

JOINT BASE BALAD'S
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES
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Vol. 1, Issue 6



Photo by Spc. Anthony Hooker

2nd Lt. Jeff Sowecke, a member of Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 2nd Battalion, 320th Field Artillery Regiment demonstrates how he brushes his teeth to local kids July 10 at Al Boiter, Iraq.

Coalition Forces help make life 'Minty-Fresh' for Iraqi children

by Spc. Anthony Hooker

Expeditionary Times staff

AL BOITER, Iraq – Members of the Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 2nd Battalion, 320th Field Artillery Regiment, combined with the 4th Iraqi Army Division to distribute dental supplies June 10 in the village of Al Boiter. The mission, called "Operation Minty-Fresh," is part of a continuing effort to raise the quality of life for Iraqi citizens living around Joint Base Balad.

Operation "Minty-Fresh," the brainchild of Capt. Scott Sorquist, has been observing practices at military dental clinics while preparing for dental school. Sorquist realized that Iraqi children were not receiving proper dental care.

"There are countless missions where kids are treated with candy, toys, school supplies, etc.," said Sorquist, a Blackduck, Minn., native. "I wanted to do something to improve their health, their life."

"There are countless missions where kids are treated with candy, toys, school supplies, etc. I wanted to do something to improve their health, their life."

Capt. Scott Sorquist
Task Force 49

The 2nd-320th FAR, deployed from Ft. Campbell, Ky., traveled to three neighborhoods trying to encourage the children to accept and use their gifts. The Soldiers handed out toothpaste and toothbrushes with covers.

At the first stop, a few children rushed to the convoy, expecting a collection of goodies to eat or play with. After arriving they received a tube of toothpaste and a toothbrush. Expecting more, the group looked a little stunned, wondering if they would get anything else.

2nd Lt. Jeff Sowecke, platoon leader for the 2nd-320th FAR, recognized the confusion grabbed a brush and began brushing his teeth encouraging the group of kids to join in.

Most of the kids chose to stand and watch still looking confused. One boy, 12-year old Amir, decided to join Sowecke by squeezing some paste onto his brush. Amir placed the brush on his teeth, slowly sliding the brush back and forth. After a few moments, Amir turned to a buddy on his left and smiled in between strokes, letting him know that the experience wasn't all that bad.

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Getting the economy rolling

Private trucking companies help to improve Iraqi economy

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Mechanics beat the heat

Bradley mechanics complete semi-annual vehicle overhaul

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Shi'a pilgrims complete long journey

IA leads the way to ensuring safe passage for religious ceremony

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PMO Blotter: 9-16 July

Breaking and Entering—A Soldier in H-7 Housing, N Pod, had her room broken into. The victim determined that nothing had been taken. PMO commentary: Lock any valuables inside a secure container within your room; the doors to the housing units are easily breached.

Hit and Run Accident—A private first class driving a 5-ton truck ran into a non-tactical vehicle while attempting to leave the parking lot at DFAC #3, then fled the scene. A witness to the crash followed the 5-ton back to the Soldier's unit then contacted PMO. PMO arrived at the unit and was able to apprehend the driver of the hit-and-run 5-ton. PMO commentary: An observant witness often solves a case. Anyone found guilty of leaving the scene of an accident will lose their driving privileges on Joint Base Balad for a long period of time, in addition to any other punishment handed out.

Major Fires—PMO responded with the fire department to two ma-

ajor fires in the last week: A trailer belonging to ITT security along Sustainer St, west of Pennsylvania St, caught fire, and resulted in an estimated loss of \$130,000.

Four housing units, a portrait studio and carpet warehouse caught fire southeast of the PX/BX; all six buildings were destroyed. The estimated cost of the damage is still being investigated.

Harassment—A female contractor was approached by two unknown male contractors and handed a compact disc; one of the males stated that the CD contained images of her husband. When the female asked the males who they were they stated that her husband knew who they were. The CD contained pornographic images of one male subject and two females.

Stray rounds—were reported to have landed in the following areas over the last week-

H-6, B Pod

H-6, X Pod

Bldg 4122, near the East PX/BX

Private trucking companies improve Iraqi economy

by Spc. Andrea Merritt

1st Sustainment Brigade

BAGHDAD — Taking the initiative, 68 sheikhs from various tribes approached the U.S. military with a proposition of hauling their own cargo throughout Iraq, guaranteeing safe shipment and taking financial responsibility for any loss that might happen.



The sheikhs, representing 62 tribes, chose drivers for the newly formed Iraqi Trucking Network, and submitted prospective names, which U.S. military conducted background checks on. Of the 100 names submitted, 97 of them were approved.

The formation of the ITN is one of the first efforts in 30-40 years to build a private logistics company in Iraq. They now move low-value cargo for U.S. forces to different forward operating bases in the country.

“For Iraq, this particular form of logistics network is a key enabler for the Iraqi economy, so we’re seeding it with military cargo to get this going,” said U.S. Navy Cmdr. Ken Titcomb, the ITN action officer for Multi-National Forces – Iraq. “The goal is that after a couple of years, their revenue will come from commercial services, not military. Hopefully it will end up driving a lot of jobs, and it’ll be a factor for economic prosperity in Iraq.”

Since missions in that region have proven successful, plans are to expand services to Multi-National Division – Center by September and Multi-National Division - North by October, which will allow their network to triple in size over the next few months.

They have been moving low value cargo such as food, water and construction materials on their own, without any military escorts. To date there have been no incidents or attacks resulting in the loss of cargo.

“With the truckers we have today, that made a difference of at least 20 Soldiers on the road,” Titcomb said. “This reduces the dependence on military to get the cargo moved.”

In addition to providing jobs for Iraqis and reducing Soldiers on the roads, customer units see other benefits to the service that the ITN provides.

“If they move the low-priority cargo, then we can take the priority cargo that must move in support of missions and combat operations,” said Maj. Ira Baldwin,



Photo by Spc. Andrea Merritt

A driver for the Iraqi Transportation Network, a combined trucking company, watches as containers are loaded onto his truck July 15 at the Central Receiving and Shipping Point Yard on Camp Liberty, Iraq.

win, the 1st Sustainment Brigade support operations transportation officer. “We can now focus more of our trucks on that specific aspect.”

More than 2 million dollars in revenue has been produced in the first two months of operation and as the ITN network grows, the goal of a stable Iraqi economy becomes less of an idea and more of a reality.

“It is a growing entity,” said Baldwin. “If you look at the Iraqi Transportation Network, it’s not just trucks on the road. Iraqis have done this before. This is why we are taking baby steps to build the Iraqis back up, so they can do this in a flawless manner. Eventually, they will get there.”

EXPEDITIONARY TIMES

3rd ESC Commanding General, Brig. Gen. Mike Lally

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7th Sustainment Brigade
332nd Air Expeditionary Wing
20th Engineer Brigade
55th Sustainment Brigade
402nd Army Field Support Brigade
CJSOTF-AP
76th Infantry Brigade Combat Team
Task Force 49

Mission Statement: The Expeditionary Times Staff publishes a weekly newspaper with a primary mission of providing command information to all Servicemembers, partners, and Families of the 3rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) team and a secondary mission of providing a means for units on Joint Base Balad to disseminate command information to their audiences.

UXO kills Soldier

by Kelly Widener

U.S. Army Combat Readiness Center

FORT RUCKER, Ala. – A recent unexploded ordnance accident that claimed the life of a Soldier is serving as a deadly reminder to be extra cautious when handling amunitions.

The Soldier was digging in front of his quarters when he discovered a yellow cylinder resembling a caulk tube. Once the Soldier brought the tube out of the ground, he banged it against a wall to knock the dirt off and determine what he was holding. The device, which turned out to be a BLU-97/B

Combined Effects Bomb, exploded, killing the Soldier and wounding another.

The BLU-97 submunitions are yellow, soda-can-sized bomb-lets that are dispensed in large numbers to attack “soft” area targets. The bomblet case is made of scored steel designed to break into about 300 preformed ingrain fragments for defeating light armor and personnel.

The body of the BLU-97 is cylindrical in shape, about 20 centimeters long and has a 6 centimeter diameter. However, military and foreign munitions can come in a variety of types, sizes and shapes and may not be easy to recognize. They include, but are not limited to, small-arms ammunition, projectiles, cartridges, bombs, rockets, pyrotechnics, grenades, blasting caps, fuzes, simulators and raw explosives.

According to the Defense Environmental Network and Information Exchange, when encountering UXO, always follow the 3Rs of explosive safety:

- Recognize the munition.
- Retreat from the munition. Do not touch or disturb it, but move carefully away, walking out the same path the area was entered.
- Report the munition and its location.

Since fiscal 2005, there have been three Class A Army accidents resulting from Soldiers handling UXO. These accidents caused the deaths of three Soldiers. By following the 3Rs of explosive safety, Soldiers can help prevent future fatalities. In combat areas or on training ranges, it’s best to remember, “If you did not drop it, do not pick it up!”

For more information on UXO safety, visit the Defense Environmental Network and Information Exchange’s UXO Safety

‘Hooah’ of the week



Photo by Spc. Michael Behlin

Joint Base Balad, Iraq – SGT Bradley Bundenthal, 3d Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) Budget Analyst and Centerville, Ohio native, is congratulated by 3d ESC Commanding General Michael Lally for being selected this week’s “Hooah Soldier of the Week.” Bundenthal is responsible for balancing and maintaining the 3d ESC budget.

WEST SIDE CHESS CLUB WEST SIDE

WHEN: EVERY FRIDAY
WHERE: THE WEST SIDE MWR
TIME: 1 and 8 p.m.
For More Info: Emily.Mcgovern@kbr.com

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)
12:30 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.	GILBERT MEMORIAL (H-6)
2 P.M.	CASTLE HEIGHTS (4155)
8 P.M.	EDEN CHAPEL
7 P.M.	FREEDOM CHAPEL (WEST SIDE)
9:30 P.M.	FREEDOM CHAPEL (WEST SIDE)

PROTESTANT – LITURGICAL

SUNDAY 9 A.M.	EPISCOPAL FREEDOM CHAPEL
11 A.M.	LUTHERAN (CHAPEL ANNEX)
3:30 P.M.	GILBERT MEMORIAL

PROTESTANT --MESSIANIC

FRIDAY 8:30 P.M.	FREEDOM CHAPEL (WEST SIDE)
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PROTESTANT—SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST

SATURDAY 9 A.M.	PROVIDER CHAPEL
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PROTESTANT—CHURCH OF CHRIST

SUNDAY 3:30 P.M.	CASTLE HEIGHTS (4155)
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ROMAN CATHOLIC MASS

(SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION 30 MIN PRIOR TO MASS)	GILBERT MEMORIAL (H-6)
SATURDAY 5 P.M.	
8 P.M.	FREEDOM CHAPEL (WEST SIDE)
SUNDAY 8:30 A.M.	GILBERT MEMORIAL (H-6)
11 A.M.	PROVIDER CHAPEL
11 A.M.	AIR FORCE HOSPITAL CHAPEL
MON-SAT 11:45 A.M.	PROVIDER CHAPEL
THURSDAY 11 A.M.	AIR FORCE HOSPITAL 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)
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ISLAMIC SERVICE

FRIDAY 12:30 P.M.	PROVIDER CHAPEL (WEST SIDE)
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PAGAN/ WICCAN FELLOWSHIP

THURSDAY, SATURDAY 7 P.M.	EDEN CHAPEL
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BUDDHIST FELLOWSHIP

TUESDAY 7 P.M.	EDEN CHAPEL
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PROTESTANT – SPANISH NON-DENOMINATIONAL

SATURDAY 7:30 P.M.	PROVIDER CHAPEL
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EASTERN ORTHODOX- DEVINE LITURGY

SUNDAY 9 A.M.	CHAPEL ANNEX
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**Please note, schedule is subject to change.*

777th's maintainers keep people, cargo moving across Iraq

by Air Force Staff Sgt. Ruth Curfman

332nd Air Expeditionary Wing

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq— While most people go about their day, the C-130 ramp is buzzing with activity as the 777th Expeditionary Aircraft Maintenance Unit Airmen divide and conquer to ensure the workhorse of the Air Force fleet can continue its mission here.

The 777th EAMU works to keep the 777th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron's aircraft operational and completing missions. The airlift squadron is responsible for medical evacuations and moving cargo and passengers throughout Iraq.

"Maintainers are the enablers that keep these birds flying and carrying out their missions," said Tech. Sgt. Kerry Cook, 777th EAMU communications-navigational systems technician, deployed from Little Rock Air Force Base, Ark. "We make sure the Hercs are ready to go at all times to get troops and supplies where they are needed and bring the wounded back home."

However, because of the austere conditions in which the 777th EAS operates, the maintainers' goal of keeping Hercs in the air requires intense work.

"We have a high operations tempo here, and our biggest problem is the wear and tear on the aircraft due to the temperatures and dust," Cook said. "In order to provide the best product to the aircrews so they can continue performing their missions safely and effectively, we perform a lot of preventative maintenance, routine checks and aircraft servicing which helps to [predict and correct] some of the problems before they happen."

In addition to the environment, maintainers also face varying types of aircraft.

"We currently have three different models of the C-130 here and a mixture of age ranges, anywhere from being built between 1963 and 1993," said Tech. Sgt. John Kiser, 332nd Expeditionary Maintenance Group propulsion inspector, deployed from Little Rock AFB. "Because of the variety of aircraft and the additional environmental issues we deal with here, it takes a lot of maintenance - before and after flight - to keep the Hercs in the air and help keep convoys off the roads."

In a typical day, the maintainers repair more than five pilot-reported discrepancies per day, in addition to about 25 regularly scheduled maintenance items, in order to keep the aircraft flying.

Since May 1, the 777th EAMU's work has supported more than 1,500 sorties, 25,000 troop movements and the shipment of 4,000 tons of cargo. Their C-130s have also kept approximately 1,000 convoy vehicles off the roads of Iraq and transported more than 200 wounded personnel to medical facilities.

"Considering (Balad) is the busiest single runway in the Department of Defense, it takes a 24-hour, seven-days-a-week commitment from our people to keep these aircraft flying," said Master Sgt. Joseph Green, 332nd Expeditionary Aircraft Maintenance Squadron production superintendent, deployed from Little Rock AFB.

Even though it may take a lot of time and effort, the maintenance crews continue their mission with a positive attitude.

"We remain focused and adapt along with the flexibility and durability of the C-130, which has a long proven tradition of contributing to the war effort," Greene said. "Whether it's moving troops and cargo when and where they will be most effective, reconfiguring for medical evacuation missions to return our wounded heroes to safe havens, or synchronizing our efforts with coalition forces on the ground - it's all in a days work for the Triple Seven, and we take it one sortie at a time."

Bradley mechanics keep missions on track

by Sgt. David Turner

3rd Infantry Division

COMBAT OUTPOST SUMMERS, Iraq - On a sweltering hot July morning, the Soldiers of Company B, 2nd Battalion, 6th Infantry Regiment, are hard at work on two of the company's Bradley fighting vehicles.

The engines sit on the concrete floor of the garage bay while the mechanics tighten hoses and pump gallons of oil into them. Two Soldiers work on cleaning out the engine compartment. They both work from inside the compartment, which seems no bigger than the interior of some cars.

While this might seem like a major overhaul, removing and reinstalling the engines is just part of semi-annual maintenance for these armored workhorses. It's a job that can be done in as few as five hours.

"It's really user-friendly when it comes to pulling these out," explained Staff Sgt. Craig Morales, shop foreman of Company B's maintenance platoon. "It's pretty straightforward -- some bolts, a few cables, a couple of fuel lines, and it's ready to pull out. It's a lot simpler than working on your (privately owned vehicle)."

The Bradley engine is a huge, but compact eight-cylinder monster -- a 903 cubic-inch motor that requires nine gallons of oil to lubricate. What seems more impressive than the vehicles or the engines themselves is that this repair shop is miles from the nearest large base.

Combat Outpost Summers, home to Company B, is a small outpost, inside a former Iraqi air force base. Outside its concrete barriers are several desolate kilometers of abandoned and ransacked buildings, many of them stripped of even their outer layers of brick. Inside, COP Summers is little different, except for the Soldiers and their dozens of armored vehicles.

The 2-6th Infantry Regiment is an armored and mechanized battalion of 1st Armored Division, attached to the 3rd Infantry Division's 1st Battalion, 76th Field Artillery Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team. Tanks and Bradleys are their trademark vehicles, though Company B has an assortment of other vehicles, including Humvees and the newer mine-resistant, ambush-protected vehicles.

"Pretty much every vehicle we have, we work on," said Morales, a Dallas native.

Morales explained that maintenance Soldiers have to multi-task in an environment as remote as this. Most of the 17 Soldiers in the platoon are Bradley mechanics, though some specialize in repairing tanks. When it's time to take care of their machines, though, everyone gets involved, even the infantrymen who drive them.

"The engines only have to be pulled once a year. Now we're doing semi-annual service, and just because of the amount of abuse they've gone through out here already, we decided we would go ahead and pull the [engines] out and service them," Morales said. "The environment out here is pretty rough."

The rocky terrain, frequent sandstorms and ever-present dust choke air filters, wear out track pads and wreak havoc on suspension systems, he explained. The engines get their fair share of abuse as well.

"As long as we're in Iraq, it's going to be bad for the engines," said Staff Sgt. Charles Duplechin, the platoon's team leader.

Now on his third deployment to Iraq, Duplechin, from Lafayette, La., makes sure the Army's stan-

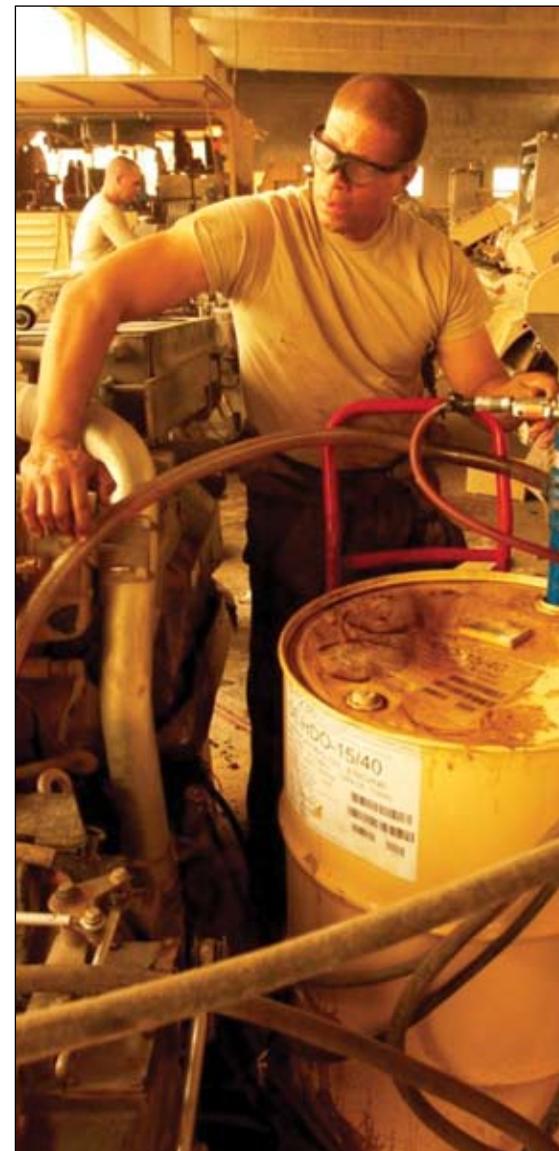


Photo by Sgt. David Turner

Sgt. Thomas Cosbeeyoma, a Bradley mechanic with Company B, 2nd Battalion, 6th Infantry Regiment, pumps oil into the engine of a Bradley fighting vehicle after semi-annual servicing at Combat Outpost Summers, Iraq, July 8, 2008.

dards are met when it comes to repair and maintenance. His vehicles haven't seen combat yet this time around, but there is plenty of work in just keeping them rolling.

"Maintenance doesn't stop. It doesn't matter if the surge has stopped. ... It's the same equipment, and we still have to maintain it 24 hours a day. Nothing really changes," he said.

Duplechin said he's been fortunate with the Bradleys so far; keeping all of Company B's vehicles rolling can be challenging at times. The biggest issue, he said, is getting parts. There is usually a five-day wait to get even the most critical parts.

"The biggest challenge for us is making repairs without actually replacing parts - actually fixing things instead of just changing the part," Morales said.

Soldiers rely on the forward repair system, a mobile mechanic's shop with welding equipment, grinders, air tools and other gadgets. It even features a crane attached to the back.

"This is the best thing the Army ever gave us. It's got just about everything," Morales said. "It definitely makes our job a lot easier."

Despite the difficulties of working in such harsh conditions, Morales said he likes his work and is getting used to the environment.

"I really enjoy it out here. This is a nice area. We've got hard buildings here; we've actually got concrete to work on instead of working out in the dirt and rocks," he said.

SHOUT OUT!!!

TELL YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS
HOW MUCH YOU MISS THEM

Contact the 3d Public Affairs Office for scheduling.

E-mail Lee.Fowler@iraq.centcom.mil

MINTY, from Page 1

More children began arriving to pick up what was being offered so Sowecke offered a second brushing lesson. Amir walked over to Sowecke and received a fist bump for helping in the demonstration.

With a translator nearby Amir was asked if he liked his gift.

“Yes, it is a good thing,” Amir said, “I will (use them) to clean my teeth.”

As the group finished up and moved to the next stop, the IA became bigger participants and took the lead in marshaling the children to the supplies. Pfc. Michael Ellis, 2nd- 320th FAR Soldier, partnered up with an Iraqi Soldier to take supplies to children who were either unable or unwilling to approach the convoy.

Sorquist said a group of retired ladies from Arizona calling themselves the “Sun City Grannies” provided most of the dental supplies. The supplies had been going to visiting Iraqi dentists, but the volume of products this time far exceeded any amount previously received. Collaborating with 2nd-320th’s chain of command, Sorquist pushed some of the goods down to the security teams.

On the ground, Sowecke shared how important such a simple act can create ripples of positive feedback.

“Typically, whenever there are searches in

the area, the men will come out to greet us and the women will grab the children and go into a certain area,” Sowecke said. “On days like today, (you have) kids, women, men being interactive.”

“The people need to see our human side,” Sowecke added. “The kids remember you ... many times when we come through they will come and try to hold hands with us.”

Sowecke also pointed a finger to a group of young teenage men gathered near the action. Sowecke said the combined presence of the Iraqi Army and Coalition forces working together often leaves a real impression.

“It’s funny, you see the teenagers versus the younger children,” said Sowecke, “Teens tend to shadow the Soldiers more than the adults, trying to understand what being a Soldier would be like.”

Sowecke said the actions of both Forces leave clear impressions, no matter the person’s age.

“Kids are more about ‘give me what you have,’” said Sowecke. “Teenagers do more listening, follow what we do. When we have chai with the locals, they are the ones always passing it out to us, being very eager to please.”

“It’s good that they trust us and see the (IA) doing their job,” said Capt. John Gregory, Headquarters Commander, “It’s just one more step in the handover.”

Operation friendship



Photo by U.S. Army courtesy photo

CAMP TAJI – Chaplain (Maj.) Terry Hayes, a chaplain for the Higher Headquarters, 1st Sustainment Brigade (Durable), hands over care packages filled with soap, shampoo, toothbrushes, and combs to Iraqi Soldiers training at the National Training Center. The care packages were put together by a group of volunteers at the Argonne Chapel.

Leaders Notebook..... Authorized Protective Eyewear List (APEL)

Leaders,

In this edition of my leader book notes, I am asking your assistance in ensuring our Soldiers are wearing the safest, best, and authorized eyewear. There is a consolidated list of authorized eyewear called the Authorized Protective Eyewear List (APEL). I have attached a poster that depicts the current authorized versions of eyewear.

Soldiers purchase eyewear products from a variety of commercial vendors. Not all Soldiers know and understand the specifications used for ensuring their eyewear is of the highest quality and provides the greatest amount of protection.

The Army requires the use of eye protection during deployments, field tactical operations, and training. Soldiers in combat and training run a high risk of eye injury. Eye injuries account for more than 10% of combat related injuries, the most common causes being explosives (IED, RPG and shrapnel) or the environment (foreign body). With the Army at war we have seen an increase in eye injuries over the last several years.

Eyewear is broken down into two categories – spectacles and goggles. The Military Combat Eye Protection Program (MCEP) tests commercial protective eyewear to the military ballistic standards set by the American National Standards Institute. These stringent standards ensure our Soldiers have the maximum level of protection available. (http://visionrx.com/library/enc/enc_ansi.asp). Approved spectacles must stop a 5.8-grain fragment projectile traveling at 640 feet per second. Approved goggles must stop a 17-grain fragment projectile traveling at 550 feet per second (approximately twice the energy impact as the spectacle). Suitable products are then tested by Soldiers and reviewed by a panel of users, engineers, logisticians, and optometrists, prior to approval for placement on the APEL.

All commercial eyewear products listed on the APEL meet stringent ballistic protection standards. Program Manager-Clothing and Individual Equipment (PM-CIE) provides an updated authorized protection eyewear list at <https://peo-soldier.army.mil/multimedia.asp#ssv>.

Eyewear is available for units and CIFs for purchase by submitting requisitions through the unit supply system. Each approved product has an assigned NSN. Leaders can purchase eyewear from E-Mall at <https://emall6.prod.dodonline.net>.

Soldiers wearing prescription glasses should work with their local optometrist or medical support facility to obtain ballistic eyewear.

Leaders, it is your responsibility to ensure our Soldiers are wearing approved eye protection from the Authorized Protective Eyewear List.

Army Strong! HOOAH!

**Command Sgt. Maj. Willie C. Tennant
CSM 3d Sustainment Command (Expeditionary)**

MCEPP
Military Combat Eye Protection Program

Authorized Protective Eyewear List

Authorized Protective Eyewear List (APEL) APPROVED

- ESS Profile NVG (Rx capability) (4240-01-540-5585)
- ESS Land Ops (may be worn over glasses) (4240-01-504-5576)
- ESS Vehicle Ops (may be worn over glasses) (4240-01-525-5101)
- Revision Desert Locust (Rx capability) (4240-01-547-6218)
- Revision Sawfly (Rx capability, Dual Size) (4240-01-527-4051 reg) (4240-01-527-4018 lrg)
- Oakley SI Ballistic M Frame 2.0 (4240-01-525-3095)
- Arena Flakjak (4240-01-548-7366)
- ESS ICE (Rx capability, Dual Size) (4240-01-525-5085 ICE 2) (4240-01-537-6143 ICE NARO)
- UVEX Genesis (Rx capability) (4240-01-552-4131)
- UVEX XC (Rx capability) (4240-01-516-5361)
- Wiley X PT-1 (4240-01-510-7853)
- Wiley X SG1 (4240-01-504-0994)

“Combat Eyewear - Your Sight, Your Choice”

Program Executive Office Soldier
SAB-5018
5901 Patuxent Road
Bldg. 328
Fort Belvoir, VA 22060-5422
Phone: 703-784-2892
<http://peo-soldier.army.mil>
<https://peo-soldier.army.mil/gate/eyewear.asp>

Are you eligible for promotion?

by Spc. Michael Behlin

Expeditionary Times staff

Joint Base Balad, Iraq – Are you an Army private, specialist or sergeant deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom or Operation Enduring Freedom, working in a position of higher authority and looking for a way to get that hard earned promotion you deserve? Well look no further, the Army has implemented a pilot program for enlisted battlefield promotions.

Placed into effect April 1, 2008, the Enlisted Battlefield Promotions pilot is a one-year program designed to promote Soldiers, ranging from privates to sergeants. Soldiers that display an extraordinary performance of their duties while serving in combat or under combat situation can be promoted ahead of their peers.

“The battlefield promotion is an opportunity for a Soldier to be promoted that’s working at a higher level of responsibility in a position than he/she is being paid for,” said Command Sgt Maj. Willie Tennant, 3d Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) command sergeant major. “It gives him/her the opportunity to get promoted for the good work that they are doing as opposed to going to a promotion board and the normal process for promotion.”

The intended purpose of this program is to establish authority to accelerate the promotion of extraordinary Soldiers who willingly perform at levels of increased responsibility on the battlefield. Battlefield promotions are based on a Soldier’s performance of duties and leadership recommendations while serving in or under combat conditions. Soldiers must distinguish themselves from their peers by displaying exceptional leadership and a work performance that is expected of the next higher pay grade. This would apply to a private working in a specialist/corporal position and a sergeant working in a staff sergeant position.

Qualifications for battlefield promotions require

- A Soldier be enlisted in Regular Army, Army

Reserve, or Army National Guard and be assigned or attached to a unit participating in Operation Iraqi Freedom or Operation Enduring Freedom. They must also display excellent performance of duties while serving in or under combat conditions.

- Soldiers must be in a promotable status on the effective promotion date and are allowed only one battlefield promotion during their enlistment period.

“We have Soldiers out there that are doing great work for the active Army, Reserves and National Guard, who are working at a higher level than what they normally do,” said Tennant. “What the Army is doing is recognizing Soldiers for their hard work in the battlefield.”

While there may be many Soldiers eligible for this program, only a select few would be selected for promotion because the U.S. Army Human Resources Command only allocates a specific number of promotions for each unit. For Soldiers that are eligible, this means the process is very competitive with few available slots. Here’s the process for battlefield promotions:

- A Soldier’s first-line supervisor initiates the process by recommending a Soldier on their performance, which goes through the chain of command. A battlefield promotion packet, when completed, must include a letter of recommendation from the Multi-National Division/Brigade CSM.

- From this level, the packet goes to the Multi-National Corps-Iraq commanding general for final approval, rewarding the Soldier he believes is most deserving.

“Clearly this is an opportunity to promote a Soldier who’s doing great things at their job without going through the normal board process,” said Tennant. “With this program, Soldiers have the opportunity to get promoted ahead of their peers for doing outstanding work and I’m very interested in seeing how the whole process unfolds.”

For more information on battlefield promotions, Soldiers should reference Milper Message 08-094 and/or contact their unit S1/G1 and first sergeants.



Photo by 1st Sgt. James E. Chambers

Father and son stand proudly together after 1st Sgt James E. Chambers promoted his son, Cpl. James E. Chambers II, to the rank of Sergeant.

Father promotes Son in Iraq, adds to family tradition

by 1st Sgt. James E. Chambers

551st Medical Company (Logistics)

FORWARD OPERATING BASE SYKES, Iraq—There are so many servicemembers deploying to the Middle East that it can take months, or even years, before a family can see their child again. Family members serving, at the same time, to fight the Global War on Terrorism not necessarily a big revelation. It is however, a rare occasion for one family member to promote the other in a combat zone.

1st Sgt. James E. Chambers, 1st Sgt. for the 551st Medical Company (Logistics), promoted his son, Cpl. James E. Chambers II, a Radiology Specialist with the 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment, to the rank of Sergeant during a July 6 ceremony at Forward Operating Base, Sykes, 210 miles north of Joint Base Balad.

“There are many sons, fathers, daughters, and moms here participating in this fight, but when you get an opportunity to promote one of two sons serving in the Army, it makes it even better,” said the senior Chambers, who is stationed at Fort Lewis, Wash.

“On paper, I’ve been a Sergeant since the beginning of the month, but we [my father and I] have been waiting to do the whole pinning ceremony,” said young Chambers, who is stationed at Fort Hood, Texas. “Afterwards, we spent the day together, eating lunch and just catching up on things we’ve missed,” Said Chambers

For the Chambers’, the promotion symbolizes another addition in a long legacy of family service in the military. The young Chambers’ grandfather and grandmother both served in the Marines, his uncle served in the Navy, and younger brother is currently serving in the Army, stationed at Fort Huachuca, Ariz.

“I’m proud of what my son has accomplished in the Army, from his service in Air Defense Artillery during OIF 2004-2005 with the First Cavalry Division, to his reenlistment for another tour of duty,” the senior Chambers said. “This is the same pride that I’ve had for both of my sons, since they decided to join the Army.”

Celebrating Hawaiian style



Photo by Sgt. Jennifer Schweizer

CAMP TAJI – – Dancers (from left to right) Sgt. Sukhvinder Virk, a Bakserfield, Calif., native, Sgt. Putu Berry, a Lawton, Okla., native, Spc. Merna Tolenea, a Kosrae native, Sgt. Natalia Perez, a Plantation, Fla., native, Sgt. Brandijo West, a Sun, Nev. native, and Staff Sgt. Ivet King, a Glandale, Calif., native, perform one of four Hawaiian style dances during the 515th Transportation Company, 165th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, Hawaiian luau here July 4.



Photo by Capt. Calvin Kline

Shi'a pilgrims travel more than 620 miles round trip from Najaf, Iraq, to Samarra for a religious pilgrimage July 6. Iraqi army Soldiers ensured the travelers' safety. Samarra is approximately 25 miles northwest of Joint Base Balad.

Shi'a pilgrims safely journey from Najaf to Samarra

by Sgt. Michael Moody

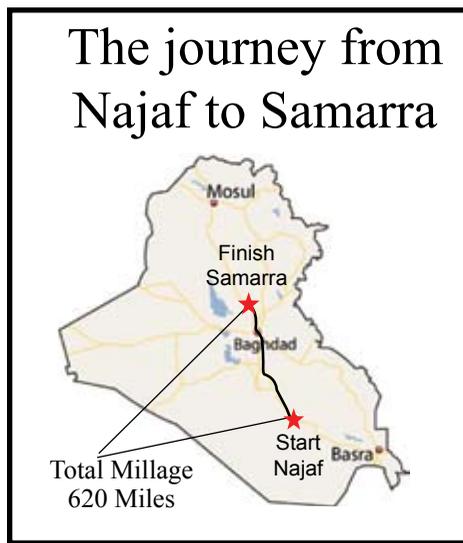
2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team

CAMP TAJI, Iraq -- Shi'a pilgrims traveled more than 620 miles round trip from Najaf to Samarra in order to attend a religious observance July 6.

Iraqi army Soldiers from the 3rd Battalion, 37th Brigade of the 9th Iraqi Army Division and the 4th Battalion, 17th Brigade, 4th IA Div., closed portions of the Baghdad-Mosul highway as more than 3,000 devoted Shi'a Muslims crossed four governorates en route to Samarra. The recent gains in security and stability enjoyed by Iraqi citizens were demonstrated as the convoy traveled the approximately 300 miles each way without incident.

The IA Soldiers took on the responsibility to ensure the safety of all the pilgrims. Coalition forces did not participate in securing the convoy but stood ready in case the IA soldiers needed assistance.

"We have reached a point where Iraqi Security Forces are in the lead. This effort was planned, resourced and executed flawlessly by their hands," said Army Lt. Col.



Thomas Boccardi, a native of Colorado Springs, Colo., and battalion commander of 1st Battalion, 14th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, Multi-National Division - Baghdad.

This was the second trip this year for pilgrims and the second time this year they traveled safely under the security of the

Iraqi army.

"For the second time now we have realized that reconciliation has taken root deeper than we have given it credit for," said Army Capt. Calvin Kline, a native of Cincinnati and effects officer for 1st Bn. 14th Inf. Regt.

In January, during the 10-day observance of Ashura, Shi'a pilgrims walked without incident along the length of the Baghdad-Mosul highway on their way to Najaf and Karbala.

This recent pilgrimage from Najaf to Samarra commemorates the martyrdom of the two al Askari Imams.

Pilgrims traveled courtesy of al Najaf al Ashraf Establishment, an organization committed to providing free transportation to these events.

Upon arriving to Samarra, 25 miles northwest of Joint Base Balad, the pilgrims made their way to the graves of the al Askari Imams. There, they read the Koran, prayed and worshiped. After their religious observances, the pilgrims boarded the buses and traveled back to Najaf.

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Joint Firefight



Photo by Sgt. Gary Hawkins

A Joint Base Balad Fireman receives help securing the protective fire suit as he prepares to re-engage the fire that destroyed six metal framed storage and living quarters on JBB July 22.



Photo by Airman 1st Class Jason Epley

Airman 1st Class Zachary Auxilly dons his protective gear as he prepares to fight a blaze at Joint Base Balad, Iraq, July 22. Air Force and Army firefighters contained the two-alarm fire, limiting the damage to six metal storage and housing units.



Photo by Sgt. Gary Hawkins

Fire truck "Crash 11" uses its roof turret to lay down a layer of foam and water to help smother a fire on Joint Base Balad July 22.

by Air Force Senior Airman Thomas Trower

332nd Air Expeditionary Wing

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq – Air Force and Army firefighters worked full force in the searing sun July 22 to contain a fire that engulfed six closely situated structures here. Joint Base Balad Fire Department received a call at 12:30 p.m. that set into motion a finely tuned emergency-management response of firefighters and civilian volunteers.

More than a dozen personnel arrived within minutes in two fire engines, a tanker and the deputy fire chief's vehicle and quickly realized they needed help to contain the fire and sounded a second alarm, said Air Force Master Sgt. David Clifford, 332nd Expeditionary

Civil Engineer Squadron assistant fire chief.

Army Staff Sgt. Joshua Nordstrom, deployed from Fort Bragg, N.C., was one of the firefighters on scene.

"We sized up the situation, completed a 360 (degree) inspection and tried to ventilate the facility to put out the fire," said Nordstrom.

"We tried offensive operations at first, but with the intense heat and the limited initial manpower we had, we had to switch to defensive operations to keep the fire from spreading until assistance could arrive," said Clifford.

Moments later, with the second alarm, assistance arrived and continued to flow in waves.

"I arrived on the second run-engine and tried to enter the rear of the fire before pulling back to a defensive position," said Senior Airman Dennard Miller, a JBB Fire Department firefighter, deployed from Andersen Air Force Base, Guam.

"We were calling in vehicles from throughout the fleet, including the west-side fire department across the flight line," said Clifford, who is deployed from Tyndall Air Force Base, Fla. "(Volunteers) even diverted water trucks to the scene to replenish the trucks as they hosed the flames."

"The response by our joint firefighting unit was incredible," said Col. Sal Nodjomian, 332nd Expeditionary Support Group commander and senior officer on



Photo by Sgt. Gary Hawkins

Air Force Master Sgt. David Clifford, a Joint Base Balad Fireman, rinses foam off after being drenched with it while coordinating firefighting efforts July 22.



Photo by Sgt. Gary Hawkins

Two Joint Base Balad Firemen work to contain a fire that destroyed six metal storage and housing units July 22.

Firefighters Flames

scene. "Their textbook performance allowed us to minimize the damage caused and prevent any serious injuries. And to do it all in 117-degree weather shows the true professionalism of our joint team."

"The amount of assistance provided was amazing," said Clifford. Firefighters contained the inferno at approximately 4:30 p.m. with crews remaining on scene to extinguish hotspots and prevent a new fire from re-developing.

The JBB Fire Department comprises specialists from Air Force and Army fire departments from across the United States. These emergency responders receive training from the same military training facility and share tactics, techniques and procedures.

"We receive the same training, but when we're deployed, we really get to see the services come together," said Nordstrom, who calls Iron River, Mich., home. "The Army is completely integrated into the Air Force chain of command."

"(The firefighters) work so well together, we don't think about there being two separate services," said Miller, a Savannah, Ga., native. "The (Soldiers) are hard workers and we learn a lot from them."

These working relationships allow the JBB Fire Department to respond quickly and accurately to emergency situations.

The Soldiers and Airmen contained the two-alarm fire before any operational facilities were impacted.

While no one was seriously injured in the blaze, said Clifford, three firefighters were treated at the Air Force Theater Hospital here for heat stress-related symptoms and later released.

The cause of the incident is currently under investigation, with damages estimated about \$1 million dollars.



Photo by Senior Airmen Thomas Trower

Air Force Staff Sgt. Chris Bakopoulos (holding the nozzle) and Air Force Staff Sgt. Van Smith, both members of the Joint Base Balad fire department, double check for hot spots by spraying water in and around the area where fire destroyed six buildings on JBB July 22

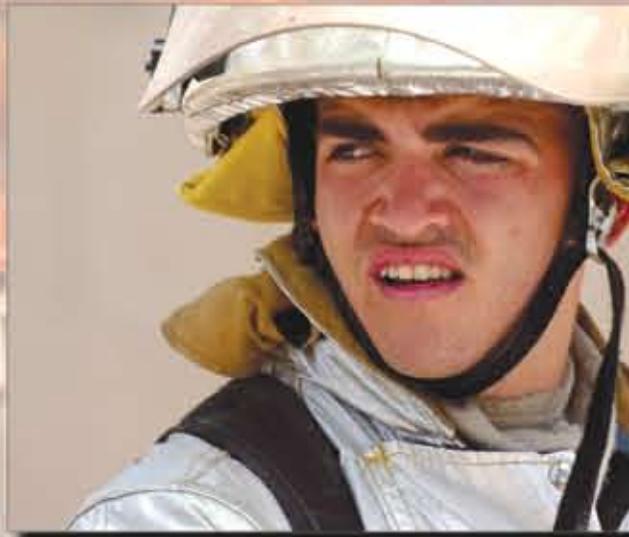


Photo by Sgt. Gary Hawkins

Airman 1st Class Joseph Singletary, a Joint Base Balad Fireman, checks for further instructions while fighting the fire on JBB July 22.

Air Force Staff Sgt. Carlos Jackson, a Joint Base Balad fireman, coordinates firefighting efforts with his crews over the radio while helping to contain the fire on JBB July 22.



Photo by Sgt. Gary Hawkins



Photo by Sgt. Gary Hawkins

An un-identified Joint Base Balad fireman receives final instructions prior to engaging the fire on JBB July 22.



Photo by Sgt. Gary Hawkins

Leaders Book Note - Boots

Leaders,

In this edition of my leader book notes I would like to inform leaders of the authorized and unauthorized Commercial-Of-The-Shelf (COTS) and Army issued boots for wear with the ACUs.

There has been misunderstanding with the ALARACT Message 140/2007 with leaders in interpreting which COTS boots are authorized and which are not.

My intent is to add clarity to the ALARACT message giving leaders a better understanding of which boots are authorized for wear and why.

With regard to pure COTS items, Program Executive Office (PEO) Soldier and U.S. Army Natick Soldier Research, Development and Engineering Center

(NSRDEC) do not have a "certification" process for boots. AR 670-1 and ALARACT messages provide guidance on what approved standards industry uses to manufacture boots that are authorized for wear. This includes what material requirements have to be met to ensure boots meet the durability and performance requirements for Soldiers. These guidelines provide the aesthetic requirements to ensure any authorized items maintain uniform standards for our Soldiers.

The Army authorizes COTS boots as long as they are between 8 to 10 inches in height and made of tan rough side out cattle hide leather, with a plain toe, and with a soling system similar in color to the tan upper materials. The soling materials cannot exceed two inches in height, when measured from the bottom of the outsole, and can not extend up the back of the heel of the

boot or over the top of the toe (See attached pictures). The exterior of the upper boot can not contain mesh but must be

constructed of all leather or a combination of leather and non-mesh fabric. Boots with metal or plastic cleats in the bottom of the soles and sewn-in or laced-in zippers or velcro inserts are not authorized (See attached pictures). There are other leathers, such as pigskin, that do not meet the performance criteria of cattle hide. Cattle hide leather is more durable, and provides better performance in combat over pigskin. Soldiers should be aware that some companies sell

"Warrior Leather" which is a common-use name for pigskin leather. Rubber and polyether polyurethane are the only outsole materials authorized. Rubber and polyether polyurethane are the only outsole materials that currently meet the need for durability and traction on surfaces in multiple environments and temperature ranges. Other materials, which may be of a lighter weight, do not meet Soldiers performance standards.

There are many COTS items available that meet the aesthetic guidelines. Some examples of these items include, but are not limited to, the Belleville Model 390, the 8-inch Danner Desert TFX, the 8-inch Oakley S.I. Assault Boot as well as many other more traditional Army tan combat boot styles (See attached pictures). The purpose of listing these items here is to give examples of styles that fall within the guidelines and authorization as optional to wear.

PEO Soldier and NSRDEC establish high quality standards for both the end items and component materials going into our combat boots. Current Army footwear is designed to be durable and provide the functionality needed by Soldiers in current and potential future operational environments. This process ensures that Soldiers have functional boots (the NSN ones) to ac-

complish their mission.

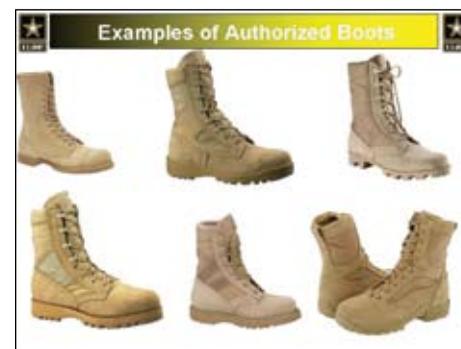
PEO Soldier and NSRDEC maintain a close relationship with the footwear buyers at AAFES to ensure they are not buying anything for MCSS that does not meet the Army Uniform requirements. If AAFES has an interest in selling a specific COTS boot in MCSS, they forward PEO Soldier and NSRDEC a pair of the specified boots. PEO Soldier and NSRDEC provide the AAFES footwear buyers feedback if the boots do or do not meet Army requirements. Our Military Clothing Sales Stores stock items that are authorized for wear by other services, whose mission requirements are different than ours. Because of these different mission requirements not all boots carried in our MCSSs are authorized for wear by our Soldiers.

The individual Soldier is responsible for buying authorized boots that meet Army requirements. Leaders have the responsibility of ensuring optional footwear meets Army requirements. AR 670-1, Appendix E requires all Soldiers to have one pair of each of the Clothing Initial Issue (CII) Bag item boots.

This requirement includes both the Army Combat Boot (Hot Weather) and the Army Combat Boot (Temperate Weather). Any optional footwear discussed above that unit commanders authorize does not relieve Soldiers of their requirement to possess one pair of each of CII boots.

The Army develops and issues Soldiers the best equipment available for accomplishment of their mission COTS items provide a different aesthetic look compared to the NSN footwear and/or contain material components that were selected for business reasons and not always aimed at improved performance.

The attached slides provide examples of authorized and unauthorized boots.



These slides do not endorse these individual companies but provide leaders a method of verifying authorized boots for wear. Currently there are hundreds of companies producing desert tan boots.

Leaders, let's make sure our Soldiers are wearing the proper boots. Army Strong! HOOAH!
SMA

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It is defined as intentional sexual contact, characterized by use of force, physical threat or abuse of authority or when the victim does not or cannot consent.

Sexual assault includes rape, nonconsensual sodomy (oral or anal sex), indecent assault (unwanted, kissing, inappropriate sexual contact or touching, either directly or through the clothing, of the genitalia, anus, groin, breast, inner thigh or buttocks of another person or intentionally causing another person to touch either directly or through the clothing), or attempts to commit these acts.

Sexual assault can occur without regard to gender or spousal relationship or age of victim.

"Consent" shall not be deemed or construed to mean the failure by the victim to offer physical resistance. Consent is not given when a person uses force, threat of force, coercion or when the victim is asleep, incapacitated, or unconscious.

<p>SEXUAL ASSAULT RESPONSE COORDINATOR (SARC) CONTACT INFORMATION:</p> <p>Capt VACA – JBB SARC SARC@blab.centaf.af.mil 443-7272 Pager 443-9001 Ext 159</p>	<p>YOUR REPORTING OPTIONS</p> <p>TYPES OF REPORTS: Confidential reporting allows a uniformed service member to report a sexual assault to specified individuals. There are two types of reports: RESTRICTED AND UNRESTRICTED reporting.</p> <p>RESTRICTED REPORTING: Allows a service member who is sexually assaulted to disclose the incident to specifically identified personnel: (1) Sexual Assault Response Coordinator (SARC); (2) Unit Victim Advocates (UVA's); (3) Healthcare Provider; or (4) Chaplains. Reporting to any of these identified personnel will allow the victim to receive the following care: Medical treatment, Sexual Assault Forensic Examination (SAFE), Advocacy Services, Counseling Assistance, and Legal Services, without triggering an investigation process. (Can revert to unrestricted report at later time).</p> <p>UNRESTRICTED REPORTING: Allows a service member who is sexually assaulted to receive: Medical treatment, Sexual Assault Forensic Examination (SAFE), Advocacy Services, Counseling Assistance, and Legal Services. Unrestricted reporting triggers Command and investigative process. (Can not revert to restricted reporting).</p> <p>If you have been sexually assaulted or have information on someone who has, contact your Sexual Assault Response Coordinator (SARC) or Unit Victim Advocate (UVA) IMMEDIATELY.</p>
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55th SB receives combat patch



Photo by Spc. Charlotte Martinez

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq --Col. Therese M. O'Brien, commander of the 55th Sustainment Brigade, puts a combat patch on Maj. Mark P. Loyola, the S-3 officer-in-charge, during a combat patch ceremony at the Moral, Welfare, Recreation East Center June 6 signifying the unit has been in Iraq for more than 60 days.

News around Iraq

K3 Oil Refinery resumes production

CAMP FALLUJAH, Iraq – Government leaders and top military officials converged on the K3 Oil Refinery July 18 in Haditha to celebrate the facility's reemergence in the Iraqi oil infrastructure as it resumed production after a three year break.

"The ability to get the crude oil from up north, bring it down here, refine it, and then have the distribution system that will take it through Anbar is absolutely a critical piece to keeping the Anbar economy moving forward," said Brig. Gen. Martin Post, the deputy commanding general of Multi-National Forces – West. "It's important for Iraq, but really important

for Anbar."

The refinery is capable of processing 16,000 barrels of crude oil per day and will create new jobs for the local community. It is expected to increase overall fuel production in Anbar by nearly 40 percent.

Among those in attendance were Husayn al-Shahristani, the Iraqi minister of oil; Maamoon Sami Rashed, the governor of Anbar province; and Dr. Ali-Al-Obaidi of the Northern Refinery Company.

"Life has started going back to the way it was before," said Salah Ismail Ibrahim, a manager at the K3 Oil Refinery. "Iraq is already starting to recuperate."

ISOF detain suspected al-Qaeda leader

BALAD, Iraq – Iraqi Special Operations Forces detained a suspected al-Qaeda in Iraq leader in Fal-lujah July 15.

The suspect, detained on a Ministry of Justice warrant, is reportedly in charge of three AQI emirs overseeing approximately 200 terrorists. He is also accused of smuggling and storing chemicals and mortars used in attacks against Iraqi and Coalition forces, and is said to order the emplacement of improvised explosive devices.

"The detainment of this suspected terrorist continues to degrade AQI leadership in the area, and disrupt the cell's ability to operate effectively and conduct attacks against the Iraqi and Coalition forces," said Lt. Col. Neil Harper, a spokesperson for Multi-National Corps – Iraq. "This operation demonstrated the Iraqi Security Forces' ability to work unilaterally to plan, prepare and execute this warrant."

MND-B Soldiers detain key suspected criminal in Taji

BAGHDAD – Multi-National Division – Baghdad Soldiers detained a highly sought after suspected criminal in Taji, northwest of Baghdad, July 18.

Soldiers from the 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, detained the suspected Special Groups criminal, accused of supporting the insurgency in Iraq by supplying intelligence reports with the means to target U.S. installations with rockets.

"We will continue to hunt down these suspected criminals and bring them to justice," said Maj. Al Hing, spokesperson for 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, Multi-National Division – Baghdad. "Our Soldiers will continue to target those criminals who pose a threat to Iraqi security and disrupt their networks."

Al-Quibla Power Substation improves power grid

BASRA – Dozens of religious leaders, Basra Council members, the British Consul General, Nigel Haywood and a large group of local media gathered for the official opening of the al-Quibla power substation during a ribbon cutting ceremony July 15.

The \$3.29 million project provided 26 jobs for Iraqis.

The power grid upgrade now provides 12 consistent daily hours of power to some 4,000 homes, according to engineer Hadi Saleh.

"This project is an excellent example of cooperation between the Basra Provincial Council and the British in Basra working together for the good of the people," said Haywood in Arabic.

The on-going success of Operation Charge of the Knights with Iraqi Army Soldiers leading the way in clearing the criminal elements from Basra has allowed rebuilding efforts to move forward.

The al-Quibla project falls under the Basra Provincial Council Development Strategy and is part of an initial two-year plan to improve power networks.

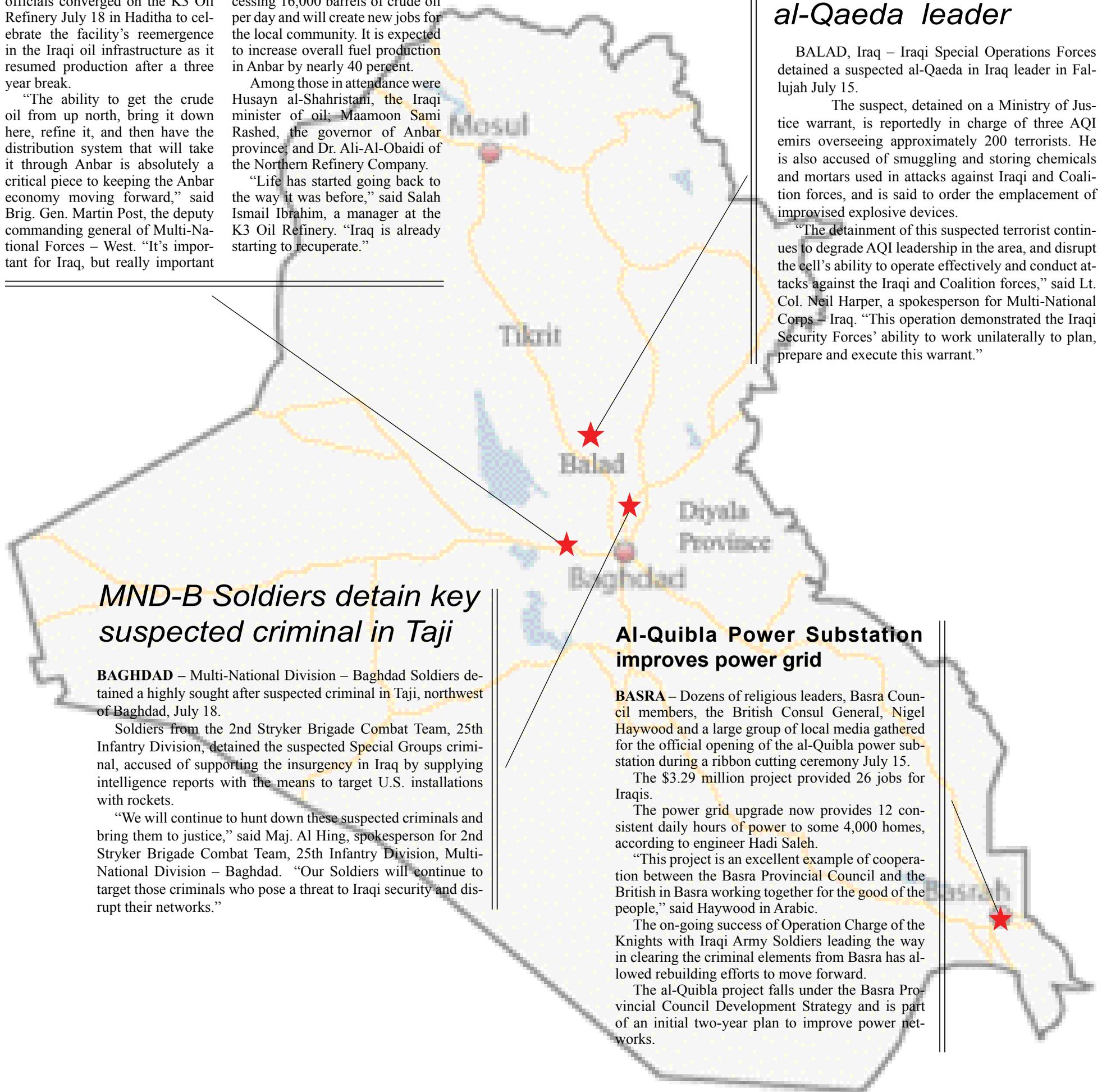




Photo by Master Sgt. Eric Reindhardt

Soldiers from 5th Battalion, 158th Aviation Regiment and 412th Aviation Support Battalion recite the NCO Creed during a Noncommissioned Officer Induction Ceremony held March 28 at the Sustainer Theater here.

Training tomorrow's leaders

TF Ready, gives newly promoted NCOs tools for success

by Sgt. Brandon Little

Task Force XII

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq – No one is more professional than I. I am a noncommissioned officer, a leader of Soldiers. As a noncommissioned officer, I realize that I am a member of a time honored corps, which is known as “the Backbone of the Army.”

These are the first sentences in the NCO Creed – an oath taken by every NCO in the Army from corporal to the Sergeant Major of the Army.

The origination of the NCO Creed can be traced back to the post-Vietnam efforts of a group of sergeants at Fort Benning, Ga. These Soldiers created what is considered the basic leadership blueprint for all NCOs in the Army.

Several enlisted Soldiers in Task Force Ready were given the necessary tools, from other experienced NCOs, to create their own leadership blueprint during an NCO Professional Development Course.

The course was created by the senior enlisted Soldiers in TFR to give Soldiers, who have been to the promotion board but have not attended the Warrior Leadership Course (WLC), the knowledge and experience WLC would have given them, said Staff Sgt. Ronald Harding, an instructor and the TFR flight operations NCO in charge.

“Many of our junior noncommissioned officers are getting promoted without the formal training that would be equivalent to their rank,” said TFR Command Sgt. Maj. John Moore. “We designed this course to provide them with a base knowledge of things that young NCOs need to know.”

The course covers a wide range of NCO duties and responsibilities from how to properly administer an Army Physical Fitness Test to counseling Soldiers.

“Many of the classes we teach in this course are also taught in WLC, so it gives them an idea of what to expect when they get to WLC,” said Harding, a San Diego, native. “I definitely wish I could have gone through a course like this as a junior Soldier; we just had a lot of second-hand knowledge and on the job training.”

Although the course is geared toward molding Soldiers who have not been to

WLC, there are quite a few participants who have graduated WLC.

“The Soldiers who have graduated WLC but haven’t had the opportunity to lead Soldiers tend to get more out of this course than the graduates in leadership positions already,” said Harding. “Every person is different and they understand the information differently. Having other experienced Soldiers there to help give examples just makes the course that much stronger.”

“This course is like a refresher for me,” said Sgt. Brett Steward, a WLC graduate and a door gunner in Company A, 5th Bn., 158th Avn. Regt. “I think that having this course was a great idea because it was taught by NCOs, for NCOs.”

After the conclusion of this two week long course, there is a ceremony to formally induct these Soldiers into the NCO Corps.

“The NCO Induction Ceremony is a capstone to welcome Soldiers into the NCO Corps, but these classes are for professional development; these two things are completely separate,” said Moore. “I always wanted to have the induction ceremony here, but I didn’t want to have a ceremony for a group of Soldiers who made sergeant without having the knowledge from the (primary) noncommissioned officer course.”

During the induction ceremony, the Soldiers walk across a bridge inscribed with all the enlisted ranks from private to command sergeant major.

“The bridge symbolizes the transition from being a junior Soldier to being a noncommissioned officer,” he said. “This means they’re now where the rubber meets the road as far as training and leading Soldiers.”

Providing these Soldiers with the basic tools to train and lead Soldiers is a mission that makes the NCO Corps and the military stronger, said Harding.

“Once the Soldiers learn the things we do, as NCOs, they take more initiative and they understand what it means to put your signature on any mission that you do,” said Harding. “Even though most of our Soldiers are very professional, after taking this course, you can see that they take a lot more pride in their job and they want to be better Soldiers and leaders.”

New commander takes reins of 732nd AEG

by Staff Sgt. Don Branum

332nd Air Expeditionary Wing

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq – The former U.S. Air Forces Central force protection director assumed command of the 732nd Air Expeditionary Group in a ceremony held at Town Hall here July 19 at 7:32 a.m.

Col. Mike Kelly succeeded Col. Karl Bosworth, who will move to the Pacific Air Forces Directorate of Installations and Mission Support at Hickam Air Force Base, Hawaii.

Brig. Gen. Brian Bishop, commander of the 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing here, presided over the ceremony.

“I know your leadership will take these Airmen to incredible new heights,” Bishop said to Kelly. “I look forward to serving with you, and I know you look forward to the most challenging command of your career.”

Kelly volunteered for a second consecutive 12-month assignment in the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility in order to assume command of the 732nd AEG.

“I truly believe in what we’re doing to help the Iraqi people and defeat terrorism,” said Kelly. “It’s certainly noble, necessary, and the right thing to do.”

As commander of the 732nd AEG, Kelly will be responsible for providing oversight and advocacy for more than 1,500 Airmen in five squadrons who are operationally assigned to U.S. Army and Marine units throughout Iraq, including lawyers, civil engineers, military working dog teams, intelligence specialists and airfield managers.

“No one can be given a more honorable task than to lead his fellow countrymen into battle,” Kelly said. “Together we will face many challenges to which



Photo by Staff Sgt. Don Branum

Col. Mike Kelly accepts the 732nd Air Expeditionary Group's guidon from Brig. Gen. Brian Bishop during a change-of-command ceremony at Town Hall here July 19.

we will adapt and overcome, and I look forward to those challenges.”

Kelly served as a commander at three previous assignments, including the 343rd Training Squadron at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas; Headquarters Air Force Security Forces Center Detachment 3 at Naval Consolidated Brigade, Charleston, S.C.; and the 7th Security Forces Squadron at Dyess AFB, Texas. He was also deputy commander of the 37th Training Group at Lackland AFB.

“I look forward to working with each and every one of you to successfully execute our mission,” Kelly said. “I will never cease to be inspired by the fact that we’re at war executing the most demanding missions with the very best Airmen in a variety of career specialties on a high-intensity level, constantly leading and learning.”

Pay up



Photo by Pfc. Amanda Tucker

Air Force Staff Sgt. Cassandra Baker, a Mashpee, Mass., native, requests payment from Airman 1st Class David Wakeman, a Louisville, Ky., native, during a finance lesson from the Monopoly board game. Both are members of the 332nd Expeditionary Civil Engineering Squadron from Misawa, Japan.

Photo favorites for the week



Photo by Pfc. Amanda Tucker

Aalaa Mohammed Hassan, trained to search females at Balad Checkpoints July 23.



Photo by Sgt. Gary Hawkins

Army Soldiers mount up for an Improvised Explosive Device, night time training course here on Joint Base Balad July 24. Main objective was how to spot and identify IEDs in a special area designed for mounted patrols.



Photo by Spc. Anthony Hooker

Sgt. Micheal Elliott, a member of the 58th Military Police Company, pulls up his rucksack June 23 at Joint Base Balad. Elliot was preparing to travel by helicopter to Forward Operating Base Normandy.

MESSAGES FROM HOME

Happy Birthday to my soldier, my hero, my best friend, my son Spc. Joshua McDonald I love you and we're all so proud of you I can remember the day you were born August 6TH 1984 11.10AM 5 POUNDS. I never thought you would grow up and serve in the war over in Iraq but that goes to show what kind of a man you became. I hope you get this for your Birthday Happy 24TH Birthday son LOVE YOU MOM



Happy Birthday!!! SFC Michael Hayden We Love You & Miss You!!!



CPT Rich Fantozzi (HHC 76 IBCT): Happy Birthday, XOXO Debbie, Kevin & Morgan



DJ, I know things are difficult right now, but I want you to know that we love you and are here for you. Come home to us in November... we miss you so much. All our love forever, Ash, Corri, and Gabbi

Shout Out from home

Show your Soldier how much you miss them by sending messages, pictures, or poems in the Expeditionary Times newspaper.

Contact the 3rd ESC Public Affairs Office to print your message.

E-mail Anaconda.Times@iraq.centcom.mil



Spc. Jermaine Ryan Smith

America's warrior

A snapshot of servicemembers in the Global War on Terrorism

Full name and rank: Spc. Jermaine Ryan Smith.

Unit: 80th Modular Movement Control Team.

Job Title: Truck driver and movement transportation coordinator.

Time in Service: Eight years.

Age: 29.

Hometown: Bradenton, Florida.

Pastimes (Hobbies): Collecting all varieties of cars. "I'm a car fanatic."

Life-changing event-moment: Coming into the Army.

Lesson learned: Try to treat people the way you want to be treated.

Why I joined the military: Father was in military and I saw it as a stable life.

If I wasn't in the military I would be: Participating in some

illegal activities.

The one thing I think the Army got right: Showing Soldiers how to be proficient and self-sufficient in a job field.

What makes a good Soldier?: Having good leaders.

What makes a good leader?: Someone who looks out for their Soldiers, that doesn't quit on them.

Unusual fact about you: I like to play basketball but I can't play well.

Motivations in life: My kids.

Goals: To be my own boss at the age of 40.

Hardest part of my job here: Dealing with the variety of questions I'm asked by customers.

Best part of my life: Meeting a variety of people from different countries.

JB BALAD ACTIVITIES

INDOOR POOL

Aqua Training: Tuesday and Thursday- 7:45 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.

Edged weapons and stick fighting combatives training: Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays 8 p.m.

Open court volleyball: Sunday- 6 p.m.

Shotokan Karate Do: Monday, Wednesday and Friday- 6 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.

Abs-Aerobics: Tuesday and Thursday- 6 a.m. and 5 p.m.

EAST RECREATION CENTER

8-ball tourney: Monday- 8 p.m

9-ball tournament: Wednesday- 8 p.m.

Game Console Tourney: Thursday- 8 p.m.

Country Dance Class: Thursday- 7 p.m.

Dominoes: Friday- 8 p.m.

Karaoke: Monday- 8 p.m.

Model building: Sunday- 1 p.m.

Poetry/ open mic: Sunday- 7:30 p.m.

Poker tourney: Sunday- 6 p.m.

Salsa dance class: Saturday- 8:30 p.m.

Swing dance: Tuesday- 7p.m.

Ping pong tourney: Tuesday- 3 p.m. and 8 p.m.

WEST RECREATION CENTER

8-ball tourney: Wednesday- 1 p.m. and 8 p.m

9-ball tournament: Monday- 1 p.m. and 8 p.m.

Dungeons & Dragons: Saturday- 8 p.m.

Friday- 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

SUSTAINER REEL TIME THEATER

Movie Times

Wednesday, July 30

5 p.m. The Happening

8 p.m. Sex and The City

Thursday, July 31

5 p.m. Don't mess with Zohan

8 p.m. The Dark Night

Friday, August 1

2 p.m. Kung Fu Panda

5 p.m. Get Smart

8 p.m. Step Brothers

Saturday, August 2

2 p.m. Step Brothers

5 p.m. Kung Fu Panda

8 p.m. Get Smart

Sunday, August 3

2 p.m. Get Smart

5 p.m. Step Brothers

8 p.m. Kung Fu Panda

Monday, August 4

5 p.m. Kung Fu Panda

8 p.m. Step Brothers

Tuesday, August 5

5 p.m. Get Smart

8 p.m. Step Brothers

(Schedule is subject to change)

Next Week

Swing Vote

The Love Guru

The Incredible Hulk

Made Of Honor

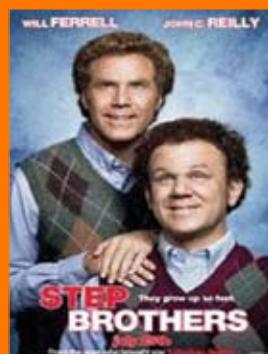
New Movies

Kung Fu Panda



Black) may look like just another portly panda bear, but beneath his fur he bears the mark of the chosen one. By day, Po works faithfully in his family's noodle shop, but by night he dreams of becoming a true master of the martial arts. Now an ancient prophecy has come to pass, and Po realizes that he is the only one who can save his people from certain destruction.

Step Brothers



and Judd Apatow and Jimmy Miller produce.

A clumsy panda bear becomes an unlikely kung fu hero when a treacherous enemy spreads chaos throughout the countryside in this animated martial arts adventure featuring the voices of Jack Black, Dustin Hoffman, Angelina Jolie, and Jackie Chan. On the surface, Po (voice of

Get Smart



Steve Carell steps into the telephonic shoes of television's most beloved bumbling detective in this big-screen adaptation of the hit 1960s-era comedy series created by Mel Brooks. The evil geniuses at KAOS have hatched a diabolical plot to dominate every living

man, woman, and child on the planet, and their plot gets under way as they attack the headquarters of the U.S. spy agency Control. As a result of the attack, the identity of every agent working for Control has been compromised. Realizing that the only way to thwart KAOS' evil plan is to promote eager but inexperienced Control analyst Maxwell Smart (Carell) to the rank of special agent, the Chief (Alan Arkin) reluctantly teams Smart with Agent 99 (Anne Hathaway) -- a veteran super-spy whose beauty is only surpassed by her lethality. With no real field experience to speak of and nothing but sheer enthusiasm and a handful of fancy spy gadgets to help him accomplish his deadly mission, Maxwell Smart his new partner, Agent 99, will be forced to face malevolent KAOS head Siegfried (Terence Stamp) and his loyal army of minions in a decisive fight that will determine the fate of the free world. Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson, David Koechner, Terry Crews, and Ken Davitian co-star.

STUPID STATE LAWS

Ever wonder just how dumb things can be? Does your state have dumb laws? Read on and find out. In the upcoming weeks, the Expeditionary 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.

Montana

- It is illegal to have a sheep in the cab of your truck without a chaperone.
- It is a misdemeanor to show movies that depict acts of felonious crime.
- It is illegal for married women to go fishing alone on Sundays, and illegal for unmarried women to fish alone at all.
- No person shall raise pet rats.

Nebraska

- If a child burps during church, his parent may be arrested.
- It is illegal for bar owners to sell beer unless they are simultaneously brewing a kettle of soup.
- In Omaha a man is not allowed to run around with a shaved chest.
- It is Illegal to go whale fishing.

Sudoku

Level: Medium

The objective is to fill the 9x9 grid so that each column, each row, and each of the nine 3x3 boxes contains the digits from 1 to 9 only one time each.

		6	9					
	5			1		2	4	3
		1	4					6
1			3	2				9
9								8
	2			4	9			7
7					1	4		
5	8	3		7				6
				5	7			

PVT. MURPHY'S LAW



Iraq according to Opet



Word Jumble

Spell out the words using the letters provided with each line. Then use the circled letters to finish the phrase.

An extra shot...

1. G R I E T R



2. U Q I Y A F L



3. S A S O P M C



4. L U L B T E



ANSWER : ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○

Upcoming sports on AFN

Wednesday 7/30/08

MLB: Los Angeles Angels @ Boston Red Sox, 2 a.m. live AFN/xtra
 MLB: Chicago White Sox @ Minnesota Twins, 10 a.m. tape delay AFN/sports
 MLB: St. Louis Cardinals @ Atlanta Braves, 4 p.m. tape delay AFN/sports
 MLB: Baltimore Orioles @ New York Yankees, 8 p.m. live AFN/sports

Thursday 7/31/08

MLB: Teams TBA 2 a.m. live AFN/sports
 NBA: USA Basketball Pre-Olympic Game: USA vs. Turkey 3 p.m. live AFN/sports
 MLB: Detroit Tigers @ Cleveland Indians, 7 p.m. tape delay AFN/sports

Friday 8/1/08

MLB: Chicago White Sox @ Minnesota Twins, 3 a.m. live AFN/sports
 X Games: BMX Street Finals, 3 a.m. live AFN/xtra
 X Games: Skateboard Big Air Final, 4 a.m. live AFN/xtra
 X Games: Moto X Best Whip, 7 a.m. live AFN/xtra
 MLB: Los Angeles Angels @ New York Yankees, 10 a.m. tape delay AFN/sports
 NBA: USA Basketball Pre-Olympic Game: USA vs. Lithuania 3 p.m. live AFN/sports
 MLB: Pittsburgh Pirates @ Chicago Cubs, 9 p.m. live AFN/sports

Saturday 8/2/08

X Games: Skateboard Street Finals, 3 a.m. live AFN/xtra
 X Games: BMX Big Air Finals, 4 a.m. live AFN/xtra
 MLB: Baltimore Orioles @ Seattle Mariners, 4 a.m. live AFN/prime pacific
 MLB: Detroit Tigers @ Tampa Bay Rays, 10 a.m. tape delay AFN/sports
 MLB: Pittsburgh Pirates @ Chicago Cubs, 8 p.m. live AFN/sports
 Wrestling: ECW, 8 p.m. tape delay AFN/xtra
 Motorcycle Racing: AMA Motocross: Lakewood, 9 p.m. tape delay AFN/xtra
 MLB: Los Angeles Angels @ New York Yankees, 8:30 p.m. live AFN/prime atlantic

Sunday 8/3/08

MLB: Oakland Athletics @ Boston Red Sox, 2 a.m. live AFN/prime atlantic
 X Games: SuperMoto Final, BMX Vert Final, Skate Vert Final, 2 a.m. live AFN/xtra
 X Games: Skate Vert Final, Moto X Freestyle Final, 4 a.m. live AFN/xtra
 MLB: Arizona Diamondbacks @ Los Angeles Dodgers, 5 a.m. live AFN/sports
 MLB: Chicago White Sox @ Kansas City Royals, 7 a.m. live AFN/sports
 NBA: USA Basketball Pre-Olympic Game: USA vs. Russia 10 a.m. live AFN/sports
 NASCAR: Napa Auto Parts 200, 1 p.m. live AFN/xtra
 MLB: Milwaukee Brewers @ Atlanta Braves, 4 p.m. tape delay AFN/xtra
 MLB: Los Angeles Angels @ New York Yankees, 8 p.m. live AFN/sports
 NASCAR: Pennsylvania 500, 9 p.m. live AFN/xtra
 PGA: Bridgestone Invitational, 9 p.m. live AFN/prime atlantic
 MLB: Baltimore Orioles @ Seattle Mariners, 11 p.m. live AFN/sports

Monday 8/4/08

NFL: Indianapolis Colts @ Washington Redskins, 3 a.m. live AFN/sports
 MLS: Dallas @ Toronto, 5 a.m. tape delayed AFN/xtra
 MLB: New York Mets @ Houston Astros, 7 a.m. tape delay AFN/xtra
 X Games: Rally Car Racing Final, Skateboard Superpark Final, 10 a.m. tape delay AFN/xtra
 Golf: U.S. Seniors Open Championship: Final Round, 2 p.m. tape delay AFN/sports
 MLB: Cleveland Indians @ Minnesota Twins, 5 p.m. tape delay AFN/xtra
 Tennis: Western & Southern Financial Masters: Men's Final, 7 p.m. tape delay AFN/sports

Tuesday 8/5/08

NBA: USA Basketball Pre-Olympic Game: USA vs. Australia 3 p.m. live AFN/sports
 MLB: Houston Astros @ Chicago Cubs, 9 p.m. live AFN/sports

RACK'EM UP



The pool balls spread apart after the break shot for a game of eight ball. Servicemembers come together every Monday and Wednesday to take part in pool table tournaments at both Moral Welfare and Recreation Centers.



Spc. Miguel Farias, with 14th Engineer Battalion (Combat), based out of Ft. Lewis Wa., racks pool balls for a game of eight ball at the East Moral Welfare and Recreation Center here July 24.



Farias tries to sink a ball in the left corner pocket in a game of eight ball.

Background: Spc. Jaime Natividad, with A Company, 5th Battalion 82nd Field Artillery Regiment, based out of Ft. Hood Texas., lines up his shot in a game of eight ball at the East Moral Welfare and Recreation Center July 24, here.

Photos by Spc. Ryan Hohman