

AnacondaTimes

FEBRUARY 27, 2008

PROUDLY SERVING LSA ANACONDA



Photo by Sgt. Jasmine Chopra

118th goes the extra mile

Maintenance Co. provides a one-stop shop

Page 4



Photo by Barry Greenberg

Paratroopers provide aid

Soldiers hand out soccer balls to Iraq's youth.

Page 5



Photo by Sgt. Jasmine Chopra

Firefighter training

Soldiers and Airmen train to ensure safety throughout LSA Anaconda

Pages 8-9



Photo by Sgt. Daniel Dills

Paratroopers from Company F, 2nd Bn., 504th PIR discharge static from the V-22 Osprey prior to attaching a load at Al Asad Air Base in Western Iraq.

Paratroopers, Marines conduct historic slingload training

by 1st Lt. Jake Jones

Company F, 2nd Bn., 504th PIR

Al Asad, Iraq - Paratroopers from Distribution Platoon, Company F, 2nd Battalion, 504th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division became the first Army unit in Iraq to conduct sling load training operations with the V-22 Osprey in February.

The operation was conducted in cooperation with the Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 263, Marine Aircraft Group 29, 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing – the “Thunder Chickens.”

“To be able to work with the Marine Corps as part of a joint training exercise was a unique opportunity for our Paratroopers. Sling loading with an Osprey was a high-payoff event that I will never forget,” said Sgt. 1st Class Christopher Bowers, platoon sergeant of the distribution platoon, otherwise known as the “Workhorse Team.”

Over the past few months, the unit has been developing its capa-

bilities to project supplies via external load and this training served as the culminating exercise.

Paratroopers executed the sling load training using 4,400 pound water blivets and rotated through the hook-up, static discharge and signal man positions. In all, the two aircraft conducted ten lifts that allowed more than 26 Paratroopers to rotate through the ground team duties.

Prior to working with aircraft, the Paratroopers conducted rehearsals using the crane on the M1074 Palletized Load System. This proved to be a great way to validate the rigging and hook procedures, but in no way prepared the teams for the rotor wash from the Osprey.

The loadmasters warned the Paratroopers to be prepared for rotor wash similar to the CH-53 Super Stallion helicopter. Since none of

See **Slingload**, Page 7

'At ease' with the 316th CSM



Command Sgt. Maj. Stacey E. Davis

This past week I had the pleasure to participate in the induction of 77 Soldier-leaders into the ranks of the Noncommissioned Officer Corps. As I witnessed this ceremony unfold, I felt a sense of pride and confidence overtake me knowing that the future of our Army's NCO Corps was in good hands.

Since the forming of the first militia in the Jamestown colony, NCOs have been a mainstay of the American military experience. We have fought and led in every conflict or expeditionary campaign to date. Our history is rich and our contributions are many. We are as Rudyard Kipling so prophetically stated "the backbone of the army."

We manage, train, and lead our nation's most valuable resource: its young men and women who have answered the call to duty. In addition, we often provide counsel and on the job mentorship to newly commissioned junior officers to ensure that they are poised for career success.

No one is more professional than we are, for we are leaders of a time-hon-

ored vocation. Competence and commitment are our hallmarks and mission accomplishment and the welfare of Soldiers are our two basic responsibilities. For over two centuries, we have fulfilled this sacred obligation with pride and selfless service. From what I have seen I know that we will continue to do so. The NCO leader of today combines history and tradition with skill and ability to meet the demands of a nation and Army at War.

The first line of *The Creed of the Noncommissioned Officer* says it all, "No one is more professional than I." Those 77 patriotic Soldier-leaders who were recently welcomed into the fold of the NCO Corps should never forget this and should always strive to make these seven powerful yet simple words their compass to guide them to higher heights as well as to personal and professional self fulfillment. Until then, continue to sustain the victory and always place our service members and civilian staff first.

Command Sgt. Maj. Stacey E. Davis

Command
Sergeant
Major



NCOs
lead the
way!

Provost Marshal Office: weekly police blotter

(Week of Feb. 11-17)

The PMO conducted: (194) Security checks, (17) Traffic stop, issued (21) DD Form 1408 Armed Forces Traffic Tickets, registered (451) vehicles on the installation, (4) minor/ (1) major traffic accidents and (12) common access cards were reported lost, (1) stray rounds and (4) individuals were barred from LSAA.

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

PMO Recommendations: LSAA Regulation 90-5; Failure to yield right-of-way at traffic circles: At traffic circles vehicles already in the circle shall have the right-of-way over vehicles approaching and entering the circle. Give way to the vehicles on your left, when entering a traffic circle.

Failure to obey stop sign: The driver of a vehicle approaching an intersection on a road-

way controlled by a stop sign shall, stop the vehicle even with the stop sign. Before proceeding, the driver shall yield the right-of-way to the driver of any vehicle approaching the roadway from either direction. Vehicle tires must come to a complete stop at the posted stop sign; however, there is no pre-determined momentary pause; the vehicle must stop, and then proceed.

Crime Prevention: Always practice weapons retention; you never know whose hands your weapon could end up in. Remember to always wear your seatbelt while in a vehicle. All Gator, ATV and Ranger operators must be in possession of authorization approval letter obtained through the Mayor Cell.

Lost & 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



Photo by Air Force Staff Sgt. Mirta Jones

Senior Master Sgt. Scott Powers, an MP with the provost marshal office, retrieves alcohol found inside a spider hole during a morale and welfare check.

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.

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1st Sustainment Brigade
3rd Sustainment Brigade
1/82nd Brigade Combat Team
7th Sustainment Brigade
332nd Air Expeditionary Wing
20th Engineer Brigade
213th Area Support Group
402nd Army Field Support Brigade
507th Corps Support Group
CJSOTF-AP
Task Force 49

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.

Born to run

by 1st Lt. Kieth Wolowodiuk

1st Sustainment Brigade

CAMP SLAYER, Iraq – “THUD, THUD, THUD, THUD,” is the sound heard when entering the Camp Slayer Fishbowl Gym as Spc. Ruben Martinez, an infantryman with Company C, 1st Battalion, 185th Infantry, is working out. A runner to the core, Martinez runs for fun and sport.

“It comes easy for me,” said Martinez. “It’s something I am naturally good at.”

He started running in high school and his skills and dedication earned him a scholarship at the University of California– Los Angeles, where he is pursuing a double major in criminal justice and business management.

Currently, Martinez runs around the Victory Base Complex any chance he gets. On average, Martinez runs 50 miles a week to stay in shape and has managed to burn through two pairs of running shoes. On his most recent Army Physical Fitness Test, Martinez was the fastest runner in the company scoring 11 minutes, 40 seconds on his two-mile event.

He also likes to compete. Martinez has competed in seven 5K and 10K runs while deployed here. He does not just compete, he wins. The lowest he has ever placed was third, and that was a race held at Camp Buehring, Kuwait, a few days after he arrived in theater. His excuse for third place was jet lag.

He made up for the “low” showing in Kuwait by winning a number of silver and gold medals over the next several months, to include placing second in the Camp Victory Navy 10K Run and first in the Camp Victory Air Force 10K run. During his leave he participated with his teammates in the UCLA All Comer’s Meet where he placed fifth overall.



Photo by Master Sgt. Luis Montano

Westwood, Calif., native Spc. Ruben Martinez, is an infantryman with Company C, 1st Battalion, 185th Infantry, a National Guard unit out of Fullerton, Calif. Martinez holds up the first place prize he earned while competing in the Camp Victory Air Force 10K Run. “It comes easy for me,” said Martinez.

This is not Martinez’s first time running in Iraq; he racked up eight prizes while deployed during Operation Iraqi Freedom III. He is also remembered as the guy who broke five treadmills.

“I was banned from using the treadmills for a month by the Moral Welfare and Recreation staff,” Said Martinez. “They were afraid I would break all of them!”

Martinez’s future plans are to return home, graduate from college, and try out for the U.S. Olympic Team, where he plans to finish Army Strong!

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 (4155)
 5:30 p.m. Gilbert Memorial (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. Gilbert Memorial (H-6)
 7 p.m. Provider Chapel

PROTESTANT – CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP

Sunday 9 a.m. MWR East Building
 10:30 a.m. TOWN HALL(H-6)
 8 p.m. Eden Chapel
 2 p.m. Castle Heights (4155)
 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
 10:30 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—SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST

Saturday 9 a.m. Provider

PROTESTANT—CHURCH OF CHRIST

Sunday 3:30 p.m. Castle Heights (4155)

ROMAN CATHOLIC MASS

(Sacrament of Reconciliation 30 min prior to Mass)

Saturday 5 p.m. Gilbert Memorial (H-6)
 8 p.m. Freedom Chapel (West Side)
 11 p.m. Air Force Hospital Chapel

Sunday 8:30 a.m. Gilbert Memorial (H-6)

10:30 a.m. Provider Chapel

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

Mon,Wed,Fri 5p.m. Gilbert Memorial

LATTER DAY SAINTS-(LDS)-(MORMON)

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

JEWISH SHABBAT SERVICES

Friday 7 p.m. Gilbert Memorial (H-6)

ISLAMIC SERVICE

Friday Noon Provider Chapel (West Side)

PAGAN/ WICCAN FELLOWSHIP

Thursday, Saturday 7 p.m. Eden Chapel

BUDDHIST FELLOWSHIP

Tuesday 7 p.m. Eden Chapel

*Please note, schedule is subject to change.

Do you have a story idea ?

Contact the Anaconda Times
 anaconda.times@iraq.centcom.mil

Going the extra mile to keep troops mission-ready

by Sgt. Jasmine Chopra

302nd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

LSA ANACONDA, Iraq- Sort of like Costco, the largest membership warehouse chain with high-quality, low cost merchandise and loyal, helpful employees, the 118th Maintenance Company is a one-stop shop for tons of products and services.

From crafting wooden furniture and structures, to fabricating life-saving fixtures for vehicle doors, to repairing weapons, electronics, vehicles and more, the 118th gets it done. The team consists of about 240 California National Guard Soldiers stretched across several forward operating bases.

"We are here to support Soldiers, primarily in the, 106th Transportation Battalion. Whatever Soldiers need, we always try to get it done," said Staff Sgt. Oscar Zavala, 118th shop foreman. He serves as foreman for the woodshop, automotive maintenance section and "Skunk Werks" welding shop.

Customers benefit from the 118th's skill and expertise.

"There has been some on the job training for the newer vehicles, but many of us are fulltime technicians, so you're getting real pros," he said.

While their first priority is the 106th, 118th technicians do everything they can to help other Soldiers too.

"My Soldiers volunteer to stay an average of 80 hours a week (group total) after normal work hours to help unsupported units," said Zavala.

"That takes real dedication. It could be a unit from another FOB that is having electrical problems, say the search lights or "go" light is out. We'll rewire or replace them so they can continue on with their mission," he said. "We understand that Soldiers might need us at odd hours and we take care of them."



Photo by Sgt. Jasmine Chopra

Sgt. Jose Patino (left) and Sgt. Lon Lo, replace the rear halfshaft on a humvee. Both are mechanics with the 118th Maintenance Company.

Other missions the 118th fulfills include escorting local Iraqis who work on post in maintenance and janitorial services, force protection and training Iraqi Army soldiers to maintain their vehicles.

Their woodshop and welding shop produce many products that various units have come to rely on and enjoy, like chain of command boards and bike racks.

"A little error can waste a good couple of hours and with our metal situation, it takes a long time to order stuff, so we are really careful," said Sgt. Christopher Ferreira, welder and "Skunk Werks" non-commissioned officer-in-charge.

As much as possible, the welders

try to fill orders for everything from barbecues, tables, brackets, and more critically, life-saving devices for IED-mitigation and vehicle escape and extraction.

They also repair vehicles with armor damaged by IEDs and gunfire to get them back on the road and mission capable. Their service results in saving time and money that would be otherwise expended waiting for replacement doors or other metal parts.

"I have the best section in the 118th," said Zavala.

In his section alone, the 40 member strong team has completed nearly 1,500 projects in about six months, which proves they go the extra mile to keep everyone mission ready.



Photo by Sgt. Jasmine Chopra

Spc. Marisela Hernandez, a mechanic in the 118th Maintenance Company, works on the engine of a humvee Feb. 14. Her mission is to make sure vehicles stay well-maintained so they continue with their missions which often include traveling the deadliest roads in Iraq while providing security for supply trucks.

Revvng the engines



Photo by Air Force Tech. Sgt. Heather Cabral

BALAD AIR BASE, Iraq -Staff Sgt. Robert Rabacal, 332nd Expeditionary Maintenance Squadron transient alert craftsman, signals to a Marine Corps F/A-18 Hornet pilot to come forward, Feb. 11. The team performs launch and recovery of more than 1,500 aircraft monthly as they transit through the busiest airfield in the Department of Defense. Sergeant Rabacal is deployed from the 154th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, Hickam Air Force Base, Hawaii.

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



Walter Reed's Warrior Clinic officially opens

by Elizabeth M. Lorge

Army News Service

WASHINGTON - Secretary of the Army Pete Geren and Vice Chief of Staff of the Army Gen. Richard Cody were at Walter Reed Army Medical Center today for the official opening and ribbon cutting of the hospital's Warrior Clinic.

"Today we celebrate one more building block of the construction of an organization that better meets the needs of our Soldiers. One more building block in the reconstruction of America's confidence that our Army was true to our values," said Secretary Geren.

The only clinic of its kind in the Army, it actually began treating patients in October, and administers to about 686 outpatient Soldiers assigned to the Warrior Transition Brigade at Walter Reed, said Col. Patricia D. Horoho, commander of the Walter Reed Health Care System. It represents a new focus on providing primary care at WRAMC, she added, and not just specialized tertiary care.

According to Head Nurse Maj. Greta Collier, the entire clinic was constructed in less than two months and was designed with handicapped Soldiers in mind. Clinic staff advised on everything from the type of exam tables to the location of supplies to the artwork on the walls, which represent Soldiers' hometowns

"It's our goal. I think this clinic, we provide continuity of care between myself and the Soldiers, but then we also have this added layer of the triad, where everything is in continuity with the case manager and the squad leader. We speak weekly about every Soldier and we speak on a daily basis on Soldiers who are having issues."

Dr. (Capt.) John Betteridge.
Walter Reed Warrior Clinic

from across the 50 states.

Even the clinic's location on the first floor, she said, was chosen for patients' convenience. Many were already familiar with it as the old internal-medicine clinic and it's near the emergency room, pharmacy, and radiology departments. It's also very close to Subway and Dunkin' Donuts, which makes it easier to remember for patients with memory problems.

A larger example of the 35 Warrior Transition Units across the Army, the WTU consists of three companies. The centerpiece of the WTU or WTB is the triad: squad leader, nurse-case manager and

primary-care manager. Each company has its own primary-care doctor (one for every 200 Soldiers) who can get to know the Soldiers, which officials said was critical for continuity of care.

"Continuity of care is paramount in providing primary care," said Dr. (Capt.) John Betteridge. "It's our goal. I think this clinic, we provide continuity of care between myself and the Soldiers, but then we also have this added layer of the triad, where everything is in continuity with the case manager and the squad leader. We speak weekly about every Soldier and we speak on a daily basis on Soldiers who are having issues."

To further ensure that Soldiers' needs are met, there is a squad leader for every 12 Soldiers. The squad leader handles logistics and finances. There is a nurse case manager for every 18 Soldiers. The case manager tracks appointments and medications.

That support has been crucial in helping keep track of six to seven personal appointments each week, said Sgt. Michael Anthony Mynard, who lost both legs while serving in Iraq with the 2nd Stryker Brigade.

"If any appointments pop up that I don't know about, (my nurse-case manager) will give me a call so

See **Clinic**, Page 14

Patriot citizens provide children of Iraq with soccer balls

by Spc. Jaime Avila

1st BCT, 82nd Abn. Div.

COB ADDER, Iraq - With the help of people back home, Paratroopers of the 1st Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division made the children in Umm Hujul, Iraq very happy by providing soccer balls, school supplies, stuffed animals and other toys Jan. 30. Paratroopers also delivered soccer balls to children who attended the cooperative medical engagement Feb. 13, handing out the rest of the balls from the previous soccer ball drop.

Soccer balls are probably one of the most cherished possessions for an Iraqi child and they jump on every opportunity to get one.

"We knew it was going to get a little crazy because there were about 65 to 70 kids out there with very little adult supervision," said Capt. Brian Connolly, the civil military operations officer in charge.

Paratroopers often get these items from charities and organizations back home and give them to children while they're on patrol or on other missions.

These soccer balls came from Brian Foster and The Woodlands Swim Team out of Texas. Foster is an old college friend of Col. Charles A. Flynn, commander of the 1st BCT, 82nd Abn. Div. Foster and his team organized an event called "Red Friday" to show support for the troops.

During the event, they collected 271 soccer balls through donations from the community and assistance from Adidas, who donated 100 of the 271 total soccer balls collected. During the Red Friday Event, Foster explained to the swimmers and their families that all of the soccer balls were going to Iraq to be distributed to the children. Also during the event, the swim team was taught about sacrifices Soldiers make to protect them and their way of life.

"We had an event here in Texas tonight," said Foster. We collected 271 soccer balls and put red 'We support our troops' t-shirts on 300 kids. We taught our kids that there are people who sacrifice a great deal to protect us and our way of life. We can't possibly repay you for the sacrifices that you and your troops make for us, we can only show our support," he added.

As soon as Paratroopers arrived at the various locations to hand out the soccer balls, children wanting to talk and play with them swarmed their vehicles.

The Soldiers dismounted their vehicles and began interacting with children. After a while of playing and talking to the children, they went into the back of their vehicles, brought out soccer balls, school supplies, gloves and stuffed animals.

At this point, the children were getting wild with excitement so the interpreter rounded up a group of adults and with their help, handed out the items.

"Being civil military operations, our primary job is to foster positive relationships with the local community," said Connolly.

These events foster the on-going positive relationships and put the face on Coalition Forces that says we are here to help them help themselves build a better

country and a better future for Iraq, said Connolly.

"Helping the children and building trust within the community is the best part of doing humanitarian work in Iraq," said Sgt. 1st Class Jacob Drumheller, the CMO noncommissioned officer in charge. Everyone, including the kids who received the soccer balls, were very appreciative of the support the people back home are showing for the troops and their cause.

"I would like to thank my good friend, Brian Foster for first, offering his support to our troops, and secondly for taking the time and effort in organizing The Woodlands Swimming Community Red Friday event, showing support to our Troops and collecting over 270 soccer balls for the children of Iraq," said Col. Charles A. Flynn.

"This generous donation positively impacts the Iraqi children from several different underdeveloped and rural villages in Southern Iraq. The gift of a soccer ball is a friendly extension of our Nations' hand in partnership as we work hard to improve the quality of life for the Iraqi people. Freedom reigns supreme!" said Flynn

"Thanks for your sincere care and concern for us and our mission!"



Photo by by Spc. Jaime Avila

Capt. Brian Connolly, the civil military operation officer in charge for 1st BSTB, 82nd Abn. Div., plays with an Iraqi kid and his new soccer ball Jan. 30.

Warrant breaking new ground

by Spc. Thomas Keeler

316th ESC PAO

LSA ANACONDA, Iraq – If it's the Army, and if it seems like an unusual career move to make, then Chief Cord has probably made it.

Chief Warrant Officer Darl E. Cord II, a former Navy petty officer turned Army warrant officer, is currently serving on his second tour with the 106th Transportation Battalion – this time as a company commander.

In 2006, when Cord suspected the battalion was looking for officers for this deployment, he volunteered – “kind of jokingly,” he said – for the Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment (HHD) com-

“He's developed into the guy who can translate all those technical pieces to what it really means to somebody,”

Lt. Col. Christopher Croft
Task Force 106 Battalion Commander

mander.

Hiring a warrant to fill a commander's slot would be atypical to say the least, but Lt. Col. Christopher Croft, the battalion commander, had already observed Cord and took an interest. Soon, Cord was putting together a presentation for an interview with his colonels.

“It's just like going into the civilian world to a major corporation and interviewing for a leadership position,” said Cord. “You've just got to sell yourself.”

It started for Cord in Germany, where his father, who was career Air Force, was stationed. After graduating from the Department of Defense's Kaiserslautern High School, Cord chose college in the United States, leaving for Kansas, where his father maintained residency.

Cord enrolled at Emporia State College, earning a degree in Political Science. An internship at the Greater Kansas City Foreign Trades Zone turned into a ten-year, full time job.

A marriage followed in those years, but it didn't last.

“After the divorce, I said, ‘you know what? I'm going to change my entire life.’”

That was 1996. Recalling his father's 28 years of service, Cord signed up for the Navy Reserve. In 1998 Cord went active, assigned to the USS Inchon based out of Corpus Christi, Texas.

In the Navy, Cord began to see the direction of his life's work.

His first Navy job was with the Navy Overseas Air Cargo Terminal, and later, Cord was a storekeeper on the USS Inchon. His former civilian career moving goods across borders served his Navy career well.

Moving and tracking cargo was becoming his specialty.

His ship had just pulled in from the Pacific when the attacks of Sept. 11 occurred, and soon after, Cord was sent to the Persian Gulf. By that time, Cord felt ready to advance his career. He considered the Navy's Limited Duty Officer program, but also applied to the Army's Warrant Officer program. “All they can do is say no,” said Cord.

Cord was on shore duty in Kuwait in 2003 when the Army called. He began processing out of the Navy on a Thursday, and by the following Monday, he was en route to Fort Rucker, Ala.

“Everything seems to be directing me towards transportation,” Cord said at the time.

A warrant officer is “an officer appointed by a warrant by the Secretary of the Army, based upon a sound level of technical and tactical competence,” according to Army regulations. Cord finished his warrant officer training in July 2004.

“I was in class number six, and our field was only about three years old,” said Cord of the new mobility warrant officer field.

“There were only 60 of us in the entire Army,” he said.

Cord was assigned to the 101st Airborne Division, and in November, he began his first deployment, going to Q-West, Iraq, with the 613th Movement Control Team. As a new mobility warrant officer, Chief Cord's job was to track the movement of convoys throughout northern Iraq for then Col. Gregory E. Couch of the 917th Area Support Group.

“He's tough, but he's fair,” said Cord of his time briefing Couch. “I always made sure I had all my ducks in a row for him, and that prepared me for success elsewhere.”

Cord, as a Chief Warrant Officer, is wearing two hats on this deployment – both as a company commander, and as a transition officer.

“He's developed into the guy who can translate all those technical pieces to what it really means to somebody,” said Croft, the Task Force 106 Battalion Commander. “It's been phenomenal to watch his development.”

As a transition officer, Cord assists the Army Reserve units under Task Force 106 with getting in and out of theater – loading and moving their equipment and personnel as expediently as possible.

“I'll help those units come in, and I'm going to help them to get out of here,” said Cord.

Cord has also created on-line certified training programs for each of his downtrace units.

“Even on the active side, you constantly have to keep up with the material, keep fresh on all the requirements. If you're a reserve unit, you might have a high-speed UMO (unit movement officer), but they don't deal with it consistently and they may miss



Courtesy photo

something,” he said.

Cord says he has a great staff working under him. “I just make sure they know exactly what's expected,” said Cord of the lieutenants and sergeants working under him. “I give them guidance, and if they have major problems, I'll help solve those problems.”

“People come in here all the time, asking him advice on stuff,” said Croft. “He's constantly dedicated to finding the answers.”

And Cord is happy as an HHD commander, too.

“All the personnel of HHD that I work with, I couldn't have deployed with a better bunch of people. They all gave me the support I needed to do my job so I can help them do their job.”

Cord remarried over the holiday break while in warrant school.

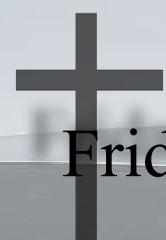
“She's the Family Readiness Group leader at home, so she assists 60 other families that call her with their situations and problems, happy moments and sad moments.”

The rank and grade of warrant officer was established in 1918 for mine planters for the Coastal Artillery Corps, The field expanded greatly, to include pilots, during World War II.

Currently, warrant officers make up two percent of the total force. And now, with the new mobility warrant officer field, Cord sees opportunity ahead.

“Our field is growing. My goal is to become a division mobility warrant,” he said, noting that the first class of mobility warrants has only just reached warrant level three.

“But when it will be my time to leave as HHD commander, it's going to be tough because I won't want to go,” Cord said. “I enjoy commanding, and I enjoy being in this unit.”



Christian Movie Night

Fridays At 8:00 P.M. At the Mayor Cell Conference Room



General visits LSAA



Photo by Spc. Thomas Keeler

LSA ANACONDA, Iraq – The 213th Area Support Group (ASG) and representatives from its seven subordinate units here welcomed Lt. Gen. Clyde A. Vaughn, director of the Army National Guard, Feb. 16, in the Audie Murphy room at the Oasis Dining Facility.

Vaughn's visit to National Guard units here centered around a lunchtime presentation by Lt. Col. Mark McCormack, deputy commander for the 213th ASG. Afterwards, Vaughn opened the floor to Soldiers' questions and comments, which ranged from recruitment and retention and college football to the Army's Assignment Incentive Pay program and national healthcare.

"The value proposition of serving in the Guard and Reserve today, you won't see any better," said Vaughn.

Vaughn also played a short National Guard movie set to a song called "Citizen Soldier," which was written and performed by the rock group 3 Doors Down.



The LSA Anaconda Tax Center will open for servicemembers on 18 February 2008, located at the Consolidated Legal Center.



HOURS OF OPERATION:

Monday: 0900-1800

Wednesday: 1200-2000

Friday: 0900-1800

Will Prepare

Form 1040EZ

Form 1040A

Schedule D (Capital Gains and Losses)

With Schedule 1, 2, 3, & EIC

Form 1040

Schedule A, B, EIC, & R

Form 2441 (Child and Dependant Care)

Form 8863 (Education Credits)

Will Not Prepare

Schedule C (Profit or Loss from Business)

Complicated & Advanced Schedule D

Schedule E (Rents & Losses)

Form SS-5 (Request for Social Security #)

Form 2106 (Employee Business Expenses)

Form 3903 (Moving)

Form 8606 (Non-Deductable IRA)

Form 8615 (Minor Investment Income)



Servicemembers with questions should contact SPC William Estrada
Email: william.estrada@iraq.centcom.mil



Slingload, from Page 1

of them had any experience with the CH-53, they let their experience with both the UH-60 Blackhawk and CH-47 Chinook helicopters serve as a reference point.

During the first lift, the Osprey proved the Paratroopers' assumption dead wrong. The rotor wash from the Osprey was considerably greater than that of the Chinooks that Soldiers in the platoon worked with in the past. "I was hovering above the ground," said Spc. Jason King.

Fortunately, the unit planned to employ additional personnel in the hook-up teams to coach and direct the younger Paratroopers. This enabled the coaches to also serve as "tethers" where they could focus on keeping the Paratroopers stable while focusing on the task at hand. This training provided the Workhorse Team an additional combat enabler in their execution of sustainment operations. The exercise also served to develop a greater relationship with the Marine Corps, which adds significant capability to operations. The training event certified both the flight crews and 2nd Bn., 504th PIR's logistics specialists in Osprey sling-load operations.

Explosive hazards exposed

by Taylor Barbaree

U.S. Army Combat Readiness Center

FORT RUCKER, Ala. - Time and time again, unexploded ordnance incidents have shown no prejudice in selecting victims. However, with education and training, people may have a choice not to become a UXO statistic.

Often, incidents involving UXO can occur at home involving civilians as well as Soldiers serving abroad during deployments.

"The first thing Soldiers need to understand is that it is against Army regulations and Department of Defense directives to touch a UXO, much less have one in their possession," said Capt. Charles Terry, an ordnance officer and commander of the 666th Explosive Ordnance Disposal Company, located in Jacksonville, Ala. "You have to remember ordnance or munitions are designed for one thing- and that is to blow up."

Terry, who served tours in Afghanistan and Kosovo, said people need to take a "common sense approach" in dealing with ordnance. The most important step is to call the proper authorities who are professional experts trained to deal with the object in question. Education is key to making an individual understand the dangers of UXO, he explained.

"During my time in Kosovo and Afghanistan, where there is a large amount of unexploded muni-

tions, we (EOD units) spent a great deal of time educating people about the dangers of UXO present.

"Basically, the more people you can educate, the better the likelihood of leaving these dangerous devices into the hands of professionals," he said. "I cringe every time I hear about a fatal or harmful incident involving a Soldier or civilian, which in most cases could have been prevented."

According to DOD, military munitions, including UXO, come in a variety of types, sizes and shapes and they may not be easy to recognize. Military munitions include, but are not limited to: small arms ammunition, projectiles, cartridges, bombs, rockets, pyrotechnics, grenades, blasting caps, fuses, simulators, and raw explosives. They are designed to kill or injure enemy forces or damage enemy equipment, and contain some form of energetic material such as propellants, explosives, or pyrotechnic mixes. When military munitions do not function as intended during use, they become unexploded or ordnance or UXO.

In a message to the Army, Mr. Tad Davis, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army for the Environment, Safety and Occupational Health, reminded Army personnel and their Families to "learn, remember and follow the 3Rs of explosives safety: Recognize- when you have encountered a military munition and that munitions are dangerous; Retreat- do not touch,

disturb, or move it; Report- call 911."

For more information about military munitions safety or to obtain safety videos for training purposes, visit the U.S. Army Combat Readiness Center's Web site at <https://crc.army.mil/messages/ground> or the UXO safety education program site at <https://www.denix.osd.mil/uxosafety>.

Gain a new perspective.

Own the Edge through
Composite Risk Management, or CRM

<https://crc.army.mil>



When others run out, they run in

Story and Photos by Sgt. Jasmine Chopra

302nd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

LSA ANACONDA, Iraq- It's 8 a.m. and every on-shift firefighter here is knocking out pushups in unison, a welcomed tradition Soldiers and Airmen on LSA Anaconda have come to enjoy. These professionals from the 8th Ordnance Company and the 332nd Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron Fire and Emergency Services/ Civil Engineer Fire (ECES/CEF,) knock them out to celebrate birthdays, praise one another for accomplishments and as collective punishment for blunders. After the pushups comes a full day of training, maintaining equipment, familiarization with aircraft, and the mental and physical preparation for saving lives and property. When others run away from emergencies, they run toward them.

Fire station personnel jointly perform rescue and firefighting operations during structural fires, aircraft crashes, vehicle emergencies, terrorist attacks and natural disasters. While deployed, they handle more emergencies in a month than they normally would in an entire year back at home.

"Being a firefighter is an immense responsibility so we train everyday," said Air National Guard Tech Sgt. Michael Wenthe, training officer with the 332nd ECES/CEF. "It's a mission firefighters can be proud of," he said.

The Airmen and Soldiers here constantly strive to develop their skills and increase their expertise, according to Wenthe. Almost all of them are enrolled in career



Left: Senior Airman Jose Flores, a firefighter with the 332nd Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron Fire and Emergency Services, tests an engine to see if it works Feb. 12. It is one of the most important pre-emergency response tasks firefighters perform.

Background: Firefighters from the 8th Ordnance Company and the 332nd Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron Fire and Emergency Services (ECES/CEF,) knock out pushups.

Right: Airman 1st Class, Matthew Kahai (inside the truck), a firefighter with the 332nd Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron Fire and Emergency Services, makes sure the fire truck he operates and all parts including the water dispensing components are fully mission capable.



development classes, which deepen and broaden their skills. Joint training allows firefighters to increase their knowledge by working on Army and Air Force aircraft and equipment.

During training, they sometimes don high-tech, multi-layered specialty clothing that can withstand temperatures beyond 1,000 degrees Fahrenheit and carry a self-contained breathing apparatus while terminating simulated fires. Other training may include providing intravenous therapy, triaging simulated victims or operating large vehicles and specialized equipment. Among one of the most important pre-emergency response tasks firefighters perform is equipment checks. The time to discover a malfunction is not when you have to respond to an emergency, according to Air Force Tech Sgt. Mark Abrahamson, the B shift station captain.

Though firefighters deal with devastation and loss and the serious nature of their job demands professionalism always, the collective vibe at the station is fun.

“We take the job seriously, but we have a good time,” said Abrahamson.



Left: A firefighter with the 332nd Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron Fire and Emergency Services dons high-tech, multi-layered specialty clothing that can withstand temperatures beyond 1,000 degrees Fahrenheit.

Pump house mission a combined effort

by Pfc. Gaelen Lowers

3rd Sustainment Brigade

FOB Q-WEST, Iraq – Members of the 332nd Rear Operations Center; the 1st Battalion, 175th Infantry; and 226th Quartermaster Company, 87th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 3rd Sustainment Brigade combined efforts to refuel the pump house located outside Forward Operating Base Q-West on the Tigris River.

The pump house is vital to operations on FOB Q-West and also to some of the local Iraqi villages.

There are pipes that run from the Tigris River all the way back to Q-West,” said Staff Sgt. Anthony Melvin, the Forward Area Refueling Point non-com-



Photo by Pfc. Gaelen Lowers

Sgt. John Carroll, Alpha Company, 1st Battalion, 175th Infantry, takes the time to give out toys to some Iraqi children during a refueling mission outside of Forward Operating Base Q-West on the Tigris River.

missioned officer in charge, 226th Quartermaster Co. “Then it goes down to the water site, where they purify the water they use for drinking and also for the showers and everything else; anything that uses water on this FOB.”

“There are several small water lines that come off and feed the Iraqi population,” said Maj. Keith Brownell, executive officer for the 1-175th Infantry.

Each unit played its part during the mission. The 1-175th Infantry provided security, the 332nd ROC supervised and worked with the local Iraqi villages and the 226th Quartermaster Co. provided the fuel handlers for the missions.

“It was definitely a combined effort,” said Brownell. “our [The 1-175th Infantry’s] responsibility was to provide security and make sure everyone gets to the pump house and back safely.”

Two elements were employed by the 1-175th Infantry to hold up their end of the mission. The first element, “Crossbow”, checked the route and made sure the route was clear, and the second element, “Guardian”, escorted the tanker truck to the pump house to refuel the generators and on the return trip back to the Q-West, said Brownell.

The main effort, said Brownell, was done by the 332nd ROC. They were responsible for coordinating all the fuel, the units involved and the local Iraqis.

“[The 332nd ROC] supervised the mission and checked on the status of repairs status of the pump house,” said Maj. Kim Ready, water manager for the 332nd ROC.

The final unit to play a part in the mission was the 226th Quartermaster Co. whose main job was to refuel the tanker that runs the generators, which provided back up power to the pump house, said Melvin.

The 87th CSSB have also provided Soldiers from



Photo by Pfc. Gaelen Lowers

Pfc. Victor Morales, 226th Quartermaster Company, 87th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 3rd Sustainment Brigade, jokes with the pump house manager and an Iraqi local during a refueling mission outside of Forward Operating Base Q-West on the Tigris River.

other subordinate units under their command and control to help conduct repairs and maintenance to the pump house and the pipe line.

“The maintenance of the pump house and the pipeline is not solely a 1-175th responsibility,” said Brownell. “We only have a small part. The maintenance falls to a combined effort of the [332nd ROC], the 87th CSSB and the 1-175th Infantry. The diverse skills that are provided by 87th [CSSB] and the [332nd ROC] deserve just as much credit.”

“It certainly is a model of teamwork,” Brownell concluded. “It is a model of taking the different backgrounds and different experiences of three completely different units and allowing them to work together to achieve a common goal.”

Unit Information boards

by Sgt. Leonard Card

Consolidated Legal Center

LSA ANACONDA, Iraq- Each unit has an information board where they post all kinds of wonderful information. When was the last time you took a few moments out of your day to READ the information posted? I know, you may think the information posted does not apply to you because you already know everything.

In the Military Justice/Criminal Law section at the Consolidated Legal Center, we get requests from commanders everyday for Letters of Reprimand and Article 15s for Soldiers that violate the policies that are posted on the information boards.

Take the time to read, and most importantly, understand the policies that your commander has posted for you. You are the one responsible for your actions and you will be the one that is punished for violating the established policies, whether you have read them or not.

Don’t take your buddy’s word for it; go read the policies yourself. If you do not understand the policy, seek clarification from your chain of command.

Ignorance, as we all know, is no defense. The tools have been provided and it is up to each Soldier to use those tools.

Since reading is a good idea anyway, when was the last time you actually read General Order 1A? What do you mean you have never read it? That’s not the right answer.

For those of you who have taken the time to read General Order 1A, it is time to read it again. On Feb. 14, a new and improved General Order 1A was signed by Lt. Gen. Loyd J. Austin III, Commanding General, Multi-National Forces, Iraq.

There are some changes that you will want to be familiar with in regards to cohabitation, prescription drugs, drug paraphernalia, prohibited photography and so forth.

Take the time to read it. I would also recommend Visitation Policies, Arming Policies, and of course the standard operating procedures for your job.

It comes down to this, you are being held to the standard, so it is best to know what that standard is. The only way to know the standard is to read it for yourself.

Veterinary Engagement



Photo by Spc. Jaime Avila

AL TOUM, Iraq- A veterinarian injects a sheep while the owner of the sheep holds it down during a cooperative veterinarian engagement in Al Toum, Iraq Feb. 13. The CME provided medical treatment and humanitarian assistance to over 800 local Iraqi people. The event was sponsored by 2nd Brigade, 10th Division of the Iraqi Army and supported by the Iraqi Directors General of Health, Veterinarian Services, and Agriculture; 1st Brigade, 82nd Airborne Division, 7th Sustainment Brigade, Australian Overwatch Battle Group (W) 4, 835th Civil Affairs Team Alpha, 43rd Medical Detachment, MNF-I J-9, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Gulf Region South), and Muthanna Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT).

Soldier writes original screenplay for Black History Month

by Staff Sgt. Elginette Powell

316th Expeditionary Support Command

LSA ANACONDA, Iraq- Writing is Sgt. Debra Gipson's passion. She wrote her first short story when she was only seven years old. It's no surprise that when the Black History Month Committee approached her in early January asking if she would be willing to write an original screenplay for Black History Month, that she readily accepted.

"I felt honored to be asked," said Gipson, a member of the 316th Expeditionary Sustainment Command, who works at the Blackjack Education Center.

The play, "Gathered in Secret," takes its name from a comment made by one of the characters and combines music and comedy to tell the story of a family that must deal with the secrets they have been hiding from each other before those secrets tear them apart.

"I wrote a play that I would be interested in seeing if I were seated in the audience," said Gipson. "The last thing Soldiers at war want is to walk away feeling as if they were hit over the head with black history month facts. Instead, those facts are carefully disguised in everyday conversations between interesting characters.

Gipson said she took any opportunity possible to both educate and humor the audience.

When asked how she feels about comparisons between her work and Tyler Perry, Gipson thinks carefully before answering.

"Tyler Perry sets the playwriting standard for this generation in the same way Pulitzer Prize winning playwright August Wilson and Lorraine Hansberry did for the previous generation," said Gipson. "I admit that each of us explores the evolving African-American experience, but to compare me to Tyler Perry, August Wilson or Lorraine Hansberry is flattering but at the same time, ridiculous," she added. "Still, I don't think my audience will be disappointed."

Sgt. Andronico Recasas, a member of the 5th Battalion, 5th Air Defense Artillery, agrees. "The play is really good. Sgt. Gipson is a talented writer and every character has something funny to say. Trust me; there are parts of the play that will have you laughing out loud."

Senior Airman Randall Thompson, a cast member who works for the Mayor's Cell, said that "The play is suspenseful. It keeps you on the edge of your seat because it is so full of surprises. I like that she's written a play that everyone can enjoy, not just African-

Come One!!! Come all!!!

**An all original screenplay
Written by Sgt. Debra Gipson
for Black History Month**

**When: Feb 29, 2008 7:00 P.M.
Where: Sustainer Theater**

Americans."

Unlike Tyler Perry, you won't see Gipson on stage during the performance. She's content to work behind the scenes, which is no small matter. Everything from auditioning cast members to getting sets built has been a Herculean accomplishment.

"I am very observant. In many instances I would observe a certain behavior or overhear a comment made and think 'This person would be perfect for a certain role,'" said Gipson.

"Very few people have auditioned in the traditional sense and I only had two people turn down my request to participate."

"The assembled cast is absolutely amazing! The actors, singers and comedians you'll see on stage have worked hard to bring their characters to life,"

said Gipson. "I think some of them have missed their calling," said with a laugh Gipson.

Gipson was equally motivated when it came to getting sets built. In her civilian life, she's supervised the construction of low income housing, but admitted that building a set from the bottom up was not easy and required input from several different sources.

When asked all the hard work is worth it, Gipson laughs, "Can you ask me that again the day after the performance?"

"Whether there are six people in the audience or six thousand it have been worth it because we have all had so much fun working to bring this play to the stage, said Gipson. "We are dedicated to putting on the best show we can and we promise that our audience won't be disappointed."

America's warrior

by Spc. Ryan Hohman

A snapshot of servicemembers in the Global War on Terrorism



Photo by Spc. Ryan Hohman

Full name and rank: Pfc. James M. Ford Jr.

Unit: 567th Inland Cargo Transfer Company

Job Title: Cargo Specialist, 88H.

Time in service: 18 months.

Age: 28.

Hometown: Kansas City, Missouri.

Family: Wife, Holli. Children (from oldest to youngest) daughter, Tykeyah; son, Jameer. Sisters: Jocelyn and Tacara. Brother, Jon. Mother, Judy and father, James Sr. .

Pastimes (Hobbies): Spending time with family, playing Playstation, and going to church.

Life-changing event/moment: Children's birth.

Lesson Learned: "You can't change everything so don't stress the things you can't change".

The person I admire the most: Father James Ford Sr.

Why I joined the military: To help support my family.

If I wasn't in the military I would be: Working with kids.

The one thing I would change about the Army: Give out more waivers for soldiers who deserve them.

The one thing I think the Army got right: Family benefits.

What makes a good Soldier: Try and help out everyone you can.

What makes a good leader: Being a good listener.

Unusual fact about you: I teach Sunday school back home.

Motivations in life: My family and kids

Goals: Advance as far as I can in military and support my family.

Hardest part of my job here: My hours I work at night.

Best part of my life: My wife and kids.

“No slack” from 327th Infantry

by Spc. Thomas Keeler

316th ESC PAO

LSA ANACONDA, Iraq – Three more suspected insurgents are off the street, courtesy of the Archangel Platoon of 2nd Battalion, 327th “No Slack” Infantry Regiment (2/327th), after an evening operation in the countryside near Jamborah Feb. 9.

“The objective was to catch three ‘gentlemen’ who were responsible for emplacing two improvised explosive devices specifically targeting my platoon and launching several mortar at-



Photo by Spc. Thomas Keeler

Staff Sgt. Eric Caudill and an Iraqi interpreter, both with the 2nd Battalion, 327th “No Slack” Infantry Regiment (2/327th), seek identification from a suspected insurgent detained during a night operation near Jamborah, Iraq, Feb. 9.

tacks against FOB O’Ryan,” said Sgt. 1st Class Robert Numerick, platoon sergeant for Archangel Platoon.

The 2/327th element is attached to 2nd Battalion, 320th (2-320th) Field Artillery Regiment here.

Operations confronting insurgent holdouts are “very volatile and very quick,” said battery commander Capt. Douglas Houston of the 2-320 Field Artillery Regiment. Archangel Platoon reports directly to Houston.

Numerick, a veteran of three Iraq tours and more than a thousand missions, explained the intent of his platoon’s mission.

“A lot of units have come in here and made the mistake of thinking that raids are what you have to do to reduce indirect fire and IEDs, and so you need to kill or capture the bad guys,” said Numerick. “That’s not what you do. What you need to do is secure the population, you need to make them believe in what it is you’re trying to make happen.”

Numerick and platoon leaders noted that tips received about the three men came from multiple independent sources.

“There’s not a single head-of-household in that town that we have not talked to as a platoon, and that has gained the trust and confidence of the people,” said Numerick.

The suspected insurgents were caught by surprise and surrendered

without a fight.

“Luckily they weren’t tipped off,” said Pfc. Bo Johnson, 3rd squad, Alpha Team member during the operation. “They were still there when we got there, so it was a pretty successful mission.”

Johnson cleared rooms during the operation and was the first onto the roof of the primary building, which was unoccupied. From there, he pulled security until the area was secure and the mission was accomplished.

“The job was done right, so nobody got hurt,” said Johnson.

Numerick put his platoon’s mission into perspective.

“What does a terrorist have to do to have validity?” Numerick asks. “He can make a million threats, and all he has to do is carry out one of them, one time, and he is validated. People will fear him, and he is a known terrorist at that time.”

“For us as a Coalition, what makes our job difficult is that if I make a promise, and I follow through with it 99 out of 100 times, the one time that I don’t, I have been discredited,” he said.

“You’ve got people trying to kill American Soldiers,” said Numerick. “So here’s the big question: How do you feel about that?”

“It’s not personal man. It’s just war,” he said.

The three targets of the operation



Photo by Spc. Thomas Keeler

1st Lt. Mike Handlan, platoon leader of 2nd Battalion, 327th “No Slack” Infantry Regiment (2/327th), talks to Capt. Douglas Houston, commander of the 2-320 Field Artillery Regiment, about plans to sweep through a suspected al-Qaeda safe house near Jamborah, Iraq.

were in the company of three other men, as well as their women and children.

After all of the buildings were cleared and the area was secured, the women and children were released back into their living area. The six men were provided footwear and marched the 1,500 meters back to the platoon’s trucks.

Three of the men were questioned and released, but the three suspected insurgents were returned to the Logistical Support Area for further questioning.

“Hopefully the interrogation goes well, and we get information on our next target,” said Numerick.

“Ready To Entertain”

LSA ANACONDA, Iraq -The Ready to Entertain comedy tour made its last stop here at LSA Anaconda Monday. After a familiarization tour around the base the comedians were able to incorporate everyday life on Anaconda into their routines.

“They were really funny; it really helped bring a smile to my face” Said Spc. Jody Alford with the 288th Sapper Co.

This was not the first tour for any of the comedians; they have all been to Iraq on previous tours.

“Every time I come over, everything changes, things seem to be getting better.” said comedian Lee Levine.



Photo by Spc. Ryan Hohman

Comedians (from left to right) Lee Levine, Steven Mazan and Scott Kennedy sign autographs and talk to airman at LSA Anaconda after performing at the MWR east on Monday night.



Photo by Spc. Ryan Hohman

Comedian Steven Mazan called up Airman Ashley Huiting, 332nd Force Protection, to take part in his comedy routine.

Upcoming sports on AFN

Wednesday 2/27/08

NHL: Minnesota @ Washington, 3:00 a.m. live AFN/xtra
 NCAA BB: Ohio State @ Indiana, 3:00 a.m. live AFN/sports
 NCAA BB: Tennessee @ Vanderbilt, 5:00 a.m. live AFN/sports
 NBA: Portland @ L.A. Lakers, 6:30 a.m. live AFN/xtra
 NBA: Orlando @ New Jersey, 5:00 p.m. tape delay AFN/sports
 NCAA BB: Tennessee @ Vanderbilt, 9:00 p.m. tape delay AFN/sports

Thursday 2/28/08

NCAA BB: Kansas @ Iowa State, 3:00 a.m. live AFN/sports
 NBA: Cleveland @ Boston, 3:30 a.m. live AFN/xtra
 NCAA BB: Georgia Tech @ Duke, 5:00 a.m. live AFN/sports
 NBA: Denver @ Seattle, 6:00 a.m. live AFN/xtra
 NCAA BB: St. John's @ Georgetown, 12 noon tape delay AFN/sports
 NBA: Detroit @ Utah, 5:00 p.m. tape delay AFN/sports
 NBA: Cleveland @ Boston, 8:30 p.m. tape delay AFN/sports

Friday 2/29/08

NCAA BB: Notre Dame @ Louisville, 3:00 a.m. live AFN/xtra
 NBA: Dallas @ San Antonio, 4:15 a.m. live AFN/sports
 NCAA BB: USC @ Arizona, 5:00 a.m. live AFN/xtra

NBA: Miami @ L.A. Lakers, 6:30 a.m. live AFN/sports
 NCAA BB: Michigan State @ Wisconsin, 12 noon tape delay AFN/sports
 NCAA BB: Washington State @ California, 5:00 p.m. tape delay AFN/sports
 NBA: Dallas @ San Antonio, 9:00 p.m. tape delay AFN/sports

Saturday 3/1/08

NHL: San Jose @ Detroit, 3:30 a.m. live AFN/prime
 NBA: Washington @ Chicago, 4:00 a.m. live AFN/sports
 NBA: Utah @ New Orleans, 4:00 a.m. live AFN/xtra
 NBA: L.A. Lakers @ Portland, 6:30 a.m. live AFN/xtra
 NBA: L.A. Clippers @ Denver, 6:30 a.m. live AFN/sports
 NFL: 2008 Free Agency, 9:00 a.m. live AFN/xtra
 NCAA BB: Pittsburgh @ Syracuse, 8:00 p.m. live AFN/prime
 NCAA BB: Duke @ N.C. State, 8:00 p.m. live AFN/sports
 Arena Football: Dallas @ Georgia, 9:00 p.m. live AFN/xtra
 NCAA BB: Georgetown @ Marquette, 10:00 p.m. live AFN/sports
 NCAA BB: Texas A&M @ Oklahoma, 10:00 p.m. live AFN/prime
 NCAA BB: North Carolina @ Boston College, 11:30 p.m. live AFN/xtra

Sunday 3/2/08

NCAA BB: Big Ten Wildcard Game, 12:05 a.m. live AFN/prime
 NCAA BB: Texas @ Texas Tech, 12:05 a.m. live AFN/sports
 NCAA BB: South Carolina @ Auburn, 2:00 a.m. live AFN/xtra
 NCAA BB: Iowa State @ Colorado, 2:00 a.m. live AFN/prime
 NCAA BB: Michigan @ Penn State, 4:00 a.m. live AFN/prime
 NCAA BB: Kansas State @ Kansas, 5:00 a.m. live AFN/sports
 UFC 82: Countdown: Silva vs Henderson, 5:00 a.m. live AFN/xtra
 UFC 82: Pride of a Champion, 6:00 a.m. live AFN/xtra
 NASCAR: Sam's Town 300, 11:00 a.m. tape delay AFN/xtra
 NCAA BB: Kansas State @ Kansas, 11:00 a.m. live AFN/sports
 NCAA BB: West Virginia @ Connecticut, 2:00 p.m. tape delayed AFN/xtra
 NBA: Detroit @ L.A. Clippers, 2:30 p.m. tape delay AFN/sports
 NCAA BB: Kentucky @ Tennessee, 8:00 p.m. live AFN/prime
 AMA Supercross Lites: Anaheim, 8:00 p.m. tape delay AFN/xtra
 NBA: Chicago @ Cleveland, 9:00 p.m. live AFN/sports
 NCAA BB: Notre Dame @ DePaul, 9:00 p.m. live AFN/xtra
 NCAA BB: Indiana @ Michigan State, 10:00 p.m. live AFN/prime
 NBA: Dallas @ L.A. Lakers, 11:30

p.m. live AFN/sports

Monday 3/3/08

PGA Tour: 2008 Honda Classic, 12:05 a.m. live AFN/prime
 NASCAR: UAW-Daier Chrysler 400, 12:30 a.m. live AFN/xtra
 NHL: Detroit @ Buffalo, 2:00 a.m. live AFN/prime
 NBA: Denver @ Houston, 4:00 a.m. live AFN/sports
 NCAA BB: Clemson @ Maryland, 4:00 a.m. live AFN/xtra
 NCAA BB: UCLA @ Arizona, 5:00 a.m. tape delay AFN/prime
 NCAA BB: Oregon @ Oregon State, 6:00 a.m. live AFN/xtra
 NCAA BB: Villanova @ Louisville, 8:00 a.m. tape delay AFN/xtra
 UFC 82: Pride of a Champion, 10:00 a.m. tape delay AFN/xtra
 NBA: Portland @ Golden State, 11:00 a.m. AFN/sports
 MLB: Baseball Tonight, 2:00 p.m. tape delay AFN/sports
 UFC 82: Pride of a Champion, 6:00 p.m. tape delay AFN/xtra
 MLB: Baseball Tonight, 9:00 p.m. tape delay AFN/sports

Tuesday 3/4/08

NHL: Boston @ Washington, 3:00 a.m. live AFN/xtra
 NHL: Ottawa @ Anaheim, 6:00 a.m. live AFN/xtra

(Schedule is subject to change)

SUSTAINER REEL TIME THEATER

Wednesday, Feb. 27
 5 p.m. The Great Debaters (PG-13)
 8 p.m. Charlie Wilson's War (R)

Thursday, Feb. 28
 5 p.m. National Treasure II (PG)
 8 p.m. Jumper (PG-13)

Friday, Feb. 29
 2 p.m. Hitman (R)
 5 p.m. Superbad (R)
 8:30 p.m. Vantage Point (PG-13)

Saturday, March 1
 2 p.m. First Sunday
 5 p.m. Vantage Point (PG-13)
 8 p.m. Sweeney Todd (R)

Sunday, March 2
 2 p.m. Vantage Point (PG-13)
 5 p.m. Sweeney Todd (R)
 8 p.m. First Sunday (PG-13)

Monday, March 3
 5 p.m. Vantage Point (PG-13)
 8 p.m. First Sunday (PG-13)

Tuesday, March 4
 5 p.m. Sweeney Todd (R)
 8 p.m. Vantage Point (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.



Clinic, from Page 5

I don't miss them, and then if she feels I need an appointment, she'll make one. And if I need an appointment and I can't make it, she'll also make one for me. And then, Sgt. 1st Class Torres (my platoon leader) makes sure I get everything I need to get done in order to continue working. It's really good care. It's the best care. I was out of the hospital in under two months. I was out on my own, taking care of myself," he said.

"I'm his advocate," said Sgt. 1st Class Eliseo Torres. "I'm an extension to him. Whatever he can't do physically or mentally, that's my job. I have to put myself in his shoes every day to see what he goes through, and see what he needs to accomplish to make himself better and to be able to be successful later on once he leaves here. My job as a leader is to make sure I'm taking care of my troop, and he has someone he can count on. This has probably been one of my best assignments ever because I feel that I get to make a difference. Sgt. Mynard inspires me everyday to do what I do. Him and others like him. To have just gone through what he went through and to have a positive attitude and still trying to go on and live his life, I owe it to him."

Like many Soldiers, Mynard isn't sure what he'll do next. He joined the Army to be in the infantry, and thinks it will be too painful to do anything else now, but he said he wouldn't want to change a thing. He would like to go back to school to study auto engineering, a dream the Army and WRAMC may be able to help with.



Photo by Kayla Overton

Sgt. Michael Anthony Mynard talks with his nurse-case manager, 1st Lt. Laurie Voss and platoon leader Sgt. 1st Class Eliseo Torres at the Warrior Clinic.

Each room in the barracks has high-speed internet so Soldiers can attend classes online, and according to Torres, part of his job is making sure his Soldiers are aware of educational and career-building activities at WRAMC.

The Army's goal, explained WTB Commander Col. Terrence J. McKenrick, is to give warriors a better chance of getting back into the force - WRAMC's return to duty rate is over 50 percent -- or a better transition to the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Co-located with the Warrior Clinic are offices for doctors conducting a pi-

lot program between the Department of Defense and the VA to consolidate the medical evaluation board system.

Previously, servicemembers had to undergo a military evaluation and then a separate VA evaluation to receive a disability rating and benefits.

Under the pilot program, according to its director, Col. Maria Mayorga, the military branch determines if a servicemember is fit for duty and the VA determines the disability rating. Instead of long delays complained of previously, VA benefits will now start the first day of the calendar month following sepa-

ration.

Mayorga said that the 60 servicemembers currently in the pilot like how quick the process moves. Under the old system, she said, it took about 220 days to be evaluated at WRAMC, and then another 180 days at the VA.

The new system takes 240 days total and accounts for the varying requirements of individual services.

"In concept, it is a 200-percent improvement over what existed and there is a tremendous commitment among Army, Defense, VA to make this pilot program work," Mayorga said.

Teamwork transforms Iraqi Truck Company

by Staff Sgt. Bryant Maude

1st SB, PAO

CAMP LIBERTY, Iraq – When Capt. Curtis Yankie, the commander for Alpha Company, 168th Brigade Support Battalion (BSB), 1st Sustainment Brigade, and his team took over the management of the Iraqi Truck Company (ITC) at Camp Liberty, Iraq, they knew it would be challenging.

The operational readiness rate was declining and there was a limited supply of parts for repairs. It was a mess.

This situation created additional challenges for Lt. Col. Todd Heussner, the commander of the 168th BSB. Every time an Iraqi truck broke down on the road it meant convoys were stopped, troops were vulnerable to attack and additional Soldiers and trucks were needed to recover the downed truck.

“When I looked at the ITC, and their inability to get the job done, I had to consider risk to the Soldiers and accomplishment of the mission,” said Heussner. “Until we could get the ITC to make the necessary changes and improvements... we had no other choice but to shift ITC trucks to on base missions only.”

This shift in mission provided a window of time where ITC could be monitored and tested.

“Logistic operations... integrates deliberate combat logistics patrols with mission requirements, and improvises when standard support will not meet the requirements,” said Yankie.

With this in mind, Yankie and his team went to work to create a four-step plan that would ultimately transform ITC into a proficient, reliable operation.

“We had to get in (there) and build a team,” said 1st Lt. Lawrence Jenkins, officer-in-charge of the ITC project. “We started out with four focus areas: cultural awareness, training, improved facilities, and maintenance (on the vehicles).”

Alpha Company started playing soccer with the drivers, taught them American football, organized monthly dinners and included them into training to break down cultural barriers.

“Every month we would come down here and the drivers would bring local food back from Baghdad like lamb, fish, chicken, and rice,” said Jenkins. “The Soldiers would get in there with the drivers and eat local dishes, drink chi (tea with sugar and milk), and have a chance to bond.”

Alpha Company could see the team coming together, but until the poor living conditions were improved, the team-building process would not be complete.

“When we arrived, they were living out of their trucks or in little shacks,” recalled Jenkins. “If they wanted to take a shower, they would take a few bottles of water, crawl into a cement bunker and douse themselves in an effort to keep clean; it was pathetic.”

After suggestions from Alpha Company’s leadership, ITC management decided to invest some of their profits to improve facilities. They built five new living trailers, a dining facility, a shower trailer with hot water, and a maintenance area.

According to Jenkins, these changes improved driver’s morale and showed that their company cares about them.

“I like it here very much,” said Muhammad, one of the ITC supervisors. “Things are better today and best tomorrow... the drivers are happy.”

Morale was improving and the team was coming together, but vehicle reliability was still a problem.

To correct this, Alpha Company incorporated Army techniques, tactics and pro-



Photos by Staff Sgt. Bryant Maude

Soldiers with the 168th Brigade Support Battalion enjoy Iraqi dishes with their Iraqi Truck Company counterparts at Camp Liberty, Iraq. The monthly dinners are a way of increasing the relations between Soldiers and Iraqis.

cedures and the Army Maintenance Management Program into ITC’s operation.

“They can perform maintenance on site,” stated Jenkins. “Before (applying the program) they’d go all the way down to Baghdad (for service). This would result in them being out three or four days.”

Alpha Company helped ITC implement a customized form of the Army Maintenance Management Program. As a result, they began to standardize their fleet of vehicles and stock common spare parts reducing travel to Baghdad for service.

“They can do almost all routine checks and services here. The only thing they can’t do is major overhauls like engine or transmission repairs,” said Jenkins.

“What we’ve seen is a huge increase in reliability with these trucks,” said Sgt. 1st Class Steven Downey, Alpha Company, 168th BSB. “They can get a truck in and out so much faster now that they have these checks, parts on hand, and maintenance facility in house.”

“This has instilled pride in the drivers. They want to take care of their trucks; they know the company is going to help them fix it,” said Jenkins. “They no longer want to take (their trucks) to Baghdad... to get it fixed,” he added.

In an environment where results speak louder than concepts, it is evident that this four-step plan is working. In addition to operational readiness climbing, driver retention has improved as well.

Through diligent teamwork, the Iraqi Truck Company has expanded its customer base by two more contracts. With continued growth, fewer Soldiers will be on the road, more money will be in the hands of Iraqi citizens and a greater chance to transfer logistics operations from Coalition Forces to the people of Iraq will become a reality.

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MWR gets it's 'kicks' with indoor soccer



Photos by Spc. Charlotte Martinez

Above: 'Cali-Aztec,' Spc. Juan Munoz, fends off members of KBR-Inter during the soccer tournament finals held at the circuit gym Wednesday. "It was a good game with great competition," said Munoz, the team's captain and coach.
 Below: Spc. Jerardo Rojas, with the 'Cali-Aztecs' of the 1/43rd Field Artillery C Co., feels the pressure as he kicks the winning goal to end the soccer tournament finals at the circuit gym. The game went into overtime and resulted in a 'shoot out' of each team member to decide the winner after a 1-1 end in the regulation game.



Above: The "Cali-Aztecs" play defense against the "Goon Squad" during the first game in the semi-finals of the soccer tournament. The Aztecs beat the Goons 3-0.
 Below: The KBR-Inter and Cali-Aztecs race for the ball during the final game of the soccer tournament.



In the soccer tournament's semi-finals, Feb. 20, the 74th Multi Role Bridge Company's 'River Rats' took on the 'KBR-Inters' in a struggle to go to the finals. Unfortunately for the River Rats, the Inters moved on to win the game and play in the finals.