

AnacondaTimes

JANUARY 9, 2008

PROUDLY SERVING LSA ANACONDA



Web Image

Battling for ballots

How to make your vote count while overseas

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Photo by Sgt. Dale Sweetnam

Flight crew making history

Female aviators team-up for holiday flight

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Photo by Spc. Jay Venturini

Laughing in the new year

USO brings comedy tour to LSAA to close out 2007

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Photo by 1st Lt. Jennifer Patterson

Soldiers from the 74th Engineer Company practice launching a Mabe-Johnson Bridge. Once the nose of the bridge crosses the gap it is guided onto rollers and pushed by a crane. Soldiers guide the bridge to ensure it stays on track.

Fort Hood Soldiers prepare for new bridge mission

by 1st Lt. Jennifer Patterson
20th Engineer Brigade (Combat)(Airborne)

LSA ANACONDA, Iraq – The popular phrase, “We’ll cross that bridge when we come to it,” is ironic for the Soldiers of the 74th Engineer Company. Instead these Soldiers are training hard to “build the bridge before they cross it.”

The Mabe-Johnson Bridge (MJB) is a new type of bridge designed to provide a more sustainable long-term solution for the Iraqi people. With new equipment comes new challenges; the 74th has worked with MJB before on previous deployments, but as the Company Commander, Capt. Brian

“... training is a good refresher for the Soldiers to help maintain their proficiency...”

Capt. Brian Stone
74th Eng. Co.

Stone, pointed out, “there is an increased demand for military bridging” which means the unit has to be prepared to execute sooner rather than later.

The 74th is one of only five Active Duty bridge units in the Army and is on their third deployment to Iraq already. With limited time at home, the Fort Hood Soldiers took advantage of training opportunities on the MJB at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., to prepare for this deploy-

ment.

Although the unit has been here for less than a month, the Soldiers of the 74th Engineer Company remain in high spirits even as they conducted hands-on MJB training.

“Training is a good refresher for the Soldiers to help maintain their proficiency, thus improving performance on the build site,” said Stone.

The 74th has hit the ground running since their arrival earlier

this month. The unit emplaced a float bridge at Quayarrah and has several other missions for repairing, replacing and building bridges throughout the country. Bridges are a critical component of Iraqi infrastructure by allowing traffic to flow throughout the country and expanding trade and travel to distant locations. Strategically, bridges provide a faster, more direct route into an area of operation, thereby improving response time for Iraqi Police and Coalition Forces to fight insurgent activities. The Soldiers of the 74th are helping to improve mobility for the citizens of Iraq as well as helping them become independent and self-sustaining.

January, the month to dare to dream

by Maj. Christopher E. West

316th ESC PAO

The month of January is not only the first month of a new year, it is also a time during which many of us recommit, refocus, and reprioritize our efforts in a quest to achieve self-improvement, self-fulfillment and self-actualization. Many famous birthdays and special observances are also celebrated during this 31-day period of time. One such occasion is the observance of the birth, life, and achievements of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

What makes his birthday different from those of other national American figures we honor is that Dr. King was not a public servant. He was not really a community activist, even though he did champion for human rights as well as awaken the moral conscience of America and the world. But, rather, Martin Luther King Jr. was a product of the spirit of the times. He assumed the mantle of leadership to gain civil rights for the oppressed everywhere—regardless of color, gender, political persuasion, religious affiliation, or socioeconomic background. In short, Dr. King was an heir to a powerful promise of the belief in equality for all which is as old as the scriptures and as modern as the Constitution.

From Birmingham to Selma to Memphis to the March on Washington, Dr. King went about telling all he came into contact with about a dream he had, about a dream which could change lives, alter destinies, restore the broken and bruised, and give hope to the doomed, disillusioned, and disenfranchised. In the process of doing so he managed to touch lives, bridge distances, heal rifts, and build bonds.

The funny thing about Dr. King's dream is that it was not unique and exclusively his, for his vision predates the writings of Plato and Aristotle, and the essays of Hobbes and Spinoza. It transcends even the most concrete philosophical and religious discourses and it shatters the dimensions of time via its eternal scope.

The dream Martin Luther King Jr. publicized endured persecution and Holy

Wars. It endured scandal and scrutiny; it endured the Dark Ages, the Middle Ages, the Renaissance, the French Revolution, the American Revolution, the Civil War, World War I, World War II, and every other conflict to date.

Its power rests not in man-made weaponry or in some body of government. Neither does it rest in a book of wise sayings or an academic ritual. Its influence rests in its ability to give hope to those who are bound, afflicted and desolate. The song "We Shall Overcome" is its rally point and bold warriors like Rosa Parks, Emmett Till, Medgar Evers, Michael Schwerner, Andrew Goodman, James Chaney and a host of other unsung heroes and heroines are its flag bearers.

Its clout can be found everywhere—even in the very words of our nation's Declaration of Independence: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness."

In Los Angeles, California, in Detroit, Michigan, in Memphis, Tennessee, in New Orleans, Louisiana, in Atlanta, Georgia and in places beyond the borders of the United States you will find the dream in action. You will find the dream operating in war-ravaged environments such as Iraq, Afghanistan, and Sudan. Why? The reason is simple: you will find keepers of the dream there. You will find them in every village, town, city, state, and country regardless of its sociopolitical status.

Granted, you can silence a dreamer, but you can never suppress the dream, for it cannot and will not die.

Through the collective efforts of all who stand against those who would deny basic human dignity to others we fulfill the dream. We make a difference.

Although you and I may not ever achieve the acclaim of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., we can nevertheless make or renew a commitment to dare to dream and to live the dream. That is what makes his holiday so special...it is a day to recognize and appreciate his ability to articulate a dream for a better world that all of us can share and strive to make a reality.

Provost Marshal Office: Weekly police blotter

Week of Dec. 23-29

The PMO conducted: (197) security checks, (86) traffic stops, issued (63) DD Form 1408 Armed Forces Traffic Tickets, registered (38) vehicles on the installation, and (12) Common Access Cards were reported lost.

The PMO is currently investigating: (2) Larceny Government/Personal Property cases and (4) General Order # 1 violations.

PMO Recommendations:

Vehicle operators should maintain an increased awareness of your surroundings while operating vehicles. Be mindful of pedestrian crossings and avoid accidents. Vehicles parked within 50 feet of "T-Barriers" will be ticketed;

promote installation security and park in designated areas. Your government identification card is just as important as your weapon, always protect and secure it.

Crime Prevention: While away from your room ensure the door is locked, window is secured and exterior light is on. During the hours of darkness your exterior lights illuminate your surroundings, making you a harder target against assault and your property a harder target against theft.

Lost and Found: To find out if your lost item has been turned into PMO, contact PMO/Investigations at 443-6105.

by: Air Force Staff Sgt. Mirta Jones, PMO



Photo by Air Force Staff Sgt. Mirta Jones

Bravo flight issued 28 tickets for failure to wear a seatbelt during Operation Click it or Ticket Dec. 28.

ANACONDA TIMES

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

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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

Mission Statement: Produce a weekly newspaper that provides the command leadership team a means of disseminating command information to servicemembers on Logistical Support Area Anaconda and subordinate 316th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) units throughout Iraq. Contents of the paper will target enlisted servicemembers, officers, and civilian staff as well as primarily highlight the mission and experiences of 316th ESC units and personnel, with a secondary objective of detailing the activities of the LSA Anaconda community.

Don't give bacteria the upper hand

by Jennifer Keefer

U.S. Army Combat Readiness Center

FORT RUCKER, Ala. – Around 76 million people become ill, more than 300,000 are hospitalized and 5,000 Americans die each year from foodborne illness according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The risk of foodborne illness increases during the summer months because disease-causing bacteria grow faster on raw meat and poultry products in warmer weather, said Dr. Richard Raymond, U.S. Department of Agriculture under secretary for food safety. Bacteria also need moisture to flourish and the hot and humid conditions of summer weather provide the perfect conditions.

Unfortunately, thermostat-controlled cooking, refrigeration and washing facilities are not usually available while grilling outdoors so it becomes even more important to be aware and take necessary steps to prevent foodborne illness and growth of bacteria. The USDA states that each assortment of poultry, beef and pork require a safe minimum internal temperature to ensure that food is fully cooked and safe to eat.

The temperatures that attract most bacteria are between 40 degrees and 140 degrees. Food should not sit out for more than two hours in temperatures below 90 degrees. In temperatures above that, people should discard food one hour after cooking.

Staff Sgt. Lance Osborne, Veterinary Services Food Safety Branch non-commissioned officer in charge of food inspection for Fort Rucker, emphasized the importance of temperature, as well as sanitation. "You need to keep hot foods hot and cold foods cold," said Osborne. As stated by USDA, cold is considered below 40 degrees while hot is above 140 degrees.

"Definitely, never partially cook something with the intention of finishing it up later," said Osborne. "This is where bacteria are more apt to grow. As for sanitation, never use the same plate for raw and cooked food, especially poultry. This can result in cross-contamination."

Several global outbreaks of food borne illness, such as mad cow disease and E. Coli, have increased concerns among the American public, according to a food and water safety report developed by the CDC. Most consumers said in the report that they feel they are at a lower risk from illnesses eating at home rather than at

restaurants. In fact, 20 percent of the reported cases involving food borne illness are a result of home preparation. Most of these cases could have been prevented with more emphasis on basic sanitation and awareness, CDC added.

Fortunately, according to the USDA, people rarely become ill from contaminated food because most people have a healthy immune system that protects them not only from harmful bacteria on food, but from other harmful organisms in the environment. But consumers can further protect themselves at home with proper refrigeration and thorough cooking of perishable food.

The USDA has provided four easy steps that can be used inside as well as outside during the summer months to help prevent the spread of bacteria.

- Clean – Wash hands and surfaces often.
- Separate – Don't cross-contaminate. Keep raw meat and poultry apart from cooked foods. Don't use the same cutting board, platter and utensils for raw and cooked meat.
- Cook – Use a food thermometer to be sure meat and poultry are safely cooked. Visual indications, such as brown exterior, do not always mean that it is fully cooked.
- Chill – Refrigerate or freeze promptly.

The USDA also offers pointers for defrosting and marinating food. For example, never defrost food at room temperature. The refrigerator is the most recommended place to defrost food. If time is restricted, people can seal meat in a plastic bag and place it in cold water for 30 minutes. As a last resort, people can defrost meat in the microwave as long as it is grilled immediately. As for marinating food, the USDA suggests never to marinate it at room temperature and never reuse the sauce.

To sum up the importance of healthy food preparation, usage and storage, the USDA stresses that people must remember the basics and if there is any doubt, throw it out.

Here is the USDA Meat and Poultry Hotline to answer any food safety questions. Call 1-888-MPHotline. A food safety specialist is available from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. eastern time on weekdays year round. Recorded food safety messages can also be heard 24 hours a day.

For more information check out the sites below:
www.fightbac.org; www.foodsafety.gov; www.fsis.usda.gov

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

G8 tracks distribution of 316th money

by Spc. Jay Venturini

Anaconda Times staff

LSA ANACONDA, Iraq – Being in a combat zone, there are some mission critical things needed that aren't issued by your supply sergeant. But do not fret, just as long as you can justify the need, the Army will be more than happy to get it for you.

The 316th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) (ESC) G8 section, which acts as the theater's checkbook and filing cabinet, has the daunting task of monitoring and recording all the money spent by the 316th and its subordinate units.

"We don't actually handle any money, we work as facilitators to get the items to our Soldiers who need them," said Capt. Gregory Hinton, the 316th ESC G8 deputy comptroller.

The process starts with a need for something such as a color printer. A Soldier can put in a request with justifications for anything he or she feels is a necessity. That's the easy part. The hard part is usually getting the request approved through the chain of command.

Any request up to \$199,999.99 has to be approved through the section the item will be used by and a colonel, which in most cases is Col. Jack E. Lechner, the 316th ESC chief of staff. Anything over that has to be approved through Multi-National Corps-Iraq (MNC-I).

So the request gets approved and you think you're finally getting the color printer so desperately needed; not quite yet. This starts an entirely new process of getting the money from the Army's hands to where it needs to go.

The money needed for the printer is then put on a spend plan which accounts for all the money needed for

"On an average month there could be between \$2 million and \$10 million on the spend plan depending on how many requests come in."

Spc. Francis Manning
316th ESC

the entire month.

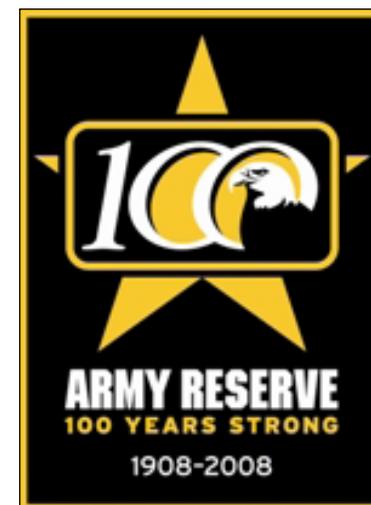
"On an average month there could be between \$2 million and \$10 million on the spend plan depending on how many requests come in," said Spc. Francis Manning, a 316th ESC G8 budget analyst.

After it is put on a spend plan, MNC-I, who controls all money in theater, allocates the needed money to the unit for those specified items. Once the money is given to the unit, all the items are then purchased and the unit finally gets the printer.

For the requester, that is where the story ends, but for G8 it is far from over. It is then their responsibility to ensure the numbers add up and all the money is accounted for. Many times, units request more money than necessary for a given project. The excess money then has to be accounted for and put back into the system.

"I am the checkbook for the 316th ESC," said Manning. "When the numbers don't add up, I have to figure out why and correct it."

So, if you have anything you're just itching to get for your section, your friendly G8 section is the place to go. They are more than happy to help you fill out the paper work and send it up the chain to get the process going so you can get what you need.



The U.S. Army Reserve Timeline

1908 Medical Reserve Corps is formed, creating the first reservoir of trained Officers in a Reserve status. The Army Reserve birthday is April 23, 1908.

1914-1918 World War I - 89,500 Officers from the Officers Reserve Corps participate; one-third are medical doctors. 80,000 members of the Enlisted Reserve Corps serve; 15,000 are in medical units.

1916-1920 National Defense acts of 1916 and 1920 create the Officers Reserve Corps and Enlisted Reserve Corps, later named the Organized Reserve Corps (ORC), forerunners of the current Army Reserve.

1920s Funding limits training for Reserve officers to two weeks every three to four years.

1930s Civilian Conservation Corps - More than 30,000 Army Reserve Officers help manage 2,700 CCC camps.

1940-1944 World War II - 200,000 members of the ORC participate. Reserve Officers provide 29% of the Army's Officers.

1948 Retirement pay and drill pay for ORC members enacted.

1950 Korean Conflict - 240,500 members of the ORC are called to Active Duty. More than 400 Army Reserve units serve in Korea.

1952-1955 Legislation re-names the ORC as the Army Reserve and divides it into a Ready Reserve, Standby Reserve and Retired Reserve and provides that Reserve units have 24 training days and up to 17 days of annual training. The President is given authority to call up to one million Army Reserve Soldiers of all services.

164th MP Co. goes to Balad, gets rid of "bad cop" mentality



Photo by Staff Sgt. Dave Lankford

BALAD, Iraq – Staff Sgt. Shane Wallize walks the streets with other Soldiers of the 164th Military Police Company after a visit to the Balad Police Department Dec. 16. Capt. Matthew Norris, the unit's company commander, said the most substantial way to influence and motivate the Iraqi Police force is by displaying American resilience. The IP see the American MPs get into firefights or get hit by IEDs and keep coming back. In many cases villages that were originally hostile to American forces have become accepting, and even friendly.

Flight safety office brings Balad bird strikes down 30 percent

by Staff Sgt. Travis Edwards
332nd Air Expeditionary Wing

BALAD AIR BASE, Iraq - With the help of volunteers from around the base, the 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing flight safety office reduced the number of bird strikes on aircraft by 30 percent here in November.

They accomplished this through the Bird Aircraft Strike Hazard program, which uses awareness and proactivity to reduce the number of bird-strike threats against aviation assets.

“We are here preserving the Air Force’s combat capabilities,” said Master Sgt. Brian Saunders, 332nd AEW flight safety. “Last year alone \$42 million in damage was done to Air Force aircraft from bird strikes.”

Helping Saunders alleviate the avian threat is the “BASH Militia,” a team of Army and Air Force volunteers from different specialties, armed with pellet rifles to deprive fowl flocks around the base.

“It’s really nice to get away from routine work in the office,” said Senior Airman Corey Pierce, 332nd Expeditionary Communications Squadron. “It’s fun and you’re helping the Air Force in the process.”

And for larger birds, like ducks near ponds, the sergeant



Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Travis Edwards

Master Sgt. Brian Saunders, the 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing Safety Office noncommissioned officer, lines up his next shot with a 12-gauge shotgun equipped with “bird scare” here. The bird scare is shot in the general vicinity of the birds and makes a loud noise comparable to a bottle rocket to scare the birds. Saunders and his volunteers, with the help of the bird scare, helped reduce the number of bird strikes here by 30 percent in November. Saunders is deployed from Aviano Air Base, Italy.

uses a 12-gauge shotgun filled with clay shots. “The clay shots don’t go as far,” said Saunders, so there is almost no chance of a ricochet hitting anything other than the intended target.

Saunders said the bird-strike threat is real, and “Birds have been known to take down aircraft and destroy engines, and as a result, have killed people.”

Flight engineer readies cargo hauler



Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Travis Edwards

BALAD AIR BASE, Iraq – Staff Sgt. Jose Sanchez, a 777th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron flight engineer, tests the control stick on a C-130 Hercules during a preflight inspection here, Dec. 26. Ensuring the controls work properly is essential to flight safety. Sanchez is deployed from Little Rock Air Force Base, Ark.

Do you or someone you know have an interesting story to tell?

Does your unit serve a special function others may not be aware of?



At the Anaconda Times, we want to tell YOUR story, so email us and we’ll do the rest.

anaconda.times@iraq.centcom.mil

Voting is not just your right, it's your duty

by Sgt. Jasmine Chopra

Anaconda Times staff

LSA ANACONDA, Iraq- You've raised your right hand and sworn to risk your life to defend your country. Shouldn't you have a say in how it is run? Voting is one way. Running for office is another.

Since most of us will not be throwing our names into races anytime soon, voting is a viable option for getting action taken on demands. And yet according to the U.S. Census Bureau, only about 69 percent of servicemembers vote, not bad considering only 60 percent of the military voters' civilian counterparts voted in the 2000 hotly debated presidential election.

If serving in the Armed Forces means duty is your watchword, than living up to a higher standard and voting at higher rates is to be expected. So what's up with the 31 percent of servicemembers who don't vote?

A 2004 U.S. Census Bureau report identified some of the following reasons voters fail to turn out:

- Too busy or conflicting work/school schedules
- Illness, disability, or family emergency
- Not interested or felt their vote wouldn't matter
- Out of town
- Dislike candidate or campaign issues
- Confusion or uncertainty about registration
- Forgetting
- Transportation problems
- To be sure, the military voter must overcome additional challenges the average voter doesn't, such as frequent moves both stateside and overseas and deployments to exotic locations such as Iraq, where infrequent



Web Image

mail delivery at "primitive" positions is a real issue.

But servicemembers are not strangers to challenges and dogged determination is often the key to getting military missions done.

Why not apply that type of relentless will to understanding what's going on in politics and government and get involved?

Some of you reading this article already plan to vote. You may have done extensive research on candidates and issues and have already made some preliminary decisions. You may feel this article is preaching to the choir.

If this is true for you, great. You can still make a difference by helping others exercise their right to vote. Show them how. When you get back home, volunteer for a candidate or party of your choice (so long as you do it as a citizen and not in your official capacity as a servicemember.) For specifics, refer-

ence the "Hatch Act" of 1939 or seek legal counsel. Train for one of the 30,000 volun-

teer positions available as a poll worker on election day, or if you're up for it, run for office. Leaders, encourage your personnel to vote and make time for them to attend to this all important duty.

For many servicemembers, absentee voting is the best option and with primaries just around the corner there's no time like the present to get ready to vote. An absentee vote is a ballot marked and mailed in advance by a voter who's away from the place where he or she is registered to vote.

Which brings up another important thing to consider: There is a "preparatory command" for voting and it is "register to vote." Voting is a two-part process and it involves planning and paperwork. But before anyone starts foaming at the mouth, don't despair. Official websites, recent voting acts aimed at facilitating the process and

voting assistance programs in theater for military servicemembers makes the process of registering to vote and actually casting your ballot easier than ever before.

Servicemembers should check with their personnel office to locate a voting assistance officer whose role is to help servicemembers vote.

If the accounts of Iraqi citizens who have risked being brutally killed to cast their votes, or shameful time in American history when the right to vote did not exist for slaves or women doesn't compel you, ponder this: elected officials have the power to decide when, where and for how long you go to war, if and when you get raises and about a hundred other things that may impact your quality of life. Don't you at least want to choose the folks who get to decide what's going to happen to you? Therefore, vote!

Absentee voting process goes like this:

Step 1: Citizen completes and mails the Federal Post Card Application Form (SF-76), Registration and Absentee Ballot Request Form.

Step 2: Local Election Official approves Registration request or requests further information.

Step 3: Local Election Official mails absentee ballot.

Step 4: Citizen votes and mails the absentee ballot to the Local Election Official in time to meet state deadlines.

For more information about voting, go to the following governmental web pages:

- <http://www.usa.gov/Citizen/Topics/Voting/Learn.shtml>
- <http://www.fvap.gov/index.html>
- <http://www.fvap.gov/pubs/vag.html#ch3>

MILK

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY- JAN. 21

7 a.m. 5-K Fun Run at Stadium
Sponsored by E-Troop CAV

7 p.m. Evening Ceremony
at MWR East

1:30 p.m. Glory Road
at Sustainment Theater

All DFACs will be showing
Dr. King during dinner



Web Image

2-320th seek weapons in Sheik Jamile raid

by Staff Sgt. Dave Lankford

Anaconda Times staff

SHEIK JAMILE, Iraq – The 1st Platoon (Hammer) element of the 2nd Battalion, 320th Field Artillery (FA) in conjunction with the Air Force Office of Special Investigations, conducted a raid on a farmhouse in Sheik Jamile recently in search of a suspected weapons cache.

The patrol was acting on information obtained from a “reliable source,” said Capt. Jonwayne Lindsey, the 2-320th FA executive officer.

“The mounted element moved into position isolating the house and road. The dismounted element conducted a tactical call out on the house then searched the house for any people who didn’t come out on their own,” said Lindsey.

Though neither the mounted or dismounted elements met with any resistance at the objective, protocol was followed and all inhabitants of the household were held outside the residence for questioning.

“Once the house was clear and secure the SSE (Sensitive Site Exploitation) team moved in to search the house for any evidence linking the occupants to AQI (Al-Qaeda in Iraq) or other AIF (anti-Iraqi Forces) cell,” said Lindsey.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Dave Lankford

Soldiers from the 2nd Battalion, 320th Field Artillery Regiment, in conjunction with Concerned Local Citizens, conducted a raid on a farmhouse in a village north of Balad after receiving a tip regarding a suspected weapons cache. Though no cache was uncovered after a thorough search, the cooperation of the CLC is another important step in securing Iraq.

sey.

Though the SSE team found documents linking the male occupants of the house to AIF, the search team did not find the weapons cache.

Lindsey believes the cache was moved only days before the raid.

Stability has increased greatly since the growth of Concerned Local Citizens

(CLC) has spread rapidly throughout Iraq. CLC, much like a neighborhood watch program, is made up of citizens fed up with the insurgency which has ravaged their towns and villages.

CLC in the local area has not only contributed to the volume and quality of information received by Coalition Forces (CF), but to the over all security in the area.

“Villages are telling me during our assessments that they feel much safer here now since the Concerned Local Citizens Groups started working in this AO (area of operation),” said Lindsey. “Each attack against CF results in some form of counter attack that has a direct effect on the enemy.”

This dramatic turn of events in the area surrounding Balad

City is reminiscent of the success seen in Baghdad, Anbar Province and throughout Iraq.

“I believe that we have AQI on the ropes and we will keep them there until Iraq can completely secure themselves,” said Lindsey.

7th SB presents friendship plaque to Romanian soldiers



Photo by Maj. Scott B. Kindberg

Camp Adder, Iraq – Col. Mark J. Barbosa, the 7th Sustainment Brigade commander presents Lt. Col. Christian Dinulica, the 32nd Romanian Infantry Battalion commander, a friendship plaque and Christmas stockings here Dec. 22. The Romanian and U.S. Soldiers later sang carols in celebration of the holidays.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Dave Lankford

A young Iraqi girl holds up the peace sign as Soldiers and Concerned Local Citizens patrol her village Dec 17. Parents in many areas are once again allowing their children to play out in the open, a freedom many children are experiencing for the first time.



Photo by Sgt. Dale Sweetnam

Crewchief Michelle Aina, 2nd Battalion, 147th Aviation Regiment, prepares for takeoff before the crew's Christmas Day mission.



Photo by Sgt. Dale Sweetnam

The two all female crews pause outside one of the Blackhawks during one of their scheduled stops on their Christmas Day mission. The Christmas Day mission was the first combat flight mission to be fully ran by females. The gunners, fuelers, pilots and the brief officer were all female.

Women take to the skies on Christmas

by Sgt. Dale Sweetnam

Task Force 49

LSA ANACONDA, Iraq – While their families, children and friends back home sat down for Christmas Eve dinner, two all-female UH-60 Black Hawk crews woke up early Christmas morning and began preparing for a rare and important mission.

Female Soldiers from 2nd Battalion, 147th Aviation Regiment spent their Christmas Day executing a 100 percent female-run flight mission. From the intelligence briefings in the morning, to the two four-woman flight crews, all the way to the fuel teams, the mission consisted of only women.

Black Hawk pilot Capt. Andrea Ourada, said the mission was not about busting open stereotypes or challenging the status quo, but rather about showing people how much women in the Army do already.

“It’s not about proving you can do the job you’re already qualified to do, it’s about how we have the capability to do it,” Ourada said. “Our Army is a lot more diverse than I think we realize.”

Ourada flew in the lead aircraft with Pilot Chief Warrant Officer Teresa Burgess and Crew Chiefs Staff Sgt. Michelle Smith, and Sgt. Leilani Aho. The trail aircraft was piloted by Chief Warrant Officer Angela Barros and Capt. Phoebe Inigo with Crew Chiefs Sgt. Michelle Aina and Sgt. Crisaron Voeth.

The crews flew all over Baghdad picking up VIPs including U.S. Rep. Michelle Bachmann of Minnesota. The crews also transported a general and several Soldiers during the general aviation support mission.

The mission went off just as planned, and while the women associated with the mission respected the unique nature of the flight, they wanted their fellow Soldiers to see the event as no big deal.

“It’s just another day at the office,” Aina

said before the flight.

While an all-female mission might challenge the perception of combat gender roles in today’s Army, Burgess said that’s not what the flight was all about.

“I don’t think this will change any gender stereotypes that are already present, and I’m not here to change any minds,” she said. “We are doing it because we can.”

Ourada added that the Black Hawk doesn’t care who runs the controls and soon a flight of this nature will be commonplace. “It can be the norm,” she said. “That aircraft operates the same way whether it’s a male or female behind the controls.”

The crew executed its Christmas Day mission and returned safely with no fanfare or exposure. The mission appeared just like any other.

However, Barros said the mission was a reminder that there is still a great deal of work to be done before it can be considered just another mission.

“Women in the military have overcome some huge barriers,” she said. “I believe this mission will be an eye opener, but unfortunately, I’m afraid the stereotypes will always be there. It’s how our society was brought up. Even at the end of 2007, [we’re considering this] an historic event.”

The National Guard unit houses Soldiers from Washington, Minnesota and Hawaii. Not only was the mission all female, but all three states were represented by the women executing it.

Lt. Col. Gregory Thingvold, the 2-147 Commander, spoke to the women before the flight and commented on how important the flight was, for not only the National Guard, but for young women back home.

“This demands attention,” he said. “Young ladies need good role models in their life. Our culture twists around to a fault what women should strive for in life. Here is an opportunity to showcase women in combat executing a combat mission. I want young women around this country to see these amazing women in action.”

Burgess said that no matter what this mission does to the Army’s gender stereotypes, it is still very important to the youth of the United States to see what women in the Army do.

“The one thing I hope this mission does is show little girls that they can do this. A lot of them don’t seem to know this,” she said.

Photo by Staff Sgt. Kelly Longbine

An all women’s team flew the skies of Iraq on Christmas Day. Members of the 2-147th Attack Helicopter Battalion boarded their aircraft during the early morning hours and ferried troops from Baghdad to Balad and back again. What made the mission even more unique was the fact that the refueler and mission brief personnel were also women.

Stagecoach Café brings pride to Taji Soldiers

by Pfc. Andrea Merritt

1st Sustainment Brigade

CAMP TAJI, Iraq – While some people were making lists of all the lavish gifts they wanted for Christmas, the Soldiers of the 68th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion (CSSB) were just happy to have a place of their own to eat.

After months of traveling back and forth on buses to the nearest dining facility after theirs closed down, the Soldiers of the 68th CSSB can practically walk right outside their doors to grab a meal.

“When we first got here, we had tents. They didn’t have any trailers so we just went with what we had,” said Staff Sgt. Kevin Frazier, the senior food operations noncommissioned officer for the 598th Maintenance Company, 68th CSSB.

After some of the leadership decided a new facility was in need, they came up with a plan to have one built.

About four months after the building process began, the Stagecoach Café was complete and opened on Thanksgiving Day.

In the small, single-serving line facility, Soldiers enjoyed a traditional Thanksgiving dinner with turkey, ham and other foods.



Photo by Pfc. Andrea Merritt

Spc. Algernon Phillips, a generator mechanic with the 598th Maintenance Company, 68th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, prepares a meal on the grill Dec. 24 at the battalion’s new dining facility, which opened Thanksgiving Day. Unlike many dining facilities, the Stagecoach Café is run and operated by Soldiers in the battalion. “There’s a lot of pride there because it’s our own. (It’s) run by our Soldiers, not KBR,” said Sgt. Reynaldo Luna, the battalion commander’s driver.

“It was excellent,” said Frazier. “Everyone was pleased.”

Although the Stagecoach Café doesn’t have the same wide variety as other DFACs

in the area, some Soldiers from the battalion still feel a sense of pride.

“We might not have all the selection as the other big DFAC, but our cooks bring

us the best they have,” said Sgt. Reynaldo Luna, the battalion commander’s driver for the 68th CSSB.

Unlike many other dining facilities, where civilian contractors make the meals, Soldiers in the battalion are responsible for preparing the food.

On Christmas Eve, Soldiers from the 598th Maint. Co. could be seen grilling

food for lunch on a deck right outside the back door of the Stagecoach Café.

“There’s a lot of pride there because it’s our own. (It’s) run by our Soldiers, not KBR,” said Luna.

The Soldiers of the 68th CSSB have benefited from the convenience of the Stagecoach Café since Thanksgiving and will continue to enjoy it well into the New Year.

Chaplains extend Christmas spirit to security contractors



Photo by Spc. Jay Venturini

LSA ANACONDA, Iraq - Sgt. 1st Class Margie Ayala, a 316th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) chaplain’s assistant, hands a care package to a Ugandan security contractor here Dec. 26. Ayala passed out over 200 care packages to the Ugandans as Christmas presents. The packages included items such as personal hygiene items, writing utensils and candy.



Photo by Pfc. Andrea Merritt

Soldiers of the 68th CSSB enjoy lunch in the battalion’s new dining facility, the Stagecoach Café. “When we first got here, we had tents. They didn’t have any trailers so we just went with what we had,” said Staff Sgt. Kevin Frazier, the senior food operations noncommissioned officer for the 598th Maintenance Company, 68th CSSB. Construction for the Stagecoach Café began in July and was complete by Thanksgiving. Soldiers enjoy it because they no longer have to catch a bus to the next nearest dining facility. It’s right by their living quarters.

USO cuts ribbon on its first facility in Iraq

by Spc. Jay Venturini

Anaconda Times staff

LSA ANACONDA, Iraq—The United Service Organizations (USO) held a ribbon cutting ceremony at their newly furnished building here Dec. 20 to celebrate their first facility in Iraq.

Adm. Mike Mullen, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and Air Force Col. Ralph Romine, the LSA Anaconda garrison commander, took part in the ceremony.

The facility, which will have its grand opening in early February, will feature a lounge, movie room, computer lab with 13 computers, phone room with four defense switched network (DSN) and one voice-over-internet protocol (VOIP) phones and two game rooms featuring all of the newest gaming systems.

“We try to provide a touch of home to the deployed servicemembers,” said Shari Jenson, the USO Balad director. “It’s a place where you can come in and just relax.”

The opening of the USO in Iraq has been nearly a year in the making. The request originated in March by the LSA Anaconda garrison commander. After going through the numerous required steps the final approval came in August.

“We were originally only supposed to have a room at



Photo by Spc. Jay Venturini

(From left) Air Force Col. Ralph Romine, the LSA Anaconda garrison commander, Adm. Mike Mullen, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Kevin Meade, the USO regional vice president and Shari Jenson, the USO Balad director, cut the ribbon in front of the new USO facility here. The facility is scheduled to open its doors in early February.

the theater hospital, but with the help of Col. Romine we were able to acquire an entire building, plus have the facility at the hospital,” said Kevin Meade, the USO regional vice president.

After receiving the building the USO staff has worked

tirelessly to get it ready to open. All the amenities inside the facility were purchased, shipped and placed in the building within a three week period.

“I really can’t say enough about how everyone has pulled together to get this

facility to where it is today. It is truly remarkable,” said Meade.

There are several differences that make the USO facility stand out from a morale, welfare and recreation (MWR) facility. Anyone can use USO facility while only military ID

holders can use MWR. The USO also gives their users a more intimate, homey feel.

The USO facility is located on Indiana Street, across the street from the East MWR. The hours of operation will be 9 a.m. through midnight seven days a week.

America’s warrior

by Spc. Jennifer L. Sierra

A snapshot of servicemembers in the Global War on Terrorism

Full name and rank: Airman 1st Class Myrddin McHugh.

Unit: 332nd Expeditionary Civil Engineering Squadron.

Job Title: Material Control.

Time in service: 5 ½ years.

Age: 23.

Hometown: Logan, Iowa.

Family: I am the oldest of three. My sister has a daughter and is a nurse in the Army Reserve. My brother goes to a Christian college, studying to be a youth minister.

Hobbies: I enjoy song writing and freestyle writing. I also play the guitar. Whenever I get the chance I’ll play a video game or two.

Life-changing event/moment: June 11, 2002. The day I actively joined the military. This whole experience has shaped me into the person I am today; from Okinawa to Texas and my time spent in Iraq. I’ve had ups and downs over the years, but overall I’m a better person.

Lesson Learned: Not everyone has a sense of humor.

The person I admire the most: My parents; my father, for his wit and good humor. My mother, for her love and compassion for family.

Why I joined the military: I didn’t have any idea of what I would like to study in college, so I joined the military to try and figure that out while making some money and gaining the Montgomery G. I. Bill.

If I wasn’t in the military I would be: Working full-time, no ambition, living out of either my mother’s or father’s house.

The one thing I would change about the Air Force: If you would have asked me a few years ago, I’d have a big list. But, right now I guess they got it going (in the right direction).

What makes a good Airman: Learn and thoroughly know your responsibilities and job.

What makes a good leader? Doing what others can’t do.

Motivations in life: Music. I can’t dance to it, but to make others dance to it, or nod to the beat, is amazing.

Unusual fact about you: Wherever I live, if



Courtesy Photo

there’s a set of stairs I manage to fall down them.
Goals: Unrealistic: Retire before I’m 30. Realistic: Graduate from film school.
Hardest part of my job here: Answering phones. I always end up crashing into something.
Best part of my life: Unbelievable friends, not necessarily all good things.

1st SB Soldier faces hardship, continues to serve

by Pfc. Andrea Merritt

1st Sustainment Brigade

CAMP TAJI, Iraq – The 1st Sustainment Brigade (SB), which deployed to Iraq in late September, has many Soldiers who have deployed to the Middle East multiple times since the Global War on Terror began.

Each time they go overseas, they are subject to danger. Sgt. Danny Williams Jr., a human resources specialist for the 1st SB who is deployed for the third time, is familiar with that danger.

During his first deployment, Williams, a Dallas, Texas native who grew up in North Carolina, was a cannon crewmember with the 1st Squadron, 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment (ACR).

“I never thought I would grow up and join the Army, but my dreams of being a football player stopped because I got hurt. I blew my knee out,” Williams said candidly.

His father, who is a retired sergeant major, convinced him to sign up.

“He said it would be a good stepping stone even if I didn’t want to make it a career. It would at least help me out just to get started doing something. Turns out I want to make it a career,” he confessed.

While rolling along the streets of Al Kut, Iraq, June 30, 2004, Williams and the other Soldiers of the 1st Squadron, 2nd ACR, were filled with insurmountable joy because after 15 months in theater they were finally going home.

“We woke up that morning about four in the morning getting everything ready. We did last minute checks on the trucks and the loads and made sure everything was secure that need to be secured,” said Williams.

Once the checks were complete, the overjoyed Soldiers mounted their vehicles to begin the convoy taking them out of Iraq and into their families’ arms.

After the third stop on the convoy, Williams, who was also known as “Big Will” by his colleagues, took over driving in the five-ton truck he was riding in.

The 40-vehicle procession travelled down the road at about 35 miles per hour. Williams was driving towards the center of the left-hand lane when an IED hidden on the right side of the road det-



Photo by Sgt. Danny Williams Jr.

Soldiers of the 1st Squadron, 2nd ACR, use a wrench and chains to lift a M18 Howitzer that turned over in the crash.

onated. It exploded before he drove past it.

“No shrapnel hit inside the truck. It hit the front right tire and shredded it and I lost complete control of the truck,” Williams said.

The vehicle, which was toting a 15-ton M198 Howitzer, swerved and hit the lip on the side of the road. When the back part of the truck swung around, the weight of the gun caused the truck to flip over.

The Soldiers who witnessed the wreck stood stunned for a moment, but when the initial shock wore off they rushed into action to save the four people trapped inside the vehicle.

One of the Soldiers in a vehicle behind the 5-ton had a camcorder and videotaped the miraculous rescue.

“All you saw were kev-lars flying, flak vest coming off and people diving trying to get under the truck,” said Williams.

The six-foot, two-hundred twenty pound Soldier was trapped in the cab of the vehicle “all twisted and mangled.”

“I remember them saying ‘Big Will, we’re going to get you out. Were going to get you out,’” Williams recalled. “I remember telling them, ‘don’t let me die. Don’t let me die.’ ‘Tell my kids I love them.’ Then I blacked out.”

In order to get him out of the vehicle, they lifted the truck using a wrench and chains for a high-mobility multipurpose wheeled vehi-

cle, which are much thinner than chains used for a 5-ton.

While he was unconscious in the vehicle, fluids from the engine leaked into the cab of the truck and Williams began to drown in them. When the physician’s assistant came to assess him, he wasn’t breathing and he didn’t have a pulse.

He performed CPR on Wil-

liams, but when he did not respond to treatment the PA pounded on his chest until he gasped for air, said Williams.

“They said when I woke up I let out some kind of crazy scream and tried to fight everybody. They wound up having to restrain me on the litter,” he said.

He didn’t have any broken bones, but sustained five her-

niated discs in his back and suffered nerve damage along the right side of his body.

Since the blast, Williams has made a full recovery although he still has some back problems.

“I can still do everything I could before just at limited capacity,” he said.

Williams also admits he had trouble facing his demons on the road when he returned home.

“I was always nervous and I couldn’t let anybody else drive. I would drive more scared on a highway,” said Williams. “I’m still timid with driving, but I’m better, more comfortable.”

When Williams deployed for a second time in 2005 to Afghanistan, he answered the call with a new lease on life.

“I guess the reason I didn’t fight going back was because, for one, I didn’t really remember the accident ... and it was kind of like having closure, facing the fear,” he described.

Williams had an option to stay behind when his current unit, the 1st SB, deployed in September, but he volunteered to go with them.

“Now going back, I have no fears. This deployment is my job,” Williams concluded.

CG awards LSAA best holiday DFAC



Photo by Spc. Thomas Keeler

Sgt. 1st Class Ernestine Carter (far left), the food service noncommissioned officer-in-charge at Dining Facility No. 3 with the 316th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), stands ready to receive a dining facility award from Brig. Gen. Gregory E. Couch, the commanding general of the 316th ESC here Dec. 26. Dining facility managers across Iraq put extra effort into improving the dining experience for servicemembers in Iraq over the holidays.

Upcoming sports on AFN

Wednesday 1/9/08

Indiana @ Michigan live 3:00 a.m. AFN/sports
 Colorado Avalanche @ Detroit Red Wings live 3:30 a.m. AFN/xtra
 Florida @ Alabama live 5:00 a.m. AFN/sports; replay 11:00 a.m. AFN/sports
 Orlando Magic @ Sacramento Kings live 6:00 a.m. AFN/xtra
 Bradley @ Southern Illinois replay 12:30 p.m. AFN/sports
 Georgetown @ DePaul replay 6:00 p.m. AFN/sports

Thursday 1/10/08

Duke @ Temple live 3:00 a.m. AFN/sports; replay 10:00 p.m. AFN/sports
 Mississippi @ Tennessee live 4:00 a.m. AFN/xtra
 Detroit Pistons @ Dallas Mavericks live 5:00 a.m. AFN/sports; replay 11:00 a.m. AFN/sports
 Toronto Maple Leafs @ Anaheim Ducks live 6:00 a.m. AFN/xtra
 Pittsburgh @ South Florida replay 4:00 p.m. AFN/sports
 UNC Asheville @ North Carolina replay 5:30 a.m. AFN/sports

Friday 1/11/08

West Virginia @ Louisville live 3:00 a.m. AFN/xtra
 Detroit Pistons @ San Antonio Spurs live 4:00 a.m. AFN/sports
 Illinois @ Wisconsin live 5:00 a.m. AFN/xtra
 Phoenix Suns @ Utah Jazz live 6:30 a.m. AFN/sports
 Washington State @ USC replay 1:00 p.m. AFN/sports
 California @ Oregon replay 5:00 p.m. AFN/sports

Saturday 1/12/08

St. Louis Blues @ Columbus Blue Jackets live 3:00 a.m. AFN/xtra
 Miami Heat @ New Orleans Hornets live 4:00 a.m. AFN/sports
 Phoenix Coyotes @ Vancouver Canucks live 6:00 a.m. AFN/xtra
 Milwaukee Bucks @ Los Angeles Lakers live 6:30 a.m. AFN/sports; replay 11:30 a.m. AFN/sports
 Auburn @ Florida live 8:00 p.m. AFN/xtra
 North Carolina State @ North Carolina live 8:00 p.m. AFN/sports
 Texas Tech @ Oklahoma State live 9:30 p.m. AFN/sports
 Connecticut @ Georgetown live 10:00 p.m. AFN/prime
 Washington State @ UCLA live 10:30 p.m. AFN/xtra

Sunday 1/13/08

Ohio State @ Purdue live 12:00 a.m. AFN/prime
 California @ Oregon State live 12:30 a.m. AFN/xtra
 NFL Divisional Playoffs Teams TBD live 12:30 a.m. AFN/sports
 Michigan @ Northwestern live 2:30 a.m. AFN/prime
 NFL Divisional Playoffs Teams TBD live 4:00 a.m. AFN/sports
 Michigan State @ Iowa live 4:30 a.m. AFN/prime
 Kansas @ Nebraska live 5:00 a.m. AFN/xtra
 Georgia Tech @ Miami replay 7:00 a.m. AFN/xtra
 Arizona @ Houston replay 9:00 a.m. AFN/xtra
 Colorado State @ BYU replay 11:00 a.m. AFN/xtra
 Tennessee @ South Carolina replay 1:00 p.m. AFN/xtra
 Milwaukee Bucks @ Phoenix Suns replay 3:00 p.m. AFN/xtra
 Orlando Magic @ Utah Jazz replay 5:30 p.m. AFN/xtra
 Louisville @ Rutgers live 8:00 p.m. AFN/xtra
 NFL Divisional Playoffs Teams TBD live 9:00 p.m. AFN/sports
 Alabama @ Arkansas live 9:30 p.m. AFN/prime
 Syracuse @ West Virginia live 10:00 p.m. AFN/xtra

Monday 1/14/08

Stanford @ Oregon live 12:30 a.m. AFN/prime
 NFL Divisional Playoffs Teams TBD live 12:30 a.m. AFN/sports
 Colorado Avalanche @ Florida Panthers live 1:00 a.m. AFN/xtra
 Virginia @ Duke live 4:00 a.m. AFN/prime
 Indiana Pacers @ Golden State Warriors live 5:00 a.m. AFN/xtra
 Philadelphia Flyers @ Washington Capitals replay 7:30 a.m. AFN/xtra
 Detroit Pistons @ New York Knicks replay 10:00 a.m. AFN/xtra
 New Orleans Hornets @ Houston Rockets replay 6:00 p.m. AFN/xtra

Tuesday 1/15/08

New York Rangers @ Pittsburgh Penguins live 3:00 a.m. AFN/xtra
 Georgetown @ Pittsburgh live 3:00 a.m. AFN/sports
 Oklahoma @ Kansas live 5:00 a.m. AFN/sports
 Gonzaga @ Pepperdine live 8:00 a.m. AFN/sports
 Portland Trail Blazers @ New Jersey Nets replay 3:00 p.m. AFN/sports

SUSTAINER REEL TIME THEATER

(Schedule is subject to change)

Wednesday, Jan. 9
 5 p.m. Enchanted (PG)
 8 p.m. Beowulf (PG-13)

Thursday, Jan. 10
 5 p.m. The Water Horse (PG)
 8 p.m. Enchanted (PG)

Friday, Jan. 11
 Yellowcard in concert begins at 7 p.m.

Saturday, Jan. 12
 2 p.m. This Christmas (PG-13)
 5 p.m. The Bucket List (PG-13)
 8 p.m. Hitman (R)

Sunday, Jan. 13
 2 p.m. The Bucket List (PG-13)
 5 p.m. This Christmas (PG-13)
 8 p.m. August Rush (PG)

Monday, Jan. 14
 5 p.m. Hitman (R)
 8 p.m. The Bucket List (PG-13)

Tuesday, Jan. 15
 5 p.m. The Bucket List (PG-13)
 8 p.m. This Christmas (PG-13)



ANACONDA ACTIVITIES

INDOOR POOL

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.

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Created by Julie Roth

Army announces stationing decisions

Army News Release

Army News Service

The U.S. Army announced Dec. 19 unit stationing decisions to support the President's plan to grow the Army by 74,200 Soldiers across all three Army components. This growth includes the stationing of six new infantry brigade combat teams, eight support brigades in the active component, and associated growth in smaller combat support and combat service support units required to compliment the U.S. Army's overall force-structure growth.

The foundation for this stationing plan is implementation of Base Realignment and Closure-directed (BRAC) realignments. This plan relocates the 1st Armored Division from Germany to Fort Bliss Texas, and the 1st Infantry Division from Germany to Fort Riley, Kan., and Fort Knox, Ky., by September 2011. The plan extends brigade combat team capabilities in the European command for an additional two years through the activation of two brigade combat teams in Germany in 2008 and 2010. This supports near-term theater security needs, and reduces stress and turbulence on Soldiers and Families by allowing needed time for construction to support transformation, BRAC realignments, and Grow the Army stationing.

The Army currently has 42 Active Component brigade combat teams. Complying with the Record of Decision for the Army's Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement, the Army will grow six infantry brigade combat teams for a total of 48 by: retaining one infantry brigade combat team at Fort Carson,

Colo., as the 43rd Brigade Combat Team (Fiscal Year 2008); activating the 44th Brigade Combat Team at Fort Bliss, Texas, in Fiscal Year 2009; converting one heavy brigade combat team to an infantry brigade combat team at Fort Stewart, Ga. in Fiscal Year 2010; and growing three infantry brigade combat teams in Fiscal Year 2011, one each at Fort Stewart, Ga. (46th BCT), Fort Carson, Colo. (47th BCT), and Fort Bliss, Texas (48th BCT). The two brigade combat teams stationed in Germany for two years will relocate in Fiscal Year 2012 and 2013 respectively. These units tentatively are to go to Fort Bliss, Texas, and White Sands Missile Range, N.M.

The Army will also activate eight active component support brigades and restation two others as part of rebalancing the force at the following locations: In Fiscal Year 08, an air defense artillery brigade headquarters activates at Fort Hood, Texas, and an engineer brigade headquarters activates at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii; in Fiscal Year 2009, a maneuver enhancement brigade activates at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo; in Fiscal Year 2010 a fires brigade activates at Fort Bliss, Texas, and a maneuver enhancement brigade will be restationed to Fort Richardson, Alaska, pending completion of supplemental environmental analysis in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act; in Fiscal Year 2011, an expeditionary sustainment command headquarters activates at Fort Lewis, Wash., and a sustainment brigade activates at Fort Hood, Texas; in Fiscal Year 2013, a military police brigade will be retained at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, a battlefield surveillance brigade activates at Fort Polk, La., and a

maneuver enhancement brigade will be restationed to Fort Drum, N.Y.

To support these six infantry brigade combat teams and eight support brigades, the Army simultaneously is announcing the stationing of approximately 30,000 Soldiers in combat support and combat service support units throughout the United States as well as various overseas locations. The details are contained in a report directed by the Fiscal Year 2007 Emergency Supplemental Appropriations' Act requiring the Secretary of Defense to submit a stationing plan to support Army Growth.



FOB Q-West welcomes UFC star Tito Ortiz

by Pfc. Gaelen Lowers

3rd Sustainment Brigade

FOB Q-WEST, Iraq – Forward Operating Base Q-West received a visit from Tito Ortiz, the mixed martial arts fighter and former Ultimate Fighting Championship light heavyweight champ, Dec. 18.

Ortiz, having a previous experience with visiting Soldiers in Iraq, flew from Washington to Kuwait with fellow fighter Justin McCully. They were then flown by plane to Camp Liberty in Baghdad and by Black Hawk helicopter to the Army base in Taji.

They met with an estimated 3,000 officers and enlisted personnel, signing autographs, posing for photos and chatting individually with Soldiers.

“When the [United Service Organizations] asked us [to come visit],” Ortiz said, “we were like, ‘People say no?’”

Ortiz, who then came to FOB Q-West, stopped by brigade headquarters and eventually the dining facility to have a bite to eat while meeting with Soldiers and civilians alike. He hoped the visit brightened the Soldier’s spirits.

“Hopefully this takes them out of the outside and gives them a little bit of home,” said Ortiz. “It’s awesome to come out here and boost a little morale



Photo by Pfc. Gaelen Lowers

Tito Ortiz and Justin McCully, both mixed martial arts fighters and Ultimate Fighting Championship fighters, are greeted by Command Sgt. Maj. Clifton H. Johnson, the 3rd Sustainment Brigade and Forward Operating Base Q-West command sergeant major, while making a visit to FOB Q-West Dec. 18.

and I think that is what it comes down to.”

During their stop at the 3rd Sustainment Brigade headquarters on FOB Q-West, the command sergeant major of the 3rd Sustainment Brigade and FOB Q-West, Command Sgt. Maj. Clifton H. John-

son, presented Ortiz and fellow fighter McCully with a coin.

“We are excited you guys are here,” said Johnson. “We have this thing in the Army we call a coin of excellence. We give these to studs, not duds.”

McCully expressed his

“You guys are out here fighting for us, and we’re back there fighting for you.”

Justin McCully
UFC

gratitude for the Soldiers doing their jobs here in

Iraq and in other areas of operation.

“Thank you so much for what you’re doing out here,” said McCully.

“We can’t put it into words the appreciation we have for you guys. You guys are out here fighting for us, and we’re back there fighting for you.”

Although he got to meet with a lot of fans, Ortiz said that he is a fan of the Soldiers putting their lives on the line everyday for him and their country.

“Thank you guys so much for what you’re doing out here,” said Ortiz.

“They say to me, ‘Tito you’re our hero.’ The truth is that you’re our heroes. You guys are out here holding those guns, defending our country. Being away from your family during the holidays is really hard. You’re the ones that are truly sacrificing.”

Cub Scout Pack 236 requests flag flown at Taji

by Staff Sgt. Bryant Maude

1st Sustainment Brigade

CAMP TAJI, Iraq – The Soldiers of 1103rd Combat Sustainment Support Battalion (CSSB) received numerous cards and treats from some youngsters in Atlanta recently.

The messages were assembled and mailed by Cub Scout Pack 236 led by Josh Moreland, a friend and neighbor of Lt. Col. Lee Ellis, commander of the 1103rd CSSB, an Alabama National Guard unit.

“This is all the stuff we collected from 10 cub scout dens at three different elementary schools over the past two weeks,”

wrote Moreland in a letter to Ellis.

Along with the cards and treats came a large “battle flag” belonging to Den 5.

The boys mailed the flag in hopes of it being flown over Iraq, lowered and signed by the Soldiers of 1103rd and mailed back.

“We raised the flag and it’s being signed and then we’ll send it back to the scouts,” said Command Sgt. Maj. John Hagler, command sergeant major for the 1103rd CSSB.

“I want to thank you and your Soldiers in the 1103rd for your sacrifice and commitment to our country,” wrote Moreland.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Bryant Maude

(Left to right) Capt. Melvin Tucker, chaplain for the 1103rd Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, and Lt. Col. Lee Ellis, commander of the 1103rd CSSB, hold up the “battle flag” of Cub Scout Den 5 from Atlanta. The flag was mailed by Josh Moreland, a friend and neighbor of Ellis in hopes of having the flag flown over Iraq, signed by Soldiers of the 1103rd CSSB and mailed back to Georgia.

Improv comedians crack up LSA Anaconda



Photo by Spc. Jay Venturini

Comedian Karri Turner performs in a skit during the USO Laugh in the New Year – Improv in Iraq tour at Sustainer Theater here Dec. 30. The comedians took suggestions from the crowd on the skit scenarios.



Photo by Spc. Jay Venturini

Servicemembers get a good laugh at the USO Laugh in the New Year – Improv in Iraq tour at Sustainer Theater here Dec. 30.



Photo by Spc. Jay Venturini

Chief Master Sgt. Paul Wheeler, the 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing command chief master sergeant, participates in a skit during the USO Laugh in the New Year – Improv in Iraq tour at Sustainer Theater. The tour stopped at various installations throughout Iraq.

Entertainers have blast at Anaconda



Photo by Spc. Jay Venturini

LSA ANACONDA, Iraq – Model Leann Tweeden prepares to fire an M-4 carbine as a range safety noncommissioned officer supervises at a rifle range here. Tweeden, along with several other entertainers, visited as part of a USO tour which traveled to several camps throughout Iraq.



Photo by Spc. Jay Venturini

Airman 1st Class Scott Holman (middle), a member of the Mayor Cell force protection, join comedians Michael McDonald (right) and Alex Kapp Horner, for a skit during USO Laugh in the New Year – Improv in Iraq tour at Sustainer Theater. The performers picked people from the audience to participate in the skits.