

AnacondaTimes

MARCH 12, 2008

PROUDLY SERVING LSA ANACONDA



Photo by Spc. Anthony Hooker

'Gathered in secret'

Local play energizes LSAA

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Photo by Spc. Jay Venturini

Weapon fix

SASC ensures all weapons function properly

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Photo by Staff Sgt. Tim Sander

NCOs learn to lead

NCOs take part in first BNOC course in Iraq

Pages 14



Photo by Spc. Thomas Keeler

Iraqis take off on the 100-meter run at FOB O’Ryan Feb. 26 during Operation MEPS, a new recruitment program for the Iraqi Army.

As the Iraqi military grows, their leaders are seeing a need to change the way recruits are accepted into the Army. An adjustment to recruiting and retention has produced a military entrance processing station at FOB O’Ryan similar to that back in the United States, a process the Coalition and the Iraqi Army is calling ...

Operation MEPS

Story and photos by Spc. Thomas Keeler

Anaconda Times staff

LSA ANACONDA, Iraq – It’s not quite the recruiter’s office or the military entrance processing station, but it’s close.

More than 400 local Iraqis, or Sons of Iraq, reported to Forward Operating Base O’Ryan Feb. 25 and 26 to try out for positions with the Iraqi Security Forces. The ISF consists mainly of the Iraqi Army

and the Iraqi Police, and the recruits who came to FOB O’Ryan will receive slots with the new 3rd Battalion, 4th Brigade, 4th Iraqi Army Division in Salah al-Din province.

“They’re here today for the opportunity to transition into the ISF,” said 1st Lt. Jonathan Springer, an operations officer with Alpha Battery, 2nd Battalion, 320th Field Artillery Regiment. “And they’re going through a process just like any personnel coming into

See **Operation MEPS**, Page 8

Celebrating Women's History Month

by Maj. Christopher E. West

Anaconda Times staff

From the American Revolutionary War to the present Global War on Terror, women have played a vital role in our military services. Ever since Mary Ludwig Hays McCauley ("Molly Pitcher") replaced her husband when he collapsed at his cannon, women have continually proven that the narrow stereotype, restricting their choice of occupation was wrong. As women expanded into different roles in all branches of the military, it was clear that the heart of a warrior was not limited to one gender. When America went through a civil war and the world wars of the 20th century, women continued to show their patriotism and their fighting spirit even though they did not receive equal treatment or recognition. Throughout our nation's history, women have proven that when freedom is threatened, they are equal to any task...and when their country calls, they respond—not in gender-hyphenated roles—but as proud professionals serving in our Armed Forces.

To celebrate their noteworthy contributions, the *Anaconda Times*, during the month of March, will spotlight a 316th ESC female Soldier who is a superb example of leadership in action, and who is striving to make a difference in the lives of Soldiers here. In this issue, we highlight the accomplishments of Lt. Col. Annetta Maria Richardson.

Like those who served before her, her experiences, trials, and achievements transcends gender, breaks down barriers, and serves as an inspiration to all.

When Annetta Richardson enlisted in the Army on a sultry summer day in June 1982, little did she know that her search for adventure would evolve into a magnificent journey filled with excitement, challenge, and unlimited self-fulfillment. Twenty-six years later, now Lt. Col. Richardson, who serves as the command historian for the 316th ESC, continues to lead by example and set the standard for all in both word and deed.

"I joined the Army to become an administrative specialist and to challenge myself and become all that I could be," said Richardson. "I initially planned on just doing an initial eight-year obligation and taking advantage of the college bonus I received for joining, however, once I experienced what being a Soldier was all about, I was hooked from that time forward," she stated.

While attending The Ohio State University in Columbus, the Dayton, Ohio native



Lt. Col. Annetta M. Richardson

enrolled in the Army R.O.T.C. program to further her leadership skills. Once she received her undergraduate degree and officer commission, she decided to commit to a three-year plus active duty stint in the Army as an air defense artillery officer.

"When I received my degree I was sure that I would only be in the Army for three years," she said. "However, after I completed my military obligation I rejoined the Reserve and continued my association with the Army as a warrior-citizen. However, something happened during my stay. I missed wearing my uniform fulltime as well as being part of the Army team. Sure, I had leadership positions in the civilian sector. But none compared to being a leader in the fulltime Army," she stated.

When Richardson learned about the Active Guard Reserve Program which afforded her the chance to serve in the Army Reserve on a fulltime basis, she leaped at the chance, and has been serving non-stop every since.

"Although I miss the teeming, industrial metropolis of Dayton, I am proud to be a Soldier. Each day I try to be the best leader I can possibly be for those entrusted under my care by personifying the Army Values whether I am in Iraq or stateside," she stated.

Having a penchant for detail, Richardson ensures every staff action she reviews is to standard and professionally presented. Like a skilled surgeon, she methodically analyzes each portion with technical precision, while ever coaching, mentoring, and encouraging her subordinates to excel.

"The Army is all about being part of a team...not an exclusive club where you have to meet certain criteria to become a member," she said. "Although the greater society may not always reserve a place for me at the welcome table of opportunity, in the Army there is one reserved not only for me, but for any person based on his or her potential and not race or gender. Because of this I am proud to serve and count myself a member of such a professional force which values diversity and the contributions that you make," she further stated.

Provost Marshal Office: Weekly police blotter

Week 25-2 March

The Provost Marshal Office conducted: (196) Security Checks, (48) Traffic Stops, issued (54) DD Form 1408 Armed Forces Traffic Tickets, (registered (254) vehicles on the installation), (5) Minor Traffic Accidents, (17) Common Access Cards were reported lost, and (two) individuals were barred from LSA.

The Provost Marshal Office is currently investigating:(4) Breaking and Entry cases.

If you have any information about any of these crimes, please contact the crime stoppers line at 433-8602 or notify the Military Police Investigations at 443-6190

PMO Recommendations: LSAA MNF-I Display of Badges. Badges must be displayed in the outer most garments above the waist, unobstructed and in plain view while wearing

civilian clothing on any installation. Coalition Forces do not have to prominently display badges when in uniform except when wearing their PT uniform. Any alterations to the badge, including holes punched, will automatically invalidate the badge and it will be confiscated immediately.

Crime Prevention: Report all suspicious activity and crimes immediately to the Provost Marshal Office. Dial 911 for emergencies and 443-8602 for all others.

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 Staff Sgt. Mirta Jones

Tech. Sgt. Jeromy Frisk from the Provost Marshal Office conducts ID checks on civilian and FN/LN employees during a sting operation at DFAC 4

ANACONDA TIMES

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

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20th Engineer Brigade
213th Area Support Group
402nd Army Field Support Brigade
507th Corps Support Group
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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.

Get what you need at the FOB Depot

by Spc. Jay Venturini

Anaconda Times staff



Photo by Spc. Jay Venturini

LSA ANACONDA, Iraq – With so many smaller outposts and forward operating bases being created all over Iraq, plus the upkeep of the current installations, there is a constant need for construction and building supplies.

To support this need, the 20th Engineer Battalion created the largest and most unique class IV yard (construction materials) in Iraq.

"It started with the unit we replaced having more materials than what you would usually find on a class IV yard," said Spc. Richard Raby, members of the 20th Eng. Battalion. Headquarters and Headquarters Company S4 section. "We also have electrical and plumbing supplies and pretty much anything else Soldiers will need. We call ourselves the FOB depot."

A typical class IV yard has everything needed to establish a military installation and keep it secure, to include wood, concrete, fencing and barbed wire.

When the 20th Eng. Battalion took over the yard in July 2007, it was in disarray. The prior unit didn't have any kind of inventory records for the supplies in the yard, causing the 20th to start from scratch to make the yard what it is today.

"The unit we replaced had things just sitting in the yard collecting dust," said Raby. "Since we've taken over, we have serviced the amount of requests the old unit did their entire tour in three months. So far we have tripled their productivity."

Much of the business has been through word of mouth throughout Iraq. Because the yard has grown so much and become so busy since the 20th took over eight months ago, it required double the space for conexes and supplies.

"In my 10 years of being in the Army, I have never seen a class IV yard of this size and inventory," said Capt. Rogers Brown, Jr., the 20th HHC S4 assistant officer in charge. "It is truly remarkable what these guys have done in eight short months."

The yard supplies LSA Anaconda and 28 other military installations throughout

The rough terrain cargo handler is a commonly used vehicle at the 20th Eng. Batt. class IV yard here. It is used to move conexes of supplies that will be shipped to different military installations throughout Iraq.

Iraq on a daily basis. They receive more than 100 requests for supplies per month and ship enough supplies to support a battalion sized element every week.

When a request for supplies is received, the yard workers pack up the supplies in a conex container and move it to the central receiving and shipping point yard. The conex is staged for an outgoing combat logistics patrol to deliver it to its final destination. The entire process, from request to receiving takes about two weeks.

Despite the long hours, Soldiers working the yard are dedicated to their mission and understand the importance of their efforts.

"It keeps us extremely busy and on our feet for the entire day. However, knowing that we are getting the war fighters the supplies they need makes it all worth it," said Spc. Jaime Loto, a carpenter with the 20th. "The fact that we are sustaining the livelihood of our fellow Soldiers outside the wire on a daily basis is all the motivation that I need... I love my job."

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
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—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)
11 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.

BHM Play provides excitement, entertainment

by Spc. Anthony Hooker

Anaconda Times staff

LSA ANACONDA, Iraq – “It was awesome!” “Congratulations on a fantastic production and performance!” “I almost forgot that I was still in Iraq!”

Those were some of the comments and accolades being passed around by audience members after watching “Gathered in Secret,” an original play held at the Sustainer Theater Feb. 29. Local Soldiers and Airmen put on a performance that received positive reviews by hugs, handshakes and emails.

The story centered on an African-American family who learn throughout hilarious scenes that life is not only what people believe to be true, but also what is revealed by others.

The central figure is Charles Powell, a recent Nobel Prize winner for literature who flaunts Afro-centric values. Powell, played by Sgt. 1st class Michael Powell, 316th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), hosts a celebratory dinner where he learns that his daughter, Iman, is unwed and pregnant by a “tall” (play’s code word for white) man, that his wife bore an unknown child prior to their relationship, which discovers a family friend being closer to the family than anyone could have ever imagined. Most importantly, he discovers from his least welcomed guest that America does not restrict its thinking to a person’s skin color.

Flanked by supporting characters who volunteer or are forced to reveal sides of themselves throughout the play, the story was engaging and reminiscent of the ‘chitlin circuit,’ a name given to performances by African-American casts forced to work low-budget venues during the age of racial segregation.

Sgt. Debra Gipson of the 316th ESC, the play’s author, producer and director, said the experience was more than worth it.

“It was amazing!” Gipson said. “I’m so proud of the cast and crew, from the images to the (actors’ and actresses’) improvisations . . . everything just worked really well.”

Gipson specifically lauded the reaction of the crowd, whose members regularly offered encouragement and grief to the performers.

“(The crowd) was very engaged with the cast,” said Gipson. “They laughed when they were supposed to laugh. They clapped when they were supposed to (clap). I was very surprised that they applauded when there was language (that didn’t send a clear message, for example, referring to Iman’s dinner date as tall instead of white).”

Gipson said the response validated what she set out to accomplish when the Black History Committee asked her to write a play for Black History Month.

Gipson explained her emphasis was to focus on the richness of the African-American culture and that you do not have to be African-American to find humor in or to learn from this play. Gipson added that she also intended on educating her audience with facts about African-Americans that help developed today’s culture, a quality she believed should complement an entertaining story.

Such a comprehensive outlook took a lot of planning, co-operation, flexibility, and the generosity of others.

The play required all 12 cast members and two understudies to be available to rehearse after completing their workday. Gipson said no formal waiver was required yet she almost lost one of her actors because his supervisor was not informed.

Reliability was also a concern, not knowing if the people who joined the cast would be available. Gipson took to calling her group “family” whenever she would address them, pointedly emphasizing the importance of working together and being of one accord. She worked to bring meals, provide scripts, and rely on a person’s enthusiasm to help bring the play up to a desirable performance. The family approach paid dividends when the play lost Staff Sgt. Elginette Powell of the 316th ESC to injury just a week prior to the scheduled performance. Gipson intended on placing herself in Powell’s role, but Spc. Tyeisha Friday of the 63rd Expeditionary Signal Brigade expressed an interest in the role and landed it shortly after.

One of the trickiest conditions to manage was the diversity of ranks in the cast. Officers and high-ranking noncommissioned officers were placed in scenes with lower enlisted Soldiers that placed priority on the script and not the individual before them. Maj. Carolyn Jones, the executive officer of 316th Support Operations and “Big Momma” in the play, said she succeeded by staying in character.

“I didn’t even know everyone’s (real) name.” Jones said. “I would call them by their character’s name.

Jones, whose character provided spunk and - with a well-positioned pillow - easily the most curvaceous figure, says the group’s ability to mesh was exceptional.

“The bonding has been really great to witness,” said Jones, who admitted it was her first time taking part in a play. “If we had taped our rehearsals, we could’ve had a blooper reel!”

Spc. Domonique McClellan of the 1387th Quartermaster Company, known as ‘Bishop Gitsome’ in the play, felt the same bond emerge.



Photo by Spc. Anthony Hooker

‘Angela’ (Spc. Tyeisha Friday) chastises Iman (Staff Sgt. Felecia Brackens) during play ‘Gathered in Secret’ at Sustainer Theater Feb. 29.



Photo by Spc. Anthony Hooker

Air Force MSgt. David Pate laughs during performance “Gathered in Secret” at Sustainer Theater Feb. 29

“When we first started, there wasn’t a lot of joking going on with the cast being (racially and militarily) mixed” said McClellan. “You try to hold on to those formalities.”

“As we got comfortable with each other, I wasn’t Spc. McClellan anymore – I was Bishop.”

Cast members and crew say they would regularly address each other by their stage names during the workday. “When someone would call me,” McClellan said, “I would jump into character (he perches up with glasses on and speaks in a slow, syrupy voice ‘Yes, yes . . .’).

McClellan also said the rehearsals revitalized him. “Going to practice becomes like seeing your family,” he said. “I would go back to work feeling uplifted.”

Gipson gave credit to the many groups who helped make the play that much more successful. The 403rd Inland Cargo Transfer Company provided stagehands, Staff Sergeant Thomas Harris of the 101st Airborne Division performed a strong rendition of “Amazing Grace” at the conclusion of the show, and the mayor cell and volunteer vendors passed out phone cards before the show started.

The show’s success has fueled some discussion of another play. Gipson was open to holding auditions but was strongly in favor of retaining a number of her current volunteers, saying she really liked the camaraderie. Gipson said what people should remember most is that the plays are written to include, not exclude anyone.

You can run but you can’t HIIDE



Photo by Staff Sgt. Dave Lankford

ALBU HISHMA, Iraq - Staff Sgt. Joshua Whitaker, 2nd Battalion, 320th Field Artillery Regiment, photographs a military age Iraqi male’s iris using Hand-held Interagency Identification Detection Equipment (HIIDE). The HIIDE is a digital system use to collect and store information including finger prints, photographs and iris images in the field. This information can then be compared to information already in the system. Fake identification is no match for the HIIDE. If you’re a bad guy, you’re busted.

Repair shop keeps weapons operational

by Spc. Jay Venturini

Anaconda Times staff

LSA ANACONDA, Iraq – Servicemembers deployed to Iraq can do without many things that would be taken for granted in the United States. There are some basic necessities however, that are critical for mission success, such as having an fully operational weapon.

That is where the small arms support center comes in. The center’s sole mission is to keep weapons operational and servicemembers mission ready.

“We service between 80 to 100 weapons per week,” said Ms. Zola Steele, SASC site manager. “We service any kind of weapon a servicemember is currently using in theater, to include mounts and mortars and even some foreign weapons.”

The shop supports all branches of the military and provides a one for one exchange when a weapon is damaged beyond repair.

No matter the reason for the weapon being brought in, every aspect of the weapon is thoroughly examined and checked for defaults. No weapon will leave the shop until it is 100 percent mission ready.

“We owe it to servicemembers that go outside the wire to ensure their weapons are completely mission ready,” said Mr. Jeff Price, a SASC weapons inspector. “And if we can’t repair the one they give us, we will give them a new one.”

Most repairs are simple and can be done within 30 minutes to an hour while the servicemember waits.

The shop also has over 1,800 items in stock for servicemembers to grab in a pinch. These items include everything from a firing pin retaining pin for an M-16A2 assault rifle to a barrel for a M-2 .50 caliber machine gun.

The most common weapon serviced is the .50 cal. due to the attention to detail needed to operate properly.

“Soldiers have to ensure that the head space and timing is correct on the .50 cal. I can not stress that enough,” said Steele. “We have had so many cases of Soldiers not properly setting it and having it blow up on them.”

For the weapons that are damaged beyond repair, they are sent to the Anniston Army Depot in Alabama where they are either repaired or melted down to make new weapons. Once the weapons are fully functional, they are shipped directly back to the various theaters of operation.

Even with all the advancements in body armor



Photo by Spc. Jay Venturini

Pfc. Brian D. Wease, 118th Maintenance Company small arms repair specialist, performs a system check on a .50 caliber machine gun to ensure it is mission ready at the small arms support center here. The SASC services between 80 to 100 weapons per week and ensures every one of them are 100 percent mission ready before returning them to the servicemember.

and vehicles, most would agree that there is nothing that will keep servicemembers safer outside the wire than a fully operational weapon.

With that in mind, the SASC staff have dedicated themselves to getting the servicemembers fully serviceable weapons in a timely and efficient manner.

“Our only goal is to provide support to the war fighter and ensure that when they walk out our door, their weapon is in the best condition it can be,” said Steele. “It is a job we take very seriously because how well we do our job could be the difference between life and death for the Soldiers in harms way.”



Photo by Spc. Jay Venturini

Spc. William Thomas, 118th Maintenance Company small arms repair specialist, repairs a M-240B machine gun at the SASC here. The SASC services any weapon that is currently used by servicemembers outside the wire, to include mounts and mortars.

Young Wolfe

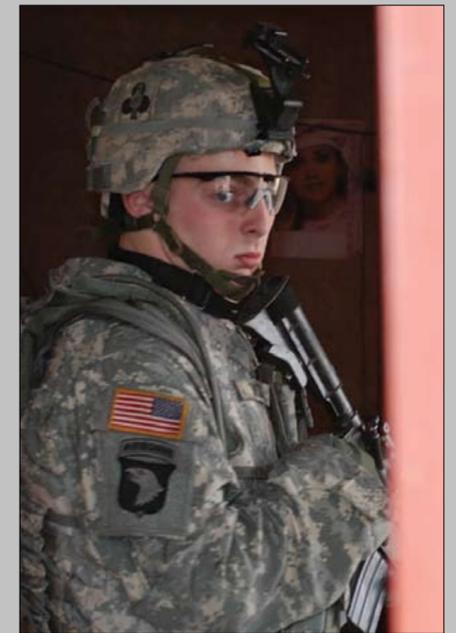


Photo by Staff Sgt. Dave Lankford

ALBU HISHMA, Iraq – For the first time Pfc. Wayne Wolfe, a signal support systems specialist with the 2nd Battalion, 320th Field Artillery Regiment, leaves his desk to join the men on the front line. Not only was it beneficial for him to take part in a mission he would normally monitor on the radio; he also became a valued force multiplier during the operation.

See Young Wolfe, Page 7

BASKETBALL FANS

Be seen on TV!!!

HAVE ALL YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS SEE YOU BACK HOME ON THE JUMBO-TRON DURING CBS TV'S MARCH MADNESS TELECAST

Contact the 316th Public Affairs Office for scheduling.

E-mail Ronald.Reeves@iraq.centcom.mil

Father travels to promote daughter to Sgt.

by Sgt. Gary Hawkins

Anaconda Times staff

LSA Anaconda, Iraq—“It means everything to me to have my dad pin my sergeant stripes on, I would have waited until we got home if that’s what I had to do,” said Sgt. Chantelle M. Cowher, A member of to the 316th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), at her promotion ceremony March 1 here.

Cowher, a native of New Castle, Penn., informed her father, Sgt. 1st Class Carl M. Phillips, a platoon sgt. with the 54th Military Police Company, she wanted him to pin on her stripes.

After Phillips received the news of her promotion around the first of February, he immediately started coordinating with both commands to make the trip to share this very special moment in his daughter’s Army career.

“I never thought my daughter would join the Army, much less be able to promote her to sergeant,” said Phillips. “Since I am a platoon leader I promote a lot of Soldiers. It’s an amazing feeling of pride to have the opportunity (to promote her.)”

“Being promoted to Sergeant is the most important step a Soldier can take

in the Army,” said Command Sgt. Maj. Stacey S. Davis, the service enlisted leader of the 316th ESC, during an NCO induction Ceremony held Feb. 22.

“NCOs lead the way and make things happen. They lead Soldiers, and train Soldiers, and that’s what I expect from Chantelle, nothing less,” Phillips said during the promotion ceremony.

Having someone you admire and respect pin your rank on can make that moment even more special.

But that’s not the end of the story. As a tradition in the “congratulations” part of the ceremony, some Soldiers tap the newly pinned stripes just a bit harder as a “welcome to the ranks” gesture. Cowher was not let off so easily. She received one from her father as well. Usually the expectation is a tap or quick jab to the arm, but Phillips asked her if she was ready and after a positive “yep”, He sent her to the floor with a crushing blow to her upper left arm.

With a dazed look, and a smile on her face, Cowher returns to her feet laughing, with the room still in a roar. Smiling, Phillips looked at his daughter and said “Congratulations! I’m proud of you.”



Photos by Sgt. Gary Hawkins

Sgt. 1st Class Carl Phillips of the 54th Military Police Company, gives his daughter, Sgt. Chantelle Cowher, a member of the 316th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), a “traditional” crushing blow on the upper arm that sent her to the floor March 1, after promoting her to Sgt. during a ceremony in the 316th Joint Operations Center here.

ISF conference sets the stage for self-sustainment

by Spc. Charlotte Martinez

Anaconda Times staff

LSA ANACONDA, Iraq – Different U.S. Army divisions of Iraq were represented at LSA Anaconda Feb. 24 during the Iraqi Security Forces conference to begin the planning stages of self-sustainment for Iraq.

The units represented at the conference were the Multi-National Corps-Iraq, Iraqi Assistance Group, Multi-National Division-Baghdad, 1-82nd Brigade Combat Team, 507th Corps Support Group and the 1st and 3rd Sustainment Brigades.

Brig. Gen. Gregory E. Couch, the Commanding General of the 316th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), started the conference off with remarks concerning the goals of the conference and the expectations of the divisions in the near future.

“Let me lay out the way ahead for you today... the divisions want stuff from us... they want us to provide Soldiers, equipment, etc. to support and train the Iraqi Security Forces within their own areas,” Couch said. “When we are trying to train the Iraqi Security Forces, the Iraqis look at you and your Soldiers differently... they have more respect for you and your uniform.”

Col. Brian Leonhard, Commander of the 213th Area Support Group, was the guest speaker of the conference and talked about the mission and the future goals of the conference.

“You have all earned credibility in your career field and with training a foreign force on how to self-sustain,” Leonhard said.



Photo by Spc. Charlotte Martinez

Col. William Palzer with the Multi-National Corps-Iraq Iraqi Assistance Group, speaks in front of the units represented at the Iraqi Forces Security Conference Feb 25.

Teach, coach and mentor are the basic principles Leonhard stressed when speaking. He said that it is important to ask the ISF what they want and it may be necessary to expand on the systems they already have in place to attain self-sustainment.

“What we have to figure out is what we’re going to do, and map our road to success, for Iraqi self-sufficiency,” said Col. Mark Palzer, with the MNC-I IAG support operations, who spoke after Leonhard.

The members of the conference discussed the roles of the different logistics and military transition teams identifying their role as trainers and mentors to the ISF. They also talked about how they would expand on the Iraqi systems for maintenance and training on the vehicles.

“As (MNC-I) gives up humvees, a portion of those are going to the Iraqi Security Forces. Part of the (self-sustainment) process is using the Iraqi Soldiers, so we are not just giving them humvees, we are training them to maintain the vehicles as well,” Palzer said.

Sgt. Maj. Lucian Sweetenber, the ISF noncommissioned officer-in-charge with the 3rd Infantry Division Headquarters and Headquarters Support Company, said, “They already have a maintenance and logistics system in place. We are going to mentor them to get

their system going.”

“We are going to help them take it through their system. Then we can run it through our side and figure out where it’s broken down at,” Sweetenber said.

“Let’s get our Soldiers back to logisticians work,” said Col. Michael Timberlake, Chief of the ISF Center, with the 316th ESC, as he wrapped up the conference and reiterated what Palzer and Couch said.

The units involved are only in the planning stages, but there are efforts to get some of the ideals underway. Without question, the conference is a positive step in achieving the goal of self-sustainment.

Young Wolfe runs with the pack

by Staff Sgt. Dave Lankford

Anaconda Times staff



Photo by Staff Sgt. Dave Lankford

Pfc. Wayne Wolfe, a signal support systems specialist with the 2nd Battalion, 320th Field Artillery Regiment, graduates to searching rooftops, one of an insurgent’s last refuges if caught in a house and among the most dangerous tasks for any Soldier

ALBU HISHMA, Iraq – A radio operator on LSA Anaconda took the time to gain some much needed experience Feb. 14, while acting as a valuable force multiplier for the men he was there to support.

There is often a bit of a disconnect between those on the front line and those on the other end of the radio. Pfc. Wayne Wolfe, a signal support systems specialist with the 2nd Battalion, 320th Field Artillery Regiment, realized this and decided to do something about it.

“I didn’t want to get complacent sitting in the TOC (tactical operation center). You need to stay on the edge,” said Wolfe. “I hear things over the radio and know Soldiers can die out there. It gets me to thinking, ‘what can I do better?’ How can I react quicker?”

When the 2-320th FAR was gearing up for a three day mission recently, so was Wolfe. With a smaller version of the radio he uses in the TOC on his hip, and his M4 carbine at the ready, he was in route to his first raid. Though the anxiety on his face was evident, it was well overshadowed by his determination.

At the beginning of the mission Wolfe stayed with the outer cordon, pulling security while the inner cordon searched the house. As the day went on, and the houses became larger and more complex, he was pulled inside to clear rooms and search for contraband.

Wolfe said though Basic Combat Training is good to refer back to when out on a real world mission, it doesn’t compare to the experience of actually being there.

“It helps me visualize what it is they’re out there looking for. We were trained to do everything we did in the field, but the experience really helps,” said Wolfe.

Wolfe, as with many young Soldiers, is looking to take the next step in his career. Specialist should come soon enough, and after that, he can join the ranks of the noncommissioned officer corps as a Sergeant. He feels his “outside the wire” experience will help him better mentor his Soldiers some day down the road.

“As an NCO I don’t want to be telling my Soldiers how it is, having never been there,” said Wolfe.

For now, Wolfe sits back in his TOC with a better understanding of what’s going on with the men on the other end of the radio. Should the need arise, however, he says he is ready and willing to trade his radio for a weapon.

“I wouldn’t have any complaints if I was asked to go out again.”

Cinnabon, Subway have grand openings



Photo by Staff Spc. Anthony Hooker

LSA ANACONDA, Iraq – Air Force Col. Ralph Romine, LSA Anaconda’s mayor, symbolically cuts ribbon as AAFES representatives Sylvia Stoudemire and Marcus Williams help during the grand opening of Cinnabon and Subway at the main post exchange March 1.

Troops gather to celebrate St. Barbara’s Day



Photo by Staff Sgt. Dave Lankford

LSA ANACONDA, Iraq – During a ceremony commemorating Saint Barbara, the patron saint of the field artillery, several members of the 1st Battalion, 9th Field Artillery Regiment and the 2nd Battalion, 320th Field Artillery Regiment were inducted into the Order of St. Barbara here Feb. 24.

See Field Artillery units gather to celebrate St. Barb’s Day, Page 10

Do you have a story idea?

Contact the Anaconda Times

anaconda.times@iraq.centcom.mil

Operation MEPS

Cont. from page 1

the Iraqi Army or even back in the [U.S. military].” Officers from the Iraqi Army were on hand to help administer medical screening, validate paperwork, and give the physical fitness test, while the Coalition imprint on the process was much smaller.

Springer said that the process has been run primarily by the ISF.

“The Coalition is just kind of stepping back and over-watching,” he said.

This is the start of a recruiting drive that will give ordinary Iraqis the opportunity to become Soldiers in the growing Iraqi Army.

“It’s the first time we’ve ever done an application process before the slots have opened to try to have a pool of qualified candidates, instead of taking the first 200 guys that walk in the gate,” said Capt. Daniel Wackerhagen, civilian-military operations officer with the 2-320 FAR.

Wackerhagen said that although there are currently no open positions within the Iraqi Police, the recruits’ applications will be on file should slots open at a future date.

The recruits, Iraqi men between the ages of 20 and 35, had already undergone background checks, and after a brief search at the front gate, they were processed in groups of 50 and turned over to the ISF for the rest of the

day. After having their application packets checked, the recruits received a brief medical screening before taking a physical fitness test to assess strength and endurance.

The physical fitness test consisted of push-ups, sit-ups, dips, and 100-meter and 1500-meter runs. Points were awarded upon completing 20 repetitions in each of the first three exercises, and the running tests were scored on a pass or fail system.

The recruits took the test in the clothes they wore, and a few completed the run without shoes – and without complaining – over a muddy, gravel course.

“Almost every day I play soccer, so I run every day,” said one of the faster recruits.

“The security of Iraq will ultimately be with them, the Iraqi people,” said Maj. Ian Tudlong, the military transition team chief who assists the 3rd Battalion, 4th Brigade, 4th Iraqi Army Division.

Tudlong said that by creating a formal process for accepting prospective Soldiers into the Iraqi Army, the Sons of Iraq can see that the Coalition and the Iraqis are fighting on the same team, for the same cause.

“To me, working with them every day, I see the effort they are putting out, and it’s amazing,” he said. “I have a lot of respect for them.”

“These are civilians who want to say, ‘enough is enough,’ and want to be part of the solution, rather than the problem,” said Tudlong.



Iraqi recruits do sit-ups during a PT examination at FOB O’Ryan Feb. 26 with hopes of being accepted into the Iraqi Army.



Encouraged by his instructor, an Iraqi man holds his garment in his mouth as he completes the 1,400-meter run during Operation MEPS.



An Iraqi recruit does push-up during the physical fitness test at FOB O’Ryan.



An Iraqi recruit performs dips during the physical fitness test at FOB O’Ryan.

Field Artillery units gather to celebrate St. Barb's Day



Photo by Staff Sgt. Dave Lankford

At the St. Barb's Day ball here Feb 24, Command Sgt. Maj. Hai Dang, 1-9 FA Command Sgt. Maj., adds some "Iraqi dirt" to the mix. The grog bowl is a long standing tradition at military dining-ins. Along with a compilation of beverages, other items were added to commemorate the occasion and to add a little flavor to the drink.

Story by Staff Sgt. Dave Lankford

Anaconda Times staff

LSA ANACONDA, Iraq – Members of the 1st Battalion, 9th Field Artillery Regiment and the 2nd Battalion, 320th FAR gathered at the Moral, Welfare and Recreation Center here to celebrate Saint Barbara's Day Feb. 24.

According to legend, Saint Barbara was the daughter of a wealthy heathen who locked her in a tower shortly before departing on a long journey. Upon her father's return he was enraged to learn she had accepted the Christian faith. He dragged her before the authorities, who decreed that she be put to death by beheading. Her father carried out the death sentence. As fate would have it, he was struck dead by lightning on his way home.

In the early, days of field artillery cannons often blew up, killing the artillerymen rather than the intended target. For this reason, Saint Barbara became the patron saint of the field artillery to offer them protection. As a show of gratitude she is honored each year.

On the evening of the dining-in, there was no animosity, rivalry or squabbling between the various units, only the camaraderie that comes with being an artilleryman. In fact, this is not the first time these two units have shared a meal or a battlefield.

"During the course of the last three months, 1-9 FA and 2-320th FA have forged a very close tacti-

cal working relationship. And I know I speak for all the Battle Kings when I say that we are pleased and honored to celebrate one of the most sacred traditions of the field artillery with the Balls (of the Eagle) battalion," said Lt. Col. Ken Peterson, 1st Battalion, 9th Field Artillery Commander.

"It is no coincidence that both of our battalions are on their third deployment in support of OIF (Operation Iraqi Freedom). Throughout those deployments, both units have consistently demonstrated incredible versatility and the ability to adapt and be successful in a very complex combat environment," said Peterson.

During the celebration, several Soldiers were inducted into the Order of Saint Barbara, the honorary society of the field artillery personnel. Both U.S. Marine and Army field artillery, along with their military and civilian supporters are eligible for membership. On this occasion, Brig. Gen. Gregory E. Couch, Commanding General of the 316th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) was one of the inductees.

Brig. Gen. James C. Boozer, 1st Armor Division, Multi National Division-North (MND-N) deputy commanding general, was also in attendance.

"We both come from historic parent divisions, the 101st Screaming Eagles and 3rd Infantry Rock of the Marne, which were the first 2 divisions called to lead the attack into Iraq back in 2003," said Peterson, "and although neither battalion is currently working for our respective divisions, we've both landed on our feet as part of great teams in MND-N and the 316th Sustain-

Alcohol awareness helps keeps Soldiers accident free

Story by Pvt. Ashley Armstrong

94th Army Air and Missile Defense Command Public Affairs

FORT SHAFTER FLATS, Hawaii– Death and injury are both undeniable aspects of life. In many cases the victims of accidents are caught unaware and unprepared, which increases the amount of damage inflicted on their lives. Accidents can't always be avoided, but there are ways to prevent them. One way to prevent accidental death and injury is through safety awareness training.

"Accidents can and will happen. Leaders must do everything within their power to give their Soldiers the tools to make good decisions," said Cpt. Michelle Toyofuku, commander of 94th Army Air and Missile Defense Command, Headquarters and Headquarters Battery.

To help uphold the fatality-clean reputation of the 94th AAMDC HHB here, Soldiers from the unit participated in a safety stand down, Feb. 14. The event was sponsored by the 94th AAMDC HHB and included three major parts: a speaker from the Mothers Against Drunk Driving program, a "fatal vision" goggles course, and a presentation from the Honolulu Police Department. Traci Jacob, a victim panel speaker for MADD, spoke to Soldiers about her experience with drunk driving and how it changed her life. She was accompanied by Russell Tai Hook, a court monitor specialist from MADD. "No one is immune to the effects of an accident," said Jacob.

Moving through four stations, participating Soldiers attempted to perform different tasks, each representing different blood alcohol levels. First, Soldiers performed tasks without goggles; then they performed them with goggles. Both attempts were timed so Soldiers could get an understanding of the difference in a person's ability to do things sober compared to when they have been drinking alcohol. One of the tasks included walking through a path of yellow cones. At the end, Soldiers picked the middle one of three orange cones and took it back to the start. "It was like a maze with those goggles on, and you're guessing to get through," said Spc. Justin A. Scales, administrative specialist, 94th AAMDC, after he completed the obstacle.

After going through the obstacles, the 94th Soldiers received a presentation by three HPD police officers. Benjamin Lloyd and Everett Higa gave the first on motorcycle safety. They showed pictures of motorcycle accidents that depicted the trauma that can be inflicted on victims of collisions. Officer Max Navas gave the last presentation on traffic safety.

All elements of the stand down focused on driving safety because safety seems to be at the heart of many local problems, said 1st Sgt. Ivan Thompson. The event went well, and he said he hoped that participating Soldiers retained some vital information.

"The safety stand down day allowed all of us to see firsthand through our speakers, photos and the DUI [driving under the influence] goggle course, the direct consequences that bad choices can have on ourselves, and especially those around us," said Toyofuku.



Photo by Pvt. Ashley Armstrong

Sgt. Terrance Sherman, a topographical analyst at 94th Army Air and Missile Defense Command, attempts to complete an obstacle course while wearing goggles that represent visual impairments caused at blood alcohol levels of .17 to .20.



Photo by Spc. Jay Venturini

FOB O'RYAN, Iraq – 1st Lt. Damian Barrineau, Assistant Physician for 2nd Battalion, 320th Field Artillery Regiment, donates a wheelchair to a local sheik and his 11 year old son, who is unable to walk. Barrineau donated the chair to extend good will to the local community and to foster further friendly relations.

New wheels!

Penn. Dept. of Corrections Stands Tall

by Spc. Charlotte Martinez

Anaconda Times staff

LSA ANACONDA, Iraq – Imagine you are just sitting around the office in Iraq, talking with co-workers, when you find out 11 other people have your same job, in the same state, doing the same thing when they're not deployed.

For members of the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections, this became true while deployed here.

"I knew before I was hired that many Army Soldiers are corrections officers and that I would work with them," said 1st Lt. Robert Fisher, a Smithfield corrections officer and Iraqi Security Forces Information Management Officer with the 316th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary). "What I didn't think of until I got here was going to war with colleagues I work with back in the United States. I had thought of one side of the coin, but not the other."

There are 27 institutions in Pennsylvania and nine are represented within the 316th ESC.

"I was the 15th person from my (job site) to be deployed, and I would have to say the management from my jail doesn't like it because they have to hire overtime to cover down on a position or hire someone new," said Maj. Chris Bauman, a Coal Township corrections officer and 316th ESC plans officer. "The problem with hiring someone new is it takes a year to train them.

It takes a year to train them to the point where he/she can protect themselves and the others they work with, as well as be an effective employee," Fisher says.

Though they are corrections officers in the civilian world, most of their military jobs have no relation. Master Sgt. William Mays, for example, is the training noncommissioned officer-in-charge for the 316th ESC and Spc. John Friend is a food service specialist.

"My job in the Army doesn't relate in any way to my civilian job," said Friend, who has served with the department for three years. "As far as I'm concerned, I love my job in the jail and I couldn't see myself doing any other job in the world."

Even though there are differences between the department and the Army, there are also some similarities.

"Just like being here, the days when nothing happens and everybody goes home safe is a good day," said Staff Sgt. Frank Bayer, a Pittsburgh corrections officer who also works for the Provost Marshal's office of the 316th ESC. "Corrections is a brotherhood,



Photo by Spc. Charlotte Martinez

Eleven 316th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) Soldiers stand in front of an Apache helicopter holding the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections flag representing their civilian workplace Feb. 28 at LSA Anacanda.

just like the military. It doesn't matter what institution you come from, just like it doesn't matter what post... it's a brotherhood."

The 11 members of the department got together Feb. 28 with a Pennsylvania Department of Corrections flag in front of an Apache helicopter and took a picture and signed the flag to be sent to the Secretary of Corrections, Jeffrey Beard. This is now the second year the department has sent a flag.

"On my first deployment, I wrote and asked if I may have a department flag to fly over my hooch,

and Secretary Beard himself sent me a handwritten letter with the department of corrections flag," said Staff Sgt. Ken Williams, a Camp Hill corrections officer and member of the 316th ESC's PMO.

"Being a corrections officer is extremely boring 99 percent of the time and balls to the wall one percent of the time," Fisher says. "It's the one percent that can make or break the day, save your life, the lives of fellow corrections officers or the life of an inmate."

America's warrior

A snapshot of servicemembers in the Global War on Terrorism



by Spc. Ryan Hohman

Full name and rank: Spc. David Genert.
Unit: A. Btry. 5-5 Air Defense Artillery
Job Title: Power-Generator Equipment Mechanic.
Time in service: 2 ½ years.
Age: 23.
Hometown: Hastings, NE.
Family (By name and Relation): Wife: Leslie Genert, Son: Aidan Genert.
Hobbies: Playing basketball and football.
Life-changing event/moment: Enlisting in the Military.
Lesson Learned: To stay focused on life and always improve on it.
The person I admire the most: My wife.
Why I joined the military: To travel and experience new things.
If I wasn't in the military I would be: Still in Hastings, NE.

The one thing I would change about the Army: make the HUMVEE more comfortable.

The one thing I think the Army got right: Always training.

What makes a good Soldier: Having discipline and doing what is right and watching out for your battle buddies.

What makes a good leader: Being a good teacher and having the patience to teach.

Unusual fact about you: I say things that have nothing to do with what anyone is talking about.

Motivations in life: My son motivates me to be the best dad I can be.

Goals: To get promoted and be the best soldier that I can be.

Hardest part of my job here: Maintaining 100% equipment readiness.

Best part of my life: Getting married and the birth of my son.

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 Trials- 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-

day- 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.

BE A STAR ON TV!!!

The 316th Public Affairs office needs your help to create public service announcements.
 Be an actor in a PSA and help promote the safety of us all.

For more information or to volunteer your time call 433-2154

PVT. MURPHY'S LAW



Upcoming sports on AFN

Wednesday 3/12/08

NCAA BB: Summit League Championship live 2:00 a.m. AFN/sports
 NHL: New Jersey @ Montreal live 2:30 a.m. AFN/xtra
 NCAA BB: Horizon League Championship live 4:00 a.m. AFN/sports; replay 3:00 p.m. AFN/sports
 NBA: Toronto @ Los Angeles Lakers live 5:30 a.m. AFN/xtra
 NCAA BB: Big East Tournament first round live 7:00 p.m. AFN/sports
 NCAA BB: Big East Tournament first round live 9:30 p.m. AFN/sports

Thursday 3/13/08

NCAA BB: Big East Tournament first round live 2:00 a.m. AFN/sports
 NCAA BB: Northeast Conference Championship live 2:00 a.m. AFN/xtra
 NCAA BB: Big Sky Conference Championship live 4:00 a.m. AFN/xtra; replay 3:00 p.m. AFN/sports
 NCAA BB: Big East Tournament first round live 4:30 a.m. AFN/sports
 NBA: San Antonio @ New Orleans replay 10:00 a.m. AFN/sports
 NCAA BB: Big East Tournament quarterfinal live 7:00 p.m. AFN/sports
 NCAA BB: Big East Tournament quarterfinal live 9:30 p.m. AFN/sports

Friday 3/14/08

NCAA BB: Big East Tournament quarterfinal live 2:00 a.m. AFN/xtra
 NBA: Cleveland @ Washington live 3:15 a.m. AFN/sports
 NCAA BB: Big East Tournament quarterfinal live 4:30 a.m. AFN/xtra
 NBA: Golden State @ Phoenix live 5:30 a.m. AFN/sports
 NCAA BB: Big Ten Tournament quarterfinal live 7:00 p.m. AFN/sports
 NCAA BB: Big Ten Tournament quarterfinal live 9:30 p.m. AFN/sports

Saturday 3/15/08

NCAA BB: Big East Tournament semifinal live 2:00 a.m. AFN/sports

NCAA BB: ACC Tournament quarterfinal live 2:00 a.m. AFN/xtra
 NCAA BB: ACC Tournament quarterfinal live 4:30 a.m. AFN/xtra
 NCAA BB: Big East Tournament semifinal live 4:30 a.m. AFN/sports
 NHL: St. Louis @ San Jose live 5:30 a.m. AFN/prime
 NCAA BB: Mountain West Conference semifinal live 6:30 a.m. AFN/xtra
 NBA: San Antonio @ Detroit replay 10:00 a.m. AFN/sports
 NBA: Los Angeles Lakers @ New Orleans replay 3:00 p.m. AFN/sports
 NCAA BB: Conference USA Championship live 7:00 p.m. AFN/prime
 NCAA BB: American East Championship live 7:00 p.m. AFN/xtra
 NCAA BB: ACC Conference semifinal live 8:30 p.m. AFN/sports
 NCAA BB: Big Ten Conference semifinal live 8:40 p.m. AFN/prime
 NASCAR: Nationwide Series: Sharpie Mini 300 live 9:30 p.m. AFN/xtra
 NCAA BB: ACC Conference semifinal live 11:00 p.m. AFN/sports
 NCAA BB: Big Ten Conference semifinal live 11:00 p.m. AFN/prime

Sunday 3/16/08

NCAA BB: Pac-10 Conference Championship live 1:00 a.m. AFN/prime
 NCAA BB: Atlantic 10 Conference Championship live 1:00 a.m. AFN/sports
 NCAA BB: Mid American Conference Championship live 2:00 a.m. AFN/xtra
 NHL: Vancouver @ Dallas live 3:00 a.m. AFN/prime
 NCAA BB: Western Athletic Conference Championship live 4:00 a.m. AFN/xtra; replay 8:00 a.m. AFN/xtra
 NCAA BB: Big East Conference Championship live 4:00 a.m. AFN/sports
 NCAA BB: Big West Conference Championship live 6:00 a.m. AFN/xtra
 NCAA BB: Big 12 Conference semifinal replay 10:00 a.m. AFN/xtra

NCAA BB: Big 12 Conference semifinal replay 12:00 a.m. AFN/xtra
 NBA: San Antonio @ Philadelphia replay 2:00 p.m. AFN/xtra
 NBA: Sacramento @ Phoenix replay 4:30 p.m. AFN/xtra
 NCAA BB: ACC Conference Championship live 8:00 p.m. AFN/sports
 NCAA BB: SEC Conference Championship live 8:00 p.m. AFN/prime
 NASCAR: Sprint Cup Series: Ford City 500 live 8:30 p.m. AFN/xtra
 NCAA BB: Big 12 Conference Championship live 10:00 p.m. AFN/sports
 NCAA BB: Big Ten Conference Championship live 10:30 p.m. AFN/prime

Monday 3/17/08

NBA: New Orleans @ Detroit live 1:00 a.m. AFN/xtra
 NHL: Edmonton @ San Jose live 3:00 a.m. AFN/prime
 NBA: Seattle @ Denver live 4:00 a.m. AFN/xtra
 NCAA BB: Southland Conference Championship replay 6:30 a.m. AFN/xtra
 NHL: Philadelphia @ Pittsburgh replay 8:00 a.m. AFN/xtra
 NBA: Dallas @ Miami replay 10:00 a.m. AFN/xtra
 PGA Tour: 2008 Arnold Palmer Invitational replay 10:30 a.m. AFN/sports
 NBA: Los Angeles Lakers @ Houston replay 3:30 p.m. AFN/sports

Tuesday 3/18/08

NHL Colorado @ Minnesota live 2:00 a.m. AFN/xtra
 NBA: Boston @ San Antonio live 3:30 a.m. AFN/sports
 NHL: Phoenix @ Vancouver live 5:00 a.m. AFN/xtra
 NBA: Cleveland @ Orlando replay 10:00 a.m. AFN/sports
 AFL: Colorado @ Dallas replay 3:00 p.m. AFN/sports
 MLB: Washington @ Detroit live 8:00 p.m. AFN/sports

SUSTAINER REEL TIME THEATER

Movie Times

Wednesday, March 12
 5 p.m. 27 Dresses (PG-13)
 8 p.m. Mad Money (PG-13)
Thursday, March 13
 5 p.m. Mad Money (PG-13)
 8 p.m. Semi Pro (R)
Friday, March 14
 2 p.m. Meet the Spartans (PG-13)
 5 p.m. Rambo (R)
 8:30 p.m. College Road Trip (G)
Saturday, March 15
 2 p.m. Cloverfield (PG-13)
 5 p.m. College Road Trip (G)
 8 p.m. Rambo (R)
Sunday, March 16
 2 p.m. College Road Trip (G)
 5 p.m. Cloverfield (PG-13)
 8 p.m. Meet the Spartans (PG-13)
Monday, March 17
 5 p.m. Meet the Spartans (PG-13)
 8 p.m. College Road Trip (G)
Tuesday, March 18
 5 p.m. College Road Trip (G)
 8 p.m. Rambo (R)
 (Schedule is subject to change)

Movies Coming Soon

Untraceable (R)
 Horton Hears A Who (G)
 The Eye (PG-13)
 Over Her Dead Body (PG-13)

New Movies

Meet the Spartans (PG-13)



From the creators of Scary Movie and Date Movie comes this tongue-in-cheek parody of the sword-and-sandal epics, dubbed Meet the Spartans. The 20th Century Fox production is written and directed by the filmmaking team of Jason Friedberg and Aaron Seltzer.

Sure, Leonidas may have nothing more than a cape and some leather underwear to protect him from the razor sharp swords of his Persian enemies, but that won't stop the brave leader and his team of thirteen warriors from defending their beloved homeland against a powerful invading force that includes the likes of a mutant Paris Hilton, the Transformers, the Ghost Rider and Rocky Balboa. ~ Jeremy Wheeler, All Movie Guide

College Road Trip (G)



A high-school student (Raven Symone) with noble dreams of becoming a public defender sets out to visit potential universities in the unwanted company of her father (Martin Lawrence) -- an overprotective cop -- in this road trip comedy produced by Andrew Gunn and directed by Roger Kumble. Melanie (Symone) is about to graduate high school, and she's ready to take her first step toward adulthood by hitting the road to explore her college prospects with

a few close female friends. But despite the fact that this trip is strictly "girls only," Melanie's father isn't comfortable with the prospect of his little princess hitting the road without an adult chaperone -- and what better guardian to have while you're out on the open road than the chief of police himself? Of course, while Melanie's father only has the best of intentions, his presence on a trip that was designed to mark his little girl's emergence as a young adult leads to an endless series of comic complications. ~ Jason Buchanan, All Movie Guide

Cloverfield (PG-13)



Producer J.J. Abrams teams with writer Drew Goddard and director Matt Reeves for this frenetic tale of a powerful destructive force that descends upon New York City. Rob Hawkins (Michael Stahl-David) is a young American professional who has recently been offered a coveted new job in Japan. Eager to send his older sibling off in style, Rob's younger brother Jason (Mike Vogel) and his girlfriend Lily (Jessica Lucas) organize a

surprise going-away party to take place the night before Rob boards his Eastern-bound flight. As the party gets underway, the entire New York City skyline goes dark. Power is restored a moment later, prompting partygoers to turn their attention towards the news, where they learn that a freight tanker has been overturned in New York Harbor. Racing to the rooftop in hopes of getting a better look at the situation, the group is terrified to witness a massive explosion that rains debris across midtown Manhattan, causing mass chaos and unparalleled destruction. But the worst is yet to come. ~ Jason Buchanan, All Movie Guide

First resident BNCOC class offered in Iraq

by Staff Sgt. Tim Sander

Anaconda Times staff

LSA ANACONDA, Iraq – The Army’s noncommissioned officers are often referred to as “The backbone of the Army” for the leadership they provide to enlisted Soldiers. The Army requires its NCOs to complete standardized courses through the Noncommissioned Officer Education System. For 11 Staff Sergeants here, that instruction came during the first Basic Noncommissioned Officer Course – phase one, offered while deployed.

“The Soldiers participating in this class are Soldiers who have not had the opportunity to either start or complete their BNCOC requirement due to multiple deployments,” said Sgt. 1st Class Gary Martz, 213th Area Support Group Battle NCO, who instructed the course.

Martz explained that all Staff Sergeants in the Army must complete BNCOC before they are eligible for promotion to Sergeant First Class.

For the 11 NCOs who completed the course, progression in their military careers would have been delayed until they returned home.

“This is really a great opportunity,” said Staff Sgt. Juan Camacho, a member of the 118th Maintenance Company, and one of the 11 Soldiers who completed the course.

Camacho said many of his classmates have been scheduled for BNCOC in the United States, but had to withdraw when they discovered they would be deploying.

Planning for the class was no easy task, said Martz, who is an Active Guard Reserve NCOES instructor when he isn’t deployed.

“We started talking about (hosting a class) in May of 2007 at Fort Bragg,” explained Martz. “Once we got here and got settled, we started making plans.”

Coordination had to be made with the NCO Academy in the U.S. to ensure the training met the requirements for NCOES and the class had to be approved by both Martz’s leadership and the command staff of LSA Anaconda.

Martz said all concerned parties were very receptive of the class. The Soldiers participating in the class also needed approval from their chains of command since they would be taken out of their jobs for 13 days.

“Our units have been very supportive,” said Comacho, who explained his unit understands the importance of NCOES and how it is applied to leading Soldiers while deployed.

“The advantages of taking BNCOC here is we can go back to our job and apply



Photo by Staff Sgt. Tim Sander

Sgt. 1st Class Gary Martz, Battle NCO for the 213th Area Support Group, instructs 11 NCOs during the first Basic Noncommissioned Officer Course – Phase 1, held in Iraq. Martz, who is an NCOES instructor when he isn’t deployed, volunteered to instruct course in addition to completing his main mission.

the skills we learn to real world situations,” he said.

In order for the NCOs to receive credit for the course, every requirement had to be strictly adhered to, regardless of its location. Perhaps the most challenging requirement to meet in a war zone was physical training.

Students met at 6 a.m. Monday through Friday to begin stretching. After a brief warm-up, the two class leaders of the day, which rotated to provide everyone an opportunity to lead, took control and led the rest of the group in their choice of training.

“I don’t know how well we’ll do in PT... after Staff Sgt. Moss and Staff Sgt. Comacho’s ‘smoke session’ this morning,” joked Staff Sgt. Fredrick Holt, Supply NCO for the 316th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), referring to an intense session of PT.

After 13 long days and complete commitment from the students and instructor, the 11 NCOs became the first Soldiers to graduate from BNCOC in Iraq.

“This is history in the making for Soldiers to engage in Noncommissioned Officer Education System (while) in theater,” said Martz.

3rd SB opens state-of-art TOC

by Spc. Thomas Keeler

Anaconda Times staff

LSA ANACONDA, Iraq – The new Tactical Operations Center for the 3rd Sustainment Brigade opened in grand style at Forward Operating Base Q-West March 1. The new TOC replaces three smaller TOCs used previously and will serve as headquarters for the three main missions of the 3rd SB – sustainment for Multinational Division – North, major cell operations, and force protection for the base.

“The real purpose of the TOC is to make sure we have a much more functional, synchronized, and effective operation,” said Col. Darrell K. Williams, commander of the 3rd SB.

The TOC, built by KBR with materials from the United States and automated by the brigade’s S-6 (communications) section, was four months in the making and consolidates three smaller TOCs used prior to the opening.

“It brings together three different TOCs that we had spread out over this base, brings all of our digital feeds in together, and it brings every key current operation type NCO and officer together so when our commander walks in, he has a common operating picture,” said Lt. Col. Pat Curran, executive officer for the 3rd SB.

“It’s already turned out to be a great thing,” said Curran. Brig. Gen. Gregory E. Couch, commander of the 316th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), was on hand to see the grand opening and meet the workers who were presented with certificates for making the TOC operational.

“It is phenomenal to come back and see what this command has done,” Couch told the group after they were presented with their awards.

Couch praised not only the 3rd SB but also KBR for leaving a better building behind than they received. Couch was the commander at Q-West during his first tour in Iraq in 2004-2005.

All of the KBR workers involved in the construction, as well as some KBR leadership, were present for the opening.

“The concept was to have approximately 70 workstations with no wires showing, and just to make it a pleasant place to be and easy to work in and get around in,” said Charlie McConnell, the KBR project lead during the construction.

“I just took all their information and the few very basic sketches that we had, and came up with this,” said McConnell.

Col. Williams presented McConnell with the 3rd SB dragon for his efforts.

Master Sgt. Michael Bryant, noncommissioned officer-in-charge for the S-6 (communications) shop of the 3rd SB, said his Soldiers worked around the clock to meet the timetable set by Col. Williams.

“Everything was phased, from the day that the wood was torn out, that’s the day we got started,” said Bryant.

“By having everything integrated we can have all the outlying units patch in to us, at any time during the day, for any type of meetings or any type of events,” he said. “Anything can be shown or displayed anywhere within the TOC.”



Photo by Spc. Thomas Keeler

Lt. Col. Pat Curran, executive officer for the 3rd SB, presents Brig. Gen. Gregory E. Couch with a plaque at the opening of the new TOC at Q-West, March 1, as Col. Darrell K. Williams, 3rd SB commander, applauds. The new TOC at Q-West consolidates three older TOCs and provides 3rd SB support for MND-N, major cell operations, and force protection for the base.

Bryant praised the efforts of not only his Soldiers, but of all those Soldiers from other Military Occupational Specialties that pitched in during the construction.

“It’s something they don’t teach you in school, but we learned how to do it,” said Bryant.

“This was a vision that started the day we hit the ground,” said Williams. “This facility is going to save Soldiers’ lives.”

Every drop counts



Photo by Air Force Senior Airman Julianne Showalter

BALAD AIR BASE, Iraq – Army Capt. Susan Hawley, 546th Area Support Medical Company doctor, relaxes at the apheresis clinic in the Air Force Theater Hospital while blood platelets are separated from the rest of her blood donation. Platelet donors undergo a prescreening for infectious diseases, which is valid for 30 days, and are tested each time they donate. Once test results confirm donors are free from infection, their names are added to a list of people who can be called if there is a need for platelets. Captain Hawley is deployed from Fort Hood, Texas.

‘Ship of the Desert’



Photo by Spc. Thomas Keeler

LSA ANACONDA, Iraq – Command Sgt. Maj. Stacey E. Davis of the 316th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) takes a camel ride at the Q-West Souq Iraqi Market opening March 1 at FOB Q-West. A souq is a marketplace where neutrality from tribal conflicts is declared to permit the exchange of surplus goods.

Troops gather to celebrate the close of BHM



Photo by Staff Sgt. Dave Lankford

LSA ANACONDA, Iraq – Spc. Dominique McClellan, 1387th Quartermaster Company, entertains Servicemembers of LSAA with a spectacular rendition of Sam Cooke’s “Change Gon’ Come,” at a luncheon held at the Morale, Welfare and Recreation center here Feb. 27, to commemorate Black History Month.

Memorial stands to honor fallen comrades



Photo by Staff Sgt. Dave Lankford

LSA ANACONDA, Iraq – The place setting for our missing and fallen comrades is recognized by all members of the military, but few understand the symbolism of the items on the table. The white table cloth symbolizes the purity in motive of those who answer their nation’s call to duty. The slice of lemon is a reminder of the bitter fate of the fallen, and the salt represents their tears, as well as those of their families and brothers-in-arms. The single rose reminds us of the families and loved ones that keep the faith for those missing in action. The glass placed upside down symbolizes the inability of fallen comrades to join in the toast to be offered in their honor. We shall never forget.

Nogi Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu

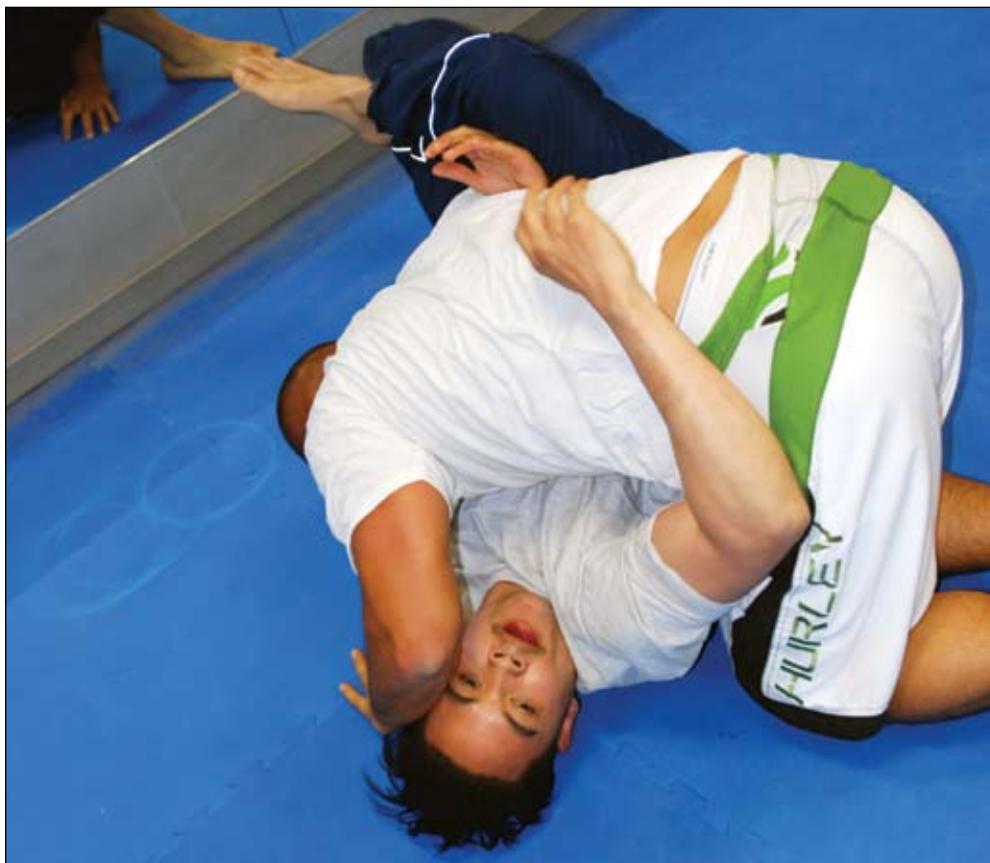


Photo by Spc. Ryan Hohman

Top Left: Senior Airman David Adriatico tries to break free of Airman 1st Class Matthew Kahai, both with the 332nd Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron Fire and Emergency Services/ Civil Engineer Fire, as they practice before their Nogi Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu class.



Photo by Spc. Ryan Hohman

Top Right: Spc. Chad James with the 74th Multi-Role Bridge Company based out of Fort Hood, Texas, gives pointers to servicemembers during combatives class here Mar. 7.

Bottom Right: Spc. Chad James teaches Nogi Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu to services members. He conducts the class every Mon, Wed, and Fri at 8 p.m.

Bottom Left: Spc. Chad James watches servicemembers spar to ensure they are using the correct techniques during combatives class here.



Photo by Spc. Ryan Hohman

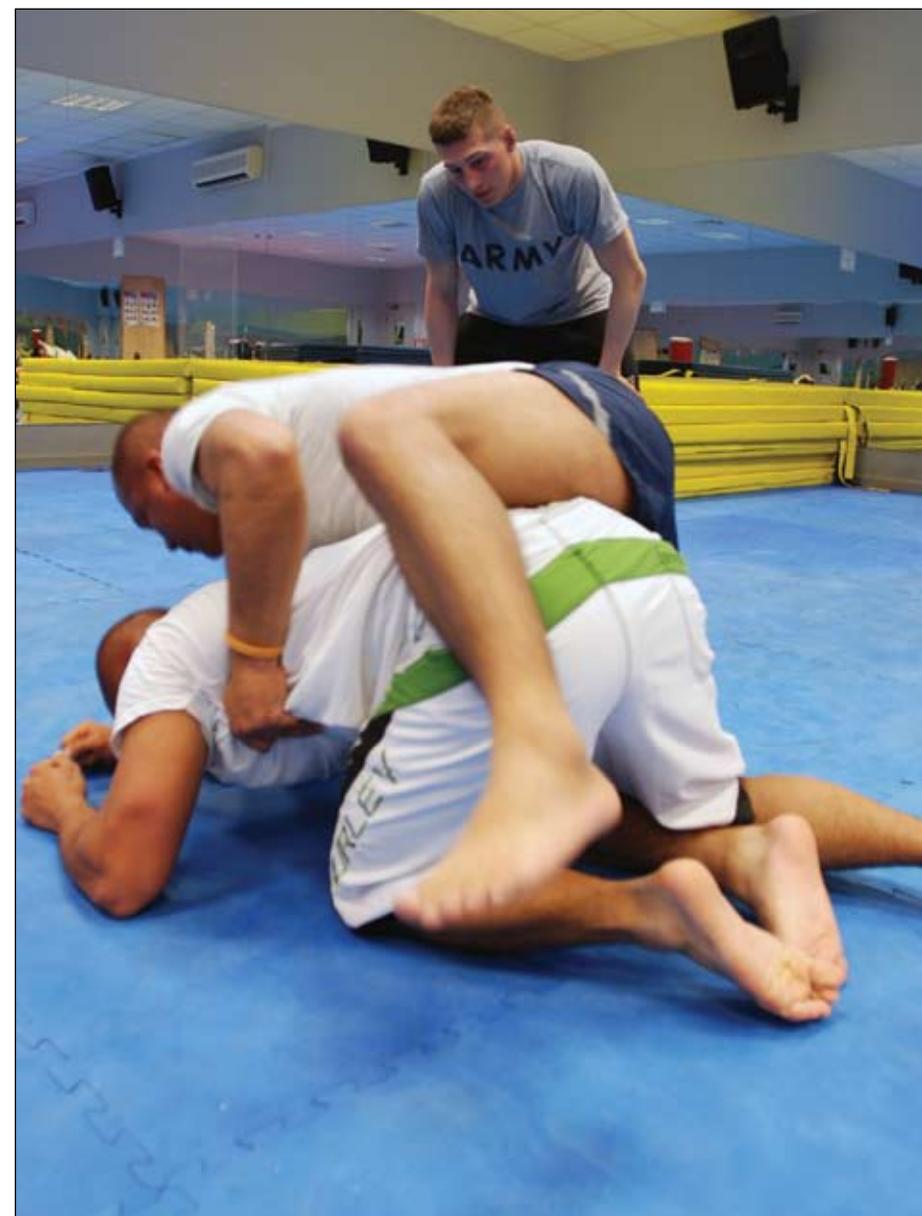


Photo by Spc. Ryan Hohman