

# AnacondaTimes

APRIL 9, 2008

PROUDLY SERVING LSA ANACONDA



Photo by Maj. Vince Moss

## 325th sees double

Identically twin surgeons serve together in theater

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Photo illustration by Staff Sgt. Tim Sander

## Heroes visit LSAA troops

Medal of Honor recipients tour LSAA

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Photo by Spc. Ryan Hohman

## Troops rock out in LSAA

Servicemembers show their stuff in Rock Band concert

Pages 12



Photo by Spc. Andrea Merritt

Children from the village of Assriya, Iraq, gather around Lt. Col. Lee Ellis, commander of the 1103rd Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 1st Sustainment Brigade, during his visit to the village March 30.

# Building hope in Assriya

Story by Spc. Andrea Merritt

1st Sustainment Brigade PAO

**ASSRIYA, Iraq** – The Soldiers of Alpha Battery, 1st Battalion, 143rd Field Artillery Regiment, a California National Guard unit attached to the 1103rd Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 1st Sustainment Brigade, spend most of their nights conducting convoy security missions.

Although their job requires them to be nocturnal, a few of the Soldiers have chosen to use their daylight hours to work in a village located outside of Camp Taji, instead of sleeping.

Since February, 2nd Platoon Soldiers of Alpha Battery have used their personal time between missions to deliver supplies and make repairs to schools in the village of Assriya.

“When we first started, we started with volunteers, but everybody volunteered so it ended up 100 percent participation,” said Sgt. 1st Class Richard Weaver, a Greenville, Calif., native and the platoon leader for 2nd platoon.

“It’s a good cultural awakening for these guys. It gives them a side of Iraq that they normally don’t get to see and a chance to

interact with the Iraqi people,” said Weaver.

Weaver, who is a teacher in his civilian occupation, organized a drive at his school back in Calif. to collect school supplies after he saw the need Iraqi schools had for basic materials during a previous deployment to here in 2005.

After he was given clearance to go into Assriya, the platoon distributed the initial packages, which were filled with notebook paper, pencils, colored pencils, crayons, chalk and staplers.

“When we first came in, they only had one stapler for the whole school, and keep in mind there are about 450 students. There were no computers and no copiers,” Weaver explained.

“I have a \$1 million budget to run my school back home and here they only had one stapler. It’s an extreme situation over here,” said Staff Sgt. Richard Martinez, a squad leader in the platoon and a gun truck commander for the unit, who is also the principal at Washington School in Cloverdale Unified School District in Calif.

The platoon has also increased security measures at the girls’ school and worked on repairing a leaky roof.

See **Hope**, Page 7

# 'At ease' with the 316th CSM



Command Sgt. Maj. Stacey E. Davis

As we prepare to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the Army Reserve, let us pause to remember our fellow warrior citizens who gave their all in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Courageous Soldiers like Sgt. James Witowski, who was killed in action while serving here in October 2005, and like Sgt. Keith Matthew Maupin, whose remains was recently found, almost exactly four years after the fuel convoy he was traveling in was ambushed west of Baghdad. They, just like those brave souls before them, answered the call to duty, put boots on the ground, and gave the full measure of their devotion for a cause larger than themselves. I am convinced that Time will not erase nor History destroy their fighting spirit, which continues to be a testament of their selfless service and unwavering dedication.

Without argument, today's warrior-citizens represent the values that our nation was founded on. One hundred years of excellence and commitment can be found in every Army Reserve Soldier who is proud to wear the uniform and is focused on mission

accomplishment. Why you may wonder? Because each one of us are members of the best trained, best led, and best equipped fighting force our Nation has ever fielded. We are warriors for our nation and an integral part of America's Army. That is why we serve. That is why we leave behind our civilian endeavors, pick up our weapons, and serve shoulder-to-shoulder with the active force whenever called upon to defend our nation and its vital interests.

Our force has come a long way from its humble beginnings when we started out as a small reserve force of about 360 medical professionals in 1908. As an organization and as a federal force we have evolved. We are no longer considered a strategic reserve; instead, we are an operational force and an essential part of the world's greatest Army. Our units are prepared and available to deploy with a full complement of trained Soldiers and equipment when needed.

Since Sept. 11, 2001, more than 180,000 Army Reserve Soldiers have mobilized to serve in Iraq, Afghanistan and more than a dozen other countries. Today, about 25,000 Army Reserve Soldiers serve on active duty in support of the War on Terror. About 19,000 serve overseas, while another 6,000 support homeland defense missions at training centers, mobilization sites, and medical centers. Because of warrior-citizens, America's Army Reserve is a robust and definite combat multiplier. One hundred years of warrior-citizen tradition continues. Proud of our past and confident of our future, we will forever remain Army Strong. Happy 100th Anniversary Army Reserve!

Command  
Sergeant  
Major  
  
NCO's  
lead the  
way!

## Provost Marshal Office: Weekly police blotter

Week of March 24-30

**The Provost Marshal Office conducted:** (189) Security Checks, (16) Traffic Stops, issued (30) DD Form 1408 Armed Forces Traffic Tickets, registered (188) vehicles on the installation, and investigated (eight) minor traffic accidents. Sixteen Common Access Cards were reported lost, and (five) individuals were barred from LSAA.

**The Provost Marshal Office is currently investigating:** (four) larceny cases, (one) breaking/entering, (two) assaults, (one) negligent discharge, and (two) GO1 violations.

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:** LSA Anaconda Regulation 190-5: Personnel riding in vehicles without fixed seats, benches or side rails may ride in the bed of the truck after all cab seats

are utilized. They must be seated on the floor of the vehicle bed. Riding on the wheel well is not authorized. Personnel riding in the back will not lean against the tailgate. Personnel riding in vehicles with fixed seats or benches mounted inside the vehicle bed may ride on them only if there is a safety strap (troop strap) across the tailgate area to preclude personnel from falling out. If there is no functional safety strap across the tailgate area, then personnel must sit on the floor of the vehicle bed. All personnel riding in a tactical vehicle, regardless of seating position, must wear a Kevlar helmet, not a hard hat.

**Lost & Found:** Units are advised that the Lost and Found have various military items recovered. To find out if your lost item has been turned into PMO, contact PMO/Investigations at 443-6105

By Staff Sgt. Mirta Jones



Courtesy Photo

Members from the Provost Marshal Office pose with Medal of Honor recipients during their visit here.

## 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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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

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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.

# Al Asad holds movie premiere

By Spc. Anthony Hooker

Anaconda Times staff

**AI ASAD AIR BASE, Iraq** – Al Asad Air Base hosted the grand opening of its newly renovated and upgraded movie theater March 29 at the base theater.

Only the second hardened structure in Iraq to show full-screen movies, Airmen, Soldiers, Sailors, Marines and support staff were treated to a viewing of the newly released DVD, "American Gangster," featuring Denzel Washington and Russell Crowe.

Air Force 2nd Lt. Travis Lytton, the joint services' office manager for Al-Asad, was excited about the occasion.

"This is great," Lytton said, "we worked very hard to get this done." The theater is capable of seating more than 800 personnel and its staff plans to offer two showings per day: the first at 1 p.m. and a second at 8 p.m. The theater also has a balcony that will be used only for important visitors.

Lytton said this project had been pushed for months; in fact, his predecessor left right as approval was given to start the program.

Assuming control, Lytton understood the ambition that surged because of this project.

"There already was a facility in place," Lytton said, "so we saw the opportunity to show as many movies as we wanted. We have a structure that has a big-screen TV and some seating couches, but that's not nearly enough to accommodate the base populace," said Lytton, referring to the base's Morale, Welfare and Recreation facility.

In addition to purchasing a projector, 20 x 20 foot screen and accompanying electrical equipment, Lytton had to ensure the building met safety standards. The Marines coordinated with members of the Air Force and Kellogg, Brown and Root to obtain jersey barriers; the groups also joined together to sandbag the area. Finally, the Marines provided security, including force protection dogs, which remained through the duration of the movie.

Lytton suggested having a movie theater brings some sense of normalcy to the base.

"People normally go to movies on weekends," he said. "This can bring a calm... (and) relaxing atmosphere."

Sgt. Brian Potter, a Soldier with Headquarters Company, 507th Command Support Group, agreed that having something new to do was good for the base.

"You get a chance to get your mind off of work, think about other things,"



Photo by Spc. Anthony Hooker

Soldiers and Marines view a scene from "American Gangster" March 29 at the Al-Asad Base Theater. Al-Asad is only the second base to offer full-screen viewings under a hardened structure. LSA Anaconda was the first.

Potter said. "Jobs may be high-stress, some may not. Either way, it will be good for people to have something to do when they leave the office or the motor pool."

The theater should be able to get first-run movies in the near future. Lytton added that requests would be taken for movies, no matter the rating or genre.

Although the contract rights for viewing movies was given to KBR, Lytton said they will try to work with Army and Air Force Exchange Service to add a concession stand in the theater hallway.

Lytton says any final decisions are his call, but that he is by no means an expert. "This is a work in progress," he said. "No one here has any experience in this."

"We will work out the kinks . . . we just wanted to give something back to the troops."

## 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)  
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 6 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.

# Twins making an impression in Iraq

by Spc. Anthony Hooker

Anaconda Times staff

**AL ASAD AIR BASE, Iraq** – Army Reserve Majors Vince and Vance Moss look alike, work in the same profession, and are comfortable finishing each other sentences. As twins, it is sometimes difficult for people to distinguish between them, yet the 36-year old pair stand out in a crowd serving as general surgeons at Al Asad Air Force Base.

Residents of New York City, the twins have been attached to the 325th Combat Support Hospital since February. Vance specializes in urology and renal transplant while older brother Vince practices cardiothoracic surgery.

Each one's specialty has risen in demand, particularly the need for urology. "A lot of soldiers are being treated for pelvic trauma," Vance said. "IED blasts are received from the bottom up and the pelvic injuries lead to urologic issues. Kidney and renal stones are some of the illnesses Soldiers have received."

The twins believe the military is making a move to localized care concerning injuries in theater.

"The Army is now focusing on battle-injury correctness," Vance said. "More (medical) specialists are being brought into theater instead of Soldiers being transported into places like Landstuhl, Germany and the United States."

Captain Troy Bartley, the public affairs officer for the 325th, believes the Army has decided that each combat area has its own needs.

"Physicians are starting to be placed in region-specific areas," said Bartley. "One area may need an eye surgeon, another a pediatrician."

"The types of injuries happening in Baghdad are different from Balad, so the types of recovery needed determines where surgeons can go," he said.

Bartley added that it was unique to see physicians like the Moss twins in Iraq. "We don't typically get a urologist in theater."

While ensuring Soldiers receive the best care available, the twins also go out of their way to make sure their co-workers don't get confused by who they are addressing.

During mobilization training at Ft. Benning, Ga., the twins' training commander thought their arrival was a joke. Until he saw them physically, he refused to believe they were genuine.

To combat confusion, the doctors employed a simple strategy: they purchased glasses with different colored lenses. Vince has green lenses while Vance has blue.

"It's a challenge for whoever works or deals with us because we're twins," Vance remarked. "It's rare to see twins in the same area working at the same time in theater."

Army Col. Walter Franz, the hospital's chief administrator, says in 30 years of medical practice he has never been around twins in this position.

"It's a fun situation," said Franz, a reservist who serves as a staff physician at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn. "I have two superb Soldiers who are also twins."



Photo by Spc. Anthony Hooker

**Vince Moss, Christian Stevens, and Vince Moss take a moment to smile for a camera March 27 at Al-Asad Air Base. The twins were asked to take a picture for Steven's mother.**

Franz has worked alongside the two in country. With quick responses a normal procedure, Franz says rather than misspeak, he makes a distinction by asking for either of the twins by their medical specialty.

Vince says confusion and disbelief occur even when the two are not in the same area.

Spc. Christopher Smith, a medical assistant with the 325th, had his introduction to the Moss twins while on guard duty. "I saw one walk through the gate, said hello, then I saw the second (twin) come through," Smith explained. "I was kind of confused, so I stopped them."

"People have approached (me) after working with my brother for weeks and begin talking and I will have no idea who they are," Vince said. "When you tell them 'I'm Vince; I'm a twin,' they think you're kidding. 'I mean, have you ever seen a twin in a war zone? No. So they think you're joking.'"

The two have already worked in a combat zone, serving with a non-government organization in Afghanistan in 2005 and 2006. The dynamic duo worked outside of the Armed Forces and were able to use their abilities beyond the parameters of military medicine.

The brothers placed an emphasis on venturing to areas to Afghanistan where needs were not being met, specifically kids who were not able to make it into the Green Zone, a heavily patrolled NATO area. The twins said they traveled as much as 500 miles outside the Green Zone when places such as neighboring Pakistan were unable to meet people's needs. They were also restricted from bearing arms, leaving them vulnerable to any hostile forces.

"People said (going to) Afghanistan was a suicide mission," Vance recalled. "We personally thought our mission was unique and historic. Providing care past the military's Green Zone was something we believed was necessary not only for the patients who weren't being reached, but a statement to our country that there was more that could be done."

Those efforts have brought the Mosses support and fame. ABC News highlighted the twins in February as their "Persons of the Week" and the Turner Broadcasting Group presented the two with a 2008 Trumpet Award, which recognizes outstanding achievements by African-Americans. Other awardees included Halle Berry, Danny Glover and Chris "Ludacris" Bridges.

The twins were humbled by the awards. "We were very honored they recognized us for our efforts and not for landing some million-dollar contract," Vance said. "Young African-American men need to see that you can have some success and recognition outside of sports and entertainment."

The majors are hoping that sort of enterprising spirit will be encouraged by leadership in Iraq.

"Our mission is to support the 325th, in conjunction with any operation that includes any military members," Vince said. "But we are definitely looking to try to work on civilians. But with anything, you need support: emotional, social, financial . . . you can't do it alone."

The twins said the Army has been an integral part of their success. "A lot of what me and my brother have is because of the Army," Vance said. "Being in a professional, highly recognizable organization has been a great benefit."

"We are very fortunate to get the recognition and hope to filter that to other people we come in contact with."

# Bombs on target: guiding the bomb

by Air Force Staff Sgt. Mareshah Haynes

332nd Air Expeditionary Wing Public Affairs

**BALAD AIR BASE, Iraq**— *Editor's note: This article is the third in a series.*

The artist stands at his easel, paint brush in one hand, palette in the other. With the strokes of his brush, he makes the image come to life for the observer. The abstract idea is transferred from the artist's mind, through his hands, to the paint brush and materializes on the canvas.

"We're the artists who paint the picture for pilots of what they can expect to see when they check on (their radio) with their JTACs (joint terminal attack controllers) and what the Army is doing on the ground," said Army Sgt. 1st Class Mark Gorden, 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing Ground Liaison Office noncommissioned officer in charge.

Army GLO personnel, along with Air Force JTACs, work jointly to communicate with F-16 Fighting Falcon pilots here. This coordinated effort results in the deliberate and precise use of munitions.

The GLO is comprised of Army artillery and infantry personnel, assigned to Air Force units, who brief pilots before combat missions regarding the situation on the ground.

"Being that I'm an infantry guy by trade, and I've done all these missions before over the last 20 years, who better to explain (the situation from an Army point of view to the pilots)" Gorden said.

The responsibility of the GLO is to "translate" the Army-specifics of operations to Air Force pilots before they go on missions.

"We're all supposed to be somewhat fluent in joint terminology, to include Army terms, but I don't have all of them, particularly as they evolve here in Iraq," said Air Force Lt. Col. Kenneth Ekman, F-16 Fighting Falcon pilot and chief of safety who is deployed from Shaw Air Force Base, S.C. "One of the great things that a GLO does is they take Army terms and, even more importantly Army symbology... how they mark their maps, and turn it into 'pilot speak.' They really

are interpreters for us."

"I explain to them the number of personnel on the ground, how many people are actually going to go to this building to do the take down and how many vehicles will be in blocking positions to prevent anybody from supporting," Gorden said.

Once the pilots leave the base and they reach the mission air space, the JTACs take over giving situational awareness of the ground mission to the pilot. Because of the fluidity of the battlespace, in the time the pilot is briefed by the GLO and then checks on with the JTAC, the situation can completely change.

JTACs are tactical air control party Airmen, assigned to an Army unit to advise ground commanders on the best use of air power and communicate with pilots from the ground, once they reach the area of operation.

"Our job is to integrate with an aligned Army unit and provide close air support, to integrate Air Force (assets) into the Army's scheme of maneuver," said Air Force Staff Sgt. Marshall Bohnman, a JTAC assigned to the 1st Expeditionary Air Support Operations Squadron.

The JTACs use radio equipment and computer software to communicate with troops on the ground and pilots in the air. They have programs that allow them to see what the pilot sees from the air and allows them to send precise coordinates to the aircraft of where munitions should be dropped.

"In any conflict where you're going to be dropping precision fires in close proximity to friendly forces, you have to have a trained, certified, qualified individual to do that," Bohnman said. "If you want to drop bombs, we're absolutely vital in a close fight."

"Ultimately, my job is to be overhead to provide reconnaissance and fire power, so that he wins any kind of fight that erupts in his area of operation," Ekman said. "My job is to be there on time and give whatever support they need."

JTACs are the link of communication between the Army commanding officer on the ground and the Air Force pilots in the sky. They let the pilots know if they



Courtesy Photo

**Air Force Staff Sgt. Marshall Bohnham, a 1st Expeditionary Air Support Operations Squadron joint terminal attack controller, talks to aircraft pilots via radio transmission. The JTAC is the communications link between Air Force pilots and Army units on the ground.**

are cleared to hit the target or if they should follow the targeted personnel to gather more information.

"Whoever is in charge is going to say, 'yes, you can engage this target' or, 'no, collateral damage is a concern, I don't want to injure civilians, so this time I just want you to track them," Bohnman said. "(the commanding officer) is the one telling us whether we can or cannot (engage), but we're the ones who are actually certified to pass that clearance."

The GLOs and JTACs embedded with the Air Force and Army, respectively, are examples of U.S. military sister servicemembers working together toward the same goal.

"The last time I was here, we got hit with RPGs (rocket propelled grenades) and we lost a couple of guys," Bohnman said. "I called in some F-16s and they did a really low show of force. Once we got back I had guys coming up saying it felt good to know we had such awesome fire power overhead watching our backs."

"That's a great feeling to know you have a positive impact on the battlefield and we're helping save friendly forces on the ground," Bohnman said.

## Luncheon celebrates WHM



Photo by Spc. Jay Venturini

**LSA ANACONDA, Iraq** – Sgt. Heather Alojado, 56th Multifunctional Medical Battalion chaplain assistant, sings a famous Whitney Houston song at the Women's History Month Luncheon at the East Morale, Welfare and Recreation center March 26. The luncheon was to celebrate the women who have struggled for equal rights over the years and for the women who are currently serving in the military.

**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**



## Soldiers shine during Audie Murphy board



Photo by Spc. Charlotte Martinez

**LSA ANACONDA, Iraq** – Members of the 316th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) were presented with the Audie Murphy Soldier Award and an Army Commendation Medal during an Audie Murphy board here March 29 by Command Sgt. Maj. Stacy E. Davis, the senior enlisted leader of the 316th. Left to Right: Sgt. 1st Class Antonitus Knight, a member of the 20th Engineering Brigade; Sgt. Latanya Dineyazhe, 530th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion; Command Sgt. Maj. Stacey E. Davis; Sgt. Austin Durham, 25th Transportation Company, 507th Corps Support Group and Sgt. 1st Class Benjamin Ruffin, 13th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion.

# Education Center offers more than classes

by Spc. Charlotte Martinez

Anaconda Times staff

**LSA ANACONDA, Iraq** – When Soldiers deploy, they usually have to place many things in their personal life on hold, including education. What most Soldiers don't know is the Blackjack Education Center here has a lot of features to accommodate those who want to advance their education for either military or civilian careers.

Sgt. Sabrena Ham, a member of the 76th Infantry Brigade from Indianapolis, and the noncommissioned officer-in-charge of the education center says the center offers a variety of different programs to include College Level Examination Program preparatory courses in different college-like classes, General Technical score improvement classes for the new Armed Forces Classification Test, study guides and other resources for different military and civilian standard tests and education opportunities.

"You can check out books for a month at a time," Ham said about the Halbert-Red Circle Memorial Library located inside the education center. "Veterans from World War II started the library and donated a bunch of books, some of them being first editions, which we keep locked up."

"Just like the MWR (Morale, Welfare, Recreation) and USO (United Service Organizations), we have a full-service computer lab with webcams and access to e-mail so Soldiers can talk to their families back home," Ham said.

The education center has a free book section for Soldiers to keep the books they want; they also offer tuition assistance help resources, degree and education counseling, rooms to study in, as well as test monitoring.

The education center also provides information on tests and materials to other forward operating bases throughout Iraq and sends duplicate copies of their books to these bases to ensure other Soldiers have the opportunity for education.

The college-based courses offered include, Algebra, Psychology, Literature, History, Information Systems and Computer Applications and many more. Classes are taught by volunteer instructors who are knowledgeable in the appropriate subject.

Though credits for courses taken through the education center are only given to military personnel and their families, civilian and other base personnel are welcome to take the classes as well.

"We need volunteers to do a lot of things here," Ham said, "We need volunteers for the library, GT improvement classes, CLEP prep classes, to teach the classes, monitor tests...Volunteers are important here. If there isn't a teacher for a certain class, the Soldiers miss out on that class."

Soldiers can easily take advantage of the opportunities being offered by simply walking into the education center and talking with Ham or several other staff members.

"We have all the information and forms here," Ham said. "There may be a case where you need a memo from your commander or different documents, but we



Photo by Spc. Charlotte Martinez

**Sgt. Sarah Jane Schmidt, a Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear noncommissioned officer with Task Force 261 of the Multinational Medical Battalion, studies to improve her General Technical score so she can re-class to become a combat illustrator or combat photographer.**

provide examples of those for you as well."

Ham explained that a majority of the commanders here support their troops' education. Before you can take a class, you need your commander's approval to make sure you are going to be available to take the course.

"We also have a 'things to consider' worksheet to be filled out to make sure that you will have all the requirements for the class," Ham said.

The education center offers a lot of different opportunities for courses and you can visit their website or stop by to get more information on the programs offered. The center is open from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Friday and 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays. The staff will extend their hours on a case by case basis for students who need to study and use the resources.

"If there is a question we can not answer for you, we will do our very best to find the answer," Ham said. "We pride ourselves on customer service."

Whether you are working towards a degree program, trying to learn something new just for fun or even trying to improve your military career; the resources that the education center has to offer are what you are looking for.

## 316th holds Soldiers/NCO of quarter board



Photos by Spc. Jay Venturini

**LSA ANACONDA, Iraq** – Sgt. Kevin Kessler (right) and Pfc. Ryan McGreevy, both from the 25th Transportation Company, 548th Combat Services Support Battalion, 507th Corps Support Group, won the 316th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) NCO and Soldier of the quarter board, respectively. They both received an Army Commendation Medal and other prizes.

**Come one, come all  
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# Forging friendships

by Staff Sgt. Bryant Maude

1st Sustainment Brigade PAO

**CAMP TAJI, Iraq** – It started with a handshake between the 1st Sustainment Brigade Commander, Col. Kevin O'Connell, a native of Clinton, Md., and the Taji Base Commander, Staff Brigadier General Abdul Mahady Sharaque Sabah, a native of Diyala, Iraq, March 29.

"Today was the first meeting between the 1st Sustainment Brigade Commander and the Base Commander of Taji," said Lt. Col. Mark Meyer, a native of Neillsville, Wis., and the senior advisor to the Logistics Military Assistance Team for Coalition Army Assistance Training Team, Multi-National Security Transition Command-Iraq, and the person responsible for setting up the meeting. "It was important to put a face to the coalition side of Taji," said Meyer.

The two leaders sat down in General Sabah's office with some of their key staff and shared chi, discussed needs, and got to know one another. Sabah is a 27-year veteran of the Iraqi Army and was assigned to the role as Base Commander of Taji six months ago.

"We look forward to a partnership with General Sabah to improve the support he gives to his customers, the Iraqi units on Taji and in the surrounding area," stated O'Connell.

Taji is the largest (Iraqi Army) base in Iraq, with maintenance depots, supply depots, the 9th Division, and all their schools; General Sabah's span of control and responsibility is huge, and his resources are scarce.

"I have so many challenges: water, ice, fuel for power," stated Sabah. "But I am hopeful. I am looking forward to working with my counterparts in the 1st Sustainment Brigade."

"We're here in a partnership role to assist in teaching, coaching, and mentoring General Sabah's staff in identifying their shortcomings, and then through training, to help develop a plan to improve their mission readiness posture," said O'Connell.

"We're trying to synergistically use the resources that the Iraqi Army has inherent to what they are doing and what they've built up for themselves over the last five years, and then linking Col. O'Connell and the 1st Sustainment Brigade's Soldiers, resources, and expertise in an effort to marry these two groups up; again, with the goal of increasing General Sabah's capabilities," said Meyers.

"It's a great team effort here; if only to help the base commander move forward with things that we can do to help, with capabilities where we have expertise like supply, maintenance, distribution, medical, and things that we share in our com-



Photo by Staff Sgt. Bryant Maude

**(Left to right) Staff Brigadier General Abdul Mahady Sharaque Sabah, a native of Diyala, Iraq, and the base commander for Taji, greets Col. Kevin O'Connell, a native of Clinton, Md., and the commander of the 1st Sustainment Brigade, outside Sabah's office on Taji March 29.**

parison roles," said O'Connell.

The meeting lasted a bit over two hours and already there are plans for more meetings with the two commanders and their staffs in an effort to get the partnership moving and producing results.

"The 1st Sustainment Brigade was like a breath of fresh air coming in here to help; 'We're here to help you.' They are partnering with their Iraqi neighbors here on Camp Taji. Everyone from the brigade commander to the specialist I've run into has been totally team-oriented," said Meyer.

"The Iraqi Soldiers work with very little, but they do a good job. They do their very best. They love their country," stated Sabah. "It is my hope that our Army will be equipped to the same level as the rest of the good Armies of the world, and that we will be powerful enough to protect our people and our country."

## Hope, from Page 1

Working on the school house in Assriya has been hard work for the Soldiers, but it is one that many of them find rewarding, especially because of the children in the village.

"I'm just real glad to be (involved). I don't get to go on a lot of missions as an armorer, but this definitely would have been the one I chose if I had my choice of missions," said Sgt. Brent Courtney, a Hesperia, Calif., native and armorer for Alpha Battery.

"The kids make my day when I go out there. As bad as things are, they still have a good attitude about everything," added Courtney, who was asked to get involved with the project because of his background as a general contractor.

The platoon is mostly made up of combat engineers, so doing the work at the schools in Assriya was not a problem. Courtney did much of the construction around the unit's area of operations and was asked to run the work crew for the mission at the

school.

The children have bonded with the 2nd Platoon Soldiers and even try to help them with some of the projects as they work. The village sheikh, Sheikh Luqman Raheem, is very grateful for the work that has been done in his area.

"Thank you so much for what you do. You have done more for my village than even my own government has done," said Sheikh Luqman.

The unit is scheduled to return home in April and the work they have done will leave a lasting impression on the villagers in Assriya, as well as the Soldiers of 2nd Platoon.

"It's been an eye opener. It's a totally different experience that nobody could ever understand unless they came here and were a part of it themselves," said Spc. Shane Miniger, a Hughson, Calif., native and a gun truck driver for 2nd platoon.

"Maybe they will have a little bit of a different opinion about troops in this country and know that we're here to help out and affect them in some positive ways," Miniger added.

## Water, water, everywhere



Photo by Staff Sgt. Bryant Maude

**CAMP TAJI, Iraq** – Staff Sgt. Franklin Stoner, a native of Scottsburg, Va., and the noncommissioned officer in charge of Class I for the 62nd Quartermaster Company, 68th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 1st Sustainment Brigade, stands in the middle of an ocean of bottled water. The cache of over a half-million bottles of water is only a fraction of the water destined for Soldiers, civilians and contractors serving in Multi-National Division-Baghdad this summer.

# War Heroes visit LSA Anaconda

Story by Spc. Thomas Keeler, Photos by Staff Sgt. Tim Sander  
Anaconda Times staff

**LSA ANACONDA, Iraq** – To understand the gravity of the nation’s highest military decoration, the Medal of Honor, one need know only this: Since the end of the Vietnam War and on through the present, including the Global War on Terror, the Medal of Honor has been awarded just six times.

In each of those six cases, the Medal was awarded posthumously.

So it was with true reverence that LSA Anaconda received three Medal of Honor recipients during a meet and greet March 29:

- Army Command Sgt. Maj. (Ret.) Gary L. Littrell;
- Army Col. (Ret.) Robert L. Howard;
- Marine Capt. (Ret.) John J. McGinty III.

The three were each awarded the Medal of Honor for their bravery during the Vietnam War.

Sponsored by Armed Forces Entertainment, the men have made several visits to military bases across Iraq and other Middle East countries. Servicemembers from all branches never tire of meeting the men and hearing their stories.

Littrell told of an opportunity to meet a Medal of Honor recipient when he was a young sergeant.

“I heard that Master Sgt. [Charles B.] Morris was going to be over at the library at noon so I ran over and got in that long line,” said Littrell.

“I never thought that I would see a living Medal of Honor recipient and the idea of being able to not only see a Medal of Honor recipient, but to shake a Medal of Honor recipient’s hand, was just something I couldn’t believe,” he said.

After waiting in line for a long time, the Medal of Honor recipient cut his visit short before Littrell had a chance to meet him.

“I remembered what it was like, wanting to shake the sergeant’s hand so much,” said Littrell. “I said, ‘when I retire, I’ll do everything I can to give that Soldier the opportunity I missed.’”

During their time here, the three Medal of Honor recipients visited the dining facility, met patients at the Air Force Theater Hospital, and fired weapons at the Combined Joint Special Operations Task Force area.

“Every one of you are sitting here on the forefront of battle,” said



Army Col. (Ret.) Robert L. Howard;

Marine Capt. (Ret.) John J. McGinty III.

Command Sgt. Maj. (Ret.) Gary L. Littrell.



Army Col. (Ret.) Robert L. Howard looks at the latest communications technology during a visit here. Howard, the current president of the Congressional Medal of Honor Society, was awarded the Medal of Honor for his bravery during the Vietnam War.



Army Col. (Ret.) Robert L. Howard fires the SR-25 semi-automatic rifle at the Combined Joint Special Operations Task Force compound.



Medal of Honor recipients John J. McGinty III, Robert L. Howard, and Gary L. Littrell inspect weapons on the Combined Joint Special Operations Task Force compound here March 29.

Howard. “You’re dedicated to your profession.”  
“We go back home and tell people what we see,” said Howard.

George Washington, who in 1782 was the commander-in-chief (but not yet president), created the Badge of Military Merit to recognize meritorious actions in battle. Various medals for valor evolved until 1862, when the Medal of Honor was signed into law by President Abraham Lincoln.

Since then, the Medal of Honor has been awarded 3,465 times, 2,404 within the Army. Nineteen servicemembers have been awarded the Medal of Honor twice.

As of April 8, there have been four Medal of Honor recipients from the Global War on Terror.

The three Medal of Honor recipients from Operation Iraqi Freedom are Army Sgt. 1st Class Paul Ray Smith of the 11th Engineer Battalion; Marine Cpl. Jason Dunham of the 3rd Battalion, 7th Marines; and Navy SEAL Michael A. Monsoor.

Navy SEAL Michael P. Murphy was awarded the Medal of Honor for his actions in Operation Enduring Freedom.

“Thank you for the job you’re doing,” said Medal of Honor recipient McGinty to troops at the dining facility.

“Semper Fidelis!”

Citations for the Medal of Honor recipients can be read at: <http://www.armedforcesentertainment.com/MedalOfHonor.htm>

# Q-West recovery team on stand-by

by Spc. Thomas Keeler

Anaconda Times staff

**FORWARD OPERATING BASE Q-WEST, Iraq** – With the 632nd Maintenance Company responsible for recovery missions here, breakdowns in Multi-National Division – North are only temporary.

The 632nd Maint. Co., which falls under the operational control of the 17th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, supplies the recovery teams who provide security for vehicle recovery.

1st Lt. Adam Rosenbaum is the recovery officer-in-charge for the 632nd.

"I manage two shifts of recovery security and provide the security for all recovery missions in our area of operation," said Rosenbaum.

Rosenbaum is the commander for the 12-hour afternoon shifts. The unit has about 40 personnel, including six from the 416th Transportation Company from Hunter Army Airfield.

The contractors do the actual recovery, said Rosenbaum.

The unit has run about 40 missions since they arrived at Q-West in November. About half have been during the day, half at night. Three have been recoveries inside the FOB.

Spc. Timothy Haysley is an armored security vehicle gunner, currently working on the day shift.

"The first thing we do is come in and do our shift change, check everything in the truck, make sure everything is working correctly, check our weapons systems, sign for the truck, and then day shift gets to go home," said Haysley.

The hurry-up-and-wait aspect of the job forces the unit to perform training exercises while on standby.

"We do training, have classes, or go out on the improvised explosive devices lanes," said Haysley.

"These guys have had unbelievable training," said Rosenbaum. "They've been training since July for this specific mission, and we continue to change it up."

The unit has encountered one IED and has had no incidents involving the escalation of force.

After a mission, the team returns to the company area to conduct an after action review.

The unit's last mission was typical—recovering a trailer about 15,000 meters off of the base.

The only difficulty, according to Haysley, was that a combat logistics patrol was entering the FOB when the recovery team was finishing up, prolonging the wait outside the gate.

Still, the mission was completed within three hours.

"It's an interesting job," said Haysley. "It's better than just sitting on the FOB."

"Our civilian guys do a real good job," he said. "They get the job done."



Photo by Spc. Thomas Keeler

**1st Lt. Brandon Gooch, support operations officer with 17th CSSB, inspects contractor equipment used to recover trucks that break down during logistics convoys.**

# Operation Rising Eagle takes flight

by Chief Warrant Officer Jeff Brooks

316th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary)

**LSA ANACONDA, Iraq**—Iraq is the home to 387 recorded bird species, amongst the largest population of our feathered friends in the Middle East. As you look into the sky on April 17, do not be surprised if you see numerous eagles flying freely in Balad as warrant officers from bases all around Iraq convene for a day of physical activity, professional development and mentorship during Operation Rising Eagle.

Operation Rising Eagle is designed to provide a forum for Warrant Officers to share experiences, increase job knowledge and discuss paths to career progression and other topics that are specific to the warrant officer corps. Additionally, a recruiting and informational session will offer highly skilled noncommissioned officers an opportunity to learn more about the corps and the skills required to become a warrant officer.

The conference was organized through the dedicated efforts of Chief Warrant Officers Artis Rumph, 316th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary); Curtis Newkirk, 11th Signal Brigade; Christie Stewart, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 63rd Expeditionary Signal Battalion; Carlos Forde, 13th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion; Jeffery Brooks, 316th ESC; and Joshua Callahan, HHC, 63rd ESB.

Stewart believes the Army and fellow warrant officers will greatly benefit as a result of the conference.

"We will be able to meet our prospective replacements and inform the NCOs what it takes to be a subject matter expert," said Stewart. "It will also create a cohesive team of warrants focused on working together for the common good of all."

Warrant Officers are known for their technical proficiency and athletic prowess. In keeping with this tradition of physical fitness, the event filled day will commence with a five-kilometer fun run at 6 a.m. The run will begin at Holt Stadium and wind its way through the sun-splashed streets of LSAA. It is expected to be a fun-filled event and the first 400 participants who cross the finish line will receive a t-shirt for their accomplishment.

A recruiting session will begin at 10 a.m. for all servicemembers interested in obtaining information on the requirements necessary to become a warrant officer. During the session, warrant officers from every career field will be available to offer first-hand guidance and answer all questions from participants. All Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, and Marines are encouraged to attend the recruiting session.

From 2 p.m. to 4 p.m., all warrant officers will gather at the East Morale, Wel-

fare, and Recreation center for a meet-and-greet session, followed by professional development with senior leaders. Among the senior leaders expected to attend and speak at the conference are Chief Warrant Officers David Williams, Multi-National Force-Iraq Chief Warrant Officer; Andy Barr, Regimental Signal Chief Warrant Officer; and Rumph, the 316th ESC Senior Warrant Advisor.

Professional development has consistently been amongst the most important topics for warrant officers and this session will offer all participants a chance to learn more about new initiatives that are being contemplated, as well as reinforce the tools that are available for professional development.

Chief Warrant Officer Clark Keeler, the 316th Senior Automotive Maintenance Technician, is looking forward to the conference.

"This will allow us all to meet our peers that we correspond with daily, while also offering the chance to increase our technical competence through sharing best practices," said Keeler. "It is also vitally important...to recruit and mentor quality individuals to bring into our ranks."

According to the Army leadership field manual, warrant officers are "self aware and adaptive technical experts, combat leaders, trainers and advisors" and play an extremely crucial role in the management and maintenance of critical Army systems and equipment. The Rising Eagle symbolizes the strength, professionalism, and esprit de corps of warrant officers and was the official insignia worn by them until 2004. The Warrant Officer Corps will be celebrating its 90th birthday this year and Operation Rising Eagle will kick off what will certainly be an exciting year.

*If you have any questions about the event please contact Chief Warrant Officer Artis Rumph at 318-433-2017.*

## SHOUT OUT!!!

TELL YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS HOW  
MUCH YOU MISS THEM

Contact the 316th Public Affairs Office for scheduling.  
E-mail [Ronald.Reeves@iraq.centcom.mil](mailto:Ronald.Reeves@iraq.centcom.mil)

The command post is more than just

# A voice in the sky

by Spc. Jay Venturini

Anaconda Times staff

**LSA ANACONDA, Iraq** – "This is the command post...this is the command post...there has been an indirect fire attack..."

Anyone who has spent time here knows the big voice in the sky very well, and knows to listen when she speaks. The voice is part of the Wireless Audio Visual Emergency System which is responsible for providing early warning and alerting the residents of Anaconda of incoming rocket, mortar and artillery attacks and much more.

"The system works like a (public announcement) system," said 1st Lt. Elise Ffitch, Alpha Battery, 5th Battalion, 5th Air Defense Artillery Sense and Warn Platoon Leader. "It is there to keep you safe during an indirect fire attack."

WAVES has both indoor and outdoor sound towers which allow everyone to hear the announcements. These systems are located throughout the base to ensure everyone can hear the announcements loud and clear.

WAVES automatically sounds in the event of an indirect fire attack and is localized only to the area of the predicted impact, which minimizes the disruption on the entire installation.

Do not immediately run for shelter when you hear the sirens; you can't outrun an incoming round. The safest and quickest thing to do is drop everything and

lie flat on the ground with your face in the dirt, covering your head, ears and eyes.

"It is important to stay vigilant when you hear the alarm and take it seriously," said Ffitch. "Do not allow yourself to become desensitized to the alarms; they are here to keep you alive. The WAVES systems make LSA Anaconda one of the safest places in Iraq."

Once the attack is over, the all clear is sounded to alert people that there was an attack and it is over and it is now safe to continue operations.

Another alarm that could sound is an alarm red. This is sounded when an attack is significant enough to have everyone take shelter. This is followed by an alarm yellow which releases mission essential personnel only, to include medical and quick reaction force elements.

After the all clear is sounded, all personnel must report to their chain of command for accountability.

The WAVES system can also be used to upgrade the uniform status and to communicate to emergency personnel who do not have radios.

With this system in place to keep the residents of Anaconda safe, it is imperative that they keep their situational awareness sharp and take the alarms seriously.

"The alarms are useless unless people take them seriously, it might just save your life," said Ffitch.

"...command post out."

## May force protection be with you



Photo by Air Force Senior Airman Julianne Showalter

**BALAD AIR BASE, Iraq** -- Air Force Staff Sgts. Jesse Wright and Afton Meeks, 332nd Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron force protection noncommissioned officers, provide overwatch as third country nationals work at a construction site here, April 2. Ensuring the safety of Airmen and assets are at the forefront of the 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing mission.

## Soldiers learn to be green

by Spc. Jay Venturini

Anaconda Times staff

**LSA ANACONDA, Iraq** – An environmental awareness class was offered here March 29, to inform Soldiers of the importance of environmental concerns here.

In Iraq, the regulations pertaining to the environment are in place for the health and welfare of servicemembers stationed at bases around the country.

"Good housekeeping is a vital part of keeping your work area safe and your Soldiers healthy," said Mrs. Phyllis Hockett, Multi-National Force-Iraq strategic engineering and environment deputy chief of staff. "A big part is keeping your hazardous materials well marked and properly stored."

Some things you can do to keep your work area safe is; do not eat or smoke around hazardous materials; do not store electronic equipment near flammable materials and ensure labels are legible.

Another important thing is to know the effects hazardous materials will have on you in case of contamination.

According to Hockett, the main culprits when it comes to environmental violations are ignorance and accidents. When an accident with hazardous materials happens, it is important to report it immediately, she said.

"Accidents happen, its human nature, but when they happen, you have to tell someone," said Hockett. "Many times, Soldiers are afraid to get into trouble and fail to report it, which could be a serious health risk to themselves and their coworkers."

One situation units coming into theater are facing is the unkempt areas and environmental messes of their predecessors. When this occurs, the incoming unit should document the site and clean it if possible. As Coalition Forces start to close down the smaller installations and hand the land back to the Iraqi government, it is required to have the site in compliance with environmental standards.

"Everyone knows the saying, 'leave a place cleaner than how you got it,' and that applies to turning land back to the Iraqis," said Mrs. Patty Wilson, Multi-National Force-Iraq strategic engineering and environment. "However, we do not deal with any messes that the Iraqis made."

Keeping your work area clean and environmentally friendly ensures that everyone can complete the mission safely and sustain the victory.

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# Rock out in Iraq

by Spc. Ryan Hohman

Anaconda Times staff

**LSA ANACONDA, Iraq**-Are you ready to rock? Five hundred servicemembers were when they showed up to rock out during the I-Roq competition March, 28 at the Morale, Welfare and Recreation center here.

Twenty bands of four members each came together to compete for the title of the ultimate rock band by playing the Xbox 360 Rock Band game.

After two preliminary rounds, the final eight bands were selected to battle it out for bragging rights and the grand prize of four Xbox 360 game consoles.

The video game requires players to play simulated guitar, bass, drums and even sing to popular songs.

The night of fun and music allowed the servicemembers to relax as they simulated a rock concert.

"We wanted it to seem like a true rock concert," said Air Force Col. Ralph J. Romine, the garrisonm-

mander of LSA Anaconda.

In the preliminaries, contestants were judged on game score alone, however they received extra points for their costumes and stage presence during the finale.

The bands dressed in everything from matching cut-off t-shirts to a tiger costume and angel wings.

"Tonight was a great night to get away from it all," said Spc. Daniel Wilatlson, a vehicle mechanic with the 118th Maintenance Company, and performer with the band, Frebreeze.

Prizes for the contestants included four Xbox 360 game consoles and four customized Zune MP3 players for the first place band; four \$250 Amazon gift cards for second place; four 30-gigabyte Zune MP3 players for third place; four Rock Band games for Xbox 360 for fourth place; four 320-gigabyte external hard drives for fifth place; four Sony Cybershot digital cameras for sixth place; four \$50 gift certificates to Army and Air Force Exchange Service for seventh place, and four portable DVD players for eighth place.

The competitors were not the only ones who walked out with great prizes. Spectators of the event were treated to door prizes that included Xbox t-shirts for the first 250 people, two Xbox 360s, four Sony Cybershot cameras, three seven-inch digital photo frames and two Rock Band games for the Xbox 360. The worth of all the prizes was more than \$30,000.

Planning for the event began in the beginning of February when the N.J. based Adopt a Soldier wanted to donate eight Xbox 360 game consoles and eight Guitar Hero 3 games.

"Adopt a Soldier contacted me and began to discuss what they could donate, as well as how they wanted to sponsor an event," said Romine.

After many e-mails, discussions began about sponsoring a base-wide game competition. Adopt a Sol-



Photo by Spc. Ryan Hohman

**Servicemembers cheer for the band, Frebreeze as they perform the song Danny California by the Red Hot Chili Peppers**

dier contacted Microsoft and told them about the idea. Microsoft was very excited and wanted to know more details.

On Feb. 25, Romine had a conference call to lay out the plan he came up with to Adopt a Soldier and Microsoft.

"After I laid out the plan, (Microsoft) loved it," said Romine. "(Microsoft) said if you can pull it off we will sponsor it."

After the call, Microsoft contacted Music Television to ask if they would contribute in the event because Rock Band was created by MTV. When one of Microsoft's advertisement agencies got wind of the event, they volunteered to create posters and flyers for the event.

Due to the large turnout, Microsoft has agreed to continue this event annually.



Photo by Spc. Ryan Hohman

**Members from the band Dakota GI, Staff Sgt. Nick Quam, Spc. Mike Yem, Sgt. Kendall Vetter, Sgt. D.J. Rohrick, with the 817th Engineer Company, perform the song Sabotage by the Beastie Boys. The team ended up taking first place in the I-Roq competition March 28.**

## Striker Team comes from the air



Photo by Sgt. Gary Hawkins

**FORWARD OPERATING BASE ORION, Iraq** - Helicopters from the 2nd Battalion, 320th Field Artillery Regiment air assault strike team take off during a nighttime raid to capture a target suspected of placing improvised explosive devices and launching rockets at LSA Anaconda, Iraq.

"It's one less person shooting mortars, rockets and placing IEDs... (and) a safer area for Coalition Forces, local civilians and small communities in the surrounding area," said Pvt. Jesse Beck of Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 2-30th FAR. "It sends a message that we will get you. We will take that extra step and go that extra mile to get you," he said.

# MESSAGES FROM HOME

**Dave Hair**  
Hey hun, we are so proud of you and can't wait till your back home with us. We miss you with all our hearts. Stay safe and hurry home. We love you so very much.  
Love, Tiffany, Stinker, Butthead and Cooterpoot.

**Sgt. Rector,**  
Know that your family loves and misses you so very much and we are counting the days until you come back to us!  
- hafb

**William O. Small Jr.**  
Hey baby! We're finally in single digits, & you'll be home very soon now! I LOVE YOU & will continue praying for your safe return!! It's almost over! Just hang in there! GOD BLESS you always!!  
Your Wife,  
-LaRae Small



I just wanted to let my big brother Jamie know that I am very proud of him. I miss you very much & can't wait to see you next year in Alaska. Please take care & be safe.  
Love Crystal Grady

**TO: Glen Felde**  
Hi Honey!! I miss you and love so much!! I'm ecstatic that you'll be home soon and can't wait to be in your loving arms!!!  
You are the love of my life!! Your forever sweetheart, Kelli Ann

**Josh,**  
When you get back you are learning how to play golf. Know your loved and thought of everyday.  
Love,  
Dad

**Rodney Santiago**  
hi my love we wanted to tell you how much we love you and miss you. we are very proud of you . come home soon. xoxoxo your family

**Messages From Home**

Tell your Soldier how much you miss them and how you can't wait to see them.

Contact the 316th Public Affairs Office to print your message.

E-mail [Anaconda.Times@iraq.centcom.mil](mailto:Anaconda.Times@iraq.centcom.mil)

**316th ESC Tax Center**

The last day to receive assistance e-filing your taxes with the 316th ESC Tax Center is April 15th. The Tax Center is located at the Consolidated Legal Center.

**HOURS OF OPERATION:**  
Monday: 0900-1800  
Wednesday: 1200-2000  
Friday: 0900-1800

<b>Will Prepare</b>	<b>Will Not Prepare</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Form 1040EZ</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Form 1040A</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Schedule D (Capital Gains and Losses)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Form 1040</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Schedule A, B, EIC, &amp; R</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Form 2441 (Child and Dependent Care)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Form 8863 (Education Credits)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Form 8812 (Additional Child Tax Credit)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Schedule C (Profit or Loss from Business)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Complicated &amp; Advanced Schedule D</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Schedule E (Rents &amp; Losses)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Form 55-5 (Request for Social Security #)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Form 2106 (Employee Business Expenses)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Form 3903 (Moving)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Form 8606 (Non-Deductible IRA)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Form 8615 (Minor Investment Income)</li> </ul>

Servicemembers with questions should contact SPC William Estrada  
Email: [william.estrada@iraq.centcom.mil](mailto:william.estrada@iraq.centcom.mil)

**America's warrior**

*A snapshot of servicemembers in the Global War on Terrorism*

**Spc. Darrell Demetric Lewis**

**Full name and rank:** Spc. Darrell Demetric Lewis.  
**Unit:** 557th Maintenance Co.  
**Job Title:** 63-B (Light-Wheeled Vehicle Mechanic).  
**Time in service:** 4 yrs, 11 months  
**Age:** 26.  
**Hometown:** Kershaw, S.C.  
**Family (By name and Relation):** Douglas and Carolyn Lewis (mother and father), Demeco and Douglas Lewis (older brothers), Delesha Lewis (wife), Darius Wright (son), Zhane Akins (step-daughter), and Dae'Zha Lewis (daughter).  
**Pastimes (Hobbies):** weightlifting, poetry, raising American Pit-bull Terriers.  
**Life-changing event/moment:** When I found out my mother had cancer.  
**Lesson Learned:** God has a plan for us all.  
**The person I admire the most:** My father.  
**Why I joined the military:** To get away from the dead-end life I was headed to. To provide for my son. To make my mother and

father proud of me.  
**If I wasn't in the military I would be:** Maybe at a low paying job living check-to-check.  
**The one thing I would change about the Army:** After two years as SPC, automatic promotion to SGT without going to the board.  
**The one thing I think the Army got right:** To accept anyone willing to serve for the freedom of this country.  
**What makes a good Soldier:** Discipline.  
**What makes a good leader:** Being able to make good decisions, and actually care about his/her Soldiers well-being.  
**Unusual fact about you:** I am very religious, but I go to clubs more than church.  
**Motivations in life:** Seeing that my father had a job since before my older brothers and I were born, and is still working today. My mother took on three teenage boys by herself when her and my father separated, and we all graduated high school.  
**Goals:** To retire out of the military, to stay married to the same woman until death do us part, to see my children graduate high school, and maybe go to college. To live to see my grandchildren. To die peacefully.  
**Hardest part of my job here:** Doing the same thing everyday.  
**Best part of my life:** Having a family of my own.

# 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 tournament:** 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- 7 p.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.

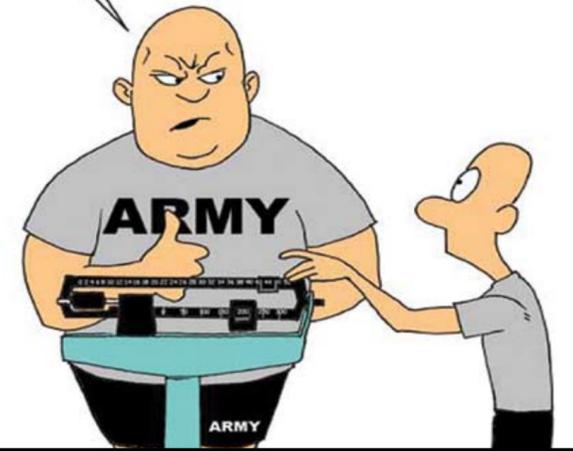
## STUPID STATE LAWS

Ever wonder just how dumb things can be? Does your state have dumb laws? Read on and find out. The next few weeks, the Anaconda Times will have a series of dumb and stupid laws for each state. Many of the laws have been verified, but many have been taken from sources which do not include law citations. The laws cited below have been taken from news groups, web sites and city governments. Remember, something had to have happened to get these laws passed. Some laws have been repealed, but not all; some are still on the books.

- Delaware**
  - It is illegal to fly over any body of water, unless one is carrying sufficient supplies of food and drink.
  - Getting married on a dare is grounds for an annulment.
- Florida**
  - A special law prohibits unmarried women from parachuting on Sunday or she shall risk arrest, fine, and/or jailing.
  - If an elephant is left tied to a parking meter, the parking fee has to be paid just as it would for a vehicle.
- Georgia**
  - Donkeys may not be kept in bathtubs.
  - Members of the state assembly cannot be ticketed for speeding while the state assembly is in session.
- Hawaii**
  - Billboards are outlawed.
  - Coins are not allowed to be placed in one's ears.
- Idaho**
  - It is illegal for a man to give his sweetheart a box of candy weighing less than fifty pounds.
  - You may not fish on a camel's back.
- Illinois**
  - You may be arrested for vagrancy if you do not have at least one dollar bill on your person.
  - You must contact the police before entering the city in an automobile.
- Indiana**
  - Liquor stores may not sell milk.
  - The value of Pi is 4, and not 3.1415.

### PVT. MURPHY'S LAW

OVERWEIGHT?! YOU SEE THIS NECK?! I DON'T THINK SO!



# SUSTAINER REEL TIME THEATER

## Movie Times

Wednesday, April 9  
 5 p.m. Definitely, Maybe  
 8 p.m. Fool's Gold  
 Thursday, April 10  
 5 p.m. 21  
 8 p.m. Step Up 2  
 Friday, April 11  
 2 p.m. Witless Protection  
 5 p.m. Vantage Point  
 8:30 p.m. Nim's Island  
 Saturday, April 12  
 2 p.m. Spiderwick Chronicles  
 5 p.m. Nim's Island  
 8 p.m. Witless Protection  
 Sunday, April 13  
 2 p.m. Nim's Island  
 5 p.m. Witless Protection  
 8 p.m. Spiderwick Chronicles  
 Monday, April 14  
 5 p.m. Nim's Island  
 8 p.m. Vantage Point  
 Tuesday, April 15  
 5 p.m. Spiderwick Chronicles  
 8 p.m. Nim's Island  
 (Schedule is subject to change)

## Movies Coming Soon

Witless Protection  
 Vantage Point  
 Nim's Island  
 Spiderwick Chronicles

## New Movies

### Witless Protection



During a routine day spent patrolling his small town, sheriff Larry witnesses a beautiful, high-class woman, Madeleine (Ivana Milicevic), being held against her will by four mysterious, black-suited men. Recognizing the opportunity to save the day, Larry (Larry the Cable Guy) "kidnaps" her, only to learn that Madeleine is actually a key witness in a high-stakes Chicago crime case and her captors are FBI agents assigned to protect her. Madeleine is furious. But Larry, who rightly suspects the agents are crooked and Madeleine is in danger, forces her on a harebrained trip to Chicago to solve the case himself. Together, the mismatched duo must grapple with angry FBI agents, quack doctors and Chicago high society.

### Vantage Point



Thomas Barnes and Kent Taylor are two Secret Service agents assigned to protect President Ashton at a landmark summit on the global war on terror. When President Ashton is shot moments after his arrival in Spain, chaos ensues and disparate lives collide. In the crowd is Howard Lewis, an American tourist videotaping the historic event to show his kids when he returns home. Also there is Rex, an American TV news producer who is reporting on the conference. It's only as we follow each person's perspective of the same 15 minutes to and immediately after the shooting that the terrifying truth behind the assassination attempt is revealed.

### Spiderwick Chronicles



Of the three Grace children, Jared (Freddie Highmore) has always been thought of as the troublemaker. So when strange things happen after his family's move to a relative's dilapidated estate, sister Mallory (Sarah Bolger), twin brother Simon and their mother assume that Jared is behind it all. However, magical creatures roam the grounds, and they all want a special book that Jared has found: a field guide to fantastic creatures, penned by Arthur Spiderwick.

### Nim's Island



A young girl living on a tropical island with her scientist father is left to fend for herself after dad's boat leaves him stranded far away and careless tour companies wreck havoc on the secluded paradise in directors Mark Levin and Jennifer Flackett's adaptation of the popular children's book by author Wendy Orr. Realizing that she will need adult assistance if she truly hopes to save her home, the resourceful youngster soon begins exchanging e-mails with the author of a book she has been reading.

## Upcoming sports on AFN

**Wednesday 4/9/08**  
 NCAA BB: Women's championship live 4:30 a.m. AFN/sports  
 NBA: Utah @ New Orleans replay 12:00 p.m. AFN/sport  
 NBA: Los Angeles Lakers @ Portland replay 5:00 p.m. AFN/sports

**Thursday 4/10/08**  
 NHL: Stanley Cup Playoffs first round live 3:00 a.m. AFN/xtra  
 NBA: New Jersey @ Cleveland live 3:00 a.m. AFN/sports  
 NBA: Phoenix @ San Antonio live 5:30 a.m. AFN/sports; replay 11:00 a.m. AFN/sports  
 NHL: Stanley Cup Playoffs first round live 6:00 a.m. AFN/xtra

**Friday 4/11/08**  
 PGA: Masters first round live 12:00 a.m. AFN/sports  
 NHL: Stanley Cup Playoffs first round live 3:00 a.m. AFN/xtra  
 NBA: Denver @ Golden State live 4:00 a.m. AFN/sports  
 NHL: Stanley Cup Playoffs first round live 6:00 a.m. AFN/xtra  
 NBA: Los Angeles Lakers @ Los Angeles Clippers live 6:30 a.m. AFN/sports  
 NCAA Hockey: Frozen four, semifinal #1 replay 11:00 a.m. AFN/sports

**Saturday 4/12/08**  
 PGA: Masters second round live 12:00 a.m. AFN/sports

**Monday 4/14/08**  
 MLB: San Diego @ Los Angeles Dodgers live 12:30 a.m. AFN/prime  
 NBA: Toronto @ Detroit live 2:00 a.m. AFN/xtra  
 NHL: Stanley Cup Playoffs first round live 3:00 a.m. AFN/xtra  
 MLB: New York Yankees @ Boston live 4:00 a.m. AFN/sports  
 NBA: Houston @ Denver live 5:00 a.m. AFN/xtra  
 MLB: Detroit @ Chicago White Sox replay 8:00 a.m. AFN/xtra  
 PGA: Masters final round replay 11:00 p.m. AFN/sports  
 MLB: Chicago Cubs @ Philadelphia replay 6:00 p.m. AFN/xtra

**Tuesday 4/15/08**  
 NHL: Stanley Cup Playoffs first round live 3:00 a.m. AFN/xtra  
 MLB: Boston @ Cleveland live 3:00 a.m. AFN/sports  
 MLB: Pittsburgh @ Los Angeles Dodgers live 6:00 a.m. AFN/sports  
 NHL: Stanley Cup Playoffs first round live 6:00 a.m. AFN/xtra  
 NBA: Golden State @ Phoenix replay 11:00 a.m. AFN/sports  
 MLB: Minnesota @ Detroit replay 4:00 p.m. AFN/sports  
 MLB: Los Angeles Angels @ Texas live 10:00 p.m. AFN/sports

**Wednesday 4/9/08**  
 MLB: New York Yankees @ Boston live 3:00 a.m. AFN/prime  
 NHL: Stanley Cup Playoffs first round live 3:00 a.m. AFN/xtra  
 NHL: Stanley Cup Playoffs first round live 6:00 a.m. AFN/xtra  
 NBA: New Orleans @ Los Angeles Lakers live 6:30 a.m. AFN/sports

**Thursday 4/10/08**  
 NBA: Cleveland @ Chicago replay 11:00 a.m. AFN/sports  
 Tennis: Davis Cup USA vs. France replay 3:00 p.m. AFN/sports  
 NHL: Stanley Cup Playoffs first round live 10:00 p.m. AFN/prime  
 PGA: Masters third round live 11:30 p.m. AFN/sports  
 MLB: Colorado @ Arizona live 11:30 p.m. AFN/xtra

**Sunday 4/13/08**  
 MLB: New York Yankees @ Boston live 1:00 a.m. AFN/prime  
 NHL: Stanley Cup Playoffs first round live 3:00 a.m. AFN/xtra  
 NCAA Hockey: Frozen four championship live 3:00 a.m. AFN/sports

**Tuesday 4/15/08**  
 NASCAR Sprint Series: Subway Fresh Fit 500 live 4:00 a.m. AFN/xtra  
 MLB: San Diego @ Los Angeles Dodgers live 6:00 a.m. AFN/sports  
 MLB: Milwaukee @ New York Mets live 6:00 AFN/xtra  
 PGA: Masters third round replay 11:00 a.m. AFN/sports  
 NBA: Philadelphia @ Washington replay 11:00 a.m. AFN/xtra  
 MLB: New York Yankees @ Boston replay 1:00 p.m. AFN/xtra  
 NBA: Denver @ Utah replay 4:00 p.m. AFN/xtra  
 NBA: Dallas @ Portland replay 6:00 p.m. AFN/xtra

# Unit comes together to duke it out



Photo by Spc. Ryan Hohman



Photo by Spc. Ryan Hohman

Top Left: Pfc. Dontell Gomez, with the 74th Multi Roles Bridge Company out of Ft Hood Tx., takes a defensive stance while boxing April 5.  
 Top Right: A Soldier helps Pfc. Michael Danker of the 74 MRBC put in his mouth piece before he begins to box at the East Recreation Center .  
 Bottom Left: Gomez left plants a left cross on Pfc. Frank Christensen of 74 MRBC.  
 Bottom Right: Pfc. Rachel Tubergan of the 74 MRBC keeps her eye on the target after landing a powerful blow to her opponent's face.



Photo by Spc. Ryan Hohman

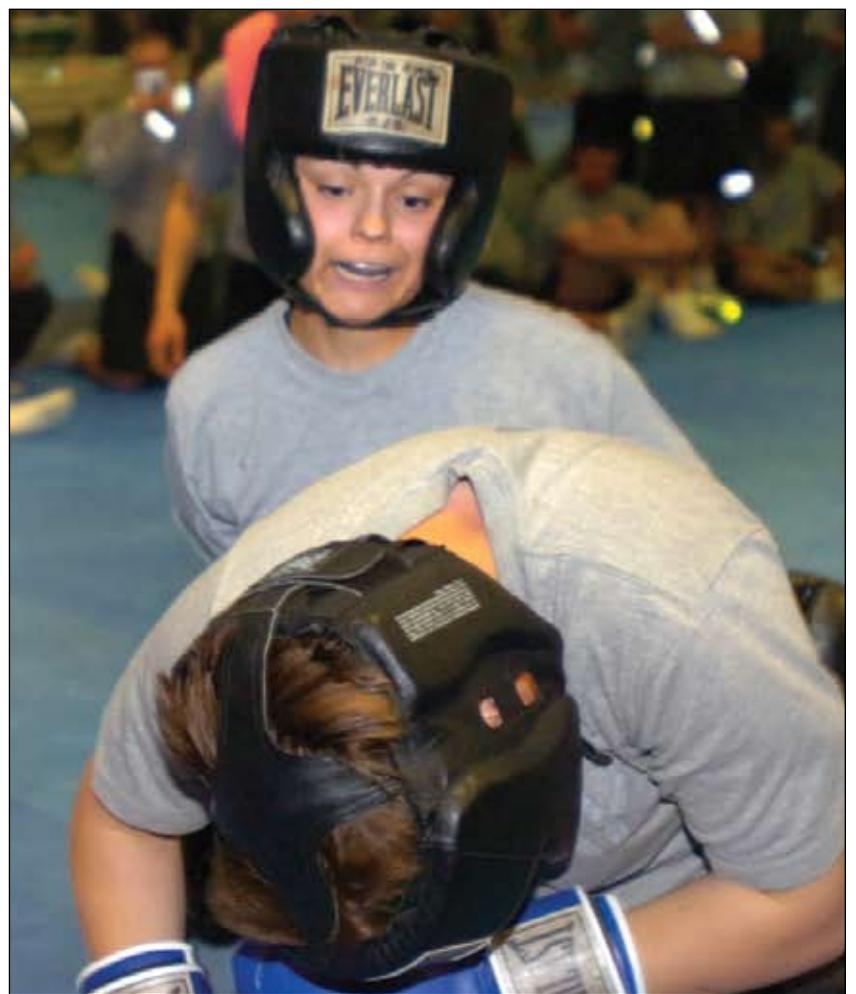


Photo by Spc. Ryan Hohman