

JOINT BASE BALAD'S
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES
 Proudly serving the finest expeditionary Servicemembers throughout Iraq

www.dvidshub.net (search phrase: Expeditionary Times)

Vol. 1, Issue 5



Photo by Spc. Charlotte Martinez

Brig. Gen. Michael J. Lally, 3d Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) commanding general, places the 3d ESC combat patch on the right shoulder of Col. Jarrold M. Reeves, the deputy commanding officer of the 3d ESC. The patch marks the 3d ESC's first month in theater and its active participation in Operation Iraqi Freedom as the senior logistics headquarters under Multinational Corps-Iraq.

3d ESC Soldiers earn combat patch

by Spc. Michael Behlin
 Expeditionary Times staff

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq – 3d Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) Soldiers officially marked their deployment to Joint Base Balad, Iraq, Tuesday, July 15 by receiving their combat patch, during a ceremony here.

Brig. Gen. Michael J. Lally, commander of the 3d ESC, presided over the ceremony as the “Sustainers” officially became a proud part of history by receiving the 3d ESC shoulder insignia.

“Today as we mark our first month here in theater, I’d like you

to reflect on what it means to don this-your combat patch,” said Lally. “Just as in the past, combat patches aren’t an entitlement, they’re earned. The history of the combat patch is an important tradition of our Army. Make no mistake you’ve earned the patches you don today. Much like the Soldiers that came before you, these patches symbolize your duty, sacrifice, and willingness to expose yourself to threats your counterparts at home hopefully may never face,” Lally said.

The combat patch ceremony is a historical U.S. Army tradition which began during the Civil War. The tradition of wearing patches it-

self began out of necessity as leaders and Soldiers found it difficult to determine which units Soldiers were from.

As a result, Soldiers devised a system that each corps would wear a distinctive patch on the top of their hats. When identification became an issue because of injuries or lost hats, the system was revised to include the patches on the uniform.

Eventually, this led to the patches being worn on the left and right shoulder of the uniform. This system also allowed proud veterans to display their unit patches as symbols of prior campaigns and battles fought.

The combat patch, which is worn on the right shoulder of an U.S. Army uniform, symbolizes a Soldiers past or active participation in wartime service.

The wearing of a combat patch also signifies Soldiers participation in the continued freedom and protection of the liberties of the people of the United States of America.

To many Soldiers, the combat patch represents time served in a combat zone, but to others it represents a sense of purpose and accomplishment to their military careers.

“I feel that wearing a combat

See **PATCH**, Page 4



MCT learns to serve battlespace

By land and air, movement is made to happen

Page 4



Conserving water is a must

Tips on how you can conserve H₂O

Page 5



Towers over Taji

Soldiers pull towerguard to keep the base safe from insurgents

Page 6

PMO Blotter: 9-16 July **15 months 'from where I sit'**

Hit and Run Accident- A white Ford Explorer was damaged by a black colored vehicle in the parking lot of DFAC#1. The front driver's side bumper and quarter panel were damaged.

Breaking and Entering- A soldier's room in H-7 Housing, G Pod, was broken into and his 80GB Ipod was stolen. The soldier's platoon required him to write his whereabouts on a dry-erase board hung outside of his room. PMO commentary: This could serve as an indicator of when the room will be vacant.

Major Traffic Accident- An uparmored HMMWV was towing another on Pennsylvania Ave approaching Sapper Circle when the bolts attached to the towed vehicle came loose. The towed vehicle crashed into a fence at the intersection damaging 5 fence posts and 5 sections of fence.

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

H-5, G Pod
H-6, X Pod
H-5, H Pod
KBR Camp

76th mechanics get fluid



Photo by Pfc. Amanda Tucker

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq - Spc. Joseph Kelsey, a Fort Wayne, Ind., native and driver for the 76th Infantry Brigade, based at Fort Wayne, Ind., checks and fills the fluids to make sure the vehicle is mission capable in the motor pool July 11.



Command Sgt. Maj. Sultan A. Mohammad

by CSM Sultan A. Mohammad
507 Corps Support Group

As the 507th Corps Support Group gets ready to transfer authority, I was asked to write about my experience of our 15 month deployment to Iraq.

I often reflect back to a statement my commander, Colonel James G. Currie Jr., of the 507th CSG, would always reply to us about a deployment, "a 15 month deployment is not one year with a 90 day extension, it is 15 continuous months with an 18 day rest and recuperation leave somewhere in between the tour of duty."

Now after celebrating two birthdays, on one single deployment, one would ask what does that have to do with your mission and our experience in Iraq for 15 months. My answer to you is nothing, but I had to start off with something.

The 507th Corps Support Group was notified about a deployment to Iraq on or about September, 2006.

Col. Currie came into the conference room and informed the staff it is not a rumor that the 507th CSG will be deploying f to Iraq and oh, by the way, our area of

operation will be one of the most dangerous areas, Multi-National Force-West, better known as the Al Anbar Province.

Our mission was pretty much the same as all the other sustainment brigades, but our mission had one thing different. We had the largest support area to cover, most folks compare its size to the state of Texas, and we would have to do it with the help of other military service members. The MNF-West is assign the 3rd Marine Expeditionary Forces.

I'm not too familiar with how the Marines operate, but the 507th CSG was task to build a working relationship with the Marines and quickly understand their support requirements.

Our biggest challenge in the West is the frequency other units rotate in and out of country in the AL Anbar Province.

As you know the Army is the only military force that operates on a 15 month deployment rotation, while all the other Armed Forces tours are from 4 to 12 months, depending on the branch of service.

Remembering our task, to build a working relationship with our other service members, you can see this task can be very challenging working with, Marine Expeditionary forces and Air Wings, two Marine Logistic Groups, command groups, regimental combat teams and several battalion and company rotations.

I think you can get the picture of the different command headquarters we had to establish relationships with.

The challenges and changes we have overcome, shows that no organization operates the same. Once we learned an operating style, it was time for them to rotate out with a new one coming in, which started the cycle all over

again.

I was given a few topics to address in this article, but I decided not to discuss those. Instead, I would focus on our survival, which was based on five components that will help us succeed on this deployment.

The five components are; keeping the organization "focused" on the mission, no matter how many times it changes. Encourage your unit to stay "motivated" and maintaining individual and unit "physical" and "mental" fitness. Last but not least, "teamwork".

As the group command sergeant major, I stress to all my leaders the importance of the five components. I also informed them how to apply the components which needed a great deal of commitment, creativeness and balance. Without applying those techniques, a Soldier could quickly become complacent and we all know that complacency can kill.

I could have talked about training, Warrior Task and Drill, TTP, PCI UCMJ and morale, but in my mind and from where I sit, you have to use at least one of those five components to successfully execute anyone of these topics.

Leaders, to be successful on a 15 month deployment you cannot rely on luck! You have to have a plan, and our plan started back in September 2006 after we were notified we were deploying. The 507th Corps Support Group came to us with a plan and all of our leadership bought into it and became committed to the success of it.

By no means am I saying this is the only plan, but remember, "If you fail to plan then you plan to fail!" We are the 507th Corps Support Group and we are "Professional by Choice!"

Let's Roll!

EXPEDITIONARY TIMES

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

Expeditionary Times is authorized for publication by the 3rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) for the Joint Base Balad community. The contents of the Expeditionary Times are unofficial and are not to be considered the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, including the Department of Defense or Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Expeditionary Times is a command information newspaper in accordance with Army Regulation 360-1.

Expeditionary Times is published weekly by the Stars and Stripes central office, with a circulation of 5,000 papers.

The Public Affairs Office is located on New Jersey Ave. building 4136, DSN 318-433-2154. Expeditionary Times, HHC 3d ESC, APOAE 09391. Web site at www.dvidshub.net Contact the Expeditionary Times staff at: anaconda.times@iraq.centcom.mil

Managing Editor
Maj. Paul Hayes, 3rd ESC
paul.r.hayes@iraq.centcom.mil

215th MPAD Commander
Maj. Timothy Horton, 215th MPAD
timothy.horton@iraq.centcom.mil

215th MPAD NCOIC
Sgt. 1st Class David Zerbe, 215th MPAD
david.zerbe@iraq.centcom.mil

3rd ESC PAO NCOIC
Sgt. 1st Class David McClain
david.mcclain@iraq.centcom.mil

Distribution
Sgt. Geno L. Gardner, 215th MPAD
geno.gardner@iraq.centcom.mil

Associate Editor
Sgt. Gary Hawkins, 215th MPAD
gary.hawkins@iraq.centcom.mil

Expeditionary Times Editor
Staff Sgt. Tim Sander, 215th MPAD
timothy.sander@iraq.centcom.mil

Layout and Design
Spc. Charlotte Martinez, 215th MPAD
charlotte.martinez@iraq.centcom.mil

Staff Writers
Spc. Anthony Hooker, 215th MPAD
anthony.hooker@iraq.centcom.mil
Spc. Ryan Hohman, 215th MPAD
ryan.hohman@iraq.centcom.mil
Spc. Michael Behlin, 3rd ESC
michael.behlin@iraq.centcom.mil
Pfc. Amanda Tucker, 3rd ESC
amanda.tucker1@iraq.centcom.mil

Contributing Public Affairs Offices

1st Sustainment Brigade
3rd Sustainment Brigade
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.

Taji gets educated

by Sgt. Jennifer Schweizer

1st Sustainment Bde

CAMP TAJI, Iraq – Derelict and nearly empty, the Camp Taji education center could barely support service members and civilians with internet access, let alone any type of educational needs; that is until the 1st Sustainment Brigade took command and control.

With the help of 24 new computer systems, along with three original computers, the education center now accommodates seven times more people with internet access than it previously serviced.

“I was tasked to set up the computer systems in January and get the center operational,” said Sgt. Seth Griffin, a New Orleans native, and noncommissioned officer in charge of the education center. “There was nothing here; it could barely be called an education center,” he said.

Placement of the new (computer) systems was only the beginning step in turning this, once ineffective, facility around. The education center can now provide service members who seek to improve their education or those who simply want to check e-mail and surf the web.

For those who wish to pursue a career as a warrant officer, they can take the Alternate Flight Aptitude Selection Test without leaving the forward operating base. In addition, (service members and civilians) have the opportunity to CLEP (college level examination program) college courses or use the DSST (DANTES subject standardized test) system for credit hours, using on site test supervisors, which were not present before.

Together both Griffin and Sgt. Charles Benaza, a Los Angeles native, and test control officer for military exams, supervised over 230 Soldiers, Airman, and civilians attending colleges ranging from Maryland to Central Texas College and helped over 90 Soldiers and Airman raise their GT score.

“We have come a long way; before we could not even hand out a study book,” stated Benaza.

Currently they are equipped with more than 250 study books offering a wide variety of subject areas from the AFCT to the SAT’s (scholastic aptitude test). It can rightfully be called, a place where all members of the Armed Forces can come to for self and professional growth, an education center.



Photo by Spc. Andrea Merritt

With 27 operating computer systems, service members and civilians alike are able to enjoy the use of internet for moral, welfare, and recreation use as well as educational advancement at the Camp Taji education center July 7.

‘Hooah’ of the week



Photo by Spc. Michael Behlin

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq – Master Sgt. Jonathan Napier, 3d Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) communications security custodian and Yatesville, GA, native, is congratulated by Brig. Gen. Michael J. Lally for being selected this week’s Hooah Soldier of the Week. Napier is responsible for providing communications security support to all of Joint Base Balad. He is also instrumental in the maintenance, remodeling and upkeep of the 3d ESC fitness centers.

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)
------------------	----------------------------

PROTESTANT—SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST

SATURDAY 9 A.M.	PROVIDER CHAPEL
-----------------	-----------------

PROTESTANT—CHURCH OF CHRIST

SUNDAY 3:30 P.M.	CASTLE HEIGHTS (4155)
------------------	-----------------------

ROMAN CATHOLIC MASS

(SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION 30 MIN PRIOR TO MASS)

SATURDAY 5 P.M.	GILBERT MEMORIAL (H-6)
8 P.M.	FREEDOM CHAPEL (WEST SIDE)
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)
---------------	------------------------

ISLAMIC SERVICE

FRIDAY 12:30 P.M.	PROVIDER CHAPEL (WEST SIDE)
-------------------	-----------------------------

PAGAN/ WICCAN FELLOWSHIP

THURSDAY, SATURDAY 7 P.M.	EDEN CHAPEL
---------------------------	-------------

BUDDHIST FELLOWSHIP

TUESDAY 7 P.M.	EDEN CHAPEL
----------------	-------------

PROTESTANT – SPANISH NON-DENOMINATIONAL

SATURDAY 7:30 P.M.	PROVIDER CHAPEL
--------------------	-----------------

EASTERN ORTHODOX- DEVINE LITURGY

SUNDAY 9 A.M.	CHAPEL ANNEX
---------------	--------------

**Please note, schedule is subject to change.*

MCT learns to serve all customers in shared battlespace

by Spc. Anthony Hooker

Expeditionary Times staff

AL TAQADDUM, Iraq - The 383rd Movement Control Team, part of the 330th Movement Control Battalion, serves at Marine Base, Al Taqaddum, Iraq, as a receiving, shipping and release point for Multinational Forces-West. The unit is one of 21 teams dispatched throughout Iraq to provide air, ground and rail support to Coalition forces. Most teams are located at an Army-run facility, but the 383rd has to follow Army procedures while operating in another branch's battle space.



Deployed from Ft. Polk, La., the 23-person team is divided into two groups: a ground element which handles convoys traveling in and out of the base, and the flight element, which oversees any air cargo that is delivered through air transfer. MCTs have gone from units that are responsible for manning one type of movement control to handling multiple sites. In theater since last August, each of 383rd's groups have faced challenges that can quickly stunt the daily movement of materials across theater.

AIR GROUP

The air group works at the Joint Air Cargo Operations Terminal, the base's main passenger terminal. The primary duties are tracking and tracing all cargo moving in and out of Al-Taqaddum, known as "TQ". They handle missions that Sherpas fly, a light fixed-wing aircraft, and are managed exclusively by the Army, and also assign Army personnel on outgoing flights.

With major suppliers, such as United Postal Service and DHL, "TQ" can see as many as 20 to 30 commercial planes a day in addition to military loads. That means work-

ers must be able to answer phones, document items and resolve discrepancies in a short time period.

"We are challenged to multitask without losing quality of service," said Sgt. William Lee, the non-commissioned officer in charge of air cargo operations.

Arriving in theater with only one officer in the unit, Sgt. 1st Class Jesse Johnson, the 383rd's senior noncommissioned officer, was forced to decide who would best handle a responsibility that required strong customer service and experience in tracking and transportation. With so many of his troops newly arrived from advanced individual training, Johnson went with two junior NCOs, Lee and Sgt. Shameka Givens, to manage the office.

Having served with Johnson since 2006, the two NCO's offered the team experience and technical proficiency. Givens was assigned as the "officer-in-charge" and combined with Lee to construct a standard operating procedure.

The 383rd was the only unit on site that tracked detailed information such as class and supply, weight and a brief item description. Lee figured the detailed and continuous attention given to items would check any glitch that hit the system.

"Multiple systems would have to fail for us to lose track of equipment," said Lee.

The team got a huge test in November when two Stryker engines were scheduled to move from "TQ" to Baghdad. The person who produced the paperwork for the mission incorrectly filled out the order, which had the engines being flown to Dover Air Force Base, Del.

"The warrant officer responsible for shipment came into our office assuming we were the one's who made the mistake," said Lee. "By having an updated file stored on our computer, we were able to show where the discrepancy was made."

Lee's homework allowed him to locate



Photo by Spc. Anthony Hooker

Pvt. Miguel Acevedo removes a box filled with human blood from arriving on a Sherpa aircraft June 19 at Forward Operating Base TQ. Acevedo is a movement control specialist with the 383rd Movement Control Team.

the misdirected cargo.

"We were able to track the cargo down just as it was about to go on a C-5 aircraft at Ramstein Air Base (Germany)," said Lee. "(My soldier) contacted the PAX (terminal) in Delaware, who rerouted the cargo back to Baghdad, preserving a pretty important mission."

Lee said the effort helped stop what would have been a \$1.4 million-dollar mistake and it also gave the 383rd a new believer in their system.

The 383rd established weekly meetings with the other branches and KBR to discuss changes in policy or identify discrepancies. Their actions have given the group a stellar

reputation.

With only a few months remaining in their deployment, Johnson said the group is mainly concerned with maintaining and building upon its Standard Operating Procedures.

"We just want to make our transfer of authority as smooth as possible," said Johnson. "We are making sure that the incoming group has the maximum training and resources. You never know, we may have to come back here. We want the standards in place that are effective to still be used if we return," said Johnson.

See MCT, Page 6

PATCH, from Page 1

patch doesn't just symbolize that I have wartime service," said Spc. Julia Hickox, a Houston, Mo., native and intelligence analyst for the 3d ESC. "It symbolizes that I have pride in myself, my family and in my country."

For Sgt. First Class Aaron Loos, who's on his second deployment with the 3d ESC, Based out of Fort Knox, Ky., said receiving the 3d ESC combat patch for a second time represents change and growth.

"This time around, personnel wise we have many new faces and are a lot smaller as an organization plus, we still have the same amount of responsibilities," said the Rochester, N.Y., native and 3d ESC Inspector General Non-Commissioned Officer in Charge. "But now we have much better communication processes in place, the facilities are improved, and basically everyone's improved their foxhole."

The 3d ESC's patch also rep-

resents the unit's participation in every OIF rotation since 2003 and in Afghanistan as part of several rotations of Operation Enduring Freedom.

The 3d ESC's patch and insignia represents the unit's proud tradition and history that includes campaigns in Korea, France, Germany, and the Balkans.

The unit patch logo is comprised of three blue arrows pointing outwards which represent the unit's numerical designation and its mission to provide combat support wherever needed. The arrows and arrowheads are symbols frequently used in U.S. Army insignia designs since they refer to items historically used in warfare and defense.

The red circle outlining the 3d ESC patch signifies the never ending valor and courage of its Soldiers. The white field represents the purity and dedication.

The ceremony marked the first month here, and for the 3d ESC, the beginning of a tour to "Sustain the Line."

Bravo Bandits get a pie in the face



Photo by Sgt. Dameon Bradford

CAMP LIBERTY, Iraq - Sgt. First Class Robert Craft, a member of Bravo Company, 168th Brigade Support Battalion, 1st Sustainment Brigade and Cleveland, Ohio, native; and platoon sergeant for the ground support equipment platoon, gets creamed by his Soldiers in support of their company "Pie in the face" fund raiser which allowed the Soldiers to raise money for their own "Bravo Bandit coin."

Soldiers ride the radio waves at Taji

by Spc. Andrea Merritt

1st Sustainment Bde

CAMP TAJI, Iraq – Every year, on the fourth full weekend in June, thousands of amateur radio operators in the U.S. flood the airwaves to test their “ham” radio equipment and communication capabilities in an event known as “Field Day.”



During field day, operators set up their radios and try to make as many contacts as they can in a 24- to 36-hour period, in an effort to assess their ability, in the event of a disaster or emergency.

Although deployed to Iraq and unable to compete in Field Day, six members of the Baghdad Amateur Radio Society, on Camp Taji, joined fellow radio enthusiasts from around the world on the air starting at 9 p.m. June 28 and going through 11:59 p.m. on June 29.

“It’s mainly to test your ability to get out to different areas to prove that if an emergency did happen, the group would be comfortable with making contact,” said Wayne Gale, a Pocatello, Idaho, native and telecommunications technician with ITT, and a member of BARS.

BARS originated at Camp Victory, Iraq, in 2006. Once the founder redeployed, the equipment was passed down until it eventually ended up in the hands of Capt. Jeffrey Hammer, the intelligence officer for the 1st Squadron, 152nd Cavalry Regiment.

Hammer, who has been a licensed amateur radio operator since 1991, arrived to Iraq in April 2008. Shortly after he came into theater, he applied for a license to operate in Iraq.

When the equipment was passed to him, he set up the station in his room, and began sharing his knowledge and experience with other aspiring amateur radio operators.

“It’s an educational thing. It gives people who are interested in radio technology a way to learn what is out there because amateur radio is so diverse, you can do a lot more with it than any other type of radio system out there,” said



Photo by Spc. Andrea Merritt

Capt. Jeffrey Hammer, an intelligence officer for the 1st Squadron, 152nd Cavalry Regiment, makes contact, at Camp Taji, with another amateur radio operator somewhere in the world recently.

Hammer, a Speedway, Ind., native.

“Amateur radio operators are responsible for being good custodians of the airwaves. We’re responsible for being courteous to other radio operators no matter what system they’re operating on, and we’re responsible for de-conflicting interference issues,” Hammer said.

As an amateur radio operator, Hammer has mostly been involved with emergency response. Whenever a flood, tornado, or other type disaster came through an area and knocked out the power, it was his job to set up emergency communications for volunteer agencies or local governments.

He spent 10 days in Louisiana, after Hurricane Katrina devastated the area, and left emergency services such as police forces and fire departments with no way to communicate with one another.

“The ten days that I spent down there were definitely the

most rewarding that I’ve had just because we were able to help so many people and pass information to different emergency response agencies,” Hammer said.

For those in BARS who are not licensed radio operators, the program has been a way for them to study for the exam to get their license and to gain hands-on experience with ham radios.

“Being part of BARS has definitely given me a chance to get some hands-on experience. You can read the books and study the test questions, but you get that hands-on aspect that you don’t get from reading a book,” said Sgt. Owen Fuller, the information officer for the 186th Military Police Company, with the Iowa National Guard unit.

The group has studied with a \$400 library of books that were donated to Hammer, so that they could prepare for the exam.

“I’ve learned a lot about the technical aspect of it, some of the science behind radio,” said Spc. David Barnes, a Grinnell, Iowa, native and medic with the 186th MP Co.

“A lot of this is new to me, and I am by no means a math or science person, so Capt. Hammer has really helped answer a lot of questions about it. This is a life-long hobby,” said Barnes.

During Field Day, the group made contact with more than 14 people in Italy, Germany, the Netherlands, Russia, England, and the Czech Republic.

All through the night, the group rode the airwaves and continued their attempts to make contact with as many people as they could. Although BARS has been around since 2006, it continues to grow and improve for those interested in amateur radio operations.

“It doesn’t make a difference what your job is in the military or how smart you think you are or aren’t; amateur radio is for everybody because there’s so many different aspects to it. You can do as much or as little as you want with it,” Hammer said.

“In the next month or so, we’re going to have an official training course so that we know these guys are ready to go home and get their licenses,” Hammer said.

Water conservation here at Joint Base Balad

by Sgt. Robert G. Cooper III

76th Infantry Bde Combat Team

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq – The Mayor Cell here has established plans for water and energy conservation to maintain the base’s standard of living as the summer season reaches its peak.

“The summer strain is an annual event that, if left unchecked can become a seriously uncomfortable affair,” said Capt. Jeffrey Faulk, with the Mayor Cell’s Life Support Division. “At the moment, the base is not facing a water or fuel shortage. However, our on-hand stock is still low so water conservation plays a crucial role,” he said.

During this time of year, water levels along the Tigris River drop, creating a domino effect on the canals that supply water to Joint Base Balad and surrounding communities. The Mayor Cell takes water level readings and recommends measures to conserve water. On average, the base uses approximately 1.5 million gallons of water per day.

While some of the measures don’t directly affect quality of life here, the procedures affecting everyone on post can begin to take effect once canal levels drop below 25 inches. The measures may include limits to how much laundry can be checked at wash facilities, shower closures on both sides of the base and Army-Air Force Exchange Service food vendor closures.

If canal levels drop further, residents can



expect to see dining, laundry and shower facilities closed and food distributed in the form of meals, ready-to-eat or other prepackaged meals.

The latest readings of canal are between 60 and 70 inches, Captain Faulk said. Only one or two measures will be instated temporarily when water levels decrease.

In addition to water conservation, officials are also concerned with conserving energy.

Maj. Walter Vonhovan, a base engineer with Joint Base Balad’s Department of Public Works, said that energy usage here is based on needs, so more demand by residents equals more fuel going into generators around post.

“We have power based on the capacity of the prime power plant and all the generators throughout the base,” Vonhovan said. “It’s not like back home, where you have an unlimited supply of power. Here, you must plan for power: If there’s enough capacity to add

the facility to the prime power plant, we will; if not, we must provide a power source such as a generator.”

Vonhovan said that the summer season can strain energy-producing equipment here. Power consumption goes up, and the heat and dust are hard on the generators.

“As the temperatures go up, the (generators’) power capacity goes down,” Vonhovan said. “During the summer months, we have relieved the load on the power plant by switching to backup power at several buildings that have backup generators.”

The base uses approximately 3.5 million gallons of fuel per month to supply its energy needs,” Vonhovan said.

Reducing energy demand also reduces the amount of fuel needed and the wear and tear on generators.

“By using the larger power plants and getting away from the smaller generators throughout the base, we could save considerable amount of fuel,” Vonhovan said. “Generators run all the time, even if you’re not using all the power the generator can produce. With prime power plants, you only run the generators that are needed to produce the required power.”

While the summer months will continue to raise demand for valuable resources, those who live here can do their parts to conserve energy and reduce demands. Refer to the following sidebar for more information on how to better conserve water and energy.

TIPS:

- Take brief showers – a 5 minute shower uses 10 to 13 gallons of water.
- While showering, turn off the water to lather up. This can also be applied to washing your hands before meals at the dining facilities and after using the latrines. Apply the same principles to brushing your teeth as well!
- Consider brushing your teeth and shaving while showering which cuts down on water usage at the sinks. A sink faucet running for two minutes uses around 3 to 5 gallons alone.
- Report constantly running toilets or dripping faucets to respective officials. For housing, report to your Base Housing Office. For offices and buildings on post, report deficiencies to your building manager or contact JBB Department of Public Works.
- For those who wash their own laundry, only do so when you have a full load.



Photo by Spc. Anthony Hooker

Sgt. 1st Class Jesse Johnson, the senior noncommissioned officer for the 383rd Movement Control Team, listens to Iraqi truckers June 16 at Forward Operating Base Al Taqqadum.

MCT, from Page 4

GROUND SIDE

The ground team is responsible for ground operations, convoy clearance, tracking convoy numbers as vehicles move in and out of the battle space. The team also provides technical guidance for personnel at "TQ's" central receiving and shipping point.

"The focus is on movement (and) keeping supplies up," said Capt. Reginald Mitchell, commander of the 383rd MCT. "Get-

ting beans and bullets to the people who are on the front line and who are walking along the streets on patrol, is a high priority. If we don't effectively track the assets that are needed, the mission will suffer as a result."

Group members coordinate daily with various military units, contractors, as well as foreign and local nationals. Mitchell said. He spent the first five to six months of the deployment actively meeting with other base tenants to let them know what the 383rd was able to

provide.

"The higher headquarters does a great job trying to predict what to anticipate," said Mitchell, "which helps us more efficiently assist our customers get checked in to complete their mission."

The 383rd's primary customer is the 129th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, but "TQ" is the logistical headquarters for the Marines. That means any actions taken by the 383rd must be passed up to the Marines.

With the Marines' approval

needed for any movement in and out of the base, Sgt. 1st Class Gregory Hopkins, 129th's NCOIC of support operations, said a tight relationship between his unit and the 383rd needed to be formed to avoid any delay of movement.

The units created what Hopkins called a 'transfusion cell,' where key leaders gained a better understanding of each element and how to assist each other.

"We are able to reinforce each other statuses," said Hopkins. "That's very important when people want to increase or remove cargo at the last minute."

"The 383rd has a huge responsibility," Hopkins said. "When you're able to put a name and a face together, the connection is stronger."

That connection tightened after a recent mishap occurred at the 383rd's marshaling yard. Local nationals started an effort called the Iraqi Trucking Network, where local drivers move equipment unassisted to different bases in the Anbar province. The 383rd was told the system was currently in place, but still had a miscommunication occur.

Base security was scheduled to meet the truckers at the marshaling yard but a senior base contractor erroneously intercepted the group and assumed the role as a guide. The contractor was a daily visitor to the 383rd's location, so the 383rd didn't recognize the contractor's action until the truckers had left the yard.

When the truckers arrived at 129th's headquarters, Hopkins recognized the mistake, contacted Johnson and redirected the group back to the marshaling yard to be properly screened and escorted in.

After a lengthy discussion with the contractor and base security, Johnson determined that the truckers could inprocess their loads and place their vehicles in the TCN yard after drop-off.

Hopkins stated afterwards that if the error involved anyone than the two units, solving the problem would have taken much longer.

Trust in the system, along with verification, there are two things that he must have when making any decision.

Johnson said it was motivating to witness the changes that appear to be taking place.

"We've come from a time where Iraqis traveling unescorted wasn't even a thought . . . Iraqis moving cargo without an escort turns on a light because it sticks out," said Johnson. "Now we know it's an emerging way to travel, entrusting locals to move equipment that previously couldn't be moved without an escort."

In an ever-evolving theater, Mitchell said no one should presume anything. "Nothing will stay the same from day to day except certain timelines.

Changes can occur because of weather, road situations . . . an IED can push back a deadline," said Mitchell. "We have to be flexible, yet proficient."

Towers over Taji: Protecting the perimeter

by Spc. Andrea Merritt

1st Sustainment Bde

CAMP TAJI, Iraq – Since arriving in Iraq in April 2008, Soldiers of the 1st Squadron, 152nd Cavalry Regiment, have been entrusted with the mission of protecting Camp Taji and all its inhabitants.



With the safety of more than 20,000 Soldiers, civilians, and Airmen on Camp Taji, entrusted to them, the Soldiers know the importance of their mission at hand.

The Soldiers who man the gates work in eight-hour shifts checking IDs, registrations, and the validity of passes for vehicles that want to get on post. They work their shift, in their protective gear, which can weigh more than 50 pounds.

"The only thing we can do is just stay busy the whole time. We run two lanes out here and keep it constantly moving. You don't really think about it, but you feel it afterwards," said Spc. Kyle Moss, a Blytheville, Ark., native and 1123rd Transportation Company Soldier at the Icehouse Gate.

As part of their duties, they also search for possible IEDs by checking the undercarriage of vehicles and under the hood before the vehicles can pass through. They also randomly conduct a more thorough vehicle and personnel search as an added deterrent to would be insurgents.

In the towers, Soldiers work 12-hour shifts as they stand and keep watch on the activity outside of the camp's perimeter, which runs along Main Supply Route Tampa, one of the most dangerous MSRs in Iraq.

"Our main objective here is just to watch for patterns in



Photo by Spc. Andrea Merritt

Spc. Kyle Moss, a Blytheville, Ark., native and gate guard with the 1123rd Transportation Company, inspects under the hood of a vehicle July 3.

traffic and any suspicious activity," said Spc. Seth Cheek, a Stuttgart, Ark., native and tower guard with the 1123rd Trans. Co.

For the tower guards, suspicious activity can be anything that seems out of the ordinary and since Soldiers keep watch over the wall 24-hours a day, every day, they have gotten to know what is and what isn't ordinary.

"We look for vehicles that pull over because some will attempt to make it seem like their vehicle is broken, but you have to pay attention to see if they have cameras and taking pictures or writing things down," said Sgt. Michael Vargas,

a Kennesaw, Ga., native and tower guard with the 1123rd Trans. Co.

"It helps when you see the same thing over and over again to find the things out of the ordinary. Sometimes it is legitimate. We look for any suspicious activity and (try to) figure out which (ones) are odd out of the normal ones (not) seen on a regular basis," said Vargas, who performed convoy operations with a California National Guard unit before he extended his tour of duty in Iraq.

If being a tower guard sounds like an easy job, imagine standing in a room barely big enough for two people and staring out of a window for 12 hours a day. There are no real breaks, and the only time they leave their post during their shift is to use the restroom.

"When we first got here and found out we were going to be doing towers, we thought, 'Oh, how easy.'" said Spc. Lorenzo Boatman, a Blytheville, Ark., native and tower guard with 1123rd Trans. Co. "To be honest, it's harder to be up here 12 hours than it is to be out."

Although the force protection mission can be repetitive, these Soldiers realize the importance of it.

"What we do is make sure everyone in our area is safe. It's something that needs to be done," said Spc. Joshua Tinsley, a Jonesboro, Ark., native and tower guard with the 1123rd Trans. Co.

For the Soldiers who man the gates and towers at the base, there are no champions to rescue them because they are the champions in Camp Taji's force protection story.

They are the boots on the ground and the eyes in the skies that keep watch over the camp to make sure everyone inside is safe; and so far, they have been very successful in their mission.

101 Critical days: Recognize, prevent, treat heat illness

by Air Force Maj. (Dr.) Maureen Bousquet

332nd Expeditionary Aeromedical Squadron Public Health

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq -- There are a lot of comforts afforded to us at Joint Base Balad, from our living quarters to the air conditioning in our work areas. Unfortunately, as comfortable as we may be, many of our duties takes us outside our comfort zones and into the desert heat. As we approach the hottest months in Iraq, it's very important that you know how to recognize the signs and symptoms of heat related illnesses, both for your safety and the safety of others around you.

Heat injuries can happen to any of us. A heat injury occurs when a person is engaged in physical activity to the extent where the heat produced in the body exceeds the body's ability to cool itself down. Factors that contribute to heat injuries include not being acclimated to the environment, poor physical fitness, certain prescription medications, illness and lack of hydration.

It is very important that you develop a habit of drinking water throughout the day, even if you're not thirsty. Once you get thirsty, you are already on the verge of dehydration. You should also limit the amount of caffeinated beverages, as these products increase dehydration through increased urination. It's better to grab water or even a sports drink instead of reaching for a soft drink.

Although heat injuries pose a serious problem in Iraq, most cases are preventable. The average human body needs anywhere from six to 14 days to properly adjust to the heat. Acclimation should start with short exposures, followed by longer periods of work in a hot environment. This reduces the possibility of heat stress by allowing the body to gradually build up a tolerance for hot weather conditions.

Heat illnesses are preventable if you take the right precautions. Drink plenty of water before you get thirsty. Observe work/rest cycles, use the buddy system, and limit strenuous activities during peak temperature times. This will help keep you safe during your deployment. As the temperature rises, remember that hydration becomes one of the key essentials to mission success.

There are three types of heat injuries:

Heat Cramps: Symptoms often associated with this illness are muscle pains or spasms, usually in the abdomen, arms, or legs that occur when the body loses too much salt and electrolytes due to excessive sweating or overexertion. Heat cramps are not limited to hot weather conditions but can also be related to other strenuous activities such as sports.

To relieve symptoms, stop all activity, rest in a cool place and drink cool water or a sports beverage to replace lost electrolytes.

Heat Exhaustion: Symptoms often associated with this

illness are clammy, moist skin, weakness, headache, dizziness or fainting, profuse sweating with raised body temperature, nausea, vomiting, shortness of breath and paleness. If left untreated, heat exhaustion can progress to heat stroke and possibly death.

Take immediate action to prevent the condition from progressing further. Move the victim to a cool, shaded area to rest. Make him comfortable by loosening or removing any heavy clothing. Have the victim drink about one cup of cool water every 15 minutes. Try to cool the victim's body by fanning or applying a wet cloth to his skin. Seek medical attention if symptoms persist.

Heat Stroke: When heat stroke occurs, the body stops sweating, the body can no longer rid itself of excessive heat. Symptoms are often similar to heat exhaustion; other signs and symptoms may include mental confusion, hot, dry red skin, loss of consciousness or convulsions.

Actions taken for heat stroke victims are much the same as heat exhaustion, but the likelihood of death is higher. Heat stroke is considered a medical emergency, and you should call 911 immediately. You can also cover the victim with wet sheets and put ice packs under his armpits and groin area.

If you have questions, contact the 332nd Expeditionary Aeromedical Squadron Public Health office at DSN 443-2951 or 443-2965.

330th Trans Co. inducts NCOs



Photo by Sgt. Jeff Sheads

Command Sgt. Maj. Kevin McKeller, CSM for the 330th Transportation Battalion, congratulates a newly inducted non-commissioned officer during the 330th's NCO induction ceremony at the Morale, Welfare, Recreation eastside Center, July 16. Command Sgt. Maj. Willie C. Tennant, the CSM for the 3d Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) presented the NCOs their certificate of induction.

by Sgt. Jeff Sheads

330th Transportation Bn

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq - In a ceremony hosted by the 330th Transportation Battalion, 61 new Sergeants were inducted into the Corps of Noncommissioned Officers on July 16 at the East Side MWR on Joint Base Balad.

During the ceremony Command Sgt. Maj. Kevin McKeller, CSM of the 330th Trans. Bde, and Command Sgt. Maj. Willie Tennant, CSM of the 3d Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), spoke to the new sergeants and

explained to them the importance of the history of the corps and the impact their role will have on the future generations of NCO's.

As Tennant discussed the new role and responsibilities with the inductees, he offered this encouragement,

"Your mission is a difficult one. As generations before you have endured the challenges this position has to offer, I know you too can be successful," said Tennant.

The history of the NCO dates back to 1775 when the Continental Army was first formed. In 1778 the role of the NCO's were formalized when Inspector General Friedrich von Steuben wrote his Regulations for the Order and Discipline of the Troops of the United States, commonly known as the Blue Book. This document charged NCO's with the training and well being of the troops. Since the revolution, the role of the Sergeant has remained virtually unchanged.

"Today you will become a part of the proud history of the 'Backbone of the Army,'" said McKeller.

During the ceremony, McKeller administered the "Charge of the NCO" to the inductees. By raising their right hand and taking this oath, the new sergeants accepted the responsibilities of being a leader in the Army and stated they understand what is expected of them as an NCO.

To complement the "Charge of the NCO," the new sergeants heard a Soldiers Request given by Spc. Siverling, of the 606th Movement Control Team, Pfc. Thedford, of the 330th Transportation Battalion, and Pfc. Brady, of the 613th Movement Control Team.

The Soldiers Requested is a list of what a Soldier requires from his sergeant to be successful, the Soldiers asked for guidance, and training to be able to fight and win on the battlefield of today and tomorrow.

The Soldiers also professed their dedication to the inductees and said that with the sergeants guidance they hope to one day earn the title, sergeant.

TF 12 resumes aviation command



Photo by Sgt. Brandon Little

Col. Timothy J. Edens (facing), and Command Sgt. Maj. H. Lee Kennedy, based in Ansbach, Germany, unfurl the Task Force 12 command group colors, at a Transfer of Authority ceremony here, to resume the mission as command element for aviation assets here for Multi-National Corps - Iraq, July 12.

by Sgt. 1st Class Chris Seaton

Task Force XII

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq -Task Force 12, based in Ansbach, Germany, resumed command of aviation elements supporting Multi-National Corps - Iraq, from Task Force 49, based at Fairbanks, Alsaska, during a transfer of authority ceremony here July 12.

TF 12 originally arrived at Joint Base Balad, Iraq, in July, 2007. However December, 2007 they were sent to Camp Taji, to work with Multi-National Division - Baghdad.

The seven month separation, from December 2007 to July 2008, saw a spike in violence in Basrah and Sadr City, Iraq, which caused pilots of both units to increase operational tempo, flying a record number of missions, and drawing praise from leaders at all levels within the region.

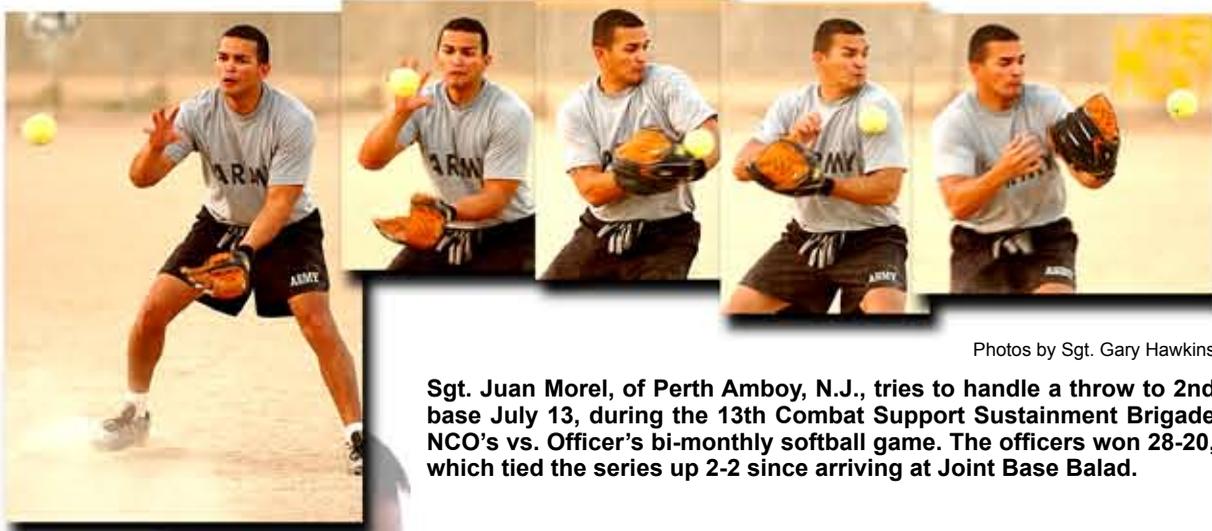
"The ability of (Soldiers to work) on the

ground is based on your ability to support them," said Brig. Gen. Paul E. Lefebvre, Deputy Commander of MNC-I. "Sadr City looked as if it was out of control until (air weapons teams) entered the picture, and led to the peace that we have now."

Task Force 12, and the rest of the Soldiers assigned to US Army Europe's 12th Combat Aviation Brigade, will finish their deployment early this fall. Eden's thanked the Soldiers working at both JBB and Camp Taji, and encouraged them to finish strong.

"I have every confidence that we will continue to accomplish this mission in the same manner that has made us so successful thus far," he said. "We must go all the way through the tape. There is still much to do, and we will not let up until we are mission complete."

TF 49 will transfer operations to Baghdad International Airport, in support of Multi-National Division - Center.



Photos by Sgt. Gary Hawkins

Sgt. Juan Morel, of Perth Amboy, N.J., tries to handle a throw to 2nd base July 13, during the 13th Combat Support Sustainment Brigade NCO's vs. Officer's bi-monthly softball game. The officers won 28-20, which tied the series up 2-2 since arriving at Joint Base Balad.

13th C S

NCOS

VS

OFFICERS

Sgt. Daniel Obrzut, a Fort Hood, Texas, native, prepares to snag a hot shot to short stop.



Staff Sgt. Brad Bush, a Blakely, Ga., native, smacks the ball sending it to left field while 1st Lt. Joie Bier, stationed at Fort Campbell, Ky., and a Pleasanton Kan., native, sits behind home plate waiting patiently for the ball.



2nd Lt. Aaron Reedy, from Clarksville, Tenn., isn't able to stretch quite far enough as the ball just barely goes over his glove.

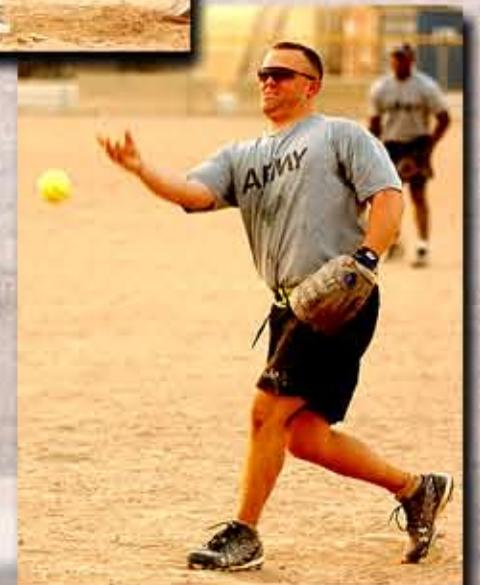


Sgt. Lois Poulson, from Salisbury, Md., takes a swing at a pitch, during the 13th Combat Support Sustainment Brigade NCO's vs. Officer's bi-monthly softball game.

Sgt. 1st. Class Tony O'Neal, a Columbus, Miss., native, lets a rocket go as he throws to first base.



Background Photo: Cpt. Gave Howard, a Blakely, Ga., native, jacks a towering fly ball to center field, which was caught for the third out of that inning.



Cpt. Max Donaldson, a Smiths Station, Ala., native, lets loose with a slow, high arching curve ball.



Sgt. Rusty Scopano, a Tampa, Fla., native, grabs more dirt than ball while scrambling to gain control during the 13th Combat Support Sustainment Brigade NCO's vs. Officer's bi-monthly softball game.



Lt. Col. Tim Sullivan, a Hampton Cove, Ala., native, makes a clean play at second base.



Staff Sgt. Tanya Thompson, a O'Fallon, Ill., native, slams a shot to right field for a base hit.



Maj. Jose Solis, a Rio Piedras, Puerto Rico, native, makes perfect contact for a hot shot to center field for a base hit.

Sustainment Support Battalion



Background Photo: Sgt. Cory Cobb, from Thomaston, Ga., concentrates on the soft touch and slow release of a pitch, during the 13th Combat Support Sustainment Brigade NCO's vs. Officer's bi-monthly softball game.

Bi-monthly, Sunday evening softball game.

Officers won 20-18, tying the series 2 games each.



Left: 1st Lt. Joie Bier, from Pleasanton, Kan., prepares to kill the ball.

Top: Sgt. Rust Scopano, a Tampa, Fla., native, gives up the "five" to Staff sgt. Tanya Thompson, from O'Fallon, Ill., after blasting a homerun over the left field fence.

Right: Sgt. 1st Class Benjamin Ruffin, a Fort Bragg, N.C., native, catches the ball at 1st base where the rule is "tie goes to the runner."



Ophthalmologists keep an eye on Soldiers, locals

by Air Force Staff Sgt. Mareshah Haynes
332nd Air Expeditionary Wing

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq - Eye doctors deployed to the Air Force Theater Hospital in Iraq see more than twice as many eye traumas than they encounter at their home stations. Among their patients are Iraqis and American servicemembers who have suffered eyesight-threatening injuries.

Ophthalmologists can't always save their patients' sight, but they work hard to give patients a new outlook. They use their skills to reconstruct patients' eye sockets and prepare them for prosthetic eyes, said Col. (Dr.) Randall Beatty, an ophthalmologist assigned to the 332nd Expeditionary Medical Operations Squadron here.

"The worst cases have been the ones where both eyes have been destroyed, and these people who are blinded have to deal with living in this culture," said Beatty, a reservist who is deployed here from Wilford Hall Medical Center at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas. "This is a harder life. They don't have the social services like we have back home."

Injuries frequently result from improvised explosive device blasts and gunshot wounds to the face. According to the Military Combat Eye Protection Program, eye injuries account for more than 10 percent of combat-related injuries, more than half of which are the results of IED blasts. The MCEPP was initiated and funded by the Program Executive Office-Soldier at Fort Belvoir, Va., with the objective of making eye armor universal during field opera-

tions.

"A lot of these (injuries) are preventable by the eye protection that our troops have," Beatty said. "Iraqis don't have the goggles and things that we have. We see many more eye injuries in the Iraqi army, Iraqi security forces and civilians that we're not seeing in the American (servicemembers)."

Eye doctors here primarily treat traumas to the eyelid, eye socket and eyeball, Beatty said.

"Most ophthalmologists back home perform cataract surgery or refraction surgery to correct nearsightedness or farsightedness. Here we're dealing with traumas taking out eyes and (eye) reconstruction," Beatty said.

At home station, ophthalmologists typically see penetrating trauma with one point of entry, which makes it easier to save the eye. Here, however, eye injuries usually involve several foreign bodies such as rocks, shrapnel and concrete, said Maj. (Dr.) Robert Lyons, an ophthalmologist deployed to the 332nd EMDOS from Lackland Air Force Base, Texas.

Because injuries in the combat zone are so severe, doctors can't always save patients' eyes. The doctors instead perform a procedure, wherein they remove the eye altogether and prepare the patient's eye socket for a prosthetic.

"We do the surgery so that there's a pocket there that's safe and smooth -- like the inside of your lip -- to hold the artificial eye so that it'll move," Beatty said. "We attach the eye muscles to the implant so they have movement when the artificial eye is

in place."

Doctors typically use a ball implant for patients, but many of the patients at the Air Force Theater Hospital have compromised immune systems from other injuries, and patients' bodies are more likely to reject the implant. The doctors had to develop an alternative surgical method.

"We take about a quarter-sized piece of skin from their abdomen -- it's called a dermal fat graft -- and we rub off the top layer of skin. Then we put that fat and dermis into the eye socket and attach the eye muscle to it and that'll serve as the implant," Beatty said. "That way it has more surfaces to hold the prosthesis and there's no risk of it being extruded or exposed like the hard ball (implant)."

The enucleation procedure takes a few hours, and patients have to wait six to eight weeks for the swelling to subside before they can be fitted with a color prosthesis. Afterward, they see an oculist, who fashions artificial eyes from the same materials used to make hard contact lenses and teaches patients how to care for their prosthetics.

In the meantime, Beatty said the doctors at the Air Force Theater Hospital fit enucleation patients with conformers, devices similar to the artificial eyes they'll receive later in their treatment. The conformer is like a large clear hard contact lens that fits over the entire eye.

The prosthetic eyes give patients a renewed sense of self-confidence, Beatty said.

"If we can give an Iraqi patient an artificial eye, it looks just like a real eye," Beatty



Photo by Air Force Senior Airman Julianne Showalter
Col. (Dr.) Randall Beatty, 332nd Expeditionary Medical Operations Squadron ophthalmologist and orbital oculoplastics specialist, encounters many eye trauma cases that require his special skills to reconstruct patients' eye sockets and prepare them for prosthetic eyes. Beatty is reservist deployed from Lackland Air Force Base, Texas.

said. "A real artificial eye costs \$3,500 in the United States, but we can get them something that works well enough, and it doesn't cost them a thing."

The eye may be free, but its value to a patient - a new outlook on life - is priceless.

BG Lally visits Camp Taji



Photo by Sgt. Jennifer Schweizer

CAMP TAJI, Iraq - Brig. Gen. Michael Lally, commanding general of the 3d Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), presents Brig. Gen. Abdul Mahady Sharaq Sabah, Iraqi Security Force Commander, with a coin during his visit to the 1st Sustainment Brigade July 12.

Safeguarding your property

by Capt. Lisa Kopczynski
76th Infantry Bde Combat Team

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq - Awareness and safekeeping of personal belongings, as well as equipment, is the key to good physical security here on base.

Crime statistics on base have decreased over the last six months, but awareness still remains a key initiative for the garrison mayor cell command group.

"Larceny is the number one

crime committed on Joint Base Balad," said Army Capt. Thomas Westrick, Jr., 76th Infantry Brigade Combat Team provost marshal. A majority of the larceny cases we handle involves victims that failed to properly secure their equipment."

"Based on what we've seen, JBB residents taking time to present themselves as "hard targets", for example following the tips we provided, has yet to find themselves as a victim of crime," said Air Force Capt. Christopher

R. Robinson, detachment commander, 332nd Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron, provost marshal."

For more information or questions contact the Office of the Provost Marshal, Joint Base Balad, Capt. Thoma Westrick, DSN: 312-433-2840, email: thomas.westrick@iraq.centcom.mil or Capt. Chris Robinson, DSN: 318-443-6181, email: chris.robinson@blab.afcent.af.mil or you can call the Military Police Desk at DSN: 318-443-8602

Tips to Take to Avoid Being a Victim of Larceny:

1. Never leave your military gear unsecured. Never leave gear in the beds of pick-up trucks or inside vehicles unlocked.
2. Utilize the buddy system. Always have someone watch your gear if you need to walk away from it for even the shortest period of time; thieves are extremely quick at taking advantage of a situation.
3. Take care when inviting guests into your housing unit, don't leave high-dollar items out where guests can observe them and return later to steal them.

4. Secure your valuables inside your housing unit. Lock up all valuables, such as computers, IPODs, video game systems, and all other expensive electronics inside footlockers or other containers. Thieves are usually quick about getting into and out of a housing unit; they rarely want to risk the time and effort required to break into a secured footlocker.

5. Take the time to write down the serial numbers to all of your high priced electronic items. You can also put your own personal identifier on any of your items that don't have a serial number for.

The provost marshal has almost no chance of retrieving your items if you can't provide serial numbers or personal identifiers when making a report.

6. Get to know your neighbors, that way if they observe an unknown individual lurking around your housing unit they may report it to the Provost Marshal or at least they may pay more attention to the individual's appearance and make a better witness later on.

7. Dial 911 or 443-8602 to notify the Provost Marshal Office if you observe any suspicious behavior.

News around Iraq

Iraqi CSWAT teams capture two suspected Special Groups criminals

BALAD, Iraq – Iraqi Company Special Weapons and Tactics teams captured two Special Groups criminals in separate operations around central Iraq July 12.

Hillah CSWAT captured a Special Groups criminal believed to be responsible for weapons smuggling and improvised explosive device, indirect fire and small arms fire attacks against Iraqi and Coalition forces. The man is said to be planning future attacks, and is suspected of conducting an IED attack against the Quick Reaction Force from the Hillah U.S. Regional Embassy Office in June 2008.

In a separate operation, Kut CSWAT arrested a suspected Special Groups criminal leader on a Wasit Provincial warrant for terrorism. The suspect is said to be a member of a weapons smuggling cell known for storing and distributing explosively formed projectiles. He is also suspected of IED and EFP attacks against Iraqi and Coalition forces.

“The Iraqi Company Special Weapons and Tactics teams are determined to pursue all criminals and provide a secure and stable environment for the people of Iraq,” said Lt. Col. Neil Harper, a spokesperson for Multi-National Corps – Iraq.”

Soccer game attacked: IP and SOI killed

TIKRIT, Iraq – An Iraqi Police officer and a Sons of Iraq member were killed as a result of anti-Iraqi forces firing upon a soccer game south of Duluyiah July 13.

Two Iraqi civilians and a Sons of Iraq member were wounded in the attack, including a nine-year-old child.

“To fire upon a soccer game where the people of Iraq are starting to enjoy normalcy and happiness is another example of the barbaric nature of the insurgents,” said Maj. Peggy Kageleiry, spokesperson for Multi-National Division - North. “To open fire at a soccer game where children are in attendance is horrific.”

Combined effort nets two VBIEDs, six detainees

TIKRIT, Iraq – Iraqi Police and Multi-National Division – Baghdad Soldiers searched a known enemy hideout, and located two vehicle-borne improvised explosive devices and detained six during an early-morning operation east of Balad July 12.

“Countless lives were saved today as a result of seizing and destroying these VBIEDs before al-Qaeda could use them,” said Lt. Col. Thomas Hauerwas, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division executive officer. “There is no way of knowing how many innocent people would have been killed or injured by the cold-blooded killers who constructed them.”

ISF crack down on criminal activity in northern Iraq

BALAD, Iraq – Iraqi Security Forces demonstrated their ability to gather intelligence and plan and execute operations to disrupt criminal activities as they detained 11 suspected criminals July 12 in separate operations throughout northern Iraq.

The 9th Iraqi Army Division detained five suspected al-Qaeda in Iraq criminals in Taji Shores about 24 km north of Baghdad. The men are suspected of manufacturing and employing improvised explosive devices and selling them to insurgents. Four of these targeted individuals had Government of Iraq warrants for their arrest issued by the Supreme Court of Iraq.

The suspects reportedly conducted IED and indirect fire attacks against Coalition forces and participated in an IED attack earlier this year, which killed one U.S. Soldier. This cell is also believed to be instrumental in supporting the Children of Heaven element of AQI by acquiring, storing, building and emplacing IEDs, and aiding their efforts to destabilize the credibility of the Coalition forces and GoI among the local population.

In a separate operation in Mosul, Iraqi Special Operations Forces detained four suspected members of the Islamic State of Iraq, a front organization for AQI. The suspects are reportedly part of a murder and kidnapping cell that intimidates local citizens to keep them fearful and distrusting of ISF. This area of Mosul is reported to be an insurgent stronghold,

where terrorists have sought safe haven. Reports indicate that there has been a rise in IED activity along the local routes. During the operation, ISOF also detained another person suspected of associating with this cell.

In an operation in Baqubah, around 51 km north of Baghdad, the Baqubah Special Weapons and Tactics team captured a suspected criminal responsible for financing AQI activities and coordinating female suicide bomber attacks.

He is believed to have orchestrated the last three successful female suicide bomber attacks in Baqubah, including the most recent incident near the Diyala government center. These suicide bombings not only target ISF, but local Iraqi citizens.

In an operation near Tal Afar, approximately 60 km west of Mosul, the 3rd Iraqi Army Division captured a suspected criminal reported to be an AQI intelligence officer and courier. He is reportedly associated with smuggling networks operating along the Iraqi-Syrian border.

While conducting an operation near Salah ad-Din, about 98 km east of Mosul, the Salah ad-Din Province ISWAT recovered several hundred pounds of ammonium nitrate and destroyed two vehicle-borne IEDs. The operation was conducted to disrupt a known AQI safe haven where fighters use suicide vests. There are also reports that a female suicide bomber cell may be associated with the AQI in this area.

Daughters of Iraq graduate

DIYALA, Iraq – Iraqi women graduated from a security training course at the Alabarrah Police Station in the Diyala Province of Iraq to become members of the Daughters of Iraq July 13.

One-hundred-and-thirty women attended the course and 70 represented them at the graduation.

Several Iraqi children celebrated the occasion by joyfully belting out the Iraqi National Anthem to a crowd of women ready to assist with the protection of their nation.

“We have seen some courageous, strong women stand up and volunteer for this training to help defend their country,” said Lt. Col. Robert McAleer, commander, Fires Squadron, 2nd Stryker Cavalry Regiment, as he addressed the crowd of graduates.

The Daughters of Iraq is a sister organization to the Sons of Iraq that seeks to employ more Iraqi women in roles that help provide and improve security for their nation.

“The four-day course the Iraqi women attended focused mainly on searching vehicles and personnel for weapons and explosives,” said Capt. Charles Knoll, commander, Charlie Battery, Fires Squadron, 2nd Stryker Cavalry Regiment. “There’s a critical need to have Iraqi females who can help search other Iraqi females. This will help us better detect and deter female suicide bombers

in the future.”

They have performed excellently in the training they have received over the last week. You can really see they have a willingness to do what is necessary to secure their villages, said Knoll.

“At first, you could tell some of the Iraqi women were hesitant. They were a little shy, but they’ve really opened up and embraced the training,” said 2nd Lt. Rachel Roberts, a Fire Support Officer with Charlie Battery, Fires Squadron, 2nd Stryker Cavalry Regiment.

The recent upsurge in female suicide bombers in the Diyala Province was one factor in the creation of the Daughters of Iraq.

There was a need to have more Iraqi women who were qualified to search other Iraqi women and this course will allow that to occur.

Around 130 Iraqi women attended the course led by Iraqi Police to become members of the Daughters of Iraq.

The Daughters of Iraq graduation was the first to occur in the Diyala region. The goal is to continue the program and seek to enroll more women in the course.

“What we have seen here today is leadership and vision,” said McAleer.

The recent graduates will now be stationed throughout the Diyala Province in key locations where their expertise will be put to use improving security.



Remote control cars at JBB VFW sends care packages from home



Photo by Pfc. Amanda Tucker

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq - Chief Warrant Officer Sean O'mara, a Berlin, Germany, native, and black hawk pilot for 3158th Aviation Bravo Company, 12th Combat Aviation Brigade, based at Katterbach, Germany, jumps his remote controlled race car on the new track built adjacent to the United Service Organization July 14.



Photo by Pfc. Amanda Tucker

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq - Left to Right: Spc. Brandon Mendez, a Puerto Rico native, Pvt. 1st Class Eric Reed, a Clarksville, Tn., native, and Pvt. 1st Class Jason Dennis, a Clarksville, Tn., native, all drivers for the Delta Forward Support Company 1-32nd Cavalry, based out of Fort Campbell, Ky., look through care packages, July 15, put together and sent to Joint Base Balad, Iraq, by the Veterans of Foreign Wars in Reading, Pa.

602nd Maint. Co. offers calibration services

by Spc. Anthony Hooker

Expeditionary Times staff

JOINT BASE BALAD, IRAQ – The Test Measurement Diagnostic Equipment section of the 602nd Maintenance Company put out an “Open for business” proclamation to all units stationed on Joint Base Balad and surrounding forward operating bases. The 602nd supports the civilian TMDE operations here, but also offers the opportunity to visit their shop.

Working out of a 40-foot by 8-foot trailer, the seven-person team from Fort Hood, Texas has been calibrating parts on Balad since April 2007. Sgt. 1st Class Patrick Shelborne, the section’s senior noncommissioned officer, said armored units, as well as aviation, signal and tanker battalions benefited from the TMDE section’s services.

Shelborne, a native of Harker Heights, Texas, said the section supported over 200 units back at Hood and built a solid reputation.

“The (3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment) regularly has folks from different FOBs use us because of our work in the past.”

Shelborne said units will be treated to a ‘one-stop shop.’

“Unless there is a part that needs to be sent off or ordered, we can fix (an item) and get it back to you the same day,” said Shelborne.

Shelborne said the unit’s primary mission is to make sure any instrument they receive operates within the limits of its capabilities.

“When a unit gets that piece of equipment back, they know we’ve tested it and it is well within standard(s),” Shelborne said.

One of only six military TMDE shops in Iraq, the 602nd received an ‘outstanding’ rating from the Army after their last inspection. Shelborne said his team has successfully repaired



Photo by Spc. Anthony Hooker

Sgt. Anthony Kasco and Spc. Kimberlee Grass, both members of the 602nd Maintenance Company, observe a computer reading during a calibration at the Test Measurement Diagnostic Equipment.

or calibrated between 8,000 and 10,000 pieces of equipment since arriving in theater. He speculated that normal TMDE units usually take 10 days for instrument calibration and up to 30 days for instrument repair; the 602nd, according to Shelborne, normally takes no more than six days to calibrate parts and just 10 days to fix an item.

Most orders are done on site but technicians will go to outlying areas if items, such as scales and trucks, cannot be brought in. Shelborne said the services are based on the order of submitted requests, but that exceptions are made to get items calibrated for convoys or logistical patrols that are traveling from other FOBs.

Sgt. Joseph Bendy, the shop’s assistant NCOIC, said the group often finds a lot of operator faults. Bendy said all operators must know their equipment capabilities and how the

environment may affect it.

“Extreme weather, like heat, affects equipment,” Dendy said. “Humidity and temperature are big factors of things that can affect electronic equipment. You have to use operator ‘common sense’ . . . going back to the operator’s manual, looking at how to use the equipment and what it’s capable of.”

Bendy added certain types of equipment require more attention because of their tolerances or how they operate. Torque wrenches, calipers, and micrometers are physical tools that can handle environmental stress; in contrast, devices that use oscillators, which put out a steady frequency, can become internally unbalanced. If the frequency drifts too far, the oscillator will be out of tolerance.

“Maybe (people) don’t have a chance to keep equipment within its operating parameters,” said Bendy, “but if soldiers go outside of those parameters, there’s no guarantee that their signal will be operating where we calibrate it at.”

Ultimately, Bendy said it’s his responsibility to set an operator or a mechanic up for success.

“When someone uses their test equipment, they need to know the equipment is accurate and reliable,” he said. “It should be good unless the equipment is damaged.”

As one of only six military TMDEs in the Iraqi theater, Shelborne said the unit will remain proactive during their time in country. Whether it’s keeping up relations with their TMDE counterparts or creating word of mouth buzz through a reliable contact at the Convoy Support Center, the 602nd wants all members of the Coalition Forces to know they are open for business.

“It doesn’t matter what branch a unit is from . . . British, Australian,” said Shelborne, “as long as they’re on the side of the Coalition, we will service them.”

Photo favorites for the week



Photo by Sgt. Jennifer Schweizer

Command Sgt. Major James Martin, prepares to accompany Lt. Colonel Robert Burke and Brig. Gen Michael Lally, 3d Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) commanding general, up one of the guard towers under their control during Lally's visit to Camp Taji here July 12.



Photo by Spc. Anthony Hooker

Sgt. Thalia Rodriguez, a member of 2nd Battalion, 320th Field Artillery Regiment's Headquarters and Headquarters Company, hands out dental supplies during a humanitarian aid mission in Al Boitar July 10.

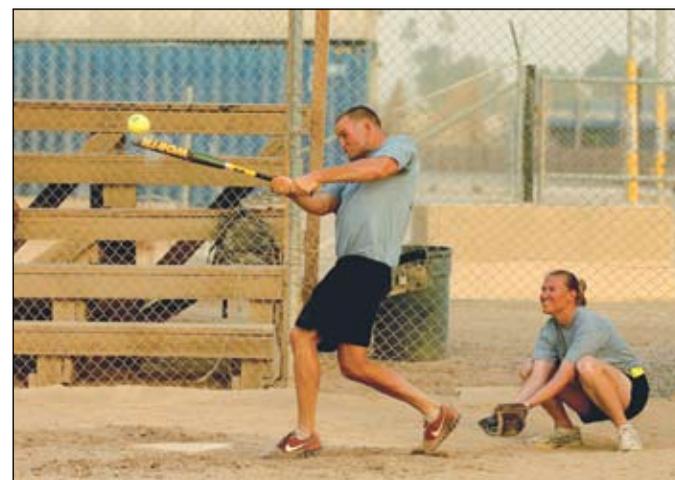


Photo by Sgt. Gary Hawkins

Staff Sgt. Brad Bush, a Blakely, Ga., native, smacks the ball sending it to left field while 1st Lt. Joie Bier, stationed at Fort Campbell, Ky., and a Pleasanton Kan., native, sits behind home plate waiting patiently for the ball during the 13th Combat Support Sustainment Brigade NCO's vs. Officer's bi-monthly softball game.

Retraction from last week



Pfc. Amanda Tucker

Correction on the caption should read: Capt. Henry Vasquez, the 330th Transportation Battalion's battle captain, prepares to receive a "love tap," during his promotion ceremony, from Lt. Col. Ronald Ross, his battalion commander, in the 3d Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) Joint Operations Center July 1.



Petty Officer 2nd Class
Herbert D. Banks

America's warrior

A snapshot of servicemembers in the Global War on Terrorism

Full name and rank: Petty Officer 2nd Class Herbert D. Banks.

Unit: Combined Joint Special Operations Task Force-Arabian Peninsula.

Job title: Combat cameraman.

Time in service: 10 years.

Hometown: Washington D. C.

Pastimes: Spending time with family, playing scrabble.

Life changing event: The birth of my child.

Lesson learned: Having faith in a dream without labor is simply a fantasy.

Why I joined the military: I was way too immature for college.

If I wasn't in the military: I would join the military. One thing I think the military got right: Starting a mentorship for juniors.

What makes a good servicemember: One who's honest, maintains integrity and is 100 percent committed to the job at hand.

Unusual fact about you: I listen to Bon Jovi's Dead or Alive before every mission.

Goals: Retire from a successful naval career and own an apparel company.

Hardest part of the job: Being away from the family.

Best part of the job: The adventure.

Motivations: The thought of knowing other challenges are ahead.

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 sticked fighting combative 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- 3 p.m. and 8 p.m.

9-ball tournament: Wednesday- 3 p.m. and 8 p.m.

Game Console Tourney: Thursday- 8 p.m.

Country Dance Class: Thursday- 7 p.m.

Dominoes: Friday- 8 p.m.

Karaoke: Monday- 8 p.m.

Model building: Sunday- 1 p.m.

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

Poker tourney: Sunday- 6 p.m.

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

Swing dance: Tuesday- 7p.m.

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

WEST RECREATION CENTER

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

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

Dungeons & Dragons: Saturday- 8 p.m.

Friday- 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 Jiu 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 23

5 p.m. Journey to Center of Earth
8 p.m. Iron Man

Thursday, July 24

5 p.m. Indiana Jones
8 p.m. Journey to Center of Earth

Friday, July 25

2 p.m. Don't Mess with the Zohan
5 p.m. The Dark Knight
8 p.m. The Dark Knight

Saturday, July 26

2 p.m. The Happening
5 p.m. Don't Mess with the Zohan
8 p.m. The Dark Knight

Sunday, July 27

2 p.m. The Dark Knight
5 p.m. The Happening
8 p.m. Don't Mess with the Zohan

Monday, July 28

5 p.m. Don't Mess with the Zohan
8 p.m. The Dark Knight

Tuesday, July 29

5 p.m. The Dark Knight
8 p.m. The Happening

(Schedule is subject to change)

Next Week

The Happening
Don't Mess with the Zohan

New Movies

The Happening



Philadelphia high-school science teacher Elliot Moore (Mark Wahlberg) is discussing the disappearance of the bees with his students when the staff is summoned to the theater and briefed about a mysterious event that is currently unfolding in New York City. According to reports, citizens in the vicinity of Central Park have suddenly and inexplicably begun seizing up just before killing themselves by whatever means are at their disposal. As the phenomena begins

to spread and talk of terrorism fills the airwaves, Elliot, his wife, Alma (Zooey Deschanel), their friend Julian (John Leguizamo), and his daughter, Jess (Ashlyn Sanchez), board a train bound for the presumed safety of the country. It would appear that humankind's reign on planet Earth has come to an end, but perhaps if this small band of survivors can find a safe place to lie low until this all blows over, all hope for survival of the species might not be lost just yet.

Don't Mess with the Zohan



Tired of all the fighting in his country, legendary Israeli commando Zohan (Adam Sandler) fakes his own death and goes to New York, where he can fulfill his fondest dream: to become a hairstylist. Zohan's sexy way with a cut and curl makes him a hit with Manhattan's women, but when enemy Arabs spot him, Zohan has to call on his military skills if he is ever to wield scissors again. I Now Pronounce You Chuck and Larry's Dennis Dugan directs for Happy Madison Productions and Columbia Pictures.

The Dark Knight



Christian Bale returns to the role of Batman, Maggie Gyllenhaal takes over the role of Rachel Dawes, and Heath Ledger dons the ghoulishly gleeful Joker makeup previously worn by Jack Nicholson and Cesar Romero. Just as it begins to appear as if Batman, Lt. James Gordon (Gary Oldman), and District Attorney Harvey Dent (Aaron Eckhart) are making headway in their tireless battle against the criminal element, a maniacal, wisecracking fiend plunges the streets of Gotham City into complete chaos and forces the Dark Knight ever closer to crossing the fine line between hero and vigilante.

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.

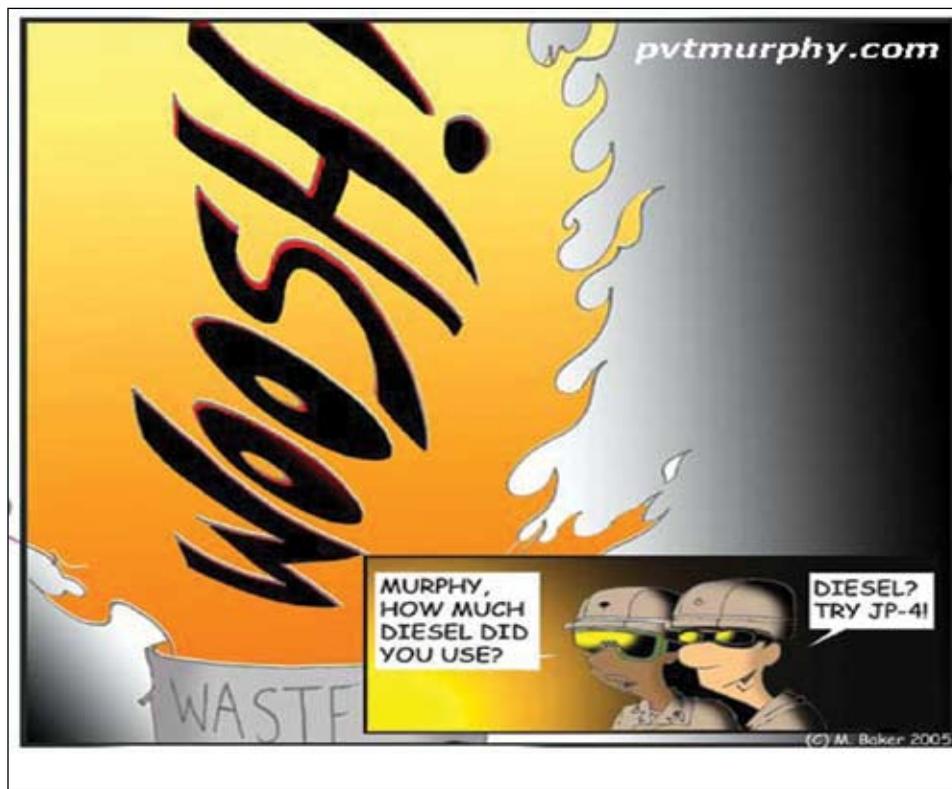
Mississippi

- Exterior burglar bars which are viewable from the street are not allowed.
- It is unlawful to shave in the center of main street.
- Horses are not to be housed within 50 feet of any road.
- Private citizens may personally arrest any person that disturbs a church service.

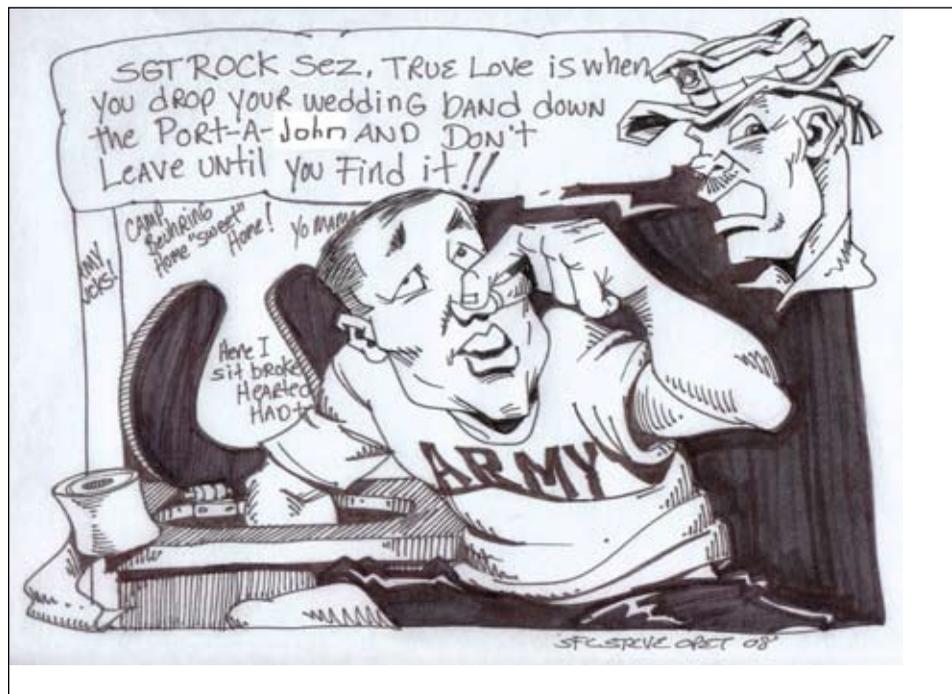
Missouri

- Minors are not allowed to purchase cap pistols, however they may buy shot-guns freely.
- Frightening a baby is in violation of the law.
- No person may own a PVC pipe.
- It's illegal to sit on the curb of any city street and drink beer from a bucket.

PVT. MURPHY'S LAW



Iraq according to Opet



Sudoku

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.

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

Upcoming sports on AFN

Wednesday 7/23/2008

MLB- Philadelphia Phillies @ New York Mets AFN/xtra 2 a.m.
 Cycling- Tour de France: Cuneo to Jausiers AFN/sports 10 a.m.
 MLB- Chicago Cubs @ Arizona Diamondbacks AFN/sports 3 p.m.
 MLB- Minnesota Twins @ New York Yankees AFN/sports 8 p.m.

Thursday 7/24/2008

MLB- ESPN Wednesday Night Baseball: Teams TBD AFN/sports 2 a.m.
 Cycling- Tour de France: Embrun to L'Alpe-d'Huez AFN/sports 10 a.m.
 MLB- Atlanta Braves @ Florida Marlins AFN/sports 2 p.m.
 MLB- Philadelphia Phillies @ New York Mets AFN/sports 7 p.m.

Friday 7/25/2008

MLS- West Ham United @ MLS All Stars AFN/xtra 2 a.m.
 MLB- Milwaukee Brewers @ St. Louis Cardinals AFN/sports 3 a.m.
 AMA Motocross- Wortham AFN/xtra 6 a.m.
 Cycling- Tour de France: Bourg d'Oisans to Saint Etienne AFN/sports 10 a.m.
 MLB- San Diego Padres @ Pittsburgh Pirates AFN/sports 3 p.m.
 MLB- Florida Marlins @ Chicago Cubs AFN/sports 9 p.m.

Saturday 7/26/2008

NBA- USA vs Canada AFN/sports 3 a.m.
 MLB- Texas Rangers @ Oakland Athletics AFN/sports 5 a.m.
 MLB- Arizona Diamondbacks @ San Francisco Giants AFN/prime pacific 5 a.m.
 AMA Motocross- Wortham AFN/xtra 8 a.m.
 Cycling- Tour de France: Roanne to Montieucon AFN/sports 10 a.m.
 Cycling- Tour de France: Cerilly to St. Amand-Montrond AFN/sports 2:30 p.m.
 MLB- Florida Marlins @ Chicago Cubs AFN/sports 8 p.m.
 MLB- Seattle Mariners @ Toronto Blue Jays AFN/prime atlantic 8 p.m.

AMA Motocross- Mt. Morris AFN/xtra 9 p.m.
 MLB- Atlanta Braves @ Philadelphia Phillies AFN/xtra 10:30 p.m.
 MLB- New York Yankees @ Boston Red Sox AFN/sports 11 p.m.

Sunday 7/27/2008

MLB- Chicago White Sox @ Detroit Tigers AFN/sports 2 a.m.
 MLB- Houston Astros @ Milwaukee Brewers AFN/prime atlantic 2 a.m.
 NASCAR- Kroger 200 AFN/xtra 3 a.m., 1 p.m.
 MLB- Arizona Diamondbacks @ San Francisco Giants AFN/xtra 5 a.m.
 MLB- Washington Nationals @ Los Angeles Dodgers AFN/sports 5 a.m.
 IndyCar- Edmonton Indy AFN/xtra 8 a.m.
 MLB- St. Louis Cardinals @ New York Mets AFN/xtra 10 a.m.
 Cycling- Tour de France: Etampes to Paris AFN/sports 2:30 p.m., 8 p.m.
 MLB- Los Angeles Angels @ Baltimore Orioles AFN/xtra 5 p.m.
 MLB- St. Louis Cardinals @ New York Mets AFN/prime atlantic 8 p.m.
 NASCAR- Allstate 400 AFN/xtra 9 p.m.

Monday 7/28/2008

AMA Motocross- Mt. Morris AFN/xtra 1 a.m.
 MLS- Los Angeles Galaxy @ FC Dallas AFN/xtra 2 a.m.
 MLB- New York Yankees @ Boston Red Sox AFN/sports 3 a.m.
 MLS- Columbus Crew @ Colorado Rapids AFN/xtra 4:30 a.m.
 MLB- Chicago White Sox @ Detroit Tigers AFN/xtra 7 a.m.
 MLB- Florida Marlins @ Chicago Cubs AFN/xtra 10 a.m.
 MLB- New York Yankees @ Boston Red Sox AFN/sports 10 a.m.
 NHRA- Fram-Autolite NHRA Nationals AFN/xtra 5 p.m.

Tuesday 7/29/2008

MLB- Chicago White Sox @ Minnesota Twins AFN/xtra 3 a.m.
 MLB- Chicago Cubs @ Milwaukee Brewers AFN/sports 3 p.m.

Word Jumble

Spell out the words using the letters provided with each line. Then use the circled letters to answer the question.

Soldiers work in these types of conditions...

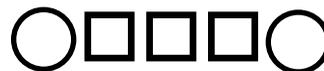
1. V B L E A I A R



2. T D U S



3. H I N E S



4. N A R I



ANSWER : ○○○○○○○○

EXPEDITIONARY TIMES' READERSHIP SURVEY

Please fill out this survey and mail it back to the Public Affairs Office Bldg # 4136, Joint Base Balad 09391. Circle or write your answers accordingly.

1. What unit are you in?

- 3d ESC or it's subordinate units
- 332nd AEW
- 20th EN
- AMC
- 402nd AFSB
- TF 49 or their subordinate units
- Civilian Contractor (KBR, etc.)
- 2-320th FAR
- 5-82 FAR
- Other _____ (please specify)

2. Which service are you from?

- Army
- Navy
- Air Force
- Marines
- Coast Guard
- DA Civilain
- Contractor

3. What is your age?

- 18-24
- 25-32
- 33-39
- 40-46
- 47-50
- 50-55
- 55+

4. How often do you read the ET?

- Every week
- 2-3 times a month
- Once a month
- Never, because _____

5. How much of the ET do you read?

- All- Every article
- Most- 4 or 5 articles
- Some- 1 to 3 articles
- Little- I just scan the articles and look at the comics
- None

6. In your opinion, what is the mission of the ET?

- Keep readers informed on what is happening at Joint Base Balad
- Keep audiences informed about the operations and activities of the 3d ESC
- Provide a means for commanders of all units across JBB to speak with their command
- Provide the command a means of communicating command and MWR information to all servicemembers on JBB
- Tell the story of the 3d ESC and all its subordinate units across Iraq and allow JBB commanders a mean to reach their servicemembers

7. What is the main reason you read the newspaper?

- Information about my unit
- Information about logistics operations across Iraq
- Schedules of MWR events and activities on JBB
- Games/comics
- Sporting event results/schedules
- Other _____

8. How do you rate the ET overall content and appearance? (Text size, overall article quality, photographs, placement, etc.)

- Excellent
- Good
- Average
- Fair
- Poor

9. Where do you usually pick-up the ET?

- JBB Dining Facility
- JBB MWR Facility
- JBB Passenger Terminal
- Second hand- after someone else reads it
- A FOB off of JBB (Taji, Tallil, etc.)
- Other _____

10. On a scale of 1-10. rate the following content currently found in the ET as your least favorite (1) to most favorite (10).

	Least			Indifferent				Most			
* Awards/Ceremonies.....	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	N/A
* MWR Events on JBB.....	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	N/A
* Sports.....	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	N/A
* Commander/CSM articles.....	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	N/A
* Provost Marshal's Blotter.....	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	N/A
* 3d ESC/ subordinate's operations....	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	N/A
* JBB tenant unit operations/events....	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	N/A
* Command information articles.....	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	N/A
(Fraternization, EO, SARC, etc.)											
* Photos of the Week.....	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	N/A
* Other- _____	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	N/A

11. We are thinking about putting new content in the ET. Rate the following content ideas from 1-10 (1-bad idea, 10-great idea), according to what you would like to see in the paper.

	Bad			Indifferent				Awesome			
* Financial advice columns.....	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	N/A
* Stock market summary.....	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	N/A
* Re-prints of major sports prints.....	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	N/A
* Cultural Awareness Column.....	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	N/A
* Legal Advice.....	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	N/A
* In-depth PMO blotter.....	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	N/A
* Dining Facility menus.....	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	N/A
* Personnel and Finance issues.....	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	N/A
* Comics page.....	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	N/A
* Commentaries/Letters to the Editor..	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	N/A
* Trivia.....	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	N/A
* Historical Articles.....	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	N/A
* Lost and Found.....	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	N/A
* Health and nutrition advice.....	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	N/A
* Crossword puzzles.....	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	N/A

12. Currently, what do you like best about the paper?

13. What do you like least about the paper?

14. Give us your ideas. If you could put one feature in the paper, what would it be?

15. Should each service on JBB have its own newspaper?

- yes
- no

16. Do you think there needs to be a weekly newspaper covering all activities and units on JBB?

- yes
- no

17. If you had a choice of the following ways to get information/stories about the 3d ESC and its units on and off JBB, which would you choose?

- website
- command TV channel/ weekly TV show
- radio station
- weekly newspaper
- monthly magazine

18. If you had if you had one choice of the following ways to get information/stories about JBB, which would you choose?

- website
- command TV channel/ weekly TV show
- radio station
- weekly newspaper
- monthly magazine