balancing adjustments, all I have to do is hit buttons and the computers, come up with vibration diagnostics, so I no longer have to bring ancillary gear; the aircraft will do a self-diagnosis.

"So, if there's a transmission ready to blow, we'll know before it happens. That system in itself will pay for itself down the road as the Army moves toward conditioned maintenance, where we may change something out before they break rather than after," he said.

Comparing the old to the new, the "L" and "M" models look similar, he said. The shape is pretty much the same, though the "M" rotor blades are different. The new helicopter has what are called anhedral blades which generate more lift and hover capability. The rotor system also has a wide-cored composite blade, which can stand up better to enemy gunfire and the antenna configuration is a little different. Each

of the two General Electric 701D engines generates 2,000 shaft horsepower versus 1,900 horsepower from the "L." Yet the "M" is lighter.

The "M" model also has new seats for the crew and pilots who sometime suffer from back injuries as a result of hard landings. Crash survivability is also better for the crew, McNeill Pilot seats contain variable-load energy attenuators, basically customized shock absorbers which allow the pilots to digitally dial in their weight. The pilot and crew seats will then "stroke" on seat support poles.

"In an unfortunate crash or hard landing sequence, everyone on board is going to be a lot safer because the seats are designed to go up, down, left, right, forward, aft and they swivel," McNeill said. "The seat will actually stroke all the way down to prevent spinal injuries; they work like shock absorbers."

McNeill believes "L" model pilots will find the transition to the "M" to be smooth, easy and that it will take about 15 hours of flight time.



Photo by J.D. Leipold

The Army's latest version of the Black Hawk, the UH-60M, in silhouette lands at the Pentagon's heliporter pad.

Do you have a story idea?

Contact the Anaconda Times

anaconda.times@iraq.centcom.mil

Upcoming sports on AFN

Wednesday 11/21/07

College BB: Maui Invitational teams TBD live 3:00 a.m. AFN/sports
Boston Bruins @ Toronto Maple Leafs live 3:00 a.m. AFN/xtra
College BB: Maui Invitational teams TBD live 5:30 a.m. AFN/sports
Phoenix Suns @ Sacramento Kings live 6:00 a.m. AFN/xtra
College FB: Middle Tennessee @ Troy replay 11:00 a.m. AFN/sports
College BB: Maui Invitational teams TBD live 10:00 p.m. AFN/sports

Thursday 11/22/07

College BB: Maui Invitational teams TBD live 12:30 a.m. AFN/sports
College BB: NIT Season Tip-Off teams TBD live 3:00 a.m. AFN/sports
Dallas Mavericks @ Houston Rockets live 3:30 a.m. AFN/sports; replay 11:00 AFN/sports
College BB: NIT Season Tip-Off teams TBD live 5:30 a.m. AFN/sports
College BB: Maui Invitational teams TBD live 6:00 a.m. AFN/sports
College BB: Michigan vs. Butler live 7:30 a.m. AFN/sports; replay 5:00 p.m. AFN/sports
Green Bay Packers @ Detroit Lions live 8:30 p.m. AFN/sports

Friday 11/23/07

New York Jets @ Dallas Cowboys live 12:00 a.m. AFN/sports
Indianapolis Colts @ Atlanta Falcons live 4:00 a.m. AFN/sports
College FB: USC @ Arizona State live 4:00 a.m. AFN/xtra; replay 10:30 a.m. AFN/sports
College BB: San Diego vs. USC live 8:00 a.m. AFN/xtra
Green Bay Packers @ Detroit Lions replay 1:30 p.m. AFN/sports
College FB: Nebraska @ Colorado live 8:00 a.m. AFN/sports
College FB: Texas @ Texas A&M live 11:30 p.m. AFN/sports

Saturday 11/24/07

College BB: NIT Season Tip-Off Teams TBD live 3:00 a.m. AFN/xtra

Houston Rockets @ Miami Heat live 4:00 a.m. AFN/sports
College FB: Boise State @ Hawaii live 5:00 a.m. AFN/sports
New Jersey Nets @ Seattle SuperSonics live 6:30 a.m. AFN/sports
College BB: Old Dominion vs. North Carolina live 8:00 a.m. AFN/xtra
College FB: Arkansas @ LSU replay 11:00 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 11/25/07

College FB teams TBD live 4:00 a.m. AFN/sports
Denver Nuggets @ Houston Rockets replay 2:00 p.m. AFN/xtra
NFL FB: Teams TBD live 9:00 p.m. AFN/sports
NFL FB: Teams TBD live 9:00 p.m. AFN/xtra

Monday 11/26/07

NFL FB: Teams TBD live 12:00 a.m. AFN/xtra
College BB: Teams TBD live 3:00 a.m. AFN/xtra
Philadelphia Eagles @ New England Patriots live 4:15 a.m. AFN/sports; replay 3:00 p.m. AFN/sports; 9:00 p.m. AFN/sports
College BB: Teams TBD live 5:00 a.m. AFN/xtra
College BB: Teams TBD live 7:30 a.m. AFN/xtra
CFL: Grey Cup teams TBD replay 10:00 a.m. AFN/xtra
College BB: Arizona @ Kansas replay 11:30 AFN/sports

Tuesday 11/27/07

Buffalo Sabres @ Washington Capitals live 3:00 a.m. AFN/xtra
Miami Dolphins @ Pittsburgh Steelers live 4:30 a.m. AFN/sports; replay 3:00 p.m. AFN/sports; 9:00 p.m. AFN/sports
Phoenix Suns @ Golden State Warriors live 6:30 a.m. AFN/xtra
College BB: Wake Forest @ Iowa replay 11:00 AFN/sports

(Schedule is subject to change)

SUSTAINER REEL TIME THEATER

Wednesday, Nov. 21
MWR Presents Country Singer Aaron Tippin at 8 p.m.

Thursday, Nov. 22
5 p.m. Good Luck Chuck (R)
8 p.m. Mr. Magorium's Wonder (G)

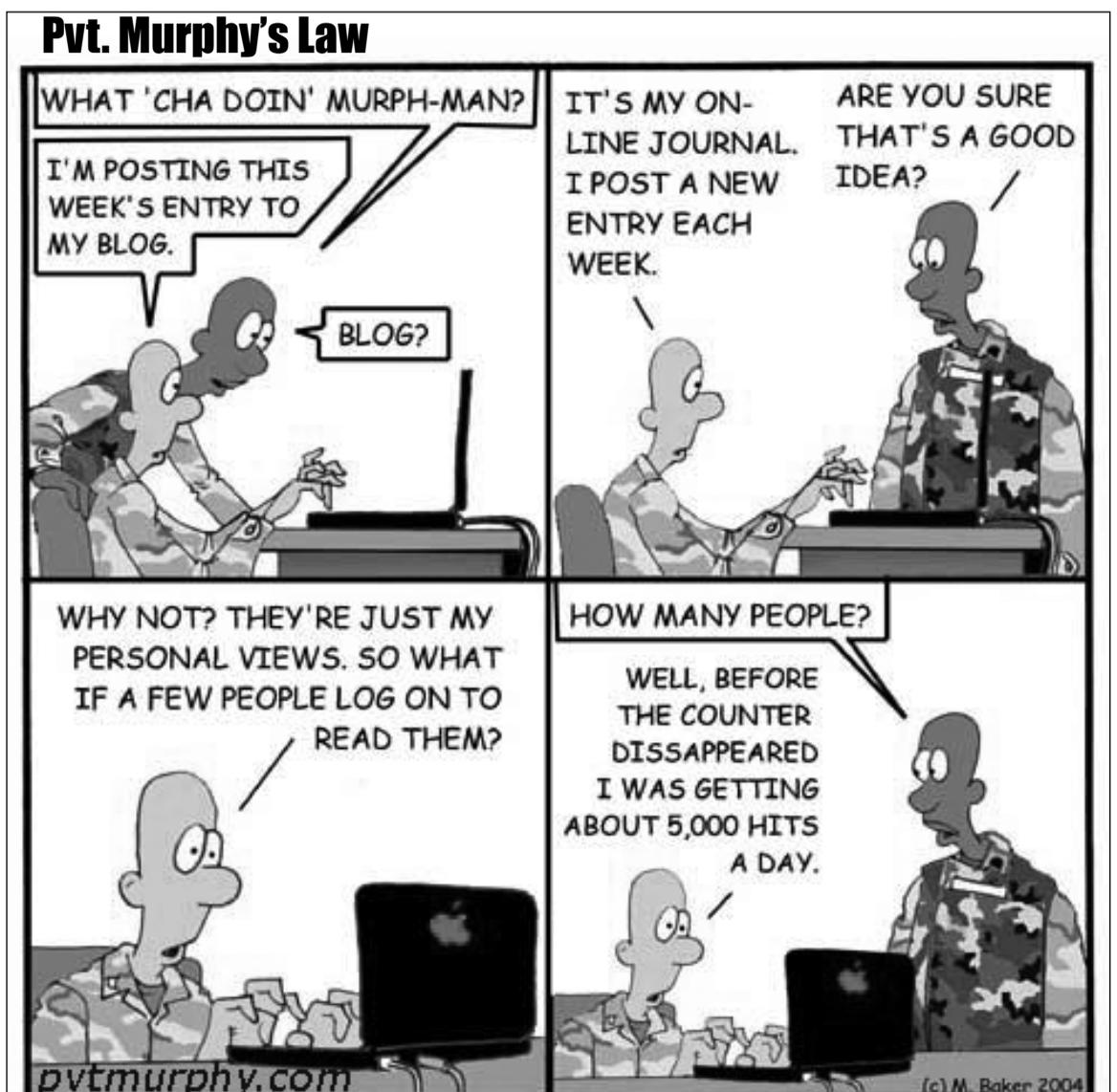
Friday, Nov. 23
MWR Presents: Operation Seasons Greetings

Saturday, Nov. 24
2 p.m. Elizabeth Golden Age (PG-13)
5 p.m. Mr. Magorium's Wonder (G)
8 p.m. The Heartbreak Kid (R)

Sunday, Nov. 25
2 p.m. Mr. Magorium's Wonder (G)
5 p.m. We Own the Night (R)
8 p.m. Elizabeth Golden Age (PG-13)

Monday, Nov. 26
5 p.m. Mr. Magorium's Wonder (G)
8 p.m. The Heartbreak Kid (R)

Tuesday, Nov. 27
5 p.m. Elizabeth Golden Age (PG-13)
8 p.m. Mr. Magorium's Wonder (G)



ANACONDA ACTIVITIES

INDOOR POOL

1 1/2 -Mile practice day: Saturday- 9 a.m. and 8 p.m.
50-meter breaststroke: Monday- 9 a.m. and 8 p.m.
Aqua Training: Tuesday and Thursday - 7:45 p.m.
Crazy Distance Day: Friday - All day, all levels
Swim Lessons
-Beginners: Tuesday - 7 p.m.
-Intermediate: Thursday - 7 p.m.
-Both: Sunday - 7 p.m.
Speed Workouts: Wednesday- 4 p.m.

EAST FITNESS CENTER

Basketball League: Monday-Friday - 7 p.m.
Body Curl Contest: Saturday - 7:30 p.m.
Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu: Monday, Wednesday, 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.
Soo Bahk Do: 6 p.m.

Step Aerobics: Monday, Wednesday, Friday - 5:30 p.m.
Wrestling & physical fitness class: Tuesday- 6 p.m. and Saturday- 7 p.m.
Swing dance: Sunday- 7:30 p.m.

EAST RECREATION CENTER

Basketball League: Monday-Friday - 7 p.m.
Body Curl Contest: Saturday - 7:30 p.m.
Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu: Monday, Wednesday, 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.
Raquetball Tournament: Sunday- 8 p.m.
Shotokan Karate Do: Thursday- 6:45 p.m., Saturday- 8:30 p.m. and Sunday- 5:30 p.m.
Soo Bahk Do: 6 p.m.
Step Aerobics: Monday, Wednesday, Friday - 5:30 p.m.
Swing dance: Sunday- 7:30 p.m.
Wrestling & physical fit-

ness class: Tuesday- 6 p.m. and Saturday- 7 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.
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.
Ice Ball Tourney: Thursday- 4 p.m.
Madden '07 Tourney: Thursday- 1 p.m. and 8 p.m.
Ping pong tourney: Tuesday- 1 p.m. and 8 p.m.
Salsa dance class: Thursday- 8:30 p.m.
Spades, Chess and Dominoes: Friday - 1 p.m.
Texas hold 'em: Saturday- 1 p.m. and 8 p.m.
Thanksgiving Event Week: Monday- Sunday

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, Friday- 7 p.m.
Body by Midgett Toning Class: Tuesday, Thursday - 7 p.m.
Furman's Martial Arts: Monday, Wednesday, Sunday- 1 p.m.
Gaston's Self-Defense Class: Friday, Saturday- 7 p.m.

Open court basketball: Thursday- 7 p.m.
Open court soccer: Monday, Wednesday - 7 p.m.
Thanksgiving Event Week: Monday- Sunday
Zingano Brazilian Jiu Jitsu: Tuesday, Thursday- 8:30 p.m.

CIRCUIT GYM
Floor hockey: Monday, Wednesday, Friday - 8 p.m.



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

December 13th

2007

LSA Anaconda's Collage of Talent HOLIDAY SHOWCASE

We are looking for: Dancers, Singers, Martial Artists, Bands, DJ, and ALL performers in general

Rehearsals @ East MWR, (1800-2000) Nov. 19, 23, 28, 29 Dec. 3, 7, 10, 12

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

Marine Corps celebrates birthday in combat



Photo by Spc. Jennifer L. Sierra

LSA ANACONDA, Iraq- Lance Cpl. Kevin A. Flores, a native of Springdale, Ark., and a traffic management operations specialist with the Combat Logistics Battalion Four, Headquarters and Services Company, takes a bite from the first slice of the 232nd Marine Corps birthday cake. Flores was the youngest Marine in attendance at dining facility one where the Marine Corps birthday was celebrated. Flores is celebrating his first Marine Corps birthday while being deployed to Al Asad in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Best in the West: 507th CSG sponsors Track and Field events

by Maj. Elisabeth Stringer

507th Corps Support Group

CAMP AL ASAD, Iraq – Flaming torches signified the opening of the 507th Corps Support Group (CSG) and the Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) office sponsored track and field events. Col. James G. Currie, Jr., the commander of the 507th CSG, remarked “at least for today, we will know who is the best in the West.” The 2nd Marine Air Wing Commander, Brig. Gen. Timothy C. Hanifen, also participated in the opening ceremony and noted that this competition was another way to show endurance, strength, honor, and valor.

The preliminaries for the track and field event were held Nov. 2. The morning started with a triathlon where 20 servicemembers swam, biked and ran. The track and field events followed with 12 events. Events included: 3,200m run, long jump, triple jump, shot put, discus throw, 100m dash, 800m dash, 4x100m relay, 4X200m relay, 400m dash, 1,600m dash, 200m dash, Co-ed Tug-O-War, and the 4x400m relay. Over 150 competitors reached the Saturday finals from an initial field of over 250 competitors.

Spc. Lasheeta Munn, a former track star from Cedar Grove High School near Atlanta looked forward to the day’s events. “This is something to do to have fun. Runs are the best part of the com-



Photo by Maj. Elisabeth Stringer

The track and field trophies glint in the morning sun as the Colors are presented to the command during the 507th CSG sponsored event.

petition,” Munn said. A member of the 25th Transportation Company, 3rd Platoon “Dirty Dogs,” Munn had many supporters from her unit there to see her compete as she participated in the shot put and 100m dash events (where she took 1st and 2nd place respective-

ly). There was an additional special event for Munn – she sang the National Anthem for the Opening Ceremony.

Husband and wife Sergeants Nydea and Brian Mitchell both ran track in high school, Nydea at Niagra Falls High School in N.Y. and

Brian at River Rouge High School in Mich. They chose to join the HHC, 507th CSG team for the challenge and the camaraderie.

Not all participants were high school track stars. Pvt. Anthony Gonzalez from the 541st Transportation Company said he played soccer and wrestled at Smyrna High School in Tenn. He stated that he loved to run and had been working on getting back in top form after temporarily being sidelined by an injury.

One of the most spirited events was the Tug-O-War. Units fielded 10 person teams that included at least one female. The 488th Field Services Company won a hard fought victory over the 787th CSSB. Losing teams faced “the pit” as they were dragged into the muddy water when their strength gave out.

At the end of the day, the competitors gathered for an awards ceremony where Currie and Command Sgt. Maj. Sultan A. Muhammad, the 507th CSG command sergeant major, presented medals to the male and female 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place finishers in each event and trophies to the top five units in the over-

all events. Judges from MWR determined the top units by how their service members participated and placed in the events through out the day. Currie reflected that the track and field events “let participants forget where they were, just for a little bit, in the spirit of competition. There was an incredible display of athleticism and the team and individual events truly fostered unit pride as well as service pride.” He also said that Muhammad had conceived this event before the 507th CSG even left Fort Bragg. Muhammad concurred, stating that he had envisioned this event during the pre-deployment site survey back in February. He knew that this event would enable the participants to remove themselves from the “rigors of war” for a short period of time. Muhammad stated, “I am extremely proud of all the servicemembers who competed and want to thank the Base Command Group, MWR and most importantly the competitors who competed over these past two days. This was truly a world class performance by all. My only true regret is that I only wish they had an event for guys like me.”



Photo by Maj. Elisabeth Stringer

Col. James G. Currie, Jr., commander 507th Corps Support Group (CSG) and Command Sgt. Maj. Sultan A. Muhammad, command sergeant major of the 507th CSG, oversee the participation of the track and field events held at Al Asad.

Warriors celebrate Veterans Day with fun run



Photo by Spc. Jennifer L. Sierra

Servicemembers signed up until the very last minute before the Veterans Day five-kilometer run took place.

Photos by Spc. Jennifer L. Sierra

(Above) A servicemember sprints to the finish line during the Veterans Day five-kilometer run held Nov. 12 at Holt Stadium.

(Below) Members of the 403rd Inland Cargo Transportation Company, ran the Veterans Day five-kilometer run in formation. The race was held to commemorate Veterans from all American wars, both past and present.



Photo by Spc. Jennifer L. Sierra

Servicemembers ran the Veterans Day five-kilometer run here to commemorate Veterans for their service to or nation.

13th CSSB dominates participation at Veterans Day 5k

by Capt. Christina Johnson

13th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion

LSA ANACONDA, Iraq - Over 700 runners participated in the Veterans Day 5k race at Holt Stadium here Nov. 12. They were treated to near perfect weather conditions of cool temperatures and overcast skies. Weeks prior to the event Lt. Col. Tim Sullivan, commander 13th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion (CSSB), challenged his eight company commanders to participate on this very special day. He reminded them Veterans Day is an American holiday for honoring war veterans...so what a great way to start the day by having the 13th CSSB warriors show what they do best: work as a team. They also demonstrated the ability to manage time off, display discipline and camaraderie by bringing their physical and mental toughness and

showing their outstanding self-maintenance.

The course, which is virtually flat from the stadium through various east side roads and back to the stadium, is fast. With a little cool breeze, it was certain top times would be fast. Staff Sgt. Kevin Jones, 8th Ordnance Company (OD Co.), and Maj. José Solís, the 13th CSSB executive officer, were the battalion's fastest runners with finishing times of 17:00 and 17:25 minutes respectively.

Sullivan awarded the companies with two streamers on this special day: one for the five fastest runners in the company (won by Headquarters and Headquarters Company) and one for the company with the most participation (won by the 118th OD Co.). The battalion represented almost 50 percent of the total number of participants with over 300 runners on this special date.



Courtesy photo

The picture represents part of the battalion runners who participated at the Veterans Day 5k. Some Soldiers departed after the run due to mission requirements.