



Spartan Chronicle

pointing out the weekly news from the 2nd BCT

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Soldiers lend helping hand



Soldiers get water running for Iraq towns
- pages 4-5



Children get toys from U.S.
- page 7



Women lauded at history celebration
- page 15



See page 10

Photo by Sgt. Kevin Stabinsky





Photo by Sgt. Kevin Stabinsky

An Iraqi labor crew works on one of the buildings comprising the Al Nassir School in Al Buaytha March 25. The government of Iraq is taking an active interest in the area – paying teachers, sending in construction teams to assess and repair schools and is trying to get involved more in the area.

Gol gets involved in Arab Jabour

Sgt. Kevin Stabinsky
2nd BCT PAO

Coalition forces have laid the ground work in Arab Jabour, both by making the area safer and starting new projects to help the small neighborhoods there get back to normal.

With the 1st Battalion, 30th Infantry Regiment already in the

last quarter of their deployment, the Government of Iraq has done what the Coalition had hoped for all along – stepping in to take claim of the area.

“They’ve done some work renovating schools and sent in a team to do work,” said Capt. Joseph Inge, commander, Company D, 1-30th Inf. Reg. “Teachers are

being paid by the government rather than us. It’s a huge plus when they take ownership.”

More and more projects will be led by GoI in electricity, water and veterinary projects said Inge, of Richmond, Va. “We’ve made contact with the Ministry of

See GoI page 3



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2nd BCT PAO
Maj. James Brownlee
1st Lt. Kalen Smith
Sgt. Kevin Stabinsky
Sgt. Luis Delgadillo
Sgt. Jason Stadel
Sgt. Randall Townsend

Electricity and Water. Little by little word is getting out.”

Each day people can get help at the GoI-sponsored Nassir Clinic. Besides performing the work to restore the clinic, the doctors and staff now work for Iraq, rather than the Coalition.

First Lt. Brent McCorkle, of Greenville, S.C., Company D executive officer, said the Ministry of Agriculture has express interest in a vet clinic for the area, and that a civil affairs detachment assigned to the 1-30th Inf. Reg. is working with the MoA to get the project started.

All of these improvements would have never been possible without the initial improvements in security.

Before security, none of the schools were open, teachers were scared to go to work and families said they were scared to leave their homes, McCorkle said. Now families are moving around freely, interacting with Soldiers everyday.

These Soldiers will be trading places with the Iraqi Army soon, as they begin to take control of their own turf. Plans are underway to have the IA housed at Patrol Base Red, in the upcoming month.

The goal is to also have an Iraqi Police battalion in the area as well, with some of the officers coming from the ranks of the area’s Sons of Iraq groups. An IP drive was held in Arab Jabour March 10 to 13. As for those not hired, the battalion is working on trying to create jobs.

Everyday, the 1-30th Inf. Reg. Soldiers and the Iraqi people are working on ways to make the future brighter for future generations. First Lt.



Photo by Sgt. Kevin Stabinsky

Farmers work their fields in Al Buaytha March 25. The Government of Iraq is trying to get involved in the area to improve the quality of life for residents of Arab Jabour. The Iraqi Ministry of Agriculture is also getting involved in the area to improve the locals’ quality of life. The MoA has expressed interest in creating a vet clinic for the area to aid local livestock.

Bryan Deminico, platoon leader, 1st platoon, Company D, of Hollywood, Fla., says that they are working to catalogue and assess local farms to help the people there make a profit and hire workers.

Coalition forces envision the workers will come directly from the SoI, as the program begins to transition. Others are participating in vocational training to learn skills for the future, like widening water canals and fixing water pumps. Some learn about restoring critical infrastructure such as electricity, roads and water purification pumps.

Yahya Hamed Muhamed, Al Buaytha water pump station operator, is a former SoI in training.

While Muhamed is still getting support from Coalition forces, he said he has talked with representatives with the MoW, informing them of his job and the

importance of it to the community. He said the government promised to eventually hire him and put his operation under its control.

The same progress will hopefully be achieved with the other jobs being created in the area.

“We’ve been able to remove al-Qaeda and make the area safe.” Inge said. “We can hand over a safe and secure environment and they can build upon the improvements already made.”

Although the handoff may be bittersweet for some of the Soldiers and locals who have built strong friendships amongst each other, McCorkle said both parties realize the importance of letting the government step in, assume responsibility, and prove to the people that the GoI has their best interests at heart.

“The locals definitely say they will miss us, but they know this is where we need to be,” he said.

Fuel donation keeps water pump running

Sgt. Kevin Stabinsky
2nd BCT PAO

In al Buaytha, Iraq, a mere 40 liters of fuel equals 16,000 liters of pure drinking water.

On March 25, to help keep the al Buaytha water purification pump operating, Soldiers of 1st Platoon, Company D, 1st Battalion, delivered two 20-liter containers of fuel to the pump manager, Yahya Hamed Muhamed.

Muhamed, who volunteered to run the pumping station, said with the donation, he can keep his pump - which draws water from the Tigris River - running for up to two more hours. Every hour, the pump can purify 8,000 liters, enough to fill the reserve tank outside his station.

Some of the clean water he pumps goes to the Nassir Health Clinic a few dozen meters down the road. Without the pump to kill the bacteria in the water, residents are forced to boil it themselves, said 1st Lt. Bryan Deminico, platoon leader for 1st Platoon.

Deminico, a native of Hollywood, Fla., said people once feared the water, as many who drank it became sick. Knowing the importance of clean water, the 2nd BCT, 3rd Inf. Div. Soldiers



Photo by Sgt. Kevin Stabinsky

Yahya Hamed Muhamed, Al Buyatha water purification pump manager, adds 20-liters of fuel to his pump March 25. The Soldiers of 1st Platoon, Company D, 1st Battalion, 30th Infantry Regiment, donated 40 liters of fuel to Muhamed, who uses the fuel to power the pump used to purify water from the Tigris River. The pump uses about 20 liters an hour to purify 8,000 liters of water, providing safe drinking water to more than 700 people in the community.

made fixing the pump a priority.

Before the Soldiers arrived, Muhamed said the pump was inoperable. The generators that drew water into the machine were inoperable and the purification tank was also broken. Also in need of repairs was the filtering unit, which removes the chlorine and other

contaminates.

Muhamed said the community is much better off now that the Soldiers began helping with the pump.

Although Coalition forces helped with the repair, like many things in al Buaytha and the surrounding community, the Government of Iraq is taking an interest.

Muhamed said he has talked with representatives from the Ministry of Water, informing them of his job and its importance to the community. Although he did not receive a time table, he said the government promised to eventually hire him and put his operation under its control.

Water pump opens in Arab Jabour

Sgt. Luis Delgadillo
2nd BCT PAO

A new well-water purification station opened in Al Buaytha March 25, north of Combat Outpost Murray.

Since arriving in Arab Jabour 10 months ago, Coalition forces have assessed challenges facing the area. A serious concern was lack of access to clean water; completion of the station addressed that need.

The water purification station, named Esaalat Salam or 'Pump of Peace', is capable of providing 1000 liters of clean water per hour and can serve a 400-square-kilometer area.

The station is one of three wells with a purification system in the region which is roughly the size of Baltimore, Md., and patrolled by Soldiers of the 2nd Brigade,

In addition to the wells, residents have access to 13 water purification units which draw water from the Tigris River.

While 2nd BCT Soldiers worked with local contractors to get water purification stations and wells back into operation, they also delivered water



Photo by Sgt. Luis Delgadillo

A resident of Arab Jabour helps Spc. Ricky Allan Doda Jr., of Blooming Grove, Texas, a light wheel mechanic with Forward Support Company F, 1st Battalion, 30th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, refill a potable water tank south of Combat Outpost Murray March 20. Soldiers of the 2nd BCT refill 30 containers weekly to supplement water purification units and wells undergoing construction and repair so local residents have easier access to clean water.

to residents to combat water-borne illnesses.

Spc. Raymond James Etheridge, a water treatment specialist with Forward Support Company F, 1-30th Infantry Regiment, said in addition to his normal duties of purifying water for Soldiers at COP Murray, he and his fellow Soldiers transport drinking water to tanks positioned around the 1-30th Inf. Regt. area of operation.

Maj. Douglas Allan

Betts, commander of Company A, 415th Civil Affairs Battalion, out of Kalamazoo, Mich., currently assigned to the 2nd BCT, said the water tanks are a temporary solution to the need for clean drinking water.

Betts, a native of Battle Creek, Mich., said there are 30 water tanks, which Soldiers fill on a weekly basis.

To establish a long-term solution to the water purification problem, Betts said he and other

Soldiers in the 2nd BCT are working to establish ties with the Ministry of Water and the Ministry of Health.

"Right now what we're working on is getting Government of Iraq officials at the appropriate level involved so that when Coalition forces leave this area they are up to date on what the projects are, what's been fixed and what they need to do to maintain them," Betts said.

Al Nassir school gets face lift from Gol

Sgt. Kevin Stabinsky
2nd BCT PAO

The al Nassir Elementary School is once again a kid-friendly place where area children can go to study.

The school, which suffered severe damage while al-Qaeda dominated the area, is now getting a face-lift thanks to the efforts of local residents and Coalition forces.

On March 25, Soldiers of 1st Platoon, Company D, 1st Battalion, 30th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, paid a visit to the school to view work being done by a local construction crew.

In the two months since the project began, school headmaster Mohammed Hussein Mohammed said the school is returning to its former glory.

Both girls and boys in grades 1 through 6 attend classes in the four buildings that comprise the school. Currently, 17 teachers work in the school, instructing more than 550 children from the communities of al Buaytha and Arab Jabour, Mohammed said.

First Lt. Bryan Deminico, platoon leader of 1st Platoon, was pleased by the progress.

In addition to aesthetic improvements such as painting and filling in holes in the walls and ceilings, new electrical wiring has been installed and a water pump installed to provide plumbing.

“It is getting better-looking each and every day,” Deminico, of Hollywood, Fla., said.

Still, much work remains to be done, Mohammed said. The school is 50-years-old and needs to be refurbished. Work needs to be done on all the buildings, even those currently housing classes.

To both educate students and improve the school simultaneously, classrooms are being rotated, said Staff Sgt. Phillip Moore, tank commander. Once classrooms are renovated, students move in and the rooms they vacate are worked on, the Columbus, Ohio native said.

Deminico promised future meetings to discuss funding and improvements with Mohammed, who will also meet with a representative of the Iraqi Ministry of Education, Satar Mohammad Katham. Mohammed said he is in regular contact



Photo by Sgt. Kevin Stabinsky

An Iraqi worker adds a fresh coat of white paint to one of the buildings comprising the al Nassir School in al Buaytha March 25. Coalition forces are funding repair of the school's four buildings. Before al-Qaeda was driven from the area, the school was hit several times by mortars, causing structural damage.

with Katham, and the Government of Iraq is paying the teachers and showing a vested interest in the welfare of the school.

Such interest is necessary to provide a better future for the area, Mohammed said. Many

adults in al Buaytha cannot read or write, something he wants to see change in the new generation.

“We need to provide them education and knowledge,” he said. “They need to know how to read and write.”



Courtesy photos

Soldiers of Company D, 1st Battalion, 30th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, handed out Beanie Babies donated by children of North Hills Christian School in Salisbury, N.C., March 24. The toys were given to children from the Oman and Nassir Schools in al Buaytha.

Soldiers, stateside elementary schools give Iraqi school children something to smile about

Unit Public Affairs Rep.
1-30th Infantry Regiment

Iraqi school children in al Buaytha got toys from children their age halfway around the world March 24.

Soldiers of Company D, 1st Battalion, 30th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, distributed 400 Beanie Babies to children at the Oman and Nassir Schools. Students of North Hills Christian School in Salisbury, N.C., collected and sent the toys as a gift.

“It is important that we do

anything we can to make the children happy and help them, because the children are the future,” said Capt. Joseph Inge, a native of Richmond, Va., commander of Company D.

First Lt. Kirk Steiner, Company D fire support officer, gave his mother, who teaches at the school, credit for organizing the event.

“Most of these children have only seen their country during a time of war. It was great to be able to give them a small gift and see the smiles on their faces,” said Steiner, a native of Salisbury, N.C.



A young Iraqi girl holds her new Beanie Baby, donated by children of North Hills Christian School in Salisbury, N.C.

Police make impact with school kids

1st Lt. John Morgan
1-64 Armor Regiment

In an effort to display their commitment to not only the security of Adil but also the welfare of its citizens, members of the new Adil Police force distributed school supplies to the Al-Adil Primary school during the week of March 16-23.

The children received backpacks, notebooks, pencils, rulers and other supplies which will make their school year more productive. This school supply distribution allowed the Adil Police Force to interact with members of the Adil community outside of their normal police duties as well as to develop an amicable bond with the citizens of the community they serve.

In the end, the mission was able to demonstrate to the local populace that their police officers share a commitment to Adil and its future. This partnership will create a trust between the citizens and the police force which will allow the police to more effectively perform



Courtesy photo

Iraqi Police get greeted very warmly welcomed by school children as they distribute school supplies at the Al-Adil primary school. The distribution mission allowed the population of Adil to meet their new police force

their duties.

“When the citizens of Adil understand that we have a vested interest in the success and future of Adil they will be more willing to come to us with information and trust that we will act on that information in a judicious manor,” said Maj. Thumar, Adil police

station chief.

The school supply distribution was considered a great success by everyone involved, especially the kids. The children of the Al-Adil school enjoyed spending the morning with the Iraqi Police Officers and welcomed the officers back anytime.

Adil police force breaks up criminal group

1st Lt. John Morgan
1-64 Armor Regiment

Members of the Adil Police Department, acting on an anonymous tip, arrested six individuals with connections to a drug and prostitution ring operating inside of Adil.

The arrests marked the first large scale police operation by the new

Adil force and gave the Adil Police Officers an opportunity to put their skills, learned from the U.S. led training course, to a real world criminal investigation.

During the operation, the polices’ newly developed abilities to conduct sensitive site exploitation, tactical

questioning, and detainee processing all contributed to the success of the operation.

The six detained individuals were all charged on drug, weapon, and prostitution violations and will be processed through the Iraqi court system. A more lasting effect of this operation is

that the Adil Police Force has more clearly defined its role and capabilities in Adil which will act as a deterrent to future criminal activities in the area.

Through their success, they demonstrated their proficiency, professionalism, and determination to Adil.

TF Marne NCO Academy graduation



Photos by Sgt. Jason Stadel

Iraqi Army Soldiers and Policemen stand in formation at the Task Force Marne Noncommissioned Officer Academy graduation March 24 at Forward Operating Base Kalsu.

Left: Command Sgt. Maj. Tommy Williams, Multi-National Security Transition Command – Iraq command sergeant major, shakes hands with the distinguished honor graduate from the Task Force Marne Noncommissioned Officer Academy March 24 at Forward Operating Base Kalsu. Williams was the guest speaker during the graduation.

Safety Alert - Power tools

- Wear approved eye protection.
- Wear hearing protection when needed.
- Watch your fingers.
- Keep your mind on your work.
- Keep work area and tools clean.
- Use tools as they were designed to be used.
- Keep cutting-edge tools sharp.
- Carry and store tools properly.
- DO NOT remove machine guarding; this is a safety feature for your protection.
- When using electrical power cords, use GFCI protection when possible.
- Never horseplay when using power tools.





Photo by Sgt. Kevin Stabinsky

Noor Taha Najee (left) uses her hands to try to form a picture in her mind of 1st Lt. Michael Kendrick, platoon leader, 2nd Platoon, 1st Battalion, 30th Infantry Regiment, during a March 26 visit to the her house in Al Buaytha. Nora, whose corneas are underdeveloped, has been blind since birth. The Soldiers of the 1-30th are working with a non-governmental organization in Los Angeles, the Eye Defects Research Foundation, to get Nora surgery that may provide her with sight for the first time in her five years. Although she cannot see all the Soldiers are doing for her, she nevertheless senses their good intentions and has formed a special bond with the platoon, especially Kendrick.

Soldiers work hard to give girl gift of sight

Sgt. Kevin Stabinsky
2nd BCT PAO

Her hands run across his hand, her fingers explore his features. She asks her father: Is he fat or skinny? Tall or short? She is trying to learn about the man she cannot see, the one who strives to end the mystery surrounding him and the

world around her.

First Lt. Michael Kendrick, platoon leader of 2nd Platoon, Company D, 1st Battalion, 30th Infantry Regiment, said it is his goal to replace the mental picture young Noor Taha Najee has of her father with the actual image.

Noor, a 5-year-old girl

who lives in al Buaytha, has been blind since birth, a condition caused by poorly-developed corneas, said her father Taha.

It is a problem which runs in the family. Taha's brother, Mustafa, also suffers from the birth defect, one that prevents the eyes from registering

anything other than light sensitivity.

Although the condition is genetic, it is one that can be fixed through surgery. Kendrick, a native of Phoenix, Ariz., and his unit have been working closely with doctors to try to get

See NORA page 11

something done for the family.

“To have her see her family, her brothers, to put a face to the voice, it would be a blessing,”

Taha said of the opportunity to help give sight to his daughter and brother.

The Eye Defects Research Foundation, a nongovernmental organization based in Los Angeles, is already trying to schedule a surgery for the girl.

On March 14, the Soldiers took Noor and her uncle to the 86th

“To have her see her family, her brothers, to put a face to the voice, it would be a blessing.”

- Taha Najee
Noor’s father

Combat Support Hospital in Baghdad to get an evaluation done on the two, which showed a higher potential for success with Noor.

“We’re on standby now, waiting for a doctor in L.A.,” Kendrick said.

He said they are now trying to find a local Iraqi doctor who would

be willing to travel with Noor and her family to California. An Iraqi doctor is needed who could be shown the necessary follow-up care.

Such a gift would seem appropriate for a girl who is described as very generous and giving by her father.

“She’s different from

many other kids,” Taha said. “She’s always sharing. She’ll give you anything.”

It is a personality trait which has endeared her to the 2nd Platoon Soldiers.

“We’ve taken a real vested interest in the people here,” Kendrick said, adding his Soldiers spend a lot of time on the ground, interacting with residents. “We empathize with the people. It pays dividends winning the hearts and minds. It keeps things quiet.”

See NORA page 12



Photo by Sgt. Kevin Stabinsky

Noor Taha Najee (left) is escorted around her family’s yard in Al Buaytha March 26 during a visit to the house by Soldiers of 2nd Platoon, Company D, 1st Battalion, 30th Infantry Regiment. The Soldiers are working to get Nora to Los Angeles for surgery by the Eye Defects Research Foundation. The operation may provide her with sight for the first time in her life.



Photos by Sgt. Kevin Stabinsky

Noor Taha Najee gives 1st Lt. Michael Kendrick, platoon leader, 2nd Platoon, 1st Battalion, 30th Infantry Regiment, a good bye kiss at the close of his platoon's visit to her family March 26.

“We empathize with the people. It pays dividends winning the hearts and minds.”

*- 1st Lt. Michael Kendrick
platoon leader, 2nd Platoon, 1-30th Inf. Reg.*

Noor has developed quite an attachment to Kendrick, Taha said.

“She likes to sit by him, and is always asking me about him and loves it when I tell her stories about him,” he said. “She’s only like that with Kendrick.”

As a father of two young girls himself – Presley, 3, and Parker, 1,

– Kendrick said he knows the importance of family and providing for them.

While she may not be able to see all the 2nd Brigade Soldiers are doing for her, Taha said Noor can definitely sense the good will of Kendrick’s platoon.

“Love begins in the mind, not the eyes,” Taha said.



Despite her handicap, Noor’s family has helped her through the days. That family now included the 1-30th Inf., who are trying to give her the gift of sight.

Comedians perform last minute tour for troops

Sgt. Luis Delgadillo
2nd BCT PAO

For comedians on the road, rough starts and tough crowds are the norm but when you can't even make it to the show on time the odds are against you from the start.

If their late arrival wasn't enough, when they took to the stage, in the heat of the day, their audience was a meager 10 Soldiers who were most likely just seeking cover from the heat under the shade.

Nonetheless, Scott Kennedy, Steve Trevino and Butch Bradley took to the stage, which consisted of a trailer and loudspeakers, March 24 at Forward Operating Base Kalsu and gave a driving comedic



Photos by Sgt. Luis Delgadillo
Butch Bradley entertains Soldiers at Forward Operating Base Kalsu during the United Service Organization's Scott Kennedy Comedy Tour, March 24. The tour brought comedians Scott Kennedy, Steve Trevino, and Butch Bradley to the makeshift stage outside the FOBs dining facility where the trio saw a crowd of 10, in the beginning of the show, swell to more than 100 laughing Soldiers.

show, which eventually attracted more than 100 passersby.

The performers have all made appearances

on Comedy Central, the Home Box Office channel and various late night network television shows.

Spc. Lindsay Flossi, intelligence analyst, with the 2-3 Brigade Troop Battalion, said she enjoyed the show though she was a late arrival and only caught Bradley's performance.

Kennedy, who had the arduous task of opening the show to the small audience, was visiting Iraq for the 15th time as a comedian.

As he warmed up the

crowd, curious onlookers began to congregate near the stage and before he knew it, Kennedy was standing before a respectable nightclub-sized audience.

When Trevino took to the stage he began to draw attention to the Soldiers watching the show from a nearby 'smoking area.' They didn't move closer to the stage and as a result some of the smokers were singled out and teased for



Soldiers at Forward Operating Base Kalsu enjoy the comedic stylings of the Scott Kennedy Comedy Tour, March 24. The tour brought comedians Scott Kennedy, Steve Trevino, and Butch Bradley to the base.

See COMEDY page 14

COMEDY cont. from page 13

being out in the hot sun.

With their time at FOB Kalsu quickly running out the last performer, Bradley, took to the stage and had the crowd reeling with laughter.

Antagonizing the crowd and then backing off Bradley's performance yielded the most laughs from Soldiers in the audience whose numbers had now grown to more than 100.

Kennedy, whose two nephews have deployed to Afghanistan and Iraq in support of the Global

War on Terrorism, said he enjoyed touring smaller bases versus the larger bases because Soldiers show more appreciation.

"I have been out to FOBs before and sometimes the guys (Soldiers) go a whole tour without seeing anyone come out."

"This is the way I serve my country. It's the least I could do," said Kennedy who with the completion of his current tour will have successfully planned three USO tours across Iraq.



Photo by Sgt. Luis Delgadillo

Butch Bradley (right) and Steve Trevino (center) speak with Soldiers at Forward Operating Base Kalsu during the United Service Organization's Scott Kennedy Comedy Tour, March 24. The tour brought comedians Scott Kennedy, Steve Trevino, and Butch Bradley to the makeshift stage outside the FOBs dining facility where the trio saw a crowd of 10, in the beginning of the show, swell to more than 100 laughing Soldiers.

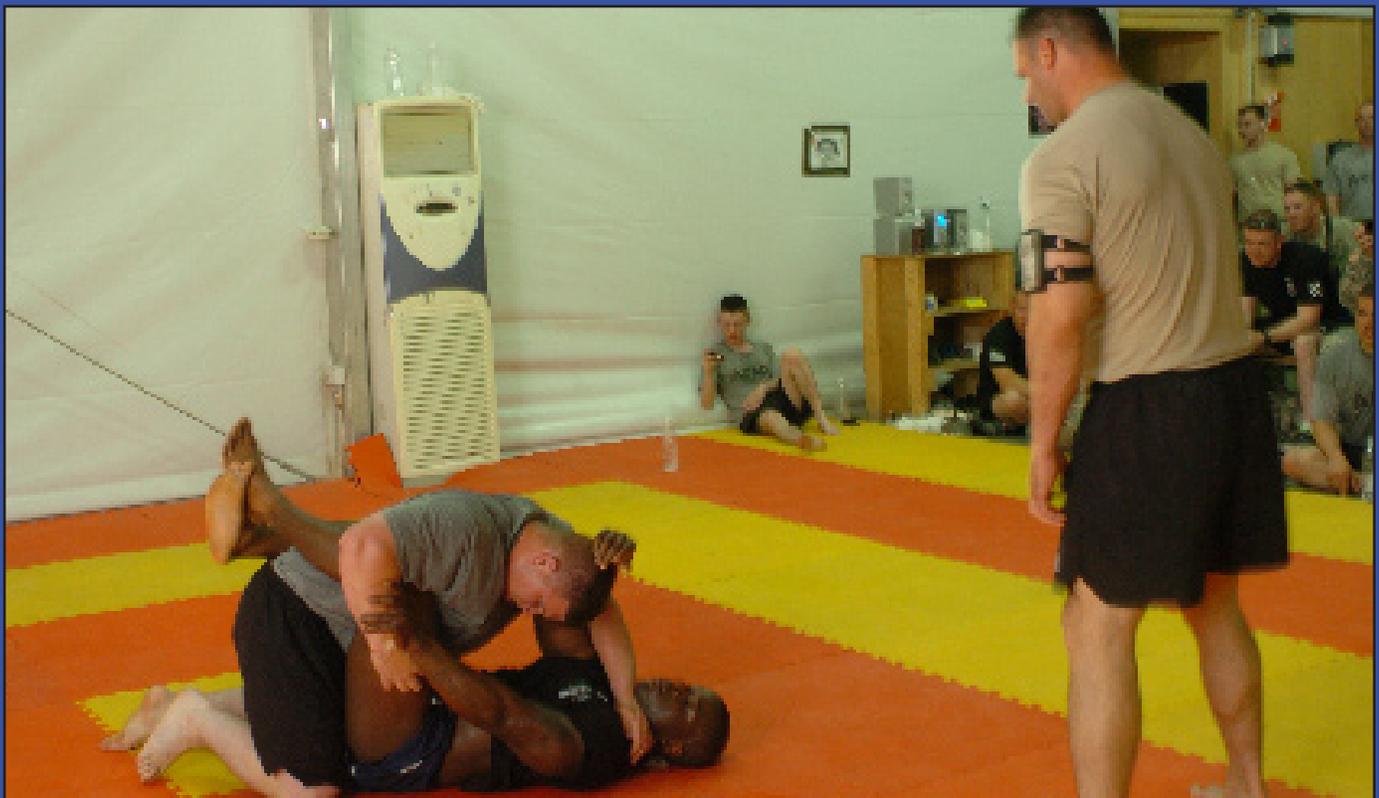


Photo by Sgt. Kevin Stabinsky

Spc. Leonard VonBerndt, a fueller with Company A, 26th Brigade Support Battalion, pins Staff Sgt. Leonard Moses, Air Force K-9 handler out of Dover Air Force Base, working in support of the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, to the mat at the Forward Operating Base Kalsu gym March 30 during a submission wrestling tournament. Read all about the event and learn who won this showdown in the heavyweight final in next week's Spartan Chronicle's sports section.



Photo by Sgt. Kevin Stabinsky

Sgt. 1st Class Jennifer Williams, 2nd Brigade Combat Team intelligence non-commissioned officer in charge, steps forward to address who she is and her roles as a women March 29 during the Women's History Month Celebration at the Forward Operating Base Kalsu dining facility. Soldiers celebrated Women's History Month through poetry, skits, speeches and music.

Soldiers celebrate Women's History Month

Sgt. Kevin Stabinsky
2nd BCT PAO

It was a celebration of history based on "her" story.

On March 29 at the Forward Operating Base Kalsu dining facility, Soldiers gathered to celebrate Women's History Month.

The theme of the event was Women's Art, Women's Vision, and centered on how artists and women share a passion for creating, and like visionaries, have plans to for the future.

"We've talked a lot about people in history, but I want you to know you are making history," Col. Terry Ferrell, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division commander, told the crowd of women in attendance at the event. "Each of you is a hero to someone back home."

Knowing that some women back home, in light of all their accomplishments, view today's servicewomen as heroines was an awe-inspiring idea for many in

the audience.

Capt. Lea Lato, 2nd BCT intelligence operations officer, who served as guest speaker, reiterated this point by speaking of the respect one of her role-models, Jane Gauger, had for women in the military.

In her speech, Lato spoke about Gauger's own struggles, escaping with her mother from an abusive father, escaping from her own abusive marriage, all while raising two of her own children as a single

parent struggling through college.

"She never tells this story (of her past). The story she does tell is how proud she is of both her daughters. Her oldest daughter is an officer in the United States Military," Lato said.

"When someone with as much strength and vision as she has thinks women serving in the military have gone through tougher things than she has, I'm honored."

See WOMEN page 16

Lato, and all other participants in the event, who performed poetry, song and skits to the amusement and education of those present, were honored at the end of the ceremony with certificates of appreciation by 4th BCT commander, Col. Thomas James.

Women’s History Month is one of five equal opportunity months celebrated by the Army yearly. The next monthly celebration occurs in May, which celebrates Asian Pacific Heritage.

The next EO celebration will be April’s “Days of Remembrance” for victims of the Holocaust.



Photos by Sgt. Kevin Stabinsky
Capt. Lea Lato, 2nd Brigade Combat Team intelligence operations officer, served as guest speaker for the Women’s History Month celebration March 29 at the Forward Operating Base Kalsu dining facility. .



First Lt. Marcella Evans, 1st Lt. Charmain Lett, Sgt. 1st Class Mary Mitchell, Spc. Veronica Green and Capt. Christee Cuttino (left to right) perform a skit “Girl Talk” March 29. Soldiers celebrated Women’s History Month through poetry, skits, speeches and music.

Word on the street

“What do you plan on doing with all the money you saved up this deployment?”



“Finish paying off my house.”



“Buy a house I guess.”



“Redo my whole house.”

Sgt. Inez Martinez

HHC 26 BSB Food service NCO

Sgt. Deivy Fabian

B Co 26 BSB mechanic

Sgt. Brandy Terry

HHC 26 BSB Mayor Cell



April FOB Kalsu MWR Calendar



SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
		1 Risk Darts Spades	2 Basketball Deadlift comp.	3 Pool Chess	4 Basketball Spades Movie night	5 Texas Hold'em Hip-hop music night
6 <i>Kalsu Idol @ DFAC, 7 p.m.</i> Halo 2: 2 vs 2	7 Ping Pong Dominoes	8 Foosball Darts Spades	9 Basketball Strongman comp.	10 Pool Chess	11 Basketball Spades Movie night	12 Texas Hold'em Hip-hop music night
13 <i>Kalsu Idol @ DFAC, 7 p.m.</i> Halo 2: 2 vs 2	14 Ping Pong Dominoes	15 Monopoly Darts Spades	16 Basketball Bench press comp.	17 Pool Chess	18 Basketball Spades Movie night	19 Texas Hold'em Hip-hop music night
20 <i>Talent show @ MWR, 9 p.m.</i> Halo 2: 2 vs 2	21 Ping Pong Dominoes	22 Foosball Darts Spades	23 Basketball Max Bench press comp.	24 Pool Chess	25 Basketball Spades Movie night	26 Texas Hold'em Hip-hop music night
27 Halo 2: 2 vs 2	28 Ping Pong Dominoes	Unless otherwise stated, all events begin at 1930. Times and events are subject to change. Special events are in <i>red italics</i>.				