

AnacondaTimes

DECEMBER 26, 2007

PROUDLY SERVING LSA ANACONDA



Photo by Spc. Thomas Keeler

Handy dandy repairman

Welding, machinist, armor repair... he does it all

Page 4



Photo by Spc. Jay Venturini

Bazaar grand re-opening

Iraqi Bazaar remodeled, open for business again

Page 7



Photo by Staff Sgt. Dave Lankford

Iraqis take over logistics

MiTT acts as advisers as Iraqi MTR takes command

Page 15



Photo by Staff Sgt. Dave Lankford

The instructors at the Trigger Course in Paliwoda, Iraq have built strong ties with their students, many of which were hesitant to attend the course. Here, they hoist Staff Sgt. Walter Geiger, an instructor at the course, on their shoulders as they dance after a long day of training.

Trigger Course trains IP to stand on their own

by Staff Sgt. Dave Lankford

Anaconda Times staff

CAMP PALIWODA, Iraq—Soldiers here from the 164th Military Police Company are training the Iraqi Police (IP) Force to conduct basic operations such as dismounted patrols, checkpoint operations and serving warrants. Iraqi Police from several districts gathered recently for the second iteration of the Trigger Course. The course is the creation of, and instructed by, the 164th MP Co. Instructors range in rank from Pvt. to Sgt. 1st Class and teach the basics of police work to both inexperienced and seasoned IP.

“A lot of the ideas we put forth are pretty basic in the IP for the older guys who’ve been through training. A lot of

“They’re upbeat, they’re motivated; you give them a mission, they want to get after it.”

Capt. Matthew Norris
164th MP Co.

the younger guys take a little more persuasion,” said Trigger Course instructor Sgt. Matthew Jendrusina, 164th MP Co. Anonymity has been a key in the success of the course. Many of the IP come from different tribes and religious backgrounds which have historically been on bad terms. Names often contain much of this information, so the instructors had to come up with a creative way to overcome the potential problem. The solution has been to assign each trainee the name of a cartoon

character, and it has worked perfectly. The students enjoy the names they are given, but more importantly there have been no problems between the religious factions at the course. Though most of the students know each other from their work outside of the controlled environment the course provides, they have chosen to put aside their differences for the greater good, Jendrusina said. Anonymity is also important for the instructors. They do not wear rank on their uni-

forms because it may influence how they are viewed by the students. Rather than an IP with 19 years on the police force seeing an instructor as a Private in the Army, the instructor is simply seen as the one in charge for the next two weeks.

The course itself is structured much like the U.S. Army’s Warrior Leader Course. The students are on lockdown for 14 days and take all commands from the instructors.

Capt. Matthew Norris, 164th MP Co. commanding officer, said though many of the IP are reluctant to attend the course originally, their apprehension is quickly turned into motivation by the skilled instructors, and this motivation has paid

See TRIGGER, Page 8

The 316th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) wishes you a very safe and happy Holiday Season



Brig. Gen. Gregory E. Couch, commanding general

May there one day be peace on Earth and good will toward all.



Sustain the Victory!



Command Sgt. Maj. Stacey E. Davis, command sergeant major

Provost Marshal Office: Weekly police blotter

Week of Dec. 9- 15

The PMO conducted: The Provost Marshal Office conducted; (210) security checks, (24) traffic stops, issued (14) DD Form 1408 Armed Forces Traffic Ticket, registered (118) vehicles on the installation, and (11) Common Access Cards were reported lost.

The PMO is currently investigating: (4) Larceny Government/Personal Property cases and (1) General Order #1 violation.

PMO Recommendations:

VEHICLE OPERATIONS

Emergency responder vehicles are equipped

with lights and sirens for a reason; practice good judgment and pull to the shoulder of the road, you could possibly be helping to save a life. Treat all government equipment as your own and protect it. Know where your weapon is at all times and secure it.

Crime Prevention: While working on or stopped along Victory Loop always wear your issued Individual Protective Equipment (IPE). Park all vehicles in designated parking areas. Parking adjacent to housing areas is prohibited. Remember security is everyone's responsibility.

by: Air Force Staff Sgt. Marita Jones, PMO



Photo by Air Force Staff Sgt. Marita Jones

There's a new sherriff in town. Air Force Capt. Julia Jefferson has taken over the LSA Anaconda Provost Marshal Office.

ANACONDA TIMES

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

Anaconda Times is authorized for publication by the 316th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) for the LSA Anaconda community. The contents of the Anaconda Times are unofficial and are not to be considered the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, including the Department of Defense or Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Anaconda Times is a command information newspaper in accordance with Army Regulation 360-1.

Anaconda Times is published weekly by the Stars and Stripes central office, with a circulation of 5,000 papers.

The Public Affairs Office is located on New Jersey Ave. building 4136, DSN 318-433-2154. Anaconda Times, HHC 316th ESC, APOAE 09391. Web site at www.dvidshub.net

Contact the Anaconda Times staff at: anaconda.times@iraq.centcom.mil

Chief, Consolidated Press Center
Maj. Christopher E. West, 316th ESC
christopher.west@iraq.centcom.mil

Deputy Public Affairs Officer
Capt. Kevin McNamara, 302nd MPAD
kevin.mcnamara@iraq.centcom.mil

Anaconda Times Chief Editor
Sgt. 1st Class Neil Simmons, 302nd MPAD
neil.simmons@iraq.centcom.mil

Design Editor
Spc. Jennifer L. Sierra, 302nd MPAD
j.sierra@iraq.centcom.mil

Staff Writers
Staff Sgt. Dave Lankford, 316th ESC
david.lankford@iraq.centcom.mil

Sgt. Jasmine Chopra, 302nd MPAD
jasmine.chopra@iraq.centcom.mil

Spc. Jay Venturini, 316th ESC
jason.venturini@iraq.centcom.mil

Spc. Thomas Keeler, 316th ESC
thomas.keeler@iraq.centcom.mil

Distribution
Sgt. Peter Bishop, 302nd MPAD
peter.bishop@iraq.centcom.mil

Contributing Public Affairs Offices

- 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing
- 12th Combat Aviation Brigade
- 402nd Army Field Support Brigade
- 20th Engineer Brigade
- 213th Area Support Group
- 1/82nd Brigade Combat Team
- 3rd Sustainment Brigade
- 7th Sustainment Brigade
- 507th Corps Support Group
- 1st Sustainment Brigade
- CJSOTF-AP

316th rainy season safety gram: effective now until March

Temperatures in northern Iraq during winter months can drop well below freezing. It is extremely important for Soldiers and leaders to practice and enforce cold weather safety during this time of year.

Here are some tips:

- Continue to practice correct hydration. Do not rely on hot, caffeinated drinks as your primary source of hydration.
- Ensure a balanced diet that provides your body the energy it needs to stay warm.
- Wear loose, layered clothing that can be removed in heated indoor environments and added for additional warmth when outside.
- Continue a rigorous exercise program to ensure a high level of physical fitness. This will help greatly in avoiding sleep problems and the “winter blues.”

- Be extra careful when walking on slippery surfaces such as icy sidewalks and muddy areas – avoid “slips, trips, and falls.”
- Always have your reflective belt on hand for dark evening and early morning hours.
- Watch out for wildlife that may take refuge from flooded habitat areas near installation facilities.
- Remember over the counter medication can hinder decision making, so use them wisely.



Web Image



Web Image of Humvee driving through flooded streets of Iraq.

For Soldiers outside the wire:

- Gunners are especially vulnerable to cold weather injuries given their exposed position in vehicles. So be aware, dress appropriately and practice battle buddy safety.
- Ensure mission timelines and risk assessments take into account adverse weather and road conditions, especially black ice and rain.
- **SLOW DOWN!** Combat logistics patrols must adjust their vehicle speed to allow more response time when braking or changing lanes on adverse road/weather conditions.
- Remember non-military drivers are experiencing the same adverse driving conditions and must slow down as well.
- Check tire treads carefully prior to missions to avoid hydroplaning and/or collisions.
- Rollover and vehicle evacuation drills are more important than ever during the season of flooded drainage canals and roads which can be deadly in the event of a rollover.

If you have questions or desire further information, contact the 316th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) safety office, at DSN (318) 433-2318 or email Warrant Officer Joseph Majid at joseph.majid@iraq.centcom.mil.

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. Air Force Hospital Chapel
 11 a.m. Tuskegee Chapel (H-6)
 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

NG Soldier uses civilian skills to cover down on all tasks

by Spc. Thomas Keeler

Anaconda Times staff

LSA ANACONDA, Iraq—Just four months into his deployment, Spc. Tonio Lopes, a machinist and armor repairer with the California National Guard's 118th Maintenance Company (MC), has done just about every job at the 106th Transportation Battalion motor pool.

"He actually does a lot for us," said Staff Sgt. Oscar Zavala, the 118th MC motor pool team leader and shop foreman. Zavala names off the tasks Lopes has helped with at the motor pool: welder, machinist, armor repairer and even a little paperwork.

"On top of that he's just a good man, a good Soldier, nice to have around," said Zavala.

Lopes, a father and husband from Stockton, Calif., is a machinist by trade. But since working here, he has had the opportunity to learn even more skills, and because of that he has made himself invaluable to the others in the garage.

"Sometimes I'll weld and fabricate different things like ASV (armored security vehicle) bumpers," he said. But lately Lopes has cross-trained as a mechanic.

However his real spe-



Photo by Spc. Thomas Keeler

Spc. Tonio Lopes, a machinist with the 118th Maintenance Company, Task Force 106, aligns several Armored Security Vehicle plates he repaired which are now ready for restock.

cialty, where he makes his money for the Army, is armor repair.

"If it's panel damage, I'll drop everything I'm doing and I'll work on that," he said.

Lopes says the typical panel requires about eight hours work. Panels, when he's finished with them, are

as good as new and returned to stock. The savings to the Army is not insignificant.

"He's our only armor repair guy that we have," said Zavala. "That's his true strength."

"He's training other individuals to take over when he goes on R & R (rest and recuperation)," said Mas-

ter Sgt. Ernest Serrato, the maintenance control sergeant for the 118th MC. "He has saved the government lots of money."

Recently, Lopes even provided a quick improvised demonstration of armored plate repair for his state's adjutant general, Maj. Gen. William H. Wade, who

"If it's panel damage, I'll drop everything I'm doing and I'll work on that."

Spc. Tonio Lopes
118th MC

stopped by the motor pool on a recent tour of LSA Anaconda. Lopes said he didn't even realize the general was coming but that the general seemed impressed with the work he's done.

The other Soldiers in the 118th MC are also kept busy.

"For a while, we started doing the Jiffy Lube," said Serrato. "We were having convoys coming by here, they needed to have something fixed right away; we would stay here 24 hours in order to make that happen for them."

Serrato praises not only Lopes, but praises his entire company.

"I'm very, very pleased with the individuals that I'm working with," he said. "They came from all the areas of the state of California. They're working as a team, and they're doing a fantastic job. I couldn't ask for a better team."

Custom flag stand unveiled at sustainment brigade headquarters

by Staff Sgt. Bryant Maude

1st Sustainment Brigade

CAMP TAJI, Iraq – Command Sgt. Maj. Frank Cardoza, command sergeant major for the 1st Sustainment Brigade (SB), had an idea for a flag stand. He talked with Chief Warrant Officer Bill Moore at the

512th Maintenance Company and the design was passed on to a young machinist, Spc. Beau Hardy with the 512th Maint. Co. for creation.

The stand measures about 1.5 feet wide by 2 feet long and is fashioned in the design of the 1st SB patch.

"I used aluminum, brass and steel bolting to make it," said Hardy.

The flag stand took a little over a month to create and was unveiled at the 1st SB headquarters on Camp Taji, Iraq, Nov 27.

"This will be a part of the 1st Sustainment Brigade history for as long as we're around and you should be proud of the work you have done," said Col. Kevin O'Connell, commander of the 1st SB to Hardy.

When asked if he was happy with what he created Hardy said he was, but that "it's hard to part with."



Photo by Staff Sgt. Bryant Maude

Command Sgt. Maj. Frank Cardoza, command sergeant major for the 1st Sustainment Brigade, congratulates Spc. Beau Hardy, a machinist with the 512th Maintenance Company out of Manheim, Germany on the creation of a custom flag stand.

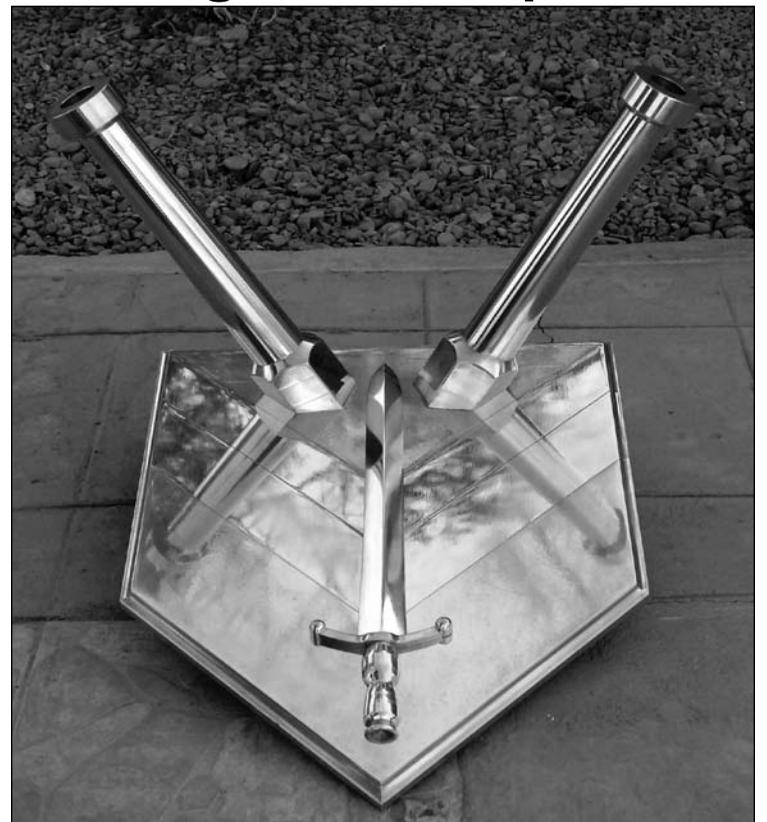


Photo by Staff Sgt. Bryant Maude

A custom flag holder was unveiled at the 1st Sustainment Brigade headquarters on Camp Taji, Iraq. Created from aluminum, brass and steel bolting, it was designed by Chief Warrant Officer Bill Moore with the 512th Maintenance Company and crafted by Spc. Beau Hardy, a mechanic with the 512th Maint. Co.

Frontline of assessing mild traumatic brain injury

by Sgt. Jasmine Chopra

Anaconda Times staff

LSA ANACONDA, Iraq- The sound is thunderous as the earth explodes, emitting fragments of shrapnel at high velocity. A firestorm erupts. Black smoke fills the vehicle.

The improvised explosive device (IED) is the main killer and most common threat facing Soldiers in Iraq. Recent implementation of better protective equipment and the latest in explosives-mitigating vehicles results in troops surviving blasts they might have died from in past wars.

Yet IED blasts remain one of the most terrifying experiences for Soldiers. Even those emerging with seemingly minor injuries could be at risk for what is being called the war's 'signature injury': Mild Traumatic Brain Injury (mTBI), said Air Force Lt. Col. Barbara Severson-Olson, a licensed clinical social worker at the Mental Health Clinic here, and part of the 332nd Expeditionary Aerospace Medicine Squadron (EAMDS).

With the 316th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) being the largest logistics command in theater, pushing the most supplies throughout Iraq usually by ground, mTBI will continue to be cause for concern.

Severson-Olson, Air Force Maj. Connie J. Johnmeyer, staff psychologist with the 332nd Expeditionary Medical Group, and Air Force Master Sgt. Gary Scott, a mental health service noncommissioned officer, also with the 332nd EAMDS, are on the frontline of assessing mTBI in servicemembers here. The more attacks on servicemembers, the busier the clinic gets and it's not hurting for business.

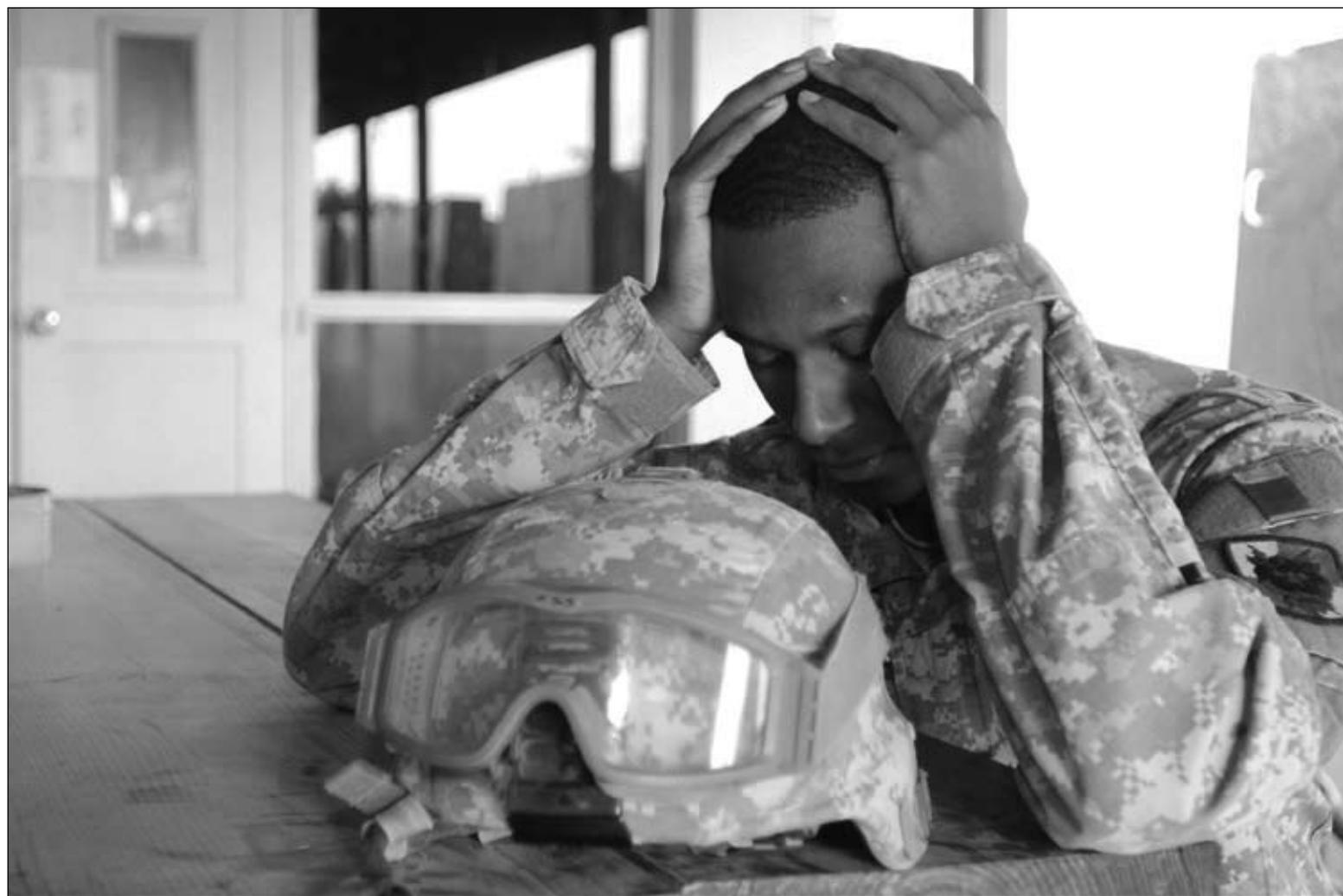


Photo by Sgt. Jasmine Chopra

IED blasts remain one of the most terrifying experiences for Soldiers. Even those emerging with seemingly minor injuries could be at risk for what is being called the war's 'signature injury': Mild Traumatic Brain Injury (mTBI). With the 316th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) being the largest logistics command in theater, pushing the most supplies throughout Iraq usually by ground, mTBI will continue to be cause for concern. (Dramatized photo)

ness.

According to the Defense and Veterans Brain Injury Center's May 2007 TBI Consensus Conference, TBI is a traumatically induced structural injury and/or physiological disruption of brain function as a result of an external force. It is indicated by new onset or worsening of at least one of the following clinical signs immediately following the event:

1) Any period of loss of or a decreased level of consciousness

"Some of our patients are folks who were on foot patrols, others were just standing in their base and got mortared, but by in large our clients are folks that were injured while on the road."

Air Force Lt. Col. Barbara Severson-Olson
332nd EAMDS

2) Any loss of memory for events immediately before or after the injury

3) Any alteration in mental state at the time of the injury (e.g., confusion, disorientation and slowed thinking)

4) Neurological deficits (e.g., weakness, balance disturbance, praxis, paresis/plegia, change in vision and other sensory alterations that may or may not be transient

5) Intracranial lesion mTBI is a less severe version of TBI.

"You know all those (public service announcements) that say 'don't shake your baby?' A soldier's brain is experiencing something similar to that during a blast. Your brain is sitting in this gel, fluid situation and the blast causes your brain to do this back and forth motion," said Johnmeyer, using her hands to gesture the motion the brain experiences. "Injury can result and it doesn't require

unconsciousness to be mTBI," said Johnmeyer.

The team uses various assessment tools to determine if Soldiers are experiencing mTBI, including the Military Acute Concussion Evaluation and the Automated Neuro-psychological Assessment Metrics.

The goal of the team is to get servicemembers suspected of having mTBI assessed and sent to the appropriate agency or facility. In some cases that means servicemembers will be returned to their units with either no or some restrictions to duty, sent to specialists such as radiologists, ophthalmologists and audiologists here in theater, or if need be, sent to Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Germany for further treatment. After evaluating the patient, the team compiles a report with recommendations for the referring physician.

When asked who is at risk, the team said Soldiers traveling in vehicles on IED-laden roads are at greatest risk, but anyone could be affected.

"If you're in uniform in Iraq, you're at risk," said Scott.

"Some of our patients are folks who were on foot patrols, others were just standing in their base and got mortared, but by in large our clients are folks that were injured while on the road," said Severson-Olson.

But the prognosis is not hopeless and a flurry of new research into TBI is presently being conducted. Some servicemembers experiencing mTBI can heal over time according to Johnmeyer.

"We have a young population. Most of our (patients) are in their early twenties. Brain tissue has some renewing value in these younger folks," said Johnmeyer. "Time can be the best treatment for some... Think of a sprained ankle. You need to give it time to heal, time for the swelling to reduce. After a week your ankle is better. This can happen to the brain too."

For more information about mTBI go to: <http://www.dvbc.org/> or contact the Mental Health Clinic here at DSN (318) 443-2992.



Photo by Sgt. Jasmine Chopra

The IED is the main killer and most common threat facing Soldiers in Iraq. Recent implementation of better protective equipment and the latest in explosives-mitigating vehicles results in troops surviving blasts they might have died from in past wars. Soldiers, like those pictured above, traveling in vehicles on IED-laden roads, are at greatest risk.



Air Force Photo by Senior Airman Terri Barriere

Capt. Zach Manning, a 4th Expeditionary Fighter Squadron alert pilot, inspects his F-16 Fighting Falcon here.

Alert pilots: ready, set, go!

by Senior Airman Terri Barriere

332nd Air Expeditionary Wing

BALAD AIR BASE, Iraq – The phone rings transforming a quiet night into an adrenaline-packed operation for alert pilots here.

Pilots on alert status are on constant standby and have only 15 minutes from the time the call comes in to be in the air.

“Airpower on standby is what we provide,” said Capt. Zach Manning, a 4th Expeditionary Fighter Squadron F-16 pilot. “Alert crews are launched when unplanned airpower is needed.”

After the alert call comes through, the flight crew immediately springs into action with the pilot donning any remaining gear and finishing up any remaining checks before heading out the door.

Manning said pre-flight inspections move a lot quicker for alert missions because they are performed immediately after a jet lands as opposed to just before it goes out. This saves much needed time for the pilot trying to get out the door in a moment’s notice.

The team has even gone so far as to pre-coordinate non-verbal hand signals with the crew chiefs in order to save every possible second needed to get in the air.

However, as imperative as it is for the pilots to react

instantly, it’s just as important for them to be thorough. Capt. Kerri Fulgham, also a 4th EFS F-16 alert pilot, said when she’s heading out the door she makes sure to move quickly, but efficiently.

“I try to make sure I’m not forgetting any important steps, but not taking too long in the process. I’m double checking my procedures, flipping switches, making sure I’m strapped in -- I’m focused on the mission at hand,” she said. “My heart races every time the phone rings. There’s an adrenaline rush that comes with the anticipation of knowing you can go from sitting dead still to taking off within minutes. I’m just trying to keep calm.”

Both pilots agree that after the initial excitement wears off and the adrenaline stops pumping, it feels like just a normal sortie and is executed as such.

Be it an actual emergency or just providing top cover, simply being able to make a difference keeps these pilots going.

“We’re proud to be on call in the event they need us,” said Manning. “We’re proud to be helping the guys on the ground and knowing we can help make any difference is pretty gratifying and it shows that the Air Force is able to provide airpower at a moment’s notice.”

Communication vital for launch



Air Force Photo by Staff Sgt. Joshua Garcia

BALAD AIR BASE, Iraq – Staff Sgt. William Howe, a 332nd Expeditionary Aircraft Maintenance Squadron crew chief, signals Capt. Travis “Bandit” Keenan, a 22nd Expeditionary Fighter Squadron pilot, that it is clear to taxi out to the runway here, Dec. 17. From preflight inspection through the taxing out of the aircraft, pilot and crew chief stay in constant communication via radio headset or hand signals. Keenan and Howe are deployed from Spangdahlem Air Base, Germany.

Balad aerial port bests cargo movement record

by Staff Sgt. Travis Edwards

332nd Air Expeditionary Wing

BALAD AIR BASE, Iraq – The 332nd Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron Aerial Port Flight broke the single-day cargo-movement record here Dec. 6.

The aerial port Airmen surpassed the previous record set in 2006, by more than 100 tons, moving 930 tons of cargo from 77 aircraft.

“It’s not surprising we broke the record, we have a great ramp team out here and we’re always moving cargo,” said Airman 1st Class Paula Putrino, a 332nd ELRS aerial porter. “I know we would have never set the record if we hadn’t worked so well together. Teamwork plays a huge part in our job. Without it I think it would be chaos on the flightline.”

“We had every loader on the line moving cargo that day,” said Master Sgt. Eric Pieper, the 332nd ELRS Aerial Port Flight superintendent of air freight. “If it wasn’t in maintenance, it was in use. We had 23 drivers loading and unloading.”

With 23 drivers moving cargo, aerial porters unloaded eight aircraft including three C-17 Globemaster IIIs toward the record in less than an hour and a half. According to Sergeant Pieper, manpower allots them a specific amount of time per aircraft. For example, they have 90 minutes to unload one C-17.

“That’s a big accomplishment for our Airmen,” he said.

To move cargo, the flight used aircraft cargo loaders, capable of carrying three to six pallets at a time. The cargo loaders were close enough to each other to create an assembly line to move the palletized cargo, loading everything from meals-ready-to-

eat to Mine Resistant Ambush Protected vehicles.

“The cargo we move directly affects how many people on the ground have to use convoys,” said Chief Master Sgt. Adriene Benton, the 332nd ELRS Aerial Port Flight chief of operations. For every 240 tons airlifted, 24 trucks and 52 troops are spared a trip on a dangerous road, she said.

“By moving 1.86 million pounds of cargo we prevented about 208 troops from having to take 96 trucks across some dangerous highway,” said Benton.

In November, the aerial porters moved an average of 480 tons a day -- totaling nearly 30 million pounds of cargo for the month.

“I feel my part, as well as this job, plays a huge role in the war effort. If we don’t do our job, other bases would never receive their supplies they need,” said Putrino.

“It was an awesome feeling getting that much done in a day,” said Benton. “The whole team was awesome.”



Air Force Photo by Staff Sgt. Travis Edwards

Airman 1st Class Paula Putrino, and Staff Sgt. Michael Groen, both 332nd Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron aerial porters, push a pallet onto an aircraft cargo loader here.

Iraqi Bazaar reopens for business in grand style

by Spc. Jay Venturini

Anaconda Times staff

LSA ANACONDA, Iraq – After being closed for improvements for more than a month, the Iraqi Bazaar here opened in grand style Dec. 14.

Brig. Gen. Gregory E. Couch, the 316th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) (ESC) commanding general, along with 18 sheiks from local villages, cut the ribbon in front of the newly renovated bazaar.

“This bazaar is great for the servicemembers and the local Iraqis,” said Col. Karen L. Jennings, the 316th ESC deputy commanding officer. “The servicemembers see some of the Iraqi culture and it helps the local economy.”

The renovations were needed due to vendors and servicemembers being exposed to different weather conditions. The bazaar now features vendors inside air-conditioned and heated tents that will keep everyone comfortably out of inclement weather.

“The old bazaar wasn’t very well organized and many people got sick because of the weather,” said Sheik Sa’ad Hassan Ali through an interpreter. “I am very pleased about the new bazaar and the willingness of the Americans to provide the jobs to my citizens.”

The bazaar is a big part of the local economy, grossing more than \$120,000 a month which is divided up between the workers and sheiks. It is also a good tool to strengthen relationships between the local Iraqis and servicemembers.

“Ultimately the bazaar isn’t about us, it’s about the Iraqis,” said Maj. Joel Com-



Photo by Spc. Jay Venturini

(Above) Brig. Gen. Gregory E. Couch (center), the 316th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) commanding general, along with 18 local sheiks cut the ribbon to signify the reopening of the Iraqi Bazaar here. The bazaar was closed for renovations for about a month. (Bottom Left) Local sheiks take a tour of the new accommodations for their vendors at the grand opening of the Iraqi Bazaar here. Eighteen sheiks attended the ribbon cutting ceremony and many were very pleased with the results.

peggie, the 316th ESC deputy civil affairs officer in charge.

There were many different players who helped make the renovation of the bazaar possible. The major components were the 316th ESC civil affairs team which coordinated with the vendors to remove and bring back their booths and merchandise and Air Force Col. Ralph Romine, the LSA Anaconda garrison commander, who provided the air-conditioned tents and much more.

“I’m very pleased about

how everything turned out,” said Leona Propson, the 316th ESC civil affairs NCO. “I believe everyone will be very

happy with the results.”

The bazaar is located on the corner of Hawk Ave. and New Jersey Ave. and the win-

ter hours are 10 a.m. through 5 p.m. and summer hours are 10 a.m. through 6 p.m. Saturday through Tuesday.

Coalition recovers weapons, sends to museums



Photo by Spc. Thomas Keeler

LSA ANACONDA, Iraq – Staff Sgt. Ernest Allen, a reset and redistribution sergeant for support operations of the 316th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), shoulders an enemy rocket-propelled grenade launcher recovered recently by combat patrollers and other special forces teams and put on display at the Joint Operations Center Dec. 4. The weapons meet criteria necessary to be returned to the United States for placement in military museums.





Photo by Staff Sgt. Dave Lankford

Staff Sgt. Walter Geiger, an instructor at the Trigger Course with the 164th MP Co., decides his best course of action is compliance while recovering from a very well applied wrist-lock during a training exercise here Dec. 14. Though the students at the course hold all of the instructors in very high regard, they show no qualms when it comes to forcibly keeping the opposing force in line.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Dave Lankford

Iraqi police learn room clearing techniques while instructors look on during a training exercise. This practical exercise was not on the day's schedule of events. During a break, several IP asked instructors at the course for guidance as they took the initiative to use their spare time to train.

TRIGGER, from Cover

dividends.

"A lot of them actually come during the day and prior to can do more to protect the go back to their stations and them here."

Norris said his higher head six months. Though this m possible.

"They're upbeat, they're m said Norris. "Several of the

Like Mickey (a student-tea

"The quicker we get these in them as legitimate law en

Norris. "Bottom line is this

get home. But before we do



What comes natu idea for the stud some IPs come to ers have little or n Course instructor when entering a r

me to us and talk to us on a personal level after the missions
the guard at night and ask us questions. They ask what they
their communities," said Jendrusina. "We want these guys to
and teach all the other IPs the same skills that we're teaching

quarters would like to see the IP take over the course within
may sound like an unrealistic vision, Norris said it is entirely

motivated; you give them a mission, they want to get after it,"
m have stepped up and said, 'hey, I want to be an instructor.'
m leader); he wants to come back here."

guys to believe in themselves, and get the people to believe
enforcement, then the quicker we'll be able to get home," said
; the United States Army wants to get home. We all want to
o we have to accomplish the mission."



Photo by Staff Sgt. Dave Lankford

rally to Soldiers of the 164th MP Co. is often a new
ents at the Trigger Course. Instructors say though
o the course with some training and experience, oth-
no training at all. Here, Cpl. Brian Mitchell, a Trigger
; shows a student how to hold his Kalashnikov rifle
oom.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Dave Lankford

(Background) An Iraqi police officer in his final phase of training at the Trigger Course, designed and instructed by the 164th Military Police Company, scans his lane after taking down Pfc. Christopher Douglas, an instructor at the course and opposing force player for the exercise. The course is set up in the same manner as the U.S. Army's Warrior Leader Course and will give the IP valuable skills to use back at their home-stations.

3-73 Cav. never takes a day off, performs street patrols

by Spc. Jaime Avila

1/82nd Brigade Combat Team

CSC SCANIA, Iraq – Whether it's talking to the local population to gather intelligence or patrolling the main supply routes for improvised explosive devices (IEDs), Paratroopers of Bravo Company, 3rd Squadron, 73rd Cavalry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division do it all and they do it with excellence.

These Paratroopers are tasked with the tough challenge of securing over 30 kilometers of a main supply route (MSR) that is important to the many convoy security teams escorting trucks up and down this stretch of road. Although this is not their only task, it is an important part of the 82nd's overall mission.

"B Troop is responsible for clearing IEDs over a 30 kilometer stretch of (the MSR). This mission is absolutely critical because it contributes a great deal to the security of the convoys that travel to Baghdad, Tikrit, Mosul and other points north of convoy supply center Scania," said Capt. Nathan Palisca, the B troop commander.

These Paratroopers go outside the wire day or night and perform their duties to the fullest even when they have consecutive missions.

"Typically a platoon will have between three to five tactical tasks to complete during the course of a day. Sometimes these tasks are back-to-back,



Photo by Spc. Jaime Avila

Paratroopers from Bravo Troop, 3-73 Cav. speak to a local national while they were patrolling the neighborhoods of Iraq. Paratroopers often take the time to talk to the locals while on patrol which helps build a stronger bond between them and the citizens.

while other times a platoon will go out during the morning, return to the FOB (forward operating base), and then go back out at night," said Palisca.

"I am proud of my Soldiers...I continue to ask for their best and they have never fallen short," he said.

These Paratroopers have

been working hard and it has paid off. Since their arrival here, the number of indirect fire attacks has dropped by over 90 percent, the number of IEDs emplaced on their portion of the MSR has also dropped by over 90 percent and they have helped with multiple humanitarian and civil affairs projects.

"When you see the IED rate go down to almost zero, you know you're doing something right," said Sgt. Joshua Stimme, a forward observer for 2nd Platoon, B Troop.

The reason for their success is contributed to the fact they take their job seriously and pay close attention to what they are doing on a daily basis.

"The dismounted patrols on (the MSR) are there to make us slow down and look at things closer to make sure we don't miss anything. Stuff we may not see from the vehicle even when we're moving at 5 or 10 miles per hour," said Stimme.

"We will also sit on an OP (observation post) for hours

just to make sure no one is doing something they're not supposed to be doing," he added.

While out on patrol these Soldiers often take time to talk to the local population to gather intelligence and build stronger relationships between the Coalition Forces and the Iraqi people.

"We try to get as much of the people's trust as we can, because the more they trust us the more information they will give us if something is going on. We're trying to build rapport with the community and ensure that everything is safe," said Stimme. "I am confident that we are accomplishing the mission we were set out to do."



Photos by Spc. Jaime Avila

(Above) Paratroopers from Bravo Troop, 3-73 Cav. search a weapons box found while on a patrol. (Right) Paratroopers from Bravo Troop, 3-73 Cav. speak to a local national while they were patrolling the neighborhoods of Iraq. Paratroopers often take the time to talk to the locals while on patrol.



Soldier becomes Sgt. Audie Murphy Club member

by Spc. Thomas Keeler

Anaconda Times staff

LSA ANACONDA, Iraq—After an intense, hour-long evaluation, Sgt. Marvin Kauger, group paralegal noncommissioned officer-in-charge with the 507th Corps Support Group, was voted into the Sgt. Audie Murphy Club by the final selection board of seven command sergeants major here Dec. 14.

The selection board was

chaired by Command Sgt. Maj. Stacey E. Davis of the 316th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and six other command sergeants major from the 316th.

Kauger, a native of Sheboygan, Wis., joined the Army in November 2001 and is stationed at Fort Bragg. In addition to graduating Airborne School in 2002, Kauger has earned the German, Irish, and Romanian Parachutist badges.

Kauger stood for membership with Staff Sgt. Uzziyah Cohen, a transportation coordinator and equal opportunity representative with the 11th Transportation Battalion. The two Soldiers did not compete against each other, however. No quotas are maintained for entrance to the club, and ac-

ording to Section 5.b.(4) of FORSCOM Regulation 215-7, the final selection board need not select a candidate if a candidate does not meet required standards.

Sgt. Audie Murphy is the name of a noncommissioned officer (NCO) who, as a squad leader, consistently demon-

strated the highest qualities of leadership, professionalism and regard for the welfare of Soldiers. Induction into this elite organization named in his honor is a noteworthy mark of attainment for a NCO. It shows that he or she truly leads from the front and lives the Army values.



Photo by Spc. Thomas Keeler

Command Sgt. Maj. Stacey E. Davis of the 316th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) (ESC) pins Sgt. Marvin Kauger, group paralegal noncommissioned officer-in-charge with the 507th Corps Support Group, with an Army Commendation Medal after Kauger was voted into the Sergeant Audie Murphy Club Dec. 14 at the Distinguished Visitors Quarters here.

316th ESC honors two Soldiers as the best of the quarter



Photo by Spc. Jay Venturini

Cpl. Anthony Parrow (left), a member of the 25th Transportation Battalion, which falls under 507th Corps Support Group, and Spc. Keelen Hamell, a member of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Brigade Special Troops Battalion, under the command and control of the 316th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), earn the noncommissioned officer and Soldier of the Quarter award respectively here Dec. 13.

America's warrior

by Spc. Jennifer L. Sierra

A snapshot of servicemembers in the Global War on Terrorism



Photo by Spc. Jennifer L. Sierra

Full name and rank: Sgt. Scott Daniel Colley.
Unit: 13th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion.

Job Title: Training noncommissioned officer.

Time in service: 6 years.

Age: 24.

Hometown: Lakeland, Fla.

Family: I'm married to Ashley Colley and have two wonderful children named Ethan and Emma.

Hobbies: Going to the movies with my wife and kids, salt water fishing in Florida with my dad, barbecuing in the summer time and working on my vehicles.

Life-changing event/moment: Would be when my son was born. My wife was in labor with him on the day of 9/11. My son was born at midnight.

Lesson Learned: Don't take things for granted, because life could be a whole lot worst.

The person I admire the most: Would have to be my wife. She takes care of home while I'm deployed taking care of business.

Why I joined the military: I joined the Army right after 9/11 in November.

If I wasn't in the military I would be: I would be in Florida living close to the beach with my family.

The one thing I would change about the Army: I wouldn't charge Soldiers leave days for going home to see their family while deployed.

The one thing I think the Army got right: The medical benefits and retirement.

What makes a good Soldier: A Soldier who truly believes in the Army values.

What makes a good leader? A leader that cares about his Soldiers and always places the Soldier needs before his or her own.

Motivations in life: Having my kids and family looking up to me for the sacrifices I make for them.

Goals: Finishing my bachelor's of science degree in homeland security and getting promoted.

Hardest part of my job here: I would have to say working the long hours and playing the waiting game before going home to your family.

Best part of my life: Having all the family together for the holidays.

How are you celebrating the Holiday season while deployed? I'm going to make the most of the Holiday by contacting my family by internet, so I can see the whole family together on web cam. The unit also drew names for gift exchanging, so I will be participating in that too.

Sustainment brigade, battalions hold leadership conference

by Staff Sgt. Bryant Maude

1st Sustainment Brigade

CAMP TAJI, Iraq – Leaders in the 1st Sustainment Brigade (SB) and the command teams from the brigade's seven subordinate battalions gathered here Dec. 13 to attend a leadership conference hosted by Col. Kevin O'Connell, the commander of the 1st SB, and his staff.

Event highlights included an administrative update briefing, an operational planning group briefing and several special topics presented by the 1st SB staff.

"The purposes of these events are to share information with and between the leaders within the brigade as well as strengthen the camaraderie within the 1st SB," said Lt. Col. Christopher McCurry, the deputy commander of the 1st SB.

"It's a good opportunity to meet all the field grades in a less formal environment," said Maj. Ira Baldwin, the brigade support operations transportation officer. "I like seeing them in person; it strengthens the relationship."

After dining on prime rib and roasted chicken in the Operation Junction City Room of the Cantigny Dining Facility, O'Connell and Command Sgt. Maj. Frank Cardoza, the 1st SB command sergeant major, acted as Masters of Ceremony during a brief Hail and Farewell session, where they welcomed new members to the organization and sent off de-



Photos by Staff Sgt. Bryant Maude

(Above) Command Sgt. Maj. Frank Cardoza, the 1st SB command sergeant major, reads an inscription on the back of a going-away gift for Command Sgt. Maj. Barbara Ann Maxwell, the 15th Finance Battalion command sergeant major, during a Hail and Farewell session.

(Below Left) Lt. Col. Christopher McCurry, the deputy commander for the 1st Sustainment Brigade, addresses a crowd of leaders at the 1st SB Leadership Conference Dec. 13.

parting ones.

Command Sgt. Maj. Barbara Ann Maxwell, the 15th Finance Battalion command sergeant major, was one of the half-dozen individuals recognized as leaving the 1st SB team.

"She educated me on all these financial matters ever

since I got here, and I feel real confident knowing the Soldiers are being taken care of," said Cardoza of Maxwell.

"I'm having a great time. It's good to get together with other people from other units in

the brigade to learn about what they do and the challenges they face," said Maxwell.

The group departed the dining facility and made the short trip to the base theater, where each battalion had an opportu-

nity to showcase their battalion by way of a short HOOAH video.

The evening concluded with a social call around a bonfire provided by the Special Troops Battalion, 1st SB.



MNC-I Commander visits Anaconda



Photo by Staff Sgt. Dave Lankford

Lt. Gen. Raymond T. Odierno, the Multi-national Corps - Iraq commander, was at LSA Anaconda recently for an office call with the commander of the 316th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), Brig. Gen. Gregory E. Couch. Odierno assumed command of MNC-I on Dec. 14. He also serves as the commanding general of III Corps.

Upcoming sports on AFN

Wednesday 12/26/07

Phoenix Suns @ Los Angeles Lakers live 1:10 a.m. AFN/sports; replay 11:30 a.m. AFN/sports
Seattle Supersonics @ Portland Trail Blazers live 4:00 a.m. AFN/sports; replay 3:00 p.m. AFN/sports

Thursday 12/27/07

Indiana Pacers @ Atlanta Hawks live 3:00 a.m. AFN/xtra
Motor City Bowl: Purdue vs. Central Michigan live 3:30 a.m. AFN/sports;
Boston Celtics @ Sacramento Kings live 6:00 a.m. AFN/xtra
Miami Heat @ Philadelphia 76ers replay 11:00 a.m. AFN/sports
Minnesota Timberwolves @ Golden State Warriors replay 5:00 p.m. AFN/sports

Friday 12/28/07

Holiday Bowl: Arizona State vs. Texas live 4:00 a.m. AFN/sports; replay 4:00 p.m. AFN/sports; replay 10:00 p.m. AFN/sports
Cleveland Cavaliers @ Dallas Mavericks live 4:15 a.m. AFN/xtra
Boston Celtics @ Seattle Supersonics live 6:30 a.m. AFN/xtra
College BB: Nevada @ North Carolina replay 11:00 a.m. AFN/sports

Saturday 12/29/07

Champs Sports Bowl: Boston College vs. Michigan State live 1:00 a.m. **Boston Bruins @ Carolina Hurricanes** live 3:00 a.m. AFN/xtra
Texas Bowl: TCU vs. Houston live 4:00 a.m. AFN/prime
Emerald Bowl: Maryland vs. Oregon State live 4:30 a.m. AFN/sports; replay 4:00 p.m. AFN/sports
Utah Jazz @ Los Angeles Lakers live 6:30 a.m. AFN/xtra
College BB: Wisconsin @ Texas live 8:00 p.m. AFN/prime
Atlanta Hawks @ Dallas Mavericks live 9:00 p.m. AFN/xtra
Meineke Car Care Bowl: Connecticut vs. Wake Forest live 9:00 p.m. AFN/sports
College BB: San Diego @ Kentucky live 10:00 p.m. AFN/prime
Los Angeles Kings @ Colorado Avalanche live 11:30 p.m. AFN/xtra

Sunday 12/30/07

College BB: Tennessee @ Gonzaga live 12:00 a.m. AFN/prime
Liberty Bowl: Central Florida vs. Mississippi State live 12:30 a.m. AFN/sports
College BB: Oklahoma @ West Virginia live 2:00 a.m. AFN/prime
Alamo Bowl: Penn State vs. Texas A&M live 4:00 a.m. AFN/prime
New England Patriots @ New York Giants live 4:00 a.m. AFN/sports
College BB: Pittsburgh @ Dayton replay 9:00 a.m. AFN/xtra
College BB: Arizona @ Memphis replay 11:00 a.m. AFN/xtra
Boston Celtics @ Utah Jazz replay 2:00 p.m. AFN/xtra
St. Louis Blues @ Dallas Stars replay 4:30 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 12/31/07

NFL FB: Teams TBD live 12:00 a.m. AFN/sports
NFL FB: Teams TBD live 12:00 a.m. AFN/xtra
Los Angeles Kings @ Chicago Blackhawks live 3:00 a.m. AFN/xtra
Independence Bowl: Alabama vs. Colorado live 4:00 a.m. AFN/prime
Kansas City Chiefs @ New York Jets live 4:15 a.m. AFN/sports; replay 12:00 p.m. AFN/sports
Boston Celtics @ Los Angeles Lakers live 5:30 a.m. AFN/xtra
College BB: Florida State @ Georgia Tech replay 8:00 a.m. AFN/xtra
Armed Forces Bowl: California vs. Air Force live 8:30 p.m. AFN/sports
Brut Sun Bowl: South Florida vs. Oregon live 10:00 p.m. AFN/prime

Tuesday 1/1/08

Music City Bowl: Kentucky vs. Florida State live 12:00 a.m. AFN/sports
Insight Bowl: Indiana vs. Oklahoma State live 2:00 a.m. AFN/xtra
Chick-fil-A Bowl: Clemson vs. Auburn live 3:30 a.m. AFN/sports
Philadelphia 76ers @ Seattle Supersonics live 6:00 a.m. AFN/xtra
Humanitarian Bowl: Georgia Tech vs. Fresno State replay 11:30 a.m. AFN/sports
Cotton Bowl: Missouri vs. Arkansas live 7:30 p.m. AFN/xtra
Capital One Bowl: Michigan vs. Florida live 9:00 p.m. AFN/sports
Gator Bowl: Texas Tech vs. Virginia live 9:00 p.m. AFN/prime

SUSTAINER REEL TIME THEATER

(Schedule is subject to change)

Wednesday, Dec. 26

5 p.m. Bee Movie (PG)
 8 p.m. Fred Claus (PG)

Thursday, Dec. 27

5 p.m. I Am Legend (PG-13)
 8 p.m. Bee Movie (PG)

Friday, Dec. 28

2 p.m. Lions for Lamb (R)
 5 p.m. Mr. Magorium's Wonder (G)
 8:30 p.m. National Treasure: 2 (PG)

Saturday, Dec. 29

2 p.m. Mr. Magorium's Wonder (G)
 5 p.m. National Treasure: 2 (PG)
 8 p.m. Lions for Lamb (R)

Sunday, Dec. 30

2 p.m. National Treasure: 2 (PG)
 5 p.m. Lions for Lamb (R)
 8 p.m. Mr. Magorium's Wonder (G)

Monday, Dec. 31

5 p.m. National Treasure: 2 (PG)
 8 p.m. Mr. Magorium's Wonder (G)

Tuesday, Jan. 1

5 p.m. Lions for Lamb (R)
 8 p.m. National Treasure: 2 (PG)

Pvt. Murphy's Law

MURPHY, PFC IS AUTOMATICALLY GRANTED WHEN A SOLDIER HAS TWELVE MONTHS SERVICE, SIX MONTHS TIME IN GRADE. A SOLDIER IS ELIGIBLE FOR SPECIALIST AT TWENTY-FOUR MONTHS TIME IN SERVICE, TWENTY-FOUR MONTHS TIME IN GRADE...

WHY IS HE TELLING ME THIS?



(c) M. Baker 2004

ANACONDA ACTIVITIES

INDOOR POOL

Aqua Training: Tuesday and Thursday- 7:45 p.m.

New Year's Swim-A-thon:

Sunday and Monday- 8 a.m. and 9 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.

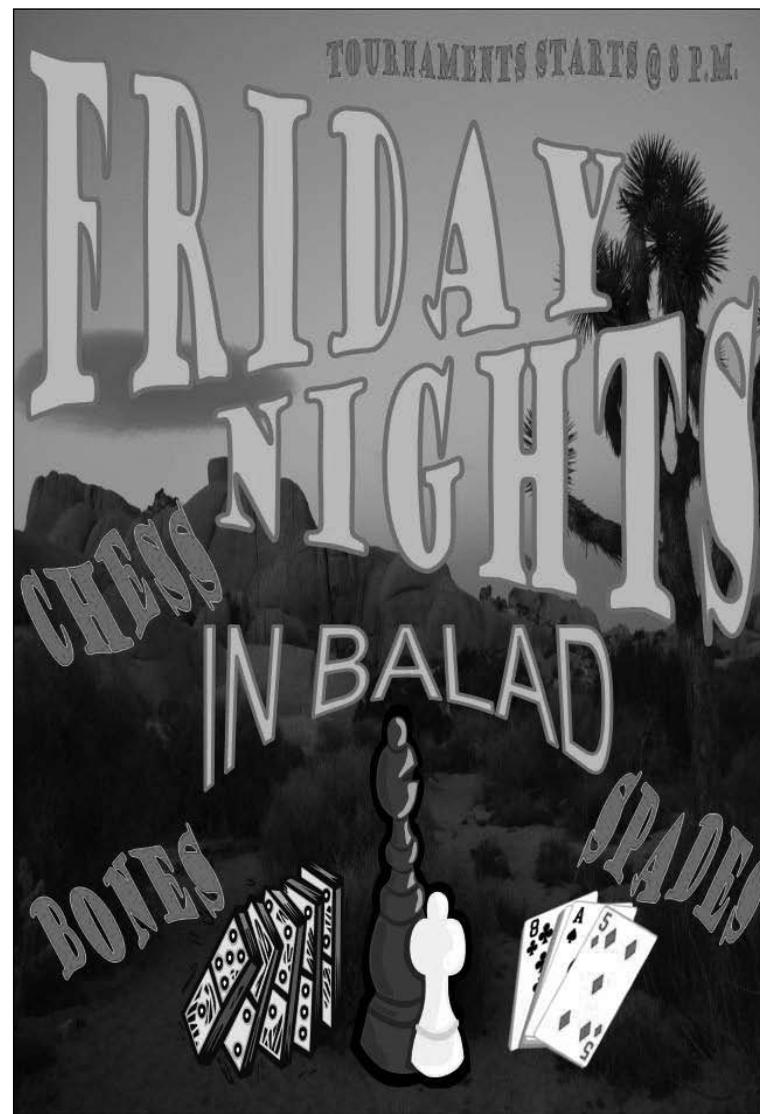
Open court basketball: Thursday- 7 p.m.

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.



National Training Center opening new urban training site

by Debra Valine

Army News Service

FORT IRWIN, Calif. - Soldiers will soon begin training on what Fort Irwin officials say will one day be the largest Military Operations in Urban Terrain site in the Army inventory.

The \$12 million site includes 41 main buildings, including a government complex and a consulate and another 24 smaller structures such as guard towers - more buildings than a Combined Arms Collective Training Facility typically has. The Fort Irwin project is nonstandard, but is specific to what the National Training Center is trying to achieve.

Fort Irwin teamed with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Los Angeles District and Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville, to design and build the MOUT site. In October, just eight months from the start of construction, phase one was completed and turned over to the installation. The streets were paved just before Thanks-



Photo by John Wagstaffe

The \$12-million Military Operations Urban Training site at Fort Irwin, Calif., is shown here with newly paved roads Nov. 22.

giving.

Phase one, though, is just the beginning, NTC officials said. "When finished, there will be some 232 buildings," said Tim Reischl, deputy operations officer at Fort Irwin. "Partnerships with reserve components and local initiatives will add another couple hundred buildings. When all four phases are complete, we will have nearly 500 buildings. We wanted a very large site to train an Army brigade."

Ten brigades a year go through the National Training Center. Maj. Marnie Smeenk, currently with Huntsville Center's Range and Training Land Program, worked at the Los Angeles District Corps of

Engineers in 2005 when she was challenged with building phase one of the MOUT site at Fort Irwin.

The project, on the books long before Sept. 11, 2001, and the start of GWOT, had originally been scheduled in the out-years, but was moved up considerably to meet an increased training demand.

On advice from the Sacramento District, Maj. Smeenk called Mark Fleming at the Huntsville Center. Fleming pulled his team

together and sent a letter to the garrison commander outlining what needed to be done and who needed to be involved. Huntsville Center is the Corps' Range Center of Standardization and Mandatory Center of Expertise for Ranges.

"Originally, the project was going to take over 12 months to construct," Maj. Smeenk said. "When the proposals came in, they were way over the project budget. So we had to look at what we could take out to be able to award. It was just going to degrade the project too severely.

"In the situation I was in out there, I could not have done this without HNC," Maj. Smeenk said. To bring the costs within budget, the team had to look for alternative construction methods. One method that looked promising was the studcast panels versus traditional concrete and steel construction. Studcast panels are thin-shell precast concrete panels made of two inches of lightweight concrete combined with light-gauge, cold-formed

steel framing.

"We went back to the folks who had bid the project and asked for revised proposals allowing the use of alternative construction methods, we were willing to take a look at anything as long as it was structurally sound," Maj. Smeenk said. "Doing that, we were able to award within the programmed amount and with the full scope for the buildings. We got all 41 of our main buildings."

The design contract was awarded to SEI Group of Huntsville, Ala., in 2005; the construction award went to RQ Construction, Bonsall, Calif., in 2006. The firm bid the project using studcast panels.

"I think the facility is great," said Capt. Seth Henson, the project engineer with the Los Angeles District. "This is the first urban training facility at the NTC. All they had prior to this was 10 villages made up of CONEXEs and sheds. This is a milestone. They finally have a traditional MOUT site and it fills a very important training need."

Iraqi MTR takes control of logistics, MiTT advises

by Staff Sgt. Dave Lankford

Anaconda Times staff

CAMP YASSIR, Iraq – As of Nov. 1, the Iraqi 7th Motor Transport Regiment (MTR) here is on their own with American forces taking on a strictly advisory posture.

During a recent visit Col. Michael R. Timberlake, the 316th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) Iraqi Security Force (ISF) chief, toured Camp Yassir in an effort to assess progress made by the Iraqi leadership since the hand over of responsibility went into effect.

Though the 2107th Military Transition Teams (MiTT) is still in place, their role has gone from active leadership and organization of the Iraqi forces to one of observation and advisement. The transition has not been trouble free; however, Timberlake said it is the best way for the Iraqi leadership to begin taking full ownership of their mission.

“The way ahead for the Iraqi Army is for leaders...to make the hard decisions and for the Coalition to advise when necessary. The test of our metal as leaders is how we adapt and adjust and move forward,” he said.

Though the Iraqi Army (IA) has long since taken the lead in many front line operations, the transition of responsibility in the logistics field has been much slower. Multi-National Force-Iraq (MNF-I) and the Iraq Ground Force Command (IGFC) determined the way forward was for Coalition Forces to step back.

“That is the mandate from higher that we transition the lead in all areas to the IA as soon as possible. It is for the benefit of all interested parties. The IA leadership is a force behind this movement. Some set backs will occur but nothing that cannot be overcome,” said Timberlake.

One of the major challenges has been housing and feeding the influx of new Iraqi soldiers. One Iraqi soldier said fish and meat are a rare luxury and that a more common meal may consist of soup flavored with fruit. Some trainees have been put on a half day work schedule to compensate for a lack of nourishment, a problem the Iraqi leadership is working hard to overcome.

Another obstacle is the lack of noncommissioned officers (NCOs) to lead the younger soldiers.

“The 7th MTR is short of officers and NCOs. The NCOs are not being used to potential. The officers make all decisions, including corrective training. We



Photo by Staff Sgt. Dave Lankford

An Iraqi soldier works to repair a generator at the Anham maintenance facility. All work at this shop is done by Iraqi soldiers and all instruction comes from Iraqi trainers. As of Nov. 1, the Military Transition Teams is in place only to “train the trainer.” Many of the students here were initially trained at Camp Taji, Iraq.

“That is the mandate from higher that we transition the lead in all areas to the IA as soon as possible. It is for the benefit of all interested parties. The IA leadership is a force behind this movement. Some set backs will occur but nothing that cannot be overcome.”

Col. Michael R. Timberlake
316th ESC, ISF

are encouraging the use of NCOs and senior NCOs,” said Maj. Loi Nguyen, the 7th MTR MiTT team chief.

Though it is sometimes difficult for the MiTT teams to stand by and watch the Iraqi leadership struggle, all agree it is the only way for the Iraqis to gain the skills

needed for total operational autonomy.

“The MiTT members are there to influence planning to ensure key tasks are met. It’s tough to see them struggle and not do the planning for them,” said Nguyen.

In one instance, however, the MiTT Team had to step in when they learned the Iraqi soldiers were living with no heaters and were in danger from the elements. The MiTT team had no choice but to coordinate with Coalition Forces to provide the soldiers with heaters.

“IA soldiers are working hard to learn western ways of performing logistics. Additional challenges are the myriad of equipment types they have to deal with. Learning to use technology and incorporating its capabilities will help, but it will be a slow process,” said Timberlake.

In a recent meeting Iraqi Col. Jasam Mohammed, the 7th MTR commander, attempted to negotiate with Timberlake for more concessions but the ISF chief stood fast to the agreement made between MNF-I and the IGFC.

Mohammed said, through an interrupter, at this point his mission could not be a success without the aid of the U.S. Army, to which Timberlake replied it is his goal and the goal of the MiTT team to teach him how to succeed without Coalition intervention. Timberlake did, however, agree to take Mohammed’s concerns into consideration and discuss them with the 316th ESC leadership.

“In any relationship there has to be a little give and take,” Timberlake said. “With a concerted effort in 18 months they could be at the trot phase. There are noticeable signs of progress everyday.”



Photo by Staff Sgt. Dave Lankford

Col. Michael R. Timberlake, the 316th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) ISF chief, meets with Col. Jasam Mohammed, the 7th Motor Transport Regiment (MTR) commander, to discuss the way forward. As of Nov. 1, the Iraqi 7th MTR is on their own with American forces taking on a strictly advisory posture.

Do you have a story idea?

Contact the Anaconda Times

anaconda.times@iraq.centcom.mil

Army slam dunks Civilians in basketball



Photos by Spc. Jennifer L. Sierra

(Above) A member of the Civilian basketball team, tries his luck at a free throw to score some points for his team during the Army vs. Civilian basketball game held at the Circuit Gym, Dec. 15. (Below) An Army team player blocks a mid-air shot taken by a Civilian team player. A good offense and defense led the Army to defeat the Civilian team.



Photo by Spc. Jennifer L. Sierra

A member of the Army basketball team takes a free-throw shot after being fouled by a member of the Civilian basketball team.



Photos by Spc. Jennifer L. Sierra

(Above) Members of both Army and Civilian basketball teams fight for the ball after an Army team member's shot is blocked during the basketball game. (Below) Staff Sgt. Leroy Singletary, a Soldier with Alpha Company, 67th Tactical Signal Battalion and member of the Army basketball team, jumps toward the basket in hopes of slam-dunking on the opposing team during the Army versus Civilian basketball game.

