

AnacondaTimes

DECEMBER 19, 2007

PROUDLY SERVING LSA ANACONDA



Photo by Spc. Thomas Keeler

Unit stands mission ready

Calif. Soldiers provide vital service to convoys

Page 7



Photo by Spc. Thomas Keeler

LSAA hosts holiday show

Residents perform, celebrate holiday season

Page 8



Photo by Lt. Col. Christopher Houston

Sending troops home

Soldiers take pride in redeploying fellow troops

Page 12



Photo by Spc. Jay Venturini

Pfc. Joshua Gustafson, a rough terrain container handler operator with the 403rd Inland Cargo Transportation Company, moves a container full of lumber for a future project here Dec 6. The movement control team is responsible for all cargo movement throughout Forward Operating Base Grizzly.

403rd TC performs heavy lifting for FOB Grizzly

by Spc. Jay Venturini

Anaconda Times staff

FOB GRIZZLY, Iraq – Living on an installation as small as Forward Operating Base (FOB) Grizzly, with less than 1,000 servicemembers, has its pros and cons. Many enjoy the calm that cannot be found at larger installations, although they rely on those same places for life support.

Because everything is shipped by truck in big containers the ability to move those containers becomes essential to ensure they get to the right people at the right time. That is where the 403rd Inland Cargo Transportation Company (ICTC) movement control team (MCT) intervenes and moves supplies throughout the FOB and surrounding areas.

“We provided the wood and t-walls to start building the FOB Grizzly Bluegill Terminal for passengers traveling to and from here. Anything we can do to better this place we are more than willing to help.”

Sgt. Larry Williams
403rd ICTC

“Nothing moves without them around here,” said Staff Sgt. Chad Moreland, 504th Military Police (MP) Battalion logistics noncommissioned officer in charge (NCOIC). “We would really be hurting without them.”

The MCT, which consists of five Soldiers, is the only 403rd ICTC asset on FOB Grizzly. The 403rd (actual), which is stationed on LSA Anaconda,

rotates the MCT on a 90-day cycle between Anaconda and here.

The MCT supports the FOB by providing all the water and construction materials needed. On average the unit moves 30 pallets of water per week which gets distributed to the living quarters and offices. They also support many projects throughout camp with the help of the mayor cell.

“We provided the wood and t-walls to start building the FOB Grizzly Bluegill Terminal for passengers traveling to and from here,” said Sgt. Larry Williams, the 403rd ICTC MCT NCOIC. “Anything we can do to better this place we are more than willing to do.”

The MCT has different vehicles in their arsenal to move the supplies where they need to be moved. They use the rough terrain container handler (RTCH) to move big containers and a five-ton cargo truck and pickup truck for smaller things.

“Our RTCH can be seen from anywhere on the FOB,” Williams said with a chuckle. “Everyone knows when we are working.”

See **LIFTING**, Page 12

How to protect yourself, your assets

by 1st Lt. Donald G. Wolfe

316th ESC SJA

We all have documents, valuables, heirlooms and other items we consider important enough to keep. So, why do so many of us fail to protect these valuable and, in many cases, irreplaceable documents?

The most explained answer is complacency. Few actually anticipate the theft, fire, flood, tornado or countless other horrific events which leaves thousands of Americans scrambling each year. Many of us simply do not know what documents we will need in the event of an emergency. Nor do we know where to put those documents in order to afford them the maximum protection and easiest access.

Perhaps the best place to start the process of protecting oneself would be to inven-

tory your life. Ask yourself a series of questions and take note. The answers may actually surprise you by showing just how much you really have at stake. They should also give a good indication of just how prepared you and your family are in case of an emergency.

First start by asking, "How do I prove who I am and what I own?" Every single person owns at least one critical thing, their identity. It is no secret that identity theft is skyrocketing. The cost in lost time and headache to repair the damage of a stolen identity is reason enough to give anyone pause. At the very moment of birth, we earn our first and possibly most important piece of paper – a birth certificate. The amount of vital documents just begins there and continues through until death.

Imagine for a moment you



no longer have a name tag on your chest and your wallet has been lost. How do you prove you are who you say you are? In a lot of situations, a copy of your driver's license or passport will go a long way to showing the world you really do exist. At the very least, a copy of government issued photo identification card will start you down the road of

proving your identity to others. Likewise, you will need to show proof you own your assets. For most, this will include bank, credit card and investment statements, titles, deeds, agreements and various other certificates of ownership.

Secondly ask, "How accessible are my documents and records?" Sometimes, being in the military does not lend itself to having as much access to vital documents as one would like. However, being in the military is no excuse for not having access at all. You should be able to access your documents and records in relatively no time and with little has-

sle. Fortunately, we live in the age of the internet. Most documents and records can be scanned, stored and password protected electronically. So long as you have access to the internet, you should have access to your records.

Finally ask, "How protected are my documents and records?" Most people do not have their personal documents well organized or protected. For some, an old shoe box or seldom used drawer serves as their filing cabinet. This practice affords little to no protection whatsoever. However, for relatively little cost, you can secure your original documents in a home fire proof safe (preferably one that is bolted to the floor) or even a safety deposit box. You will want to make sure that someone you trust with your life has access to

See PROTECT, Page 5

Provost Marshal Office: Weekly police blotter

Week of Dec. 2-9

The PMO conducted: (238) security checks, (44) traffic stops, issued (43) DD Form 1408 Armed Forces Traffic Ticket, registered (110) vehicles on the installation, and (2) negligent weapon discharge were reported.

The PMO is currently investigating: (1) housebreaking case, (2) cases of larceny of government/(1) private property and (1) General Order- 1 violation.

PMO Recommendations:

Always practice weapons retention, you never know whose hands your weapon

could end up in. Remember to always wear your seatbelt while in a vehicle. All Gator, ATV and Ranger operators must be in possession of authorization approval letter obtained through the Mayor Cell.

Crime Prevention: Secure all Government and Personal equipment; do not leave items unattended inside of door less vehicles. Personal safety awareness; travel with a battle buddy, avoid walking in between buildings or alone on roads with poor lighting.

by: Air Force Staff Sgt. Mirta E. Jones, PMO



Courtesy photo

Team 5 from the Provost Marshal Office would like to say it has been an honor serving with all the Armed Forces here at LSA Anaconda/Balad Air Base. We wish everyone a Happy Holiday Season and a safe return. "Stay Alert...Stay Alive...Defensor Fortis!"

ANACONDA TIMES

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

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402nd Army Field Support Brigade
Aviation Task Force 49
CJSOTF-AP

USACRC introduces Family Engagement Kit

Courtesy Story

U.S. Army Combat Readiness/Safety Center

FORT RUCKER, Ala. – Army officials are empowering family members to take an active role in implementing safety practices to protect their families and loved ones returning home from deployments.

The Army recognizes that Army families are a highly powerful group, capable of positively influencing how Soldiers and family members think. The Army's new Family Engagement Kit raises families' awareness of the leading indicators in accidents while passing along the "what" and "how" of best practices. Armed with these newly created tools, family members are afforded active involvement in their Soldiers' safety.

The U.S. Army Combat Readiness/Safety Center (USACRC) study of accident and associated statistics, indicates when Soldiers return from a deployment or controlled environment, the rigors and oversight provided by leaders is diminished.

Between fiscal year 2002 and 2007, 186 Soldiers died within one year of returning home from deployments. Approximately 30 percent of the deaths occurred within the first 30 days of post-deployment and 63 percent within the first six months. Of the 186 fatalities, 145 involved privately owned vehicles (POVs) during off-duty hours.

Army safety officials are convinced that oversight, control and structure are beneficial to achieve an accident-free environment. The USACRC's collective challenges is to formulate tools that target safety and risk management as a "way of life" for application when Soldiers are off duty.

"As leaders, we know that direct engagement



with our Soldiers makes a positive difference in their safety," said Brig. Gen. Bill Forrester, director of Army safety and commanding general of the USACRC. "No one knows Soldiers better than their families and there are few organizations better positioned than families to influence Soldiers to make safer choices and take fewer risks."

Forrester added that the USACRC believes it is extremely difficult to look a spouse or child in the eye and tell them you are not going to wear your helmet or a seat belt because you don't care enough to stay alive for them.

"The Family Engagement Kit features tools that family members can use to engage their loved ones in best safety practices in order to help protect them," said Forrester. "Many take very little time or effort, and the payoff is huge."

In all, the kit includes six tools for post-deployment best practices. One such tool is the Travel Risk Planning System, better known as TRiPS. The aim of TRiPS is to reduce the risk of accidents when traveling by POV, the No.1 killer of Soldiers.

Another potentially life-saving tool included

in the kit is the Motorcycle/ATV Agreement. This tool encourages families and their Soldiers to discuss the hazards and safety measures associated with riding motorcycles and all-terrain vehicles.

These web-based tools are self-explanatory, self-supporting with PowerPoint briefs containing associated talking points.

The Army's goal is to put these tools together into the hands and empower Army Family Team Building trainers, Family Readiness Group leaders, brigade-level safety professionals, Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers leaders, parents and individual family members to keep our Army team safe, Forrester added.

Families are encouraged to embrace the Family Engagement Kit as another tool supporting one common desire – safer Soldiers and families.

"Family involvement is essential, so I ask for engagement with your loved one," Forrester said. "With your help, we can better protect our Nation's most precious asset – our Soldiers."

For more information about the Family engagement Kit, visit the USACRC website at <https://crc.army.mil/familyengagement>.

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

Air Force engineers improve Marine quality of life in Iraq

by Staff Sgt. Travis Edwards

332nd Air Expeditionary Wing

AL ASAD AIR BASE, Iraq – Airmen are improving the lives and operating conditions of Marines by constructing more than \$9.8 million in aircraft shelters, taxiways and temporary shelters at Al Asad Air Base.

Deployed in an “in-lieu-of” tasking in support of the 20th Army Engineer Brigade, the 557th Expeditionary REDHORSE Squadron (ERHS) Airmen are completing numerous projects -- from the design concept to completion -- in a joint service environment.

“We’re here working on a Marine base, taking on an Army job while using Navy parts,” said Master Sgt. Richard Kapp, the 557th ERHS cantonments superintendent and acting first sergeant, deployed from Seymour Johnson Air Force Base (AFB), N.C. “It’s an odd process.”

REDHORSE is an elite Air Force engineer squadron, whose main function is to take a strip of uninhabited land and turn it into a fully functioning base with running water, shelters and power.

The REDHORSE team currently has 14 assigned projects. Six construction tasks are underway, and six more are scheduled to start soon totaling \$9.8 million.

One project recently completed was a \$65,000 convoy briefing facility, which included three temporary shelters.



Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Travis Edwards

Staff Sgt. Rodvincent Abaya mills a 2-by-6 piece of wood for the door of a small-arms classroom for the Marines Nov. 23 at Al Asad Air Base, Iraq. Abaya, a 557th Expeditionary REDHORSE structures technician, is deployed from McGuire Air Force Base, N.J

“Having this facility complete now allows Soldiers and Marines going out on convoys to have a place to brief before heading out on dangerous missions without having their mind distracted by the extreme cold or heat,” said Senior Master Sgt. Rob Townsend, the 557th ERHS superintendent deployed from Malmstrom

AFB, Mont.

REDHORSE Airmen also are building other temporary-shelters throughout the base.

“One of our sites will house more than \$1.5 million in Meals Ready to Eat that normally would have been thrown away due to the high heat in the summer,” said Capt. Andy LaFrazia, the 557th ERHS

commander for Al Asad AB, deployed from McChord AFB, Wash.

The engineers have faced several challenges as a result of the nontraditional nature of the deployment.

“Getting materials we need for a project is a problem on everyone’s mind. It’s a brand new system,” LaFrazia said. “We are getting used to it and are pushing forward, keeping our mind on the mission.”

The Airmen are driven to improve the quality of life of their fellow military members.

“Everyone here wants to make a difference,” Townsend said. “We all have the

“We’re here working on a Marine base, taking on an Army job while using Navy parts; it’s an odd process.”

Air Force Master Sgt. Richard Kapp
557th ERHS

same focus of getting the job done and done safely.”

“We are building a better way of life for all the servicemembers who live and work in Al Asad,” said Senior Airman James Cox, a 557th ERHS electrician deployed from Shaw AFB, S.C.



Air Force photos by Staff Sgt. Travis Edwards

(Above) Senior Airman Matthew Byrd inspects a punctured tire Nov. 22 at Al Asad Air Base, Iraq. Byrd, a 557th Expeditionary REDHORSE vehicle maintenance technician, is deployed from Barksdale Air Force Base, La.

(Right) Senior Airman Matthew Byrd works with a contractor to place a three-piece wheel back on a recently repaired tire.



Information security

Tactics to keep the enemy out

by Spc. Jay Venturini

Anaconda Times staff

LSA ANACONDA, Iraq – In today's world, almost everything can be done on a computer. However, converting to a paperless entity comes with a great responsibility to protect the information on those computers, especially for a military organization operating in a combat zone.

To ease our minds, military services here have instituted many safeguards to keep enemy eyes off coalition computer screens. The most common protections are firewalls and proxies to block viruses and hackers from getting into the network. However, it is everyone's duty to take proper steps to safeguard information.

"Information security is everyone's responsibility," said Staff Sgt. George Knopic, the 316th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) (ESC) information management customer services noncommissioned officer (NCO). "These aren't your home computers that you can do whatever you want with. There are reasons why certain things are unauthorized."

The main avenue of unauthorized use is external hard drives, most commonly a small memory stick people keep in their pockets. These devices are often forgotten and find their way into the laundry and these devices have been used to put secret information onto an unclassified computer.

"There is absolutely no reason to use thumb drives," said Knopic. "We create share drives for people that need them which can be accessed from any computer on the network."

There are other devices that are misused such as MP3 players and burnable CDs which allow unauthorized software onto the computers and make important information easily accessible to the enemy.

These types of software often have spyware built in which tries to send information about the user and computer back to the company. To counteract this, scans are run on a regular basis on all computers here searching for unauthorized software and viruses.

"It's best to just stay away from unauthorized software," said Sgt. 1st Class

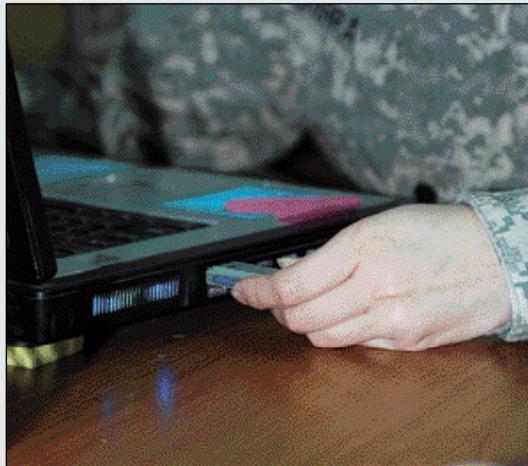


Photo by Spc. Jay Venturini

Portable thumb drives, which are widely used in the United States, are the most commonly abused unauthorized device in theater. Only a select type of thumb drive that is clearly marked as secret or unclassified is authorized for use.

"There is absolutely no reason to use thumb drives. We create share drives for people that need them which can be accessed from any one computer on the network."

Staff Sgt. George Knopic
316th ESC

Jason Sabado, the 316th ESC information management software analysis NCO. "The scans will find it and you will lose it."

However, there is no defense for people putting secret information onto or sending it through an unclassified network, which is called a spill. A spill is a serious security breach that could put servicemembers lives at risk.

When a spill happens, the computer belonging to the person who spilled the information is confiscated and his or her e-mail accounts are locked. Everything on the confiscated computer will be lost. The person has to take an operational security class and have a memorandum signed by a colonel granting access to the networks.

"A spill is a serious offense and is punishable under the Uniform Code of Military Justice," said Sabado. "A Soldier could easily receive an Article 15 or letter of reprimand; it's not a good situation to be in."

"Another thing to consider is when a spill happens, the innocent person who received the information also loses the information on his or her computer, so his or her computer access is now shut down for a day or two as well," said Knopic.

Keeping information secure in a warzone is vital to mission success. It is every person's duty to keep information out of enemy hands and make converting to a paperless operating environment a pleasant and effective experience.



Photo by Spc. Jay Venturini

There are many different things that are not authorized for use on government computers. MP3 players and portable thumb drives are the most commonly abused items.

PROTECT, from Page 2

the documents in case you do not.

If you have scanned documents you should avoid saving them on a hard drive, thumb drive or to any other portable storage device because of the ease of theft. If you do store records electronically make sure you have them password protected. Vary your passwords and avoid using commonly known or easily found personal information such as dates of births, family names, anniversary dates, zodiac signs or names of schools attended. Try to use a combination of letters, numbers and special characters in all of your passwords.

If you find you have a lot of documents that need to be stored, there are dozens of commercial storage companies that will be glad to do the job for a fee. Document storage companies can also assist by allowing persons you identify ahead of time to retrieve your documents. The costs of these services vary with the amount of documents to be stored and type of storage required.

Another item to have handy at the office and home is a personal shredder. As the problem of identity theft has grown, the type, size and availability of shredders has grown. Subsequently, the prices of shredders have fallen dramatically over the years. When purchasing a shredder you should consider getting a cross-cut shredder. While you may sacrifice volume with a cross-cut shredder you will be

thankful for the added security. Still, any shredder is better than nothing at all.

Life is full of little mishaps, twists and turns. None of us know what lies ahead or around the next bend. By taking a few simple steps and spending a little bit of money now, chances are, you will save yourself immensely and provide peace-of-mind to your family.

Below is a list of commonly needed documents in cases of emergency. Take well to protect these documents and to ensure that someone you trust has access to them in case you do not.

- Bank, Credit and Investment Account Numbers
- Credit Cards
- Social Security Cards
- Birth Certificates
- Marriage Certificates
- Divorce and Custody Decrees and Judgments
- Death Certificates
- Driver's License
- Passports
- Degrees/Diplomas/Certificates/Transcripts
- Titles/Deeds/Registrations
- Medical Records
- Insurance Policies
- Military Discharge Papers
- Passwords
- Tax Records
- Wills and Powers of Attorney
- Safe Deposit Keys

If you have any questions or concerns feel free to contact Legal Assistance at DSN 433-2836 at the 316th ESC – Consolidated Legal Center.

Fox Soldiers support fighters



Photo by Spc. David Bonnell

VICTORY BASE COMPLEX, Iraq – 1st Lt. Adam Sheffield, a platoon leader in Fox Company, 151st Infantry, guides an Armored Security Vehicle (ASV) into the motor pool for inspection after a routine mission. A police officer back in his home state of Indiana, Sheffield leads convoy security missions during his one-year tour of duty in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Task Force 49 takes charge of MNC-I aviation ops

by Sgt. 1st Class Eric Reinhardt

Task Force 49

LSA ANACONDA, Iraq – Task Force 49 became the key aviation asset for Multi-National Corps – Iraq in a ceremony here Dec. 3.

The Alaska-based headquarters element of Task Force 49 is charged with conducting a full spectrum of Army aviation operations throughout the MNC-I area of responsibility.

The unit took over for the headquarters of Task Force XII, which relocated to Taji to support the aviation mission of Multi-National Division – Baghdad.

“We are honored to stand shoulder to shoulder with every member of this great corps,” Task Force 49 commander, Col. Chandler C. Sherrell said.

About 130 members of Headquarters and Headquarters Company (HHC) Task Force 49 conducted a two-week relief in place with their Task Force XII counterparts – resulting in a largely seamless transition of authority, according to officials.

The relief-in-place process employed the “right-seat ride, left-seat drive” technique, in which the outgoing unit shows its replacements exactly how they’ve been operating, and gradually allows the incoming unit to take the lead.

“With this transfer of authority we’re going to prove that Army Aviation has the same capabilities and flexibility as our ground forces,” said MNCI-I Deputy Commander



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Eric Reinhardt

Task Force 49 Commander Col. Chandler C. Sherrell and Command Sgt. Maj. Richard A. Mitchell unfurl the Task Force 49 colors during a Dec. 3 transfer of authority ceremony here. After a two-week relief in place with the Task Force XII headquarters staff, the Task Force 49 staff took charge of full-spectrum aviation operations throughout the Multi-National Corps – Iraq area of operations.

Maj. Gen. James E. Simmons in remarks.

In the time that Task Force XII led those units, it oversaw 4,500 combat missions, 31,000 hours of flight time, the movement of 90,000 passengers and 8 million pounds of cargo, according to Simmons.

The transfer came about six

months into Task Force XII’s expected 15-month tenure at LSA Anaconda. Its intent is to sustain the mission in Iraq without extending troops or altering deployment timelines.

About 3,000 Soldiers now fall under Task Force 49’s command.

The unit has also gained

administrative control of Task Force Dragon, whose mission is to provide general aviation support throughout Iraq’s Al Anbar Province. Like HHC Task Force 49, the unit hails from Fort Wainwright, Alaska.

With the arrival of Task Force 49, multi-national forc-

es in Iraq are able to keep four aviation brigade headquarters in theater.

Such a transition, especially in a combat zone, is unprecedented for a brigade-sized aviation unit.

“We’re only now beginning to write the history of Task Force 49,” Sherrell said.

Taji mail serves as lifeline to friends, family

by Staff Sgt. Bryant Maude

1st Sustainment Brigade

CAMP TAJI, Iraq – Mail is a lifeline to the friends and families of Soldiers and civilians deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. It takes the expertise of several organizations to move mail in and out of Taji quickly and efficiently.

In October 2007, the customer service tasks here were transferred from 4th Platoon, 111th Postal Company, 15th Personnel Services Battalion, to civilian contractors.

“Since (contractors) came in, we work in the warehouse and pitch mail and they maintain the customer service,” said Sgt. 1st Class Miguel Aceve-

doalvarez, platoon sergeant for 4th Platoon, 111th Postal Company, based out of Bamberg, Germany.

The 111th Postal unit started working here a few months prior to the handover and are on their way back to Germany now that the 4th Platoon, 461st Postal Company, a National Guard unit out of Decatur, Ga., is taking over.

“It’s hard work, but fun,” said Spc. James Pulliam, postal clerk with the 461st Postal Co., referring to the task of sorting hundreds of daily packages and letters at the central warehouse. Once the mail is separated it’s the job of each unit’s mail clerk to receive it and take it back to their area.

“Since (contractors) came in, we work in the warehouse and pitch mail and they maintain the customer service.”

Sgt. 1st Class Miguel Acevedoalvarez
111th Postal Co.

“We didn’t have a whole lot of mail today,” said Sgt. Corey Wood, acting mail clerk for the Special Troops Battalion, 1st Sustainment Brigade. Wood volunteered to assist with mail and has improved the overall facility since his arrival. “We have a way to go, but it’s looking good.”



Photo by Staff Sgt. Bryant Maude

Sgt. Corey Wood, acting postal clerk for the Special troops Battalion, 1st Sustainment Brigade, looks for Soldiers’ mail at the Camp Taji postal warehouse.

Team stands ready for vehicle recovery mission

by Spc. Thomas Keeler

Anaconda Times staff

LSA ANACONDA, Iraq – On call, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. That's the readiness of Charlie Battery, 1st Battalion, 143rd Field Artillery Regiment (1-143 FA), Army California National Guard unit supporting Task Force 106 and the 13th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion (CSSB) here.

One of C Battery's missions, aside from tower duty and combat logistics patrols (CLPs), is providing security for vehicle recovery. And battlefield breakdowns are not scheduled events.

"Sometimes we get called every night, other times it's once a week," said Staff Sgt. Paul Hunt, a security escort team (SET) leader with the 1-143 FA. "It all really depends on what happens outside the wire."

Although the tactical operations center (TOC) monitors all CLPs travel with their own wrecker, there are times when backup is necessary. This is when the unit's mission becomes quite essential. The TOC notifies the Battery, the SET team leader moves to battalion to receive the intelligence, the defense contractor is notified, and the squad in the ready room moves to their armored security vehicles. By the time the SET team leader arrives back at the trucks, the squad is ready to move out.

The contractor, with its heavy equipment transporter, meets the Battery convoy at the gate. There, the SET team leader briefs the contract team before the whole convoy moves outside the wire.

"The key to successful missions is communication," said Hunt, who sometimes picks up tower duty and accompanies CLPs on his off days.

"We had an hour to hit a hot spot south," he says, recalling one recent mission, "and it took



Web Image

Soldiers move a Humvee onto the back of a wrecker-recovery vehicle to transport back to base after a roadside bomb detonated beside it.

them less than a half hour. They had the recovery done and were ready to roll back. It's been great working with them."

When one of the squads is called on a mission, another squad moves into the ready room, and commence their turn to be on call.

"There are three units, and they rotate every three days on a 24-hour shift," says Spc. Edgar Pena, a team member with 3rd platoon of the 1-143 FA.

"It'll go from tertiary, which is your day off, you can go wherever, and handle any business that you need," says Pena. "After that day, you're secondary. The only place you can go is chow and the gym, but you go as a squad. And then after secondary, you go on primary. You stay here in our ready room for 24 hours."

Pena says the team stages its gear inside the vehicles, and confirms what Hunt said about the readiness of the primary team on duty.

"At any given time, we have about ten, fifteen minutes to hit the road and go outside the wire," said Pena.

"If primary goes out, then secondary comes in and stands by. If the second unit also gets called out, then the third unit will come in," he said.

Although downtime during a shift is common – and is an indicator missions on the roads are run-

ning smoothly – the squads on stand by stay busy.

"We service our weapons, do CTT (common task training), and anything to stay ready for the mission, better enhance our skills," said Pena.

The ready room also has bunks and a television. But team members are expected to move at a moment's notice. Even so, some recovery missions are cancelled as the team arrives at the gate.

"Last time we were here, we got called up, and then they cancelled the mission because it wasn't that far out of the gate, and another CLP was driving by, and they had a wrecker," said Staff Sgt. Joseph Rodriguez, the 3rd Platoon, 2nd Squad recovery team leader.

The unit that owns the wrecked vehicle usually stays on the ground to pull security until the recovery team arrives.

Some recovery missions are more interesting than others.

"I was going to one of the gun trucks to have them move it down a little bit farther, I had them keep an eye on a certain sector because we had KIA (killed in action) in the area, insurgent KIA, all of a sudden I'm walking back and I hear somebody shooting at me," said Hunt. "Usually when somebody's shooting at you, you hear the ricochet first, if they're even close."

Even though more than half of the 24-hour shifts pass without incident, Hunt describes the morale of the recovery teams as good.

"Even though nothing may be happening, you still need to be able to respond," he said.

"It's a good mission. The guys enjoy going outside the wire, and they feel like they're really contributing to the war effort."

And that is what is all about: sustaining the victory.



Courtesy photo from Spc. Edgar Pena

Spc. Ferdinand Diaz, left, and Spc. Edgar Pena with Charlie Battery of the 1-143rd Field Artillery Battalion stop at the test fire pit to ensure functionality of their weapon system before heading out on a recovery mission.

Anaconda's talent performs



Photos by Spc. Thomas Keeler

(Above) Robert Holman leads Heather Bard in a swing dance during the Holiday Showcase Dec. 13. Holman, a contractor, learned the swing while here.

(Below) Capt. Edward Freeman, a finance officer with the 316th ESC, sings a song called "6, 8, 12" about a loved one who leaves home while 2nd Lt. Jennifer Lewis, a human resources officer with the 316th ESC, plays guitar as accompaniment during the Holiday Showcase at the Sustainer Theater.



Air Force Photo by Staff

Staff Sgt. Elysia Bowles-Charles, a bulk water-fuel specialist with the 316th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) displays her nunchuck skills. The showcase included dancing, skits, martial arts performances



Holiday Showcase Sponsors



Air Force Photo by Staff Sgt. Travis Edwards

"La Familia" dance group entertains the audience with a latin-dance routine during the holiday showcase. The dance group performed the salsa, bachata and merengue.

s during Holiday Showcase



Sgt. Travis Edwards
(onary) support
and singing.



Air Force Photo by Staff Sgt. Travis Edwards

A member of the martial arts exhibition- mortal combat, performs an aerial kick. The martial arts exhibition demonstrated Soo Bahk Do and Tae Kwon Do fighting styles.



Photos by Spc. Thomas Keeler

(Above) The Ugandan Bullet Proof Squad performs a dance routine. Uganda, as a Coalition Force, provides essential security services here.
(Left) Spc. Kashii Burnett, a human resources specialist with the 244th Aviation Brigade, performs a skit that becomes a rap song during the Holiday Showcase. Burnett, a Chicago native, started his act by climbing out of his on-stage cot to get dressed and sing about spending yet another day in Iraq.

Medics use moulage, make simulated injuries frighteningly life-like

by Sgt. Jasmine Chopra

Anaconda Times staff

LSA ANACONDA, Iraq - An airmen lies bleeding, shrapnel litters his neck and face. A gunshot wound to the abdomen leave a Soldier writhing in agony, while Third-degree burns stretch across a Sailor's skin. Much to the relief of medical personnel, these wounds are mere simulations created by medics here who aim to replicate the most life-like injuries as possible. In doing so, they seek to help first responders train properly, so when push comes to shove, they'll be ready to handle anything.

"Moulage prompts better response to training because it provides the most realistic wounds as possible," said Navy Hospital Corpsman 2nd Class William Gill, with the Navy Expeditionary Logistics Support Group. "You can't necessarily know how you will react to seeing (gruesome) injuries, so training to make personnel able to react quickly and appropriately to aid victims is critical," he said.

Moulage is the art of applying simulated injuries for the purpose of training emergency response teams, both medical and military personnel.

Using moulage during training improves performance by reproducing psychological responses that may



Photo by Sgt. Jasmine Chopra

Staff Sgt. Michael Jorschumb, a medic with the 546th Area Support Medical Company, applies paint to a simulated wound on a participant during mass casualty training. Using moulage during training improves performance by reproducing psychological responses that may occur when first responders encounter victims.

occur when first responders encounter victims, said Staff Sgt. Mark Lee, a Special Forces medic with the 396th Medical Company. Lee is an instructor at the Jameson

Combat Medic Training Center here. He shares knowledge with students gleaned over more than 30 years working as a paramedic. As a Special Forces medic in the Army and

a paramedic in civilian life, Lee has seen a wide range of life-threatening injuries and has brought lifesaving aid to both Soldiers and civilians.

"We try to recreate as much

stress as possible; moulage is part of it," he said.

Both medical professionals agree that what is realistically experienced is better learned and remembered.

Military service is a family affair, even during the holidays

by Maj. Christopher E. West

316th ESC PAO

LSA ANACONDA, Iraq — Christmas is just not Christmas without the ones you love and neither is New Year's Day. These words may ring true for most servicemembers deployed overseas during the Holiday Season, but not for Lt. Col. Marcos O. Navarro. His connection to a family member is only has to short commute to Camp Liberty in the vicinity of Baghdad where his son, Stephen, a member of the 1st Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division is based.

Navarro, a native of Lenexa, Kan. is the deputy support operations officer for the 316th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) here. His son, also a native of Lenexa serves as a com-

bat medic with 1st/5th.

"Sure I miss being home with my family and friends to celebrate the holidays, but we have a mission to accomplish," said the senior Navarro. Christmas is a time of giving and through my service here I am helping with achieving stability and peace throughout the region, he further remarked.

Though the father-son duo are in two separate outfits at two different bases, their willingness to answer America's call to duty in a time of war makes them truly Army Strong.

"I know that in spite of being a short commute to each others' location, we probably will not be able to spend the holidays together due to our continuing missions, but it is sure comforting to know that we are both serving to keep a secure environment at home," the higher-ranking Navarro said.

"My dad taught me that the greatest gifts you can give a person are hope and a helping hand," said the junior Navarro. "If I can help someone through my service, wherever I may be, then my time spent there will not be vain," he stated.

Like any concerned parent, the elder Navarro worries about his son's safety and well-being.

"I am proud of Stephen and his desire to serve our country. I try not to think negative thoughts and worry about what could happen to him. I just want him to do his duty, to serve proudly, and to return home safely. But most importantly I want my wife, Angela, to feel better knowing that we're sharing the holidays together and that neither one of us will be alone," he said.

Navarro also has another son, Sean, serving in our nation's Armed Forces. Sean is



Courtesy photo

(Left to Right) Lt. Col. Marcos O. Navarro, the deputy support operations officer for the 316th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and son, Spc. Stephen Navarro, a combat medic with 1st Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment, are currently serving in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

a military musician stationed with the U.S. Marine Corps Band in Washington, D.C.

For the Navarro household service to God, service to one's homeland, and service to one's

family are top priorities and values to live by. Military service for them is more than a duty. It is a family tradition, even during the holidays.

The holiday season is...

Servicemembers share memories, thoughts of Christmas



Staff Sgt. John Cumberledge, staff driver with the 316th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) (ESC):
My best Christmas memory is ... last year, living in Maryland, when I was with the police academy and I didn't know if I'd see my family, but I did get to go home.



Staff Sgt. Elginette Powell, orderly room noncommissioned officer-in-charge, 316th ESC:
Christmas is ... a time where my family and I can reflect back on the year ... not so much about the gifts and the food, but just the fact that, for one day out of the year we're together.



Staff Sgt. Gia Hart, executive assistant to the command sergeant major of the 316th ESC:
Christmas is ... many things, the most important thing is the celebration of the birth of Christ. Also the celebration of family family and friends ... and my little 4-year-old girl.



Airman 1st Class Kris Dahlke, avionics technician with the 332nd Expeditionary Aircraft Maintenance Squadron:
Christmas is ... a gathering of families together, spending the holidays together with the ones you love the most. It also means a big dinner and presents.



Spc. Edward Antonio, medic and driver with the 297th Combat Support Company:
Christmas is ... spending time with your family back home. Home cooking, Philippino food ... it's all about food for Christmas. I'm too old for gifts.



Spc. Nathaniel Rose, personnel security detail driver with the Alpha Troop 1-113th Cavalry:
Christmas is ... The 24 hours of "A Christmas story" on TBS. You've gotta watch it at least once a year.



Staff Sgt. Shawn Sitler, intelligence noncommissioned officer-in-charge for the 3rd Special Troops Battalion:
Christmas is ... a time to show people how much you care for them. It's not about what you get, it's about what you give.



Staff Sgt. Emmett Shannon, supply noncommissioned officer-in-charge with the 369th Armor,
My best Christmas memory is ... when my daughter was born in 1994, three weeks before Christmas – her first Christmas.



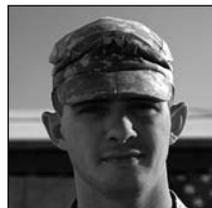
Spc. Heather Paul, technical support specialist for the 316th ESC:
Christmas is ... spending time with my family, enjoying quality time with loved ones ... being able to eat all the food I want and not thinking badly of it.



Spc. Lyshaniz Ince, driver and gunner with the 651st Personnel Security Detail:
Christmas is ... just being with my family and having Christmas parties and spending time with my mom.



Staff Sgt. Tommy Sousa, signal support systems noncommissioned officer-in-charge for the 719th Movement Control Battalion (MCB):
My best Christmas memory is... Coming home from basic training for Christmas in 1995.



Sgt. Zachary McDowell, Personnel security detail driver with the Alpha Troop 1-113th Cavalry:
My favorite Christmas memory is ... Sliding down the steps in my one-piece pajamas to see my presents when I was seven.



Sgt. David Queen, signal support systems specialist for the 719th MCB:
My best Christmas memory is... Knowing my little sister was not going to get a lot for Christmas last year. I saved up money and got her a computer so she could do her school-work



Spc. Larry Rowe, administrative specialist with the 316th ESC:
Christmas is ... spending time with my son and family. This Thanksgiving was the first year I wasn't with my son.

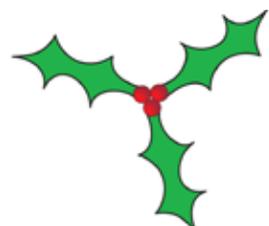


Spc. Robert McCarthy, signal support systems specialist for the 719th MCB:
Setting up a drum set for my little brother in 2004.



Senior Airman Adam Brown, avionics technician with Combined Joint Special Operations Air Component:
My best Christmas memory is ... when I was little, my dad and my mom would always set stuff up when I was asleep. I can't wait until I have kids and I can do that for them.

Photos by Spc. Thomas Keeler



Happy Holidays!



DSB Soldiers helps troops get home

by 1st Lt. Virginia Bax

1190th DSB

LSA ANACONDA, Iraq- After 15 months of tireless work in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, every Soldier within a redeploying brigade has only one thing in mind: its time to go home. The 1190th Deployment Support Brigade (DSB) is there to make that happen.

The 1190th, an Army Reserve unit based in Baton Rouge, La., is just one of several units belonging to the Surface Deployment Distribution Command (SDDC) that operates within theater. To successfully meet its mission, Soldiers within the 1190th are split between Kuwait, Iraq and Afghanistan.

In Iraq, 1190th Soldiers comprise the Deployment Distribution Support Team-Iraq (DDST-I) and are dedicated to the redeployment of each brigade where the process begins: forward operating bases.

The DDST-I, based here, is provided support by another SDDC unit, the 840th Deployment Distribution Support Battalion (DDSB). The 840th works closely with DDST-I officer in charge, Lt. Col. Christopher "Sam" Houston, to ensure mission schedules and flight arrangements are secured. The DDST-I travels throughout Iraq to support brigade level redeployments. The focus is the movement of major end items, specifically containers and rolling stock equipment, from Iraq to the sea port of embarkation.

Houston's goal is for every brigade in Iraq that needs assistance to be accounted for. By coordinating with the Division Transportation Officers from each of the Multi-National Divisions, he has ensured DDST-I support for all of their respective brigades. So far, this has included 12 brigade combat teams (BCT) and three combat aviation brigades.

"We develop a relationship with each BCT that spans several months leading up to their redeployment," said Houston. "By the time



Photo by Lt. Col. Christopher Houston

Staff Sgt. Avelardo Casias and Spc. Allan Martinez consult inspect containers for serviceability at Forward Operating Base Union III, Iraq.

"Every mission is an adventure. I've made a lot of friends and learned more about my job than I ever thought possible."

Spc. Allan Martinez
1190th DSB

each BCT is ready to redeploy, the DDST-I has built their automated movement plans, certified their containers for seaworthiness, trained their UMOs (Unit Movement Officers) in the redeployment process, taught how to properly prepare and document HAZMAT (hazardous material) for shipment, and a variety of other redeployment related tasks."

When brigades are ready to redeploy, the DDST-I travels to each brigade's respective location to finalize plans, help verify unit equipment lists, and inspect all HAZMAT documentation and loading. Additionally, DDST-I Soldiers are qualified to assist with container serviceability issues if necessary. Taking care of these issues at the FOBs may require more work in Iraq, but it pays off when the brigade can redeploy without frustrated cargo at the port.

The DDST-I has also had the privilege to incorporate U.S. Coast Guard "RAID" team personnel into their missions. RAID stands for Redeployment Assistance Inspection Detachment. Their specialties are HAZMAT and container serviceability. The Coast Guard's professionalism and know-how has had a profound effect on the successful redeployment of each brigade. The sight of Coast Guard personnel is also quite a novelty to Soldiers. Boatswain's Mate 1st Class James Huddleston of the RAID team takes it all in stride.

"We get a lot of looks and many questions," said Huddleston. "Ours is the most unique, rewarding job anyone in the Coast Guard could have. There are very few of us in Iraq."

The year has been busy for the DDST-I teams. There are few places in Iraq they have not visited in support of multiple missions. To the DDST-I Soldiers the amount of travel can be trying at times, but is worth it.

"We get to see more of Iraq than most Soldiers ever do," said Spc. Allan Martinez, a container serviceability inspector with the 1190th. "Every mission is an adventure. I've made a lot of friends and learned more about my job than I ever thought possible."

DDST-I Soldiers have greatly benefited from the unique variety of needs that each brigade brings to the table. It is no wonder that the DDST-I has become the foremost authority in Iraq on Transportation Coordinator's Automated Information for Movement, Version II (TC-AIMS II), HAZMAT and container serviceability.

Chief Warrant Officer Manuel Rodriguez, the brigade mobility warrant for 4th BCT, 1st Cavalry Division, said, "Through their outstanding technical knowledge in TC-AIMS II and HAZMAT certification, they ensured my brigade was thoroughly prepared to redeploy after a 15-month deployment. I am proud and honored to have had the opportunity to serve with these fine Americans."



Photo by Pfc. Octavia Jackson

Sgt. 1st Class Marquette Brown surveys the proposed site for a much needed Laundry Advanced Design System and a 12-point shower unit that will be installed for the Soldiers of the 1st Battalion, 30th Infantry Regiment.

Patrol Base Murray Soldiers get improved laundry system

by Pfc. Octavia Jackson

1st Sustainment Brigade

PATROL BASE MURRAY, Iraq

– Sgt. 1st Class Anthony Brown, the supplies and services noncommissioned officer from the 1st Sustainment Brigade (SB), led a site survey team to Patrol Base (PB) Murray, Iraq, Nov. 23, to evaluate and establish the appropriate site and coordinate the delivery of a much needed Laundry Advanced Design System (LADS) and a 12-point shower unit for the Soldiers of the 1st Battalion, 30th Infantry Regiment stationed here.

Soldiers from the 1-30th IN, whose mission consists of patrols, recons, raids, kinetic operations and other missions for their area of operations, have been on PB Murray for the past four months without shower or laundry facilities. The Soldiers shower with field expedient devices at noon when the sun has naturally warmed the water and washed their laundry by hand, or had it sent to Camp Falcon for a four-day turn around.

"A hot shower and clean laundry can boost the morale."

Spc. Allan Martinez
1190th DSB

"These are the Soldiers that need this support the most," said Staff Sgt. Ernesto Diaz, senior laundry and textiles noncommissioned officer from the 1st SB.

The LADS was delivered and installed by a Shower, Laundry, and Clothing Renovation (SLCR) team with the 68th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 1st SB. It will provide hot showers and a one-day turn around on laundry service for the 1-30th IN Soldiers here. This is one way the 68th CSSB is making a difference to the Soldiers of Multi-National Division-Baghdad.

"A hot shower and clean laundry can boost the morale," stated Staff Sgt. Marquette Warren, the noncommissioned officer in charge for the SLCR Team.

LIFTING, from Cover

The MCT works closely with the 504th MP Battalion which convoys to LSA Anaconda to pick up supplies needed for these type projects.

"We have a great working relationship," said Sgt. Alexis Cruz, the 403rd ICTC MCT NCO. "We get them the supplies and

they get it where it needs to go."

With FOB Grizzly being so small and relying on LSA Anaconda for life support, it is crucial for the supplies to get where they need to be.

"These guys do a hell of a job," said Moreland. "Our day to day operations wouldn't function without them."

Upcoming sports on AFN

Wednesday 12/19/07

College BB: Kansas @ Georgia Tech live 3:00 a.m. AFN/sports
Ottawa Senators @ Boston Bruins live 3:00 a.m. AFN/xtra
College BB: Kentucky @ Houston live 5:00 a.m. AFN/sports
Toronto Raptors @ Los Angeles Clippers live 6:30 a.m. AFN/xtra

Thursday 12/20/07

Detroit Pistons @ Boston Celtics live 3:00 a.m. AFN/sports; replay 10:00 p.m. AFN/sports
College BB: Memphis @ Cincinnati live 3:00 a.m. AFN/xtra
Phoenix Suns @ Dallas Mavericks live 5:30 a.m. AFN/sports; replay 11:00 a.m. AFN/sports
Colorado Avalanche @ Anaheim Ducks live 6:00 a.m. AFN/xtra

Friday 12/21/07

College BB: Pittsburgh @ Duke live 3:00 a.m. AFN/xtra
Pittsburgh Steelers @ St. Louis Rams live 4:00 a.m. AFN/sports; replay 4:00 p.m. AFN/sports; replay 9:00 p.m. AFN/sports
Poinsettia Bowl: Utah @ Navy replay 12:00 p.m. AFN/sports

Saturday 12/22/07

Chicago Bulls @ Boston Celtics live 3:00 a.m. AFN/sports; replay 4:00 p.m. AFN/sports
Los Angeles Kings @ Columbus Blue Jackets live 3:00 a.m. AFN/xtra
New Orleans Bowl: Florida Atlantic vs. Memphis live 4:00 a.m. AFN/prime
Los Angeles Clippers @ Dallas Mavericks live 5:30 a.m. AFN/sports; replay 11:00 a.m. AFN/sports
Dallas Stars @ Calgary Flames live 6:00 a.m. AFN/xtra
College BB: Georgetown @ Memphis live 8:00 p.m. AFN/sports
Papajohns.com Bowl: Mississippi vs. Cincinnati live 9:00 p.m. AFN/prime

College BB: Tennessee @ Xavier live 10:00 p.m. AFN/xtra
College BB: UCLA @ Michigan live 10:00 p.m. AFN/sports

Sunday 12/23/07

College BB: Florida @ Ohio State live 12:00 a.m. AFN/sports
College BB: Stanford @ Texas Tech live 12:30 a.m. AFN/xtra
New Mexico Bowl: Nevada vs. New Mexico live 12:30 a.m. AFN/prime
College BB: Texas @ Michigan State live 2:30 a.m. AFN/xtra
Dallas Cowboys @ Carolina Panthers live 4:00 a.m. AFN/sports; replay 2:00 p.m. AFN/sports
Las Vegas Bowl: UCLA vs. BYU live 4:00 a.m. AFN/prime
College BB: Illinois @ Missouri live 4:30 a.m. AFN/xtra
College BB: Santa Clara @ Minnesota replay 9:00 a.m. AFN/xtra
Detroit Red Wings @ Minnesota Wild replay 11:00 a.m. AFN/xtra
Washington Wizards @ Indiana Pacers replay 1:30 AFN/xtra
Houston Rockets @ Chicago Bulls replay 4:00 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 12/24/07

NFL FB: Teams: TBD live 12:00 a.m. AFN/sports
NFL FB: Teams: TBD live 12:00 a.m. AFN/xtra
College BB: Cincinnati @ North Carolina State live 3:30 a.m. AFN/xtra
Hawaii Bowl: Boise State vs. East Carolina live 4:00 a.m. AFN/prime
Tampa Bay Buccaneers @ San Francisco 49ers live 4:15 a.m. AFN/sports; replay 12:00 p.m. AFN/sports; replay 8:00 p.m. AFN/sports
Los Angeles Lakers @ New York Knicks replay 7:30 a.m. AFN/xtra

Tuesday 12/25/07

Denver Broncos @ San Diego Chargers live 4:00 a.m. AFN/sports; replay 2:00 p.m. AFN/sports
Miami Heat @ Cleveland Cavaliers live 10:40 p.m. AFN/sports

SUSTAINER REEL TIME THEATER

(Schedule is subject to change)

Wednesday, Dec. 19
 5 p.m. Dan In Real Life (PG-13)
 8 p.m. American Gangster (R)

Thursday, Dec. 20
 5 p.m. American Gangster (R)
 8 p.m. Golden Compass (PG-13)

Friday, Dec. 21
 2 p.m. Martian Child (PG)
 5 p.m. I Am Legend (PG-13)
 8:30 p.m. Alvin and Chipmunks (PG)

Saturday, Dec. 22
 2 p.m. I Am Legend (PG-13)
 5 p.m. Alvin and Chipmunks (PG)
 8 p.m. Fred Claus (PG)

Sunday, Dec. 23
 2 p.m. Alvin and Chipmunks (PG)
 5 p.m. Bee Movie (PG)
 8 p.m. I Am Legend (PG-13)

Monday, Dec. 24
 5 p.m. I Am Legend (PG-13)
 8 p.m. Martian Child (PG)

Tuesday, Dec. 25
 5 p.m. Fred Claus (PG)
 8 p.m. Alvin and Chipmunks (PG)



ANACONDA ACTIVITIES

INDOOR POOL

Rudolph's 5k Swim: Monday- *Registration required
Aqua Training: Tuesday and Thursday- 7:45 p.m.
Swim Lessons
 -Beginners: Tuesday – 7 p.m.
 -Intermediate: Thursday- 7 p.m. *Must sign up with instructor.
 - Advanced: Saturday - 7 p.m. *Must sign up with instructor.
Time Trails- 50m, 100m, 200m: Friday – 8 a.m.&p.m.

EAST FITNESS CENTER

Basketball League: Monday-Friday – 7 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.
Game Counsel 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 Jui Jitsu: Tuesday, Thursday- 8:30 p.m.

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



TUESDAY NIGHTS

JAM SESSIONS

7:30-10 p.m.

West Side MWR

Everyone Welcome

Bring your own Instruments

76 posts sign covenant to improve family support

by Bill Bradner

Army News Service

ALEXANDRIA, Va. -- Seventy active-duty installations and six Reserve posts have hosted Army Family Covenant signing ceremonies so far and Army leaders point out that the ceremonies are simply visible representations of a much larger and long-term commitment.

The Army Family Covenant was one area of discussion this week as leaders met to look at progress and chart the way ahead for the Army Soldier-Family Action Plan (ASFAP).

The ASFAP is the plan put in place to guide Army leadership in making the Army Family Covenant a reality.

"The Army Family Covenant is the centerpiece, but ASFAP is the tool for making the covenant a reality" said Barbara Sisson, director of Installation Services for the Assistant Chief of Staff for Installation Management (ACSIM).

Senior leaders were briefed



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Jason Shepherd

Army Vice Chief of Staff Gen. Richard Cody gives coins to Jesse Labrecque and other Army families on hand to witness the signing of the Army Family Covenant at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii.

on covenant signing ceremonies, funding status and trends, current successes and quick wins, and the way ahead. Representatives from the Army's Installation Management Command, Office of the Surgeon General, Human Resources Command, and Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation Command briefed the senior Army leaders.

Progress was reported in the areas of child care, serving survivor's families, reach-

ing out to dispersed families (those not living on or near a military installation), increasing access to health care, improving housing, providing educational and job opportunities for Soldiers and family members, and providing for single Sol-

diers, among others. Highlights of the briefing include:

At the garrison level, initial registration fees for child care have been eliminated and hours for both respite care and extended-duty child care have been extended on many installations. Programs for teens and after-school care, including youth sports, have been established or expanded.

To reach out and provide improved support and assistance

to survivors of fallen Soldiers, the Army's Long Term Case Management Centers, chaplains, and Army Community Service are partnering with military and civilian community organizations to provide assistance and support to the survivors. The Army also plans to hire as many as 200 mental health care providers to shorten wait times and improve care to Soldiers and their families.

Geographically dispersed families are finding a new path to information and resources through the information highway, using the newly established Army Integrated Family Support Network.

The Army has built 10,000 new homes since the implementation of the Residential Communities Initiative, and refurbished 10,000 more. That effort is still underway, and plans are in place to make additional housing accessible to wounded warriors.

Progress is also being made improving educational and employment opportunities

through the Army Spouse Employment Program, the Army Continuing Education System, Spouse Career Advancement Accounts, and the ability to transfer GI Bill education accounts to spouses of those entering hard-to-fill military occupational specialties.

And in keeping with the promise to care for the entire Army family, the leadership was also briefed on the addition of 54 positions to the Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers (BOSS) program, and the availability of \$10,000 in grants to enhance BOSS programs at the garrison level.

"The senior leadership was impressed and pleased," said Dennis Bohannon, Chief of Strategic Communications for the ACSIM, "but they made it clear they expect the progress to continue."

"What we're doing here is not a flash in the pan," Army Secretary Pete Geren emphasized during the briefing. "We're making real and lasting changes."

WWE stars make impromptu stop at Task Force 49

by Sgt. Dale Sweetnam

Task Force 49

LSA ANACONDA, Iraq – A stroke of bad luck for several WWE superstars resulted in a welcome surprise Dec. 6 for Soldiers of Headquarters and Headquarters Company (HHC), Task Force (TF) 49.

That afternoon six celebrity wrestlers showed up at the unit's headquarters unannounced. A few Soldiers looked up from their desks and popped their heads out of their offices to see what the commotion was all about. They couldn't help but be a little stunned when WWE wrestlers JBL, Ron Simmons, Chris Jericho, Mickie James, Carlito and Dean Malenko were escorted into the building's conference room.

The wrestlers were originally slated to take part in a meet-and-greet a few days earlier at an LSA Anaconda dining facility, but the event had been canceled.

The Dec. 6 stop at LSA Anaconda was unplanned, according to Lt. Col. Michael McCurry, the TF 49 operations officer. The wrestlers left Camp Spiker earlier that day to visit a remote combat outpost north of Baghdad. They were scheduled to return to Spiker, but their



Photo by Sgt. Dale Sweetnam

WWE wrestler Chris Jericho and a WWE staffer relax while awaiting air transportation in Balad. Several Wrestlers were stranded in Balad briefly after their aircraft experienced mechanical difficulties.

aircraft was stranded at the outpost due to mechanical difficulties.

An aircraft from the 2nd Battalion, 147th Aviation Regiment was sent out to recover the wrestlers, the flight crew and the senior officer escort who traveled with them. Once retrieved, they were brought to Anaconda to await their next flight out.

The wrestlers were a little tired but still outgoing and

friendly, according to Sgt. 1st Class Christopher Davis, HHC, TF 49.

"You could tell they were worn out a little," Davis said. "They were still in good spirits, but you could tell they were tired from traveling all day."

Despite their obvious fatigue, the wrestlers were kind and generous with their time as Soldiers began filtering into the conference room to

meet them.

The celebrities smiled, shook hands, posed for photos and signed autographs for about an hour. They also handed out WWE coins, signed mini-posters and shirts to the Soldiers.

Longtime wrestling fan Spc. Becky Haynes, HHC, TF 49 said the experience was one to remember.

"Honestly, it was pretty awesome, I don't know how to put it," Haynes said. "They were tired and worn out, but they were still really cool."

Staff Sgt. James Thompson, HHC TF 49, said the impromptu visit did a lot for the Soldiers' morale.

"A visit like this can take even the least motivated Soldiers and motivate them," he said.

After meeting with the Soldiers in the conference room, the wrestlers went to the dining facility 1, where they ate and met with more service-members.

The wrestlers were scheduled to head back out to Spiker that evening, but bad weather postponed their departure until the morning of Dec. 8.

WWE wrestlers are traveling all over Iraq throughout December for their annual "Tribute to the Troops" tour. This is the fifth consecutive year the WWE has sent its wrestlers out to visit Soldiers in combat.

Iraqis welcome Coalition aid



Photo by Air Force Staff Sgt. M.

SAGRAH, Iraq – An Iraqi Policeman and several children from the local community help a disabled Iraqi citizen to the free medical clinic that was hosted by U.S. Special Forces where more than 100 men, women and children were able to be helped due to increased security in the region provided by the Iraqi and U.S. Coalition Forces.



Photo by Sgt. Dale Sweetnam

WWE wrestler Chris Jericho signs a shirt for Chief Warrant Officer Claudell Harris, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Task Force 49 Dec. 6.

LSAA Soldiers remember Pearl Harbor

by Spc. Thomas Keeler

Anacoda Times staff

LSA ANACONDA, Iraq –

“Yesterday, December 7, 1941 – a date which will live in infamy – the United States of America was suddenly and deliberately attacked by naval and air forces of the Empire of Japan.”

– President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, to a Joint Session of Congress, Dec. 8, 1941

The 213th Area Support Group (ASG) opened the morning of Dec. 7 with a short ceremony to commemorate the 66th anniversary of the Japanese attacks on Pearl Harbor. The attacks brought the United States into World War II.

The 213th ASG commenced the ceremony at 7:53 a.m., the moment of the first strikes.

Col. Brian K. Leonhard, commander of the 213th, delivered the keynote speech while his battalion stood in formation.

“Today, on the 66th anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor,” said Leonhard, “we stand here in Iraq, not only as Soldiers in the greatest Army in the world, but as citizens of the greatest country on the face of the earth, posed ready to give our lives in the name of freedom after the second attack on American soil on Sept. 11, 2001.”

The attack on Pearl Harbor was a pre-emptive military strike on the United States’ Pacific Fleet, based at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, by the empire of Japan’s imperial Japanese Navy. Leonhard described the attack, which consisted of two aerial attack waves, totaling 350 aircraft, launched from six aircraft carriers, which in the end left 2,403 dead, 188 aircraft destroyed, and eight damaged or destroyed U.S. battleships.

Hawaii was not only a United States territory at the time of the attacks but also by then a strategic naval station and popular tourist destination. It did not become the 50th state until 1959.

Japan’s assault on Pearl Harbor was part of a



Photo by Spc. Thomas Keeler

(Above) In the foreground, Command Sgt. Maj. Stacey E. Davis (left) of the 316th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and Col. Brian K. Leonhard, commander of the 213th Area Support Group, salute the flag Dec. 7 at a Pearl Harbor commemoration ceremony.

(Right) View from a Japanese aircraft of the Pearl Harbor area, including Battleship Row at the beginning of the attack.



Photo by Spc. Thomas Keeler

Col. Brian K. Leonhard, commander of the 213th Area Support Group, delivers a short speech on the observance and lessons of Pearl Harbor the morning of Dec. 7.

larger, coordinated attack on islands throughout the Pacific.

“As in the terrorist attacks on Sept. 11, the memory of the sneak attack on Pearl Harbor fueled determination to fight on,” said Leonhard.

Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Wevodau, command sergeant major for the 213th ASG, said that the ceremony served its intent to bring together two significant events in history of America.

“We were trying to draw together the parallel of Pearl Harbor and 9/11, being the two major times the United States was attacked on its own ground,” he said.

Wevodau was chairman of the United States Army Sergeants Major Academy in 1991 when the nation observed the 50th anniversary of the attacks.

Wevodau recalls that a good number of Pearl Harbor veterans were on hand at Fort Bliss that day, 50 years after the event.

“At 66 years, probably there aren’t as many around today as there were then,” he said.

Leonhard also has a personal connection to the attacks – a friend’s father was a ship commander at the time of the attacks, and this commander later stood aboard the *USS Missouri* as Gen. MacArthur accepted the Japanese surrender, Sept. 2, 1945.

“As officers and senior enlisted, it is our duty and our inherent responsibility to train, and part of that training is teaching,” said Leonhard. “And teaching of American history, how our Soldiers and Sailors have suffered and died before us so that we can be free, is a very, very important part of what we do.”



Photo courtesy of Wikipedia