

AnacondaTimes

NOVEMBER 28, 2007

PROUDLY SERVING LSA ANACONDA



Photo by Spc. Thomas Keeler

CG visits local Iraqi Sheik

Couch builds relationship with local village

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Photo by Sgt. Jasmine Chopra

Securing Iraq together

MPs work with IPs to boost safety in local area

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Photo by Sgt. Jasmine Chopra

Network connections

Two stories on Soldiers improving base comms

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Photo by Spc. Jay Venturini

1st Sgt. Steven Dreher, the 833rd Engineer Company first sergeant, passes out school supplies to a class of Iraqi children at a local school. The supplies were part of a humanitarian aid mission to strengthen ties between the Coalition and local villages.

Soldiers strengthen relations with local village, provide needed school supplies for children

by Spc. Jay Venturini

Anaconda Times staff

LSA ANACONDA, Iraq – If you ask any parents what the most important thing is to them, most would say their children. It does not matter where you are in the world or what the culture is, children are cherished.

The 1203rd Engineer Battalion used this to their advantage as they brought candy, school supplies and personal hygiene products to a school in the village of Balad to strengthen ties with local Iraqis.

“We are connecting with local villages... That way they won’t turn to the insurgents for help.”

Maj. Josh Cloud
1203rd EN BN

“We are connecting with local villages,” said Maj. Josh Cloud, the 1203rd Engineer Battalion executive officer. “We need to get to know these people and gain their trust. That way they won’t turn to the insurgents for help.”

The supplies, donated through charitable organizations in the United States,

were organized and packaged by Det. 1, 332nd Expeditionary Mission Support Group (EMSG).

“We’ve been collecting supplies for over two months for distribution,” said Air Force Col. Ralph Romine, the LSA Anaconda garrison commander. “We packaged 190 kits for kids and 15 kits of teaching

supplies. Passing the supplies out at the school was the highlight of the tour for me thus far.”

Strengthening relations with local Iraqis will be more willing help Coalition Forces gain information about insurgent activities and locations. With this information, combat logistic patrols (CLPs) will be better equipped to find hidden improvised explosive devices and prevent future attacks, which will save Coalition lives.

Another benefit of these

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This far by faith...the contributions and accomplishments of Native Americans

by Maj. Christopher E. West

316th ESC PAO

Without question Native Americans have contributed greatly to the betterment of our world. Their scientific discoveries have improved the quality of our health and their art, music and literary works have helped us to better understand and appreciate their rich culture and traditions. Native Americans have also contributed to our national defense by serving selflessly throughout our nation's history.

Native Americans were the first people to develop seventy-five percent of the many varieties of consumable goods in the world today such as freeze-dried food, root beer, vanilla, beef jerky, chewing gum and corn. They were the first to use syringes, botanical oral contraceptives, hair conditioners, and antispasmodic

drugs for medicinal purposes. Furthermore, their culturally rich music, art, and stories afford all a chance to experience their history, traditions, and way of life. Music—along with singing and dancing—is used to celebrate their opulent and diverse heritage, as a means of prayer, to reconnect with their ancestry, to promote unity, and to express cultural pride. Many Native Americans believe music to be a sacred link to the spiritual world as well as believe it to be a passage way to commune with nature and with one's desire to be in touch with the emotions of the heart.

Through works of art the history and hardships of each tribe or Indian nation can be visually told and passed on from one generation to the next, and through creative literary works Native American writers and poets

can articulate their legacy for all to behold with power and grace. One such writer to do so is N. Scott Momaday, member of the Kiowa nation, who won a Pulitzer Prize for his literary masterpiece, *House Made of Dawn*, in 1969.

Despite not being granted citizenship status until 1924 with the passing of the Snyder Act, Native Americans have participated with distinction in United States military actions for more than 200 years. Many tribes were involved in the War of 1812, and fought for both sides as auxiliary troops in the Civil War. It is estimated that more than 12,000 Native Americans served in the United States military in World War I. More than 44,000 Native Americans served with distinction in World War II in both the European and Pacific theaters of war. Many also fought to

deter Communist aggression during the Korean conflict.

Their strong sense of patriotism and courage showed once again during the Vietnam War with more than 42,000 serving, with a 90 percent volunteer rate. Native Americans selflessly answered the call to duty in Grenada, Panama, Somalia and the Persian Gulf. Today they continue to put boots on the ground in the name of freedom by serving in the Global War on Terrorism.

As a whole, Native Americans have the highest record of service per capita when compared to other ethnic groups. The reasons behind this occurrence are complex and uncertain to accurately diagnose. However, most believe their willingness to serve is deeply rooted in their cultural values and in their proud warrior tradition.

Since faith is unlimited, unmerited, and unexplain-

able, it, nevertheless, is the substance of things hoped for and the evidence of things unseen. It can move mountains, right wrongs, and eradicate hatred, racial prejudice and strife. Yet, faith is useless if there is no willing vessel for which to operate in. The course of human history always affords the seeker of wisdom a pathway to achieve a better tomorrow by learning from the misdeeds of those who journeyed before. It is only through improving for the common good that the powerful promise of life, liberty, and unlimited happiness can truly be attained.

This is the final article of a three peice series titled "This far by faith..." The previous artivles can be found in the following editions of the Anaconda Times: Nov. 7 and Nov. 21

Provost Marshal Office: Weekly police blotter

Week of Nov. 11- 16

The PMO conducted: (219) security checks, (37) traffic stops, issued (25) DD Form 1408 Armed Forces Traffic Ticket, registered (66) vehicles on the installation, (27) Common Access Cards were turned in to PMO and (2) lost weapons were reported.

The PMO is currently investigating: (2) Assault cases, (2) cases of Larceny Government/Personal Property and (3) General Order #1 violations.

PMO Recommendations: RUNNING ON THE ROADS!

LSA Anaconda Regulation 190-5, 3-2: When by: Air Force Staff Sgt. Mark Hill, PMO

available runners will utilize the sidewalks. There is no running on Victory Loop or along the perimeter fence of the installation. Formation runs are not authorized on the installation.

AFI 91-207, 3.5.1. Individuals are not authorized to jog, run or walk on roadways with high traffic density and during peak traffic periods, as determined by the installation commander. Road guards or safety spotters will be utilized to safely control traffic for formation runs or group running events.



Courtesy photo

Playing the right people; at the right time, in the right place. Team Five-O from the Provost Marshal Office; won nine straight games in flag football, beating the undefeated Flat-Liners thereby winning the National Football Conference and heading to the Playoffs/Championship!

ANACONDA TIMES

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

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1st Sustainment Brigade
CJSOTF-AP

UXO a threat to Soldier safety

by Chris Frazier
 U.S. Army Combat Readiness, Safety Center

FORT RUCKER, Ala. – A recent unexploded ordnance accident that claimed the life of a Soldier is serving as a deadly reminder to be extra careful when handling munitions.

The Soldier was digging in front of his quarters when he discovered a yellow cylinder resembling a caulk tube. Once the Soldier brought the tube out of the ground, he banged it against a wall to knock the dirt off and determine what he was holding. The device, which turned out to be a BLU-97/B Combined Effects Bomb, exploded, killing the Soldier and wounding another.

The BLU-97 submunitions are yellow, soda-can-sized bomblets that are dispensed in large numbers to attack “soft” area targets. The bomblets case is made of scored steel designed to break into about 300 performed ingrain fragments for defeating light armor and personnel.

The body of the BLU-97 is cylindrical in shape, about 20 centimeters long and a 6 centimeter diameter. However, military and foreign munitions can come in a variety of types, sizes and shapes and may not be easy to recognize. They include, but are not limited to, small-arms ammunition, projectiles, cartridges, bombs, rockets, pyrotechnics, grenades, blasting caps, fuzes, simulators and raw explosives.

According to the Defense Environmental Network and Information Exchange, when encountering UXO, always follow the 3Rs of explosive safety:

- *Recognize the munition
- *Retreat from the munition. Do not touch or disturb it, but move carefully away, walking out the same path the area was entered.
- * Report the munition and its location.

Since fiscal 2005, there have been three Class A Army accidents resulting from Soldiers handling UXP. These accidents caused the



Mortars like these pictured above are just as dangerous and deadly as the BLU-97 and are found in caches around Iraq and can also pose a serious danger as unexploded ordnance.

deaths of three Soldiers. By following the 3Rs of explosive safety, Soldiers can help prevent future fatalities. In combat areas or on training

ranges, it’s best to remember, “If you did not drop it, do not pick it up!”

For more information on XO safety, visit the Defense

Environmental Network and Information Exchange’s XO safety Education Program Web site at www.denix.osd.mil/uxosafety.

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. Castle Heights Chapel (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. Castle Heights Chapel 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

Terrain Management: Anaconda's land owners

by Spc. Jay Venturini

Anaconda Times staff

LSA ANACONDA, Iraq—LSA Anaconda is much like a small town in the United States. There are police patrolling the streets to keep them safe, utility workers making sure your water and lights stay on, and there are even city inspectors who are responsible for the up-keep on property.

Here, the inspectors are known as terrain management. They have the daunting task of keeping track of the different contracted companies and units who are coming and going from here on a regular basis, and they have the power to grant more land or permanently evict a company or military organization.

"We control all the land on LSA Anaconda," said Air Force Capt. Karsten Lipiec, the Detachment 1, 332nd Expeditionary Mission Support Group (EMSG) terrain management officer. "Many people don't like talking to us because they are afraid we are going to take their land away from them. We just try to ensure the land is being used the best way it can."

Much like in the U.S., there are building zones throughout the installation for residential, commercial and industrial areas. Separating the different types of areas keeps the installation safe and in good order.

"It is important to maintain the zoning areas," said Lipiec. "You wouldn't want a convoy staging area next to a place with high pedestrian traffic like the Post Exchange; it would cause a huge safety risk."

Within these zoning areas there are divided properties contracted to different organizations. The sizes vary to accommodate the different needs of the companies. A common issue is when a company becomes more successful it tends to bring in more personnel and equipment and needs to expand its operational area.

"Everyone always wants more land," said Air Force Staff Sgt. Brian Reynolds, the Det. 1, 332nd EMSG terrain management noncommissioned officer in charge. "We have to make sure their needs warrant more land. If it does, we make it work."

Terrain management also goes to buildings occupied by military personnel to make sure the space is being used to its maximum efficiency. In some cases, 10 people occupy a building that can hold 60 and



Photo by Spc. Jay Venturini

Air Force Capt. Karsten Lipiec, and Air Force Staff Sgt. Brian Reynolds, both with Detachment 1, 332nd Expeditionary Mission Support Group (EMSG) terrain management office, evaluate the dismantling of a housing area here.

"Many people don't like talking to us because they are afraid we are going to take their land away from them. We just try to ensure the land is being used the best way it can."

Air Force Capt. Karsten Lipiec
Det. 1, 332nd EMSG

vice versa. When this happens, personnel get reorganized.

Also, if a contract company decides to leave items after their contract is complete, terrain management will find a use for them. Housing trailers are the most common item reused. Most are either turned over to the housing areas for servicemembers or given to the mini-camps where contractors live.

Unfortunately, some of the organizations do not stay within the safety and health requirements set for their land or buildings. When this happens terrain management evaluates the situation and, if conditions are bad enough, they will evict the company regardless of their contract status.

"It's made very clear in the

land permit that if you don't keep the land up to standard you will be evicted," said Lipiec. "It doesn't matter if a company has been here for three years or three days, the standard must be maintained."

For a unit to leave here, their buildings must meet set stan-

dards for transfer to the incoming unit. Terrain management will go through the building with a representative from both units and address any grievances.

With LSA Anaconda being one of the largest military installations in theater, dividing

land properly is vital for day-to-day operations.

"Some people may not like us but what we do is very important," said Reynolds. "We try to accommodate our customers the best we can and keep things moving as smoothly as possible."

Kentucky guardsmen brief MG McHale on duties



Photo by Staff Sgt. Bryant Maude

CAMP TAJI, Iraq - Spc. Anthony Neal and Spc. Kyle Strunk, both Kentucky Army National Guard Soldiers and gunners with Bravo Battery, 2nd Battalion, 138th Field Artillery, 1103rd Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, Multi-National Force-Iraq, talk with Maj. Gen. Timothy McHale, deputy chief of staff, Resources and Sustainment, Multi-National Force-Iraq, about life back home and duties in Iraq.

Soldiers upgrade base communications

by Sgt. Rob Pinches

302nd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

CAMP TAJI, Iraq – The communications abilities of Soldiers in Taji have gotten a boost. The Army's first in-country Joint Network Node, or JNN, is up and running here. Soldiers of the 1st Sustainment Brigade are glad to have the latest remote satellite-based communications equipment.

"(The JNN system) is more reliable; it has better options. It's as close as we've gotten to commercial (systems)," said Sgt. Lucas Wiles, the JNN section chief operator.

The JNN system replaces the Mobile Subscriber Equipment, or MSE system previously used.

Unlike its predecessor, the JNN uses communications between antennae as well as satellites.

This redundancy is not the only advantage it has over the MSE. The JNN is equipped with its own internal backup power.

"It's huge for us. It gives us reinsurance that our communication will not go down," said Maj. Aaron Osburn, the Taji S6. "We

are the beneficiaries. It increases our ability to command and control."

Sgt. Jonathan O'Donnell, 1st Sustainment Brigade, works with the satellite portion of the JNN system. He also appreciates the changes made.

"The (previous system) wasted bandwidth. By using time division, (JNN) only takes up bandwidth as needed rather than maintaining constant use," he said. "Since it's commercial equipment it uses one interface, a laptop, to work rather than different segments operating individually," he added.

"The main benefits are ease of use, less waste of bandwidth, less waste of Army resources. It was a smart move to switch," O'Donnell said.

JNN doesn't just save space on bandwidth. The improved communications system takes up less physical space as well. The old MSE needed two satellite transport trailers to make it mobile, the JNN uses just one.

Half the size and double the capability? Any Soldier can appreciate that change.



Photo by Sgt. Rob Pinches

Spc. James Higgins, Headquarters, Headquarters Company, 1st Sustainment Brigade, operators the satellite portion of the new Joint Network Node network system. Taji is the first Iraq base to have the dual line-of-sight and satellite communication system.

Peek into the dark side of communications

by Sgt. Jasmine Chopra

Anaconda Times staff

LSA ANACONDA, Iraq – In dark and claustrophobic spaces, nibble fingers are meticulously at work. Soldiers crawl through vents in buildings, tackling spiders, birds, rats and even the occasional screeching bat.

There is hardly a person here who does not benefit from the work signal Soldiers do, said Staff Sgt. Jason Starr of Denton, Texas, a project manager for the 335th Theater Signal Command.

Their work results in almost anyone being able to communicate. Whether it is voice over internet protocol, defense switched network, secret internet protocol router, non-classified internet protocol router, or secret voice over internet protocol, communication specialists have a hand in it.

"I'm not saying everything would come to a stand still, but you've got to keep in mind how much stuff the Army does that requires Internet and phones," said Spc. Morrison Johnson of Lexington, N.C., a satellite



Photo by Sgt. Jasmine Chopra

Spc. Morrison Johnson, a satellite communication systems operator-maintainer with the 67th Signal Battalion, pulls cable that will facilitate secret Internet protocol router through the ceiling of a building here.

communication systems operator-maintainer with the 67th Signal Battalion.

Many of the buildings here are being rewired for more reliable service. Soldiers are taking tactically installed systems of exposed cables peeking through holes and slithering across walls and floors and transforming them into commercialized systems enclosed and hidden away like those in modern office buildings. Much of the work happens behind the scenes.

"One building I (rewired)

had a narrow plywood ceiling. I crawled up the ladder and slid into the ceiling, but I could barely move in there," said Johnson, a lanky fellow.

"I turned my flashlight on to see where I could maneuver and then I saw it," he said. "I don't know why but I have a fear of rodents. So imagine what it was like to see a dead mouse, head turned up, teeth sticking out and stuck to the plywood."

Putting mission first, Johnson proceeded to rewire the building and now the tenants

are benefitting from better communication.

"Keep in mind that a lot of these buildings we're going through are old," said Spc. Dannie Weston, of Elba, Ala., a cable systems installer-maintainer with the 67th.

"You come across dust, cobwebs and bats, spiders hiding in the cracks," he said.

The Soldiers encounter other critters when they work underground.

"Not in the buildings, but outside underground, the problem is snakes," said Johnson.

Despite the fact upgrading base communication means Soldiers may encounter pests, Johnson said the feeling of knowing he is helping others get their jobs done encourages him to keep doing his.

"It's a great feeling to get the (communications) up and running," he said. "You see the little light come on and the switch blinking green and it's like, 'Yes!'"

American Indian Medal of Honor Winners

In the 20th century, five American Indians have been among those soldiers to be distinguished by receiving the United States' highest military honor: the Medal of Honor. Given for military heroism "above and beyond the call of duty," these warriors exhibited extraordinary bravery in the face of the enemy and, in two cases, made the ultimate sacrifice for their country.

Jack C. Montgomery. A Cherokee from Oklahoma, and a First Lieutenant with the 45th Infantry Division Thunderbirds. On 22 February 1944, near Padiglione, Italy, Montgomery's rifle platoon was under fire by three echelons of enemy forces, when he single-handedly attacked all three positions, taking prisoners in the process. As a result of his courage, Montgomery's actions demoralized the enemy and inspired his men to defeat the Axis troops.

Ernest Childers. A Creek from Oklahoma, and a First Lieutenant with the 45th Infantry Division. Childers received the Medal of Honor for heroic action in 1943 when, up against machine gun fire, he and eight men charged the enemy. Although suffering a broken foot in the assault, Childers ordered covering fire and advanced up the hill, single-handedly killing two snipers, silencing two machine gun nests, and capturing an enemy mortar observer.

Van Barfoot. A Choctaw from Mississippi, and a Second Lieutenant in the Thunderbirds. On 23 May 1944, during the breakout from Anzio to Rome, Barfoot knocked out two machine gun nests and captured 17 German soldiers. Later that same day, he repelled a German tank assault, destroyed a Nazi fieldpiece and while returning to camp carried two wounded commanders to safety.

Mitchell Red Cloud Jr. A Winnebago from Wisconsin, and a Corporal in Company E., 19th Infantry Regiment in Korea. On 5 November 1950, Red Cloud was on a ridge guarding his company command post when he was surprised by Chinese communist forces. He sounded the alarm and stayed in his position firing his automatic rifle and point-blank to check the assault. This gave his company time to consolidate their defenses. After being severely wounded by enemy fire, he refused assistance and continued firing upon the enemy until he was fatally wounded. His heroic action prevented the enemy from overrunning his company's position and gained time for evacuation of the wounded.

Charles George. A Cherokee from North Carolina, and Private First Class in Korea when he was killed on 30 November 1952. During battle, George threw himself upon a grenade and smothered it with his body. In doing so, he sacrificed his own life but saved the lives of his comrades. For this brave and selfless act, George was posthumously award the Medal of Honor in 1954.

Precision Engagement: A-10s make history in Iraq

by Tech. Sgt. D. Clare

332nd Air Expeditionary Wing

ALASAD AIR BASE, Iraq - When the Air Force received the first production A-10A in October 1975, few would have guessed that the affectionately nicknamed "Warthog" would make combat history more than 30 years later in the skies over Iraq.

Thanks to a comprehensive digital upgrade, newly modified A-10Cs are bringing a new level of accuracy and versatility to the close air support mission.

This evolution to precision engagement allows Warthog pilots to strike targets with pinpoint accuracy, eliminating the threat to American forces and non-combatants on the ground.

A new 'SADL'

The upgrades to the aircraft have taken an analog system and brought it into a digital era, said Lt. Col. Eric Mann, a 438th Air Expeditionary Group pilot.

A new hands on throttle and stick system improves pilot situational awareness, allowing the flyer to keep his or her "head on a swivel." The aircraft features fully integrated electronics and new avionics systems.

Through the Situational Awareness Data Link, or SADL, pilots are able to literally show fellow pilots and ground forces what they see from their cockpit in real time.

"Essentially, it shortens the kill chain," said Mann. By instantly sharing data and cam-



Air Force Photo by Tech. Sgt. D. Clare

Staff Sgt. Jonathan Pollack, the 438th Air Expeditionary Group structural maintenance technician, (left) and Master Sgt. Anthony Bahur, the structural maintenance supervisor, perform a structural repair on an A-10C Thunderbolt II's engine inlet here.

era feeds, a process that took up to 30 minutes over the radio before happens in seconds.

"I can transmit my image from the advanced targeting pod to the ground forces who can confirm it," Mann said. "I can transmit what I'm looking at to my wingman digitally without having to talk his eyes onto the 'red roof building' when there's hundreds down there. He can actually see it the same time I am."

JDAM combat drop

The Joint Direct Attack Munition (JDAM) is a precision-guided bomb that allows pilots to engage targets using global positioning system coordinates.

"With this munition, we're able to pinpoint a building," said Capt. Brian "Snap" Curland, a 438 AEG pilot. "Collateral damage is about zero. When the bomb impacts, it buries itself into the building and then detonates so you're looking at basically just taking the building out from the inside out instead of the outside in like before."

Captain Curland was the first pilot in history to drop the accurate JDAM from the A-10C in combat.

According to Chief Master Sgt. Terry Allen, the 438th Expeditionary Aircraft

Maintenance Squadron superintendent, the weapon is 100 percent more accurate than the conventional weapons previously deployed. What's more, the JDAM can guide different weights of explosives to further minimize the chance of fratricide or collateral damage.

Captain Curland was on his second sortie here when he came upon a former safe house that insurgents had established as a house-borne improvised explosive device. The building had been rigged to detonate when soldiers swept through the town.

"When I put that out and dropped it, it was basically two buildings away from a mosque. And we obviously don't want to damage any significant religious centers and people who aren't in the conflict," Curland said.

Despite the proximity of residential buildings and the mosque, structures immediately adjacent to the target suffered little more than a dusting from the attack. No coalition forces or noncombatants were harmed.

Flexibility

At the center of the A-10C's close air support mission is the elimination of IEDs. In some cases, they escort troops or convoys on missions and foot patrols, said Capt. Richard Hunt, the 104th Expeditionary Fighter Squadron weapons and tactics officer.

The new capabilities of the

aircraft reflect the complex nature of that mission. The A-10C has 11 weapons stations from wingtip to wingtip, in addition to its primary weapon, the seven barrel 30mm Gatling gun.

"I have no idea what situation I'll find myself in when I arrive in a target area," said Hunt. "It's constantly changing on the ground, and the insurgency and the enemy are constantly changing. I need to have a huge variety of different weapons on the airplane so I can deal with a specific situation."

Case in point, the first time Hunt engaged the enemy with the JDAM, he was called to a densely populated area. With

freedom of movement outside of Iraq's urban centers, insurgents based in the locale were threatening local farmers and civilians.

Coalition Forces swept through the area and found the enemy had carefully placed booby-traps and IEDs to slow their advance. The area was surrounded and Hunt and his wingman were called to the scene. They eliminated the threats to the community and friendly forces.

"The accuracy was outstanding. It was a complete success. It's job satisfaction at its best."

Total Force at work

The A-10C's success in combat so far is the result of a Total Force effort. The Air National Guard, working with the Air Force Reserve and the active duty, provided funding, personnel and additional resources to support the developmental program that will keep Warthogs in the sky through 2028.

According to Chief Allen, the upgrades began in November 2005. The aircraft fighting in combat today were not completely operational as A-10Cs until June 2007.

Within weeks, members from every component of the upgrade team found themselves in Iraq in combat launching the first JDAMs and bringing a whole new combat platform to the theater.

"We feel very, very proud," said Staff Sgt. Nick Draxler, a 438th AEG weapons loader. "It took thousands of man hours and lots of work to bring this aircraft to battle in a fully functional way. Now these aircraft performed as well as we have to get them here."



Air Force Photo by Tech. Sgt. D. Clare

Airman 1st Class Michael Ashbrook, a weapons loader, receives on-the-job training from Tech. Sgt. James "Hooter" Chrismond, the weapons crew chief, on the installation of centerline pylons of a newly-upgraded A-10C Thunderbolt II here.

SCHOOL, from COVER

missions is Soldiers will have the opportunity to interact with and aid the local children, which for most is a morale boost.

"They are very enthusiastic and dedicated to doing the right thing with the locals," said Sgt. 1st Class Leona Propson, the 316th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) civil affairs noncommissioned officer (NCO) referring to the 1203rd Engineering Battalion. "They know it benefits both sides by providing aid."

Through these humani-

tarian aid missions many of the local Iraqis have learned to appreciate the Coalition efforts to improve their lives and many have passed this belief to their children.

"The Americans are very kind," said a young student through an interpreter. "I was happy when I saw them coming."

Another trip to the school is scheduled in the coming months that will provide more aid to students.

If you or your organization would like information on how to donate, contact Sgt. 1st Class Propson via email at leonardi.propson@iraq.centcom.

DFACs go all out for Thanksgiving Day competition



Photo by Sgt. Jasmine Chopra

(Above) At the Desert Inn Dining Facility here, elaborate Thanksgiving Day displays included Native Americans and tipis created out of wood and edible materials.



Photo by Sgt. Jasmine Chopra

The Desert Inn Dining Facility won best large dining facility and the Mirage Dining Facility won best small dining facility for the Thanksgiving Day holiday competition. 316th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) (ESC) Brig. Gen. Gregory E. Couch, (left, rear) and 316th ESC Command Sgt. Maj. Stacey E. Davis, (right, rear) congratulated the winners including Sgt. 1st Class Shunnie Nuniss, contracting officer technical representative with the 5th Battalion, 158th Aviation Regiment and several civilian defense contract food service staff, including Dulles Smith, (center) the Desert Inn food service supervisor.



Photo by Sgt. Jasmine Chopra

Air Force Staff Sgt. Inez Rangel, force protection noncommissioned officer and Tech Sgt. Luis Vazquez, noncommissioned officer in charge of the Blackjack Education Center, both with the 332nd Expeditionary Mission Support Group, admire a replica of a Sherpa aircraft made out of cake at the Mirage Dining Facility here Thanksgiving Day.



Photos by Sgt. 1st Class Neil K. Simmons

(Above) Army Sgt. Andrew S. Manglone, shift leader, 118th Maintenance Company (Ordnance), grinds away at an ice sculpture for use in Thanksgiving Day festivities.

(Right) Air Force Col. Ralph J. Romine, LSA Anaconda garrison commander, judges a Thanksgiving bread display at Mirage Dining Facility.



First MP company in Balad



Photo by Sgt. Jasmine Chopra

Sgt. Jennifer Hurt, an MP with the 164th Military Police Company, searches a female pedestrian crossing a checkpoint in Balad, Iraq Nov. 15.



Photo by Sgt. Jasmine Chopra

Capt. Matthew Norris, the commander of the 164th Military Police Company, meets with an IP to inspect a position IPs built using sandbags provided by the 164th.



by Sgt. Ja

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MP sets IPs up for success

Jasmine Chopra

Anaconda Times staff

Balad, Iraq- Through her binoculars, military (MP) squad leader, Staff Sgt. Iris Munoz, watches people in a vehicle behaving suspiciously. She signals to the Iraqi Police (IP) she mentors, at a busy traffic checkpoint with her. They receive her command and begin the protocol for handling suspicious vehicles.

Checking vehicles and personnel at checkpoints is their job. So is developing a police force. Leaders agree, it's the toughest and most demanding missions facing military police Soldiers in Iraq. Staff Sgt. Munoz is teaching, training and mentoring developing IPs.

Day-after-day, MPs with the 164th Military Police Company, including Munoz,

have led this vital, dangerous mission head on, providing mentorship, guidance, and support to dozens of police stations throughout Balad and surrounding cities.

Under Saddam Hussein, IPs were little more than thugs. We're trying to get the concept of community policing here. Getting these guys out of their shells, interacting with citizens, showing them that IPs are doing their job and are not a threat," said Capt. Matthew Norris, commander of the 164th MP Co.

Regarding IPs overall competency, Norris admits it's been a mixed bag.

"The stations are certainly doing better than before, but we've seen vast improvements in the last months we've been on the job," said Norris.

Before, IPs didn't know how to search vehicles and personnel. Now they are beginning to follow procedures consistently and catch warning signs early, he said.

Yet challenges remain.

"Language and cultural differences are tough," said Sgt. Wesley Rath, an MP with the 164th. "We don't know much Arabic and they don't know much English, so we use a lot of hand and arm signals, gestures, and we demonstrate techniques for them," he said.

The platoon rolls out with one interpreter.

"Under Saddam Hussein, IPs were little more than his thugs. We're trying to get the concept of community policing here."

Sgt. Wesley Rath
164th MP Co.

The 164th was mobilized as part of the surge and within four months, these military police from frigid Fort Richardson, Alaska

found themselves in Iraq at the peak of summer.

The 164th is the first military police company to train IPs in Balad and surrounding areas.

"It is a challenge everyday. Everyday it's something new, but I've seen improvements in these IPs," said Munoz.

She has established a good rapport with IPs in Balad and the commander of a police station in Balad said he valued her expertise and commitment to the IPs.

"I am grateful for Sergeant Munoz and her team," he said through an interpreter. "They come to us by day and by night."

The commander of the police station said he is tough on his IPs because the mission is too important to fail.

The 164th agrees. That's why day-after-day they train, teach, and mentor IPs so sooner rather than later the IPs can do the job alone.



An MP with the 164th Military Police Company provides overwatch as IPs conduct a vehicle search at a traffic checkpoint in Balad, Iraq Nov. 15.

Photo by Sgt. Jasmine Chopra

'Storm Riders' take Soldiers to the fight in air assault missions

by Sgt. 1st Class Chris Seaton

12th Combat Aviation Brigade

LSA ANACONDA, Iraq- It's 2 a.m. on a brisk November morning in an Iraqi village. The night skies are clear, and the insurgent fighters who've been operating out of the village are sleeping. In the distance, a guard on lookout hears what sounds like a helicopter.

Sounds in the desert can play tricks on the ears, especially at night; but within moments, that sound becomes deafening. One faint helicopter heard in the distance becomes ten menacing aircraft descending on the village.

Before the guard can roust his fellow insurgents, the aircraft has landed. Waves of Coalition infantrymen pour out of UH-60 Black Hawks and CH-47 Chinooks from all sides of the village.

Armor-clad warriors emerge from the massive dust clouds kicked up by helicopter rotors as even more aircraft, this time the lethal AH-64 Apache, hover overhead, practically begging enemy militias for an opportunity to fire their 30 mm gun.

The village is surrounded, and the battle is over before it began.

It's an air assault; a complex, joint and combined arms operation that involves infantrymen, attack helicopters, Air



Photo by Maj. Terry Rodesky

(Above) Infantry Soldiers board a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter flown by the 12th Combat Aviation Brigade's Task Force Storm in preparation for an infiltration mission at a forward operating base in Iraq.

(Below) Chief Warrant Officer Daniel Bickett and Spc. Joshua Brooks, both members of a CH-47 Chinook flight crew from Task Force Storm's B Co., 5th Bn 158th Aviation Regiment, conduct a mission brief before departing on a late night air assault mission at Logistics Support Area Anaconda, Iraq.

Force aircraft and the Soldiers and helicopters of Task Force Storm.

The 'Storm Riders', Task

Force XII's air assault battalion, have successfully taken part in dozens of these missions since arriving in Iraq this summer.

"The mobility that helicopters give the infantry is amazing," said Lt. Col. Jay Macklin, the Task Force Storm Commander. "We can arrive at anytime, day or night, and the enemy never knows how big a force is coming, where we're coming from, where we're going to land, or what we're going to do."

Without the aircraft, the infantry would be forced to convoy. Soldiers on the ground, while just as efficient, face improvised explosive devices. Trucks move slower, and arrive one at a time. Without the aircraft, the enemy is ready.

"The enemy is not stupid, and we know that," said Chief Warrant Officer Clark Hall, a Task Force Storm pilot. "We bring the element of surprise they wouldn't have without us."

Even with the helicopters, the battle is very real; both for infantrymen and aviators.

"Their threat is our threat," said Capt. Samuel Redding, Company Commander for A Co. 3rd Bn. 158th Aviation Regiment and a former infantryman. "If they're worried

about IED's, so are we. A lot of our door gunners tell me that if we're going in shooting they want to get off with the infantry guys and help."

The door gunners are trained to lay down suppressive fire and to help land the aircraft during a hostile landing. For the few critical moments while the helicopter is on the ground and Soldiers are focused on safely exiting the aircraft, it's the door gunner's job to keep everyone safe.

"Sometimes when I'm flying with the ground Soldiers, it hits me," said Sgt. Steven Kellam, a Task Force Storm crew chief and door gunner. "I look around at the infantry guys we're about to land with, and wonder how many of them are going to be riding back with us."

"The majority of my guys don't even think about it as being 'tip of the spear' type dangerous duty," said Redding. "They get to see the guys who are out there eating dirt. They see the guys who are really working."

The aviation side involves more than just the Soldiers in the helicopters though, said Macklin.

"These are very complex missions with a lot of moving

pieces," he said. "During an assault, the entire battalion is at work, day or night... everything from planning the mission, tracking the battle in the tactical operations center, refueling aircraft or maintenance, it's one big collective effort."

The key though, said Macklin, is a habitual relationship with the ground commanders. For an operation to run smoothly, the Soldiers in the air and on the ground have to be on the same page.

"We play a big part, but we're just one piece of the operation," said Hall. "These guys on the ground are the ones doing the real work."

But when the pieces come together, Macklin said, the element of surprise, the efficiency, and the speed create a lethal package.

"We've become a big part of the combined arms team," he said.

At 2:10 a.m. the cool air is still filled with dust, but the roar of the aircraft has once again given way to a distant sound of a single helicopter.

But the village itself is different. What was recently a militia stronghold is now quickly becoming a safe Iraqi village. And the insurgents never knew what hit them.



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Chris Seaton

316th ESC commanding general visits local sheik

by Spc. Thomas Keeler

Anaconda Times staff

LSA ANACONDA, Iraq – Brig. Gen. Gregory E. Couch, the 316th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) (ESC) commanding general, accepted an invitation to Sheik Sa'ad Hassan Ali's residence in Albu Hassan Village near the Tigris River Nov. 14 in what was the general's first visit to the sheik's home since the 316th ESC took command here in August.

Couch and his staff enjoyed a generous lunch of lamb and rice, stewed vegetables, fresh fruit, and a sweet Iraqi custard for dessert. Couch is building on a relationship established by previous commanders, including outgoing Brig. Gen. Michael Terry of the 13th SC(E).

The general and the sheik visited a reconciliation checkpoint on the Tigris River before returning to the sheik's home to discuss issues concerning both men, such as employment and improvements in and around LSA Anaconda and a scrap metal program begun in July. Scrap metal from the Defense Reutilization and Marketing Office here has been donated to the sheik for transport and resale to the Iraqi government in Baghdad.



Photo by Spc. Thomas Keeler

Brig. Gen. Gregory E. Couch tours Sheik Sa'ad Hassan Ali's residence in Albu Hassan Village Nov. 14, discussing family, politics and business. This was the general's first visit to the sheik's home since the 316th ESC took command in August.

The sheik donates proceeds from the scrap metal to assist the widows of Iraqi soldiers.

Sheik Sa'ad Hassan Ali was one of the first sheiks in the area to commit to helping Coalition Forces, and the base has benefitted from the

relationship as virtually no mortars have come from his area over the past year.

America's warrior

by Spc. Jennifer L. Sierra

A snapshot of servicemembers in the Global War on Terrorism

Full name and rank: Sgt. Leander Yazzie.
Unit: Alpha 5-5, Air Defense Artillery, Ft. Lewis, Washington.
Job Title: Early Warning Systems, Command and Control, Intelligence Operator/Maintainer.
Time in service: 4 years 2 months.
Age: 28.
Hometown: Ft. Defiance, AZ.
Tribe: Navajo.
Family: Mom, dad and sister.
Pastimes: My college years at Arizona State.
Life-changing event/moment: I couldn't say I've had one of those yet. (Well, no notable ones.)
The person I admire the most: It would be a toss up between my mom and dad. Both of them have been equally important and crucial in my life.
Why I joined the military: For the experience.
How has your Native American heritage impacted your military career: My background/Navajo culture has helped me over the years in dealing with the hardships of being a soldier. I always go back to what my grandparents and my parents taught me as a child. Having family history in the military, more importantly a grandfather who was a WWII veteran, a Navajo Code Talker, and a uncle who served

in the Army during the Vietnam conflict, I at times take time out to speak with them through prayer using sweet grass; to help me lead my soldiers and cope with hardships the military instills.
If I wasn't in the military I would be: Trying to get the highest degree in education and working on my career.
What makes a good Soldier: Being open-minded, patient and motivated.
What makes a good leader: Motivation and understanding.
Unusual fact about you: I played classical guitar and piano in high school.
Motivations in life: My family and friends.
Goals: To be attain a Dr./Ph.D status.
Hardest part of my job here: Remaining vigilant and keeping a cool head no matter the situation.
Best part of my life: College!

****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

7th SB celebrates Native American heritage

by Spc. RJ Gilbert

7th Sustainment Brigade

CAMP ADDER, Iraq - Soldiers gathered at Camp Adder Warrior Memorial Hall Nov. 17 to celebrate National American Indian Heritage Month, not only to honor Native Americans, but also to highlight all cultural diversity within the United States.

Early on in the ceremony Spc. Amber J. Red Fox, Battalion S-3 Operations, read the very thing that Red Fox James had helped bring about 95 years ago: the Presidential Proclamation for National American Indian Heritage Month.

Red Fox spoke reverently about being able to recite this proclamation.

"I was honored to be able to do it. I was glad the President took the time to (recognize) our forefathers. For those who don't know, the proclamation was actually originated in 1912 by Red Fox James," said



Photo by Spc. RJ Gilbert

Sgt. Latanya D. Dineyazhe, Cargo Specialist, 119th Inland Cargo Transfer Co. addresses the Camp Adder Warrior Memorial Hall crowd during the Native American History Month celebration Nov. 17 at Camp Adder, Iraq.

Red Fox.

Throughout the ceremony tales and biographies of vari-

ous Native American tribes and their members, both past and present, were uttered: most notably told were the tales of the Native American Soldiers among us.

The featured speaker eloquently shared some of the prayers in which her people practice.

"Most importantly they (her grandparents) taught me our proper way to pray," shared Sgt. Latanya D. Dineyazhe, a cargo specialist with the 119th Inland Cargo Transfer Company.

"In order to teach me they used to wake me up early in the morning, before the sun rose, and we

would go outside and sprinkle some corn pollen to the East. We would pray for the creator

to bless us that day, then we would bless ourselves with the rising sun's rays. Afterwards they would tell all of us children to run to the east," Dineyazhe said.

Dineyazhe later revealed how she continues practicing the ways her grandparents had instilled within her.

"He (her grandfather) told my mother when I get to the foreign land, in Iraq, I needed to introduce myself to the earth around me and rub the dirt on myself to let the earth know that I am here. Upon my arrival to Camp Adder in the morning dawn, I borrowed a lighter, lit my cedar, said a prayer to the east, and proceeded to rub dirt all over my clean uniform," said Dineyazhe.

No less wondrous than the Native American spiritual practices of Dineyazhe was the lineage of warriors from which she comes.

"My grandfather Robert Shirley served in the U.S. Army

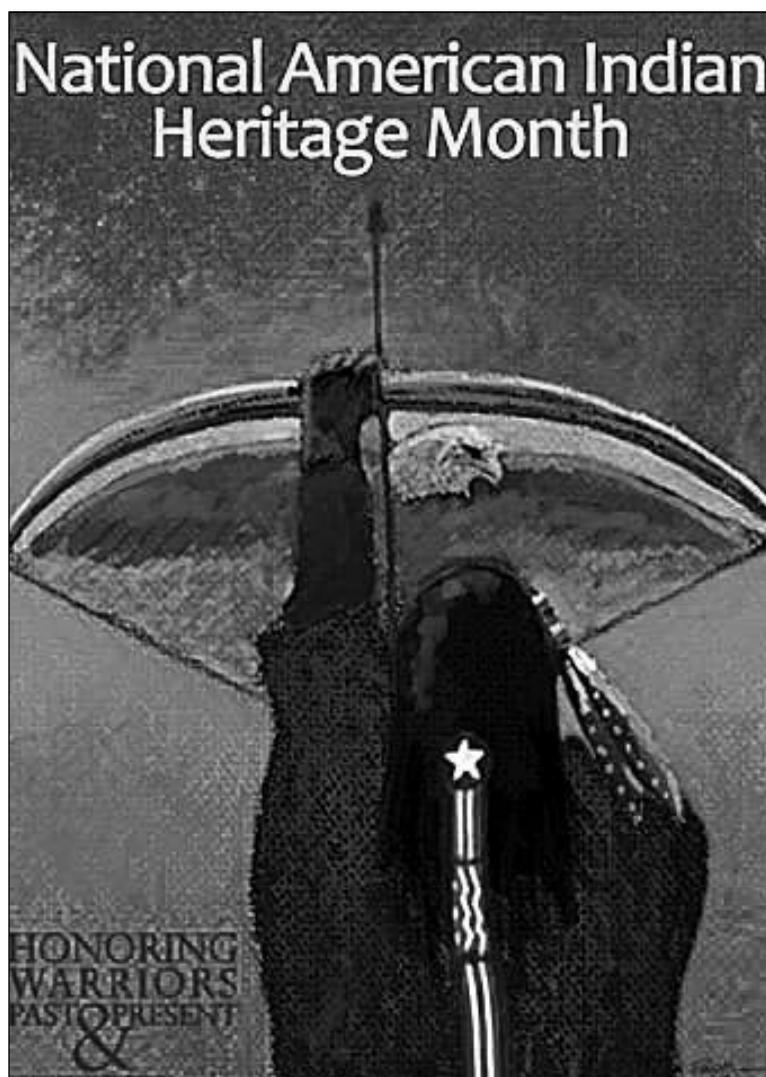
and fought proudly, along with 12,000 Native Americans, in World War I. He was shot in the chest during an enemy ambush, he survived and was awarded the Purple Heart," proclaimed Dineyazhe.

"My mother's grandfather's, Samuel Billison, was a former Marine who served as a Navajo Code Talker at Iwo Jima during World War II. He was joined in arms by 44,000 Native Americans from different tribes nationwide, who also fought in World War II," said Dineyazhe.

"My mother's father, Guy Williams, also served in the U.S. Army. He fought in the Korean War," she added.

Dineyazhe left the lectern to a standing ovation and was even asked to perform what would have been a curtain call, if curtains separated her from the audience.

Her speech and the whole celebration were simply moving.



316th CG re-enlists 19 Soldiers during Taji visit



Photo by Pfc. Andrea Merritt

Brig. Gen. Gregory Couch, commanding general of the 316th Expeditionary Sustainment Command, renders the oath of enlistment to 19 Soldiers of the 1st Battalion, 143rd Field Artillery, at a re-enlistment ceremony Nov. 11 during his visit to Camp Taji. "In my mind, there is nothing better than two things - getting promoted at war and re-enlisting," said Couch.

Do you have a story idea?

Contact the Anaconda Times

anaconda.times@iraq.centcom.mil

Upcoming sports on AFN

Wednesday 11/28/07

College BB: Georgia Tech @ Indiana live 3:00 a.m. AFN/sports
Calgary Flames @ Detroit Red Wings live 3:00 a.m. AFN/xtra
College BB: Wisconsin @ Duke live 5:00 a.m. AFN/sports
Seattle Supersonics @ Los Angeles Lakers live 6:30 a.m. AFN/xtra
Boston Celtics @ Cleveland Cavaliers replay 4:00 p.m. AFN/sports;
 replay 10:00 p.m. AFN/sports

Thursday 11/29/07

College BB: North Carolina State @ Michigan State live 3:00 a.m. AFN/sports
Cleveland Cavaliers @ Detroit Pistons live 3:30 a.m. AFN/xtra
North Carolina @ Ohio State live 5:00 a.m. AFN/sports
Orlando Magic @ Seattle Supersonics live 6:00 a.m. AFN/xtra
Virginia Tech @ Penn State replay 4:00 AFN/sports

Friday 11/30/07

Green Bay Packers @ Dallas Cowboys live 4:00 a.m. AFN/sports; re-
 play 2:00 p.m. AFN/sports; replay 9:00 p.m. AFN/sports
New York Knicks @ Boston Celtics live 4:00 a.m. AFN/xtra
Denver Nuggets @ Los Angeles Lakers live 6:30 a.m. AFN/xtra
College FB: Rutgers @ Louisville replay 11:00 a.m. AFN/sports

Saturday 12/1/07

Dallas Stars @ Pittsburgh Penguins live 3:30 a.m. AFN/xtra
Boston Celtics @ Miami Heat live 4:00 a.m. AFN/sports; replay 3:00
 p.m. AFN/sports
Colorado Avalanche @ San Jose Sharks live 6:30 a.m. AFN/xtra
Los Angeles Clippers @ Denver Nuggets live 6:30 a.m. AFN/sports;
 replay 11:00 a.m. AFN/sports
College FB: Teams TBD live 8:00 p.m. AFN/xtra

College FB: Army @ Navy live 8:00 p.m. AFN/sports

Sunday 12/2/07

College FB: SEC Championship live 12:00 a.m. AFN/sports; replay
 11:00 a.m. AFN/sports
College FB: Oregon State @ Oregon live 12:30 a.m. AFN/xtra
College FB: Teams TBD live 4:00 a.m. AFN/xtra
College FB: Teams TBD live 4:00 a.m. AFN/sports
College FB: MAC Championship replay 11:00 a.m. AFN/xtra
College BB: North Carolina @ Kentucky replay 2:00 p.m. AFN/xtra
College FB: Big 12 Championship replay 3:00 p.m. AFN/sports
College BB: Washington @ Oklahoma State replay 5:30 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 12/3/07

NFL FB: Teams TBD live 12:00 a.m. AFN/sports
NFL FB: Teams TBD live 12:00 a.m. AFN/xtra
College BB: Kansas @ USC live 4:00 a.m. AFN/xtra
Cincinnati Bengals @ Pittsburgh Steelers live 4:15 a.m. AFN/sports;
 replay 2:00 p.m. AFN/sports; replay 9:00 p.m. AFN/sports
College BB: Texas A&M @ Arizona replay 6:00 a.m. AFN/xtra
College BB: Texas @ UCLA replay 8:00 a.m. AFN/xtra

Tuesday 12/4/07

Dallas Stars @ Columbus Blue Jackets live 3:00 a.m. AFN/xtra
New England Patriots @ Baltimore Ravens live 4:30 a.m. AFN/sports;
 replay 2:00 p.m. AFN/sports; replay 9:00 p.m. AFN/sports
Edmonton Oilers @ Los Angeles Kings live 6:30 a.m. AFN/xtra
Dallas Mavericks @ Chicago Bulls replay 11:00 a.m. AFN/sports

SUSTAINER REEL TIME THEATER

(Schedule is subject to change)

Wednesday, Nov. 28
 5 p.m. Mr. Mogorium's Wonder (G)
 8 p.m. We Own the Night (R)

Thursday, Nov. 29
 5 p.m. The Heartbreak Kid (R)
 8:30 p.m. Mr. Mogorium's Wonder (G)

Friday, Nov. 30
 2 p.m. Rendition (R)
 5 p.m. Why Did I Get Married (PG-13)
 8:30 p.m. Enchanted (PG)

Saturday, Dec. 1
 2 p.m. Michael Clayton (R)
 5 p.m. Enchanted (PG)
 8 p.m. Why Did I Get Married (PG-13)

Sunday, Dec. 2
 2 p.m. Enchanted (PG)
 5 p.m. Rendition (R)
 8 p.m. Michael Clayton (R)

Monday, Dec. 3
 5 p.m. Enchanted (PG)
 8 p.m. Why Did I Get Married (PG-13)

Tuesday, Dec. 4
 5 p.m. Rendition (R)
 8 p.m. Enchanted (PG)



ANACONDA ACTIVITIES

INDOOR POOL

1-Mile practice day: Saturday- 9 a.m. and 8 p.m.

Swim Lessons

-Beginners: Tuesday - 7 p.m.

-Intermediate: Thursday - 7 p.m.

-Both: Sunday - 7 p.m.

Crazy Distance Day: Friday - All day, all levels

Endurance and pacing: Wednesday- 4 p.m.

Swim-A-Thon: Wednesday - 9 a.m. and 8 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

8-ball tourney: Monday- 3 p.m. and 8 p.m.

9-ball tournament: Wednesday- 3 p.m. and 8 p.m.

Game Console Tourney: Thursday- 8 p.m.

Country Dance Class: Thursday- 7 p.m.

Dominoes: Friday- 8 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- 8:30 p.m.

Swing dance: Tuesday- 7p.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.

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.

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.

Unreal Tourney: Thursday- 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, Friday- 7 p.m.

Body by Midgett Toning Class: Tuesday, Thursday - 7 p.m.

Dodge ball Game: Tuesday- 7:30 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.

Zingano Brazilian Jiu Jitsu: Tuesday, Thursday- 8:30 p.m.

CIRCUIT GYM

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

Begins Dec. 4

TUESDAY NIGHT

JAM SESSIONS

Time: 1930-2200hrs

EVERYONE WELCOME

BRING YOUR OWN INSTRUMENTS.

WEST SIDE MWR

Army secretary sees opportunity from 'calamities'

by Jim Garamone

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON- Out of calamity comes opportunity, Army Secretary Pete Geren told Congress today.

Geren and Army Chief of Staff Gen. George W. Casey Jr. testified before the Senate Armed Services Committee about the state of the service.

The secretary said that when crisis comes it gives both Congress and the service the political opportunity to do some things that wouldn't get done without the crisis.

"It gives us the political energy, the bureaucratic energy, to take on some hard issues and make some changes that we would never get around to were it not for that," he said.

Two "calamities" have highlighted weaknesses in the Army, and the service is using those to make changes, said Geren. Shortcomings in soldier health care make up one of those calamities; contracting is the second.

In regard to health care, the

Army made immediate changes to conditions at Walter Reed Army Medical Center, the service's flagship medical facility, after shortcomings were brought to light in media reports, the secretary said. The service has established wounded warrior units throughout the United States and is working to reform the disability system. The secretary put great store in a pilot program that begins Nov. 26 to experiment with a single physical for both the departments of Defense and Veterans Affairs.

Contracting is another calamity the service is acting upon. "We have learned -- unfortunately, the hard way -- that our contracting system was not up to the needs of our Army in this century," Geren said. "In 2007, the Army did 25 percent of all contracting for the government -- \$111 billion."

When shortcomings were brought to light, the service put a task force in place "to immediately stop the bleeding," he said. As a result of studies, the service has learned

that contracting is a problem throughout government.

"We need to do a better job of developing professional acquisition and contracting officers (and to) provide the resources, the training and valuing the invaluable role that these contracting officers provide to our government," said Geren.

The service needs more contracting personnel, they need to be better trained, and leaders need to listen to their conclusions, Geren said.

The secretary also told the Senate panel that the service must do more for military families. "We are in the seventh year of war in Afghanistan and over four and a half years of war in Iraq; this is the third-longest conflict in U.S. history," he said. "It's the longest conflict we've ever fought with an all-volunteer force by quite a long shot."

"We are in uncharted waters, both for the soldiers and for the families," he continued.

This all-volunteer Army is a different force from any the

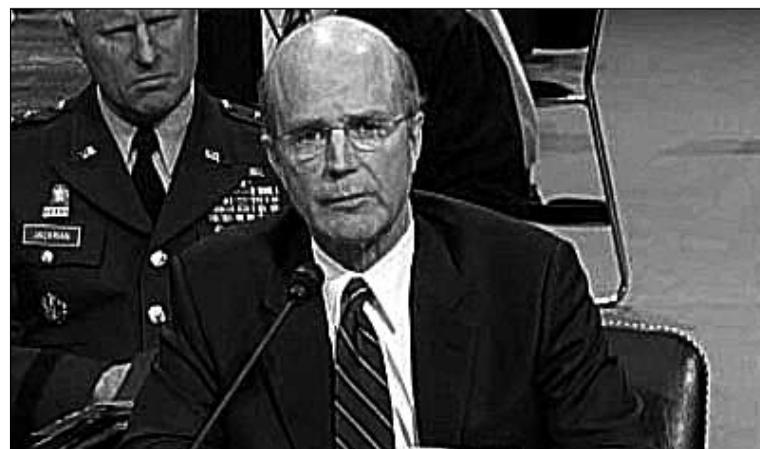


Photo by Pentagon Channel

The Honorable Pete Geren, Secretary of the Army, testifying before the Senate Armed Services Committee on the Army's strategic imperatives.

country has fielded before. "More than half of the soldiers are married; more than half of their spouses work outside the home," he said. "The support that we provided to those key members of the all-volunteer force over the first 35 years of the force doesn't work as we move into the seventh year of the conflict."

Army leaders at all levels have signed a covenant with the families "to recognize the

importance of our families to the all-volunteer force." Geren said that families volunteer too, and the military must do a better job supporting them.

"We moved \$100 million out of our budget last summer into family programs," he said. "In '08 in the supplemental, we moved \$1.4 billion into family programs. We ask your help as we look to support families, that critical part of our all-volunteer force."

1103rd CSSB plays mini golf on newly renovated course

by Pfc. Andrea Merritt

1st Sustainment Brigade

CAMP TAJI, Iraq – The leaders and Soldiers of the 1103rd Combat Sustainment Support Battalion (CSSB) had their game faces on as they competed against each other during the battalion's first miniature golf challenge Nov. 4.

Only four weeks ago, the golf course was just an empty space with 18 holes, but after Soldiers from each of the battalion's staff sections and subordinate companies added their designs, the course was brought to life.

"It's a lot better than what it was when we first came out here. There was nothing here at first," said Spc. Shane Blanchard, an intelligence collector with the 512th Maintenance Company, 1103rd CSSB. "Now, they made it so people actually want to play."

2nd Lt. Tamara Brewer, commander of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1103rd CSSB, had the idea to refurbish the miniature golf course and have the challenge.

"Soldiers worked all on their personal time. After their missions, they would come in after their sleep cycles to work on it," said Brewer. "The Sol-



Photos by Pfc. Andrea Merritt

(Above) Soldiers of the 41st Transportation Company hold up 'applause' signs as 1st Sgt. Norvell Tillman, 515th Transportation Company first sergeant, hits a hole-in-one. The group brought a sense of fun to the challenge with their antics.

(Below) 1st Sgt. Jason Roach, first sergeant of 494th Transportation Company, putts at hole number 4, which was designed by the 1103rd CSSB's communications and information technology section. The project was awarded best overall design in the competition.

diers took pride in their work and used their skills, creativity and ingenuity."

Although the Soldiers did a great job, they were not always excited about working on the course.

"At first they were like, 'No, it's silly. We're in a combat zone. It's one more thing to do,'" Brewer said. "S6 started first, then it went to (support operations) and trickled on down."

"People started getting excited and everyone represented their company incredibly well," Brewer added.

Before the competition began, Maj. Terrence Hayes, the 1st Sustainment Brigade chaplain, had the tough job of judging each of the designs, which were supposed to best represent their company or section.

"Terrible! This is absolutely terrible," said Hayes. "I can't choose. There are too many good ones."

Despite the difficulty, the chaplain did choose and in the end the battalion's communications and information technology section won best overall design.

"It's original, challenging ... It will be interesting to see the lowest number of strokes it takes to get it in the hole," said 1st Sgt. Jason Roach, the 494th Transportation Compa-

ny's first sergeant, when he attempted to conquer the hole.

As the tournament continued, the designs weren't the only things to stand out on the golf course.

Capt. Larry Johnson and 1st Sgt. Kent Galvin, commander and first sergeant of the 41st Transportation Company, 1103rd CSSB, played in the challenge as an entourage of their Soldiers cheered them on.

Two of their Soldiers acted as caddies and carried clubs in a golf bag made of cardboard and another two Soldiers held up signs that said "quiet" when the crowd got too noisy or "applause" when they wanted the audience to root for their team.

"(The commander and first sergeant) wanted to go all out for the tournament," said Staff Sgt. Nakita Fox, a Soldier with the 41st Trans. Co. who held up some of the signs.

"We got caddies and applause signs. We're mimicking movies like 'Caddy Shack' and 'Happy Gilmore,' having a little fun," said Fox.

Whenever the commander or first sergeant hit a hole-in-one, a Soldier wearing a hard hat with a nail sticking out of it would cheer excessively

loud and spray a can of non-alcoholic beer into the air.

Although the Soldiers of the 41st Trans. Co., brought a sense of humor to the challenge, they left their A-game at home.

At the end of the challenge, it was Battery B, 2nd Battalion, 138th Field Artillery, who came out on top.

Capt. Steve Mattingly, the company's commander, and Staff Sgt. Jared Deatley, a personnel clerk in the company, signed their balls and gave them to Brewer as a memento.

"It feels great to win. It would have felt better if there was tougher competition," Mattingly said jokingly. "It was a good time."

"I wanted a good morale and team builder. With all the missions we have all over (Multi-National Division-Baghdad), it's hard to get everyone together on the ground. This is our way to do that," said Brewer, who was rather pleased with the outcome of the day's events.

"It's great to see smiles on people's faces, complete laughter ... That was so much fun. I'm so excited everyone was relaxed and had fun," Brewer said.



Getting rough with floor hockey on LSAA



Photos by Spc. Jennifer L. Sierra

(Above) Spc. Bardon Murphy, a wheeled vehicle mechanic with 5/5 Air Defense Artillery, keeps a steady stance in order to properly protect the goal and prevent the opposing team from scoring during a Monday night floor hockey game.

(Below) A player prepares to pass the hockey ball to a fellow team member in hopes of getting a goal to keep the lead. Unfortunately, the "No Belts" team won the Monday night floor hockey game.



Photo by Spc. Jennifer L. Sierra

Spc. James Harper, a wheeled vehicle mechanic with the 5/5 Air Defense Artillery does his best to keep Capt. "Joe" from obtaining the hockey ball during a game of floor hockey.



Photos by Spc. Jennifer L. Sierra

(Above) Players from the "Belts" and "No Belts" stand ready to fight for and defend the opposing team from scoring the next goal during a friendly game of floor hockey Nov. 19.

(Below) Spc. Alex Skidmore, 5-5 Air Defense Artillery, takes a power shot at the hockey ball in hopes to make a goal during a floor hockey game at the MWR east circuit gym.

