

JOINT BASE BALAD'S
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES
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Vol. 1, Issue 7



Photo by Spc. Charlotte Martinez

During a live burn training exercise two Soldiers from the 548th Quartermaster Company spray an Armored Security Vehicle with a chemical called 'Purple K' at Al Asad July 25 as part of their training to go from automated logistics specialists to a fire suppressant team.

From logistics specialist To fire support

by Spc. Charlotte Martinez

Expeditionary Times staff

AL ASAD, Iraq – Soldiers traveling on convoys are focused on many different things to include traffic, townspeople, and watching for improvised explosive devices while rolling down the road, so if a vehicle were to catch on fire, what can you do? Who do you call if a fire were to happen during your convoy?

Typically automated logistics specialists, are administrative, warehouse and supply personnel. However, for the 584th Maintenance Company, based out of Ft. Campbell, Ky., those words meant very little when they arrived in

“(Safety) is the difference between a team succeeding at their mission and failing it.”

Staff Sgt. Michael Warren
 584th Maintenance Company

Iraq. Instead, this unit very quickly learned the words fire, flexibility and convoys.

These soldiers had to quickly

fall into place as the battalion’s fire suppressant team, they had to start at square one with no training.

“Members of the team support

convoys that leave from Al Asad and are there in case anything happens.” said Staff Sgt. Michael Warren, a Mooresville, N.C., native and platoon sergeant. “They are there to save personnel and equipment.”

Sgt. Fontella Ross, a Clarksville, Tenn., native, said the training exercises allow the team to become familiar with what they need to do if a vehicle catches on fire during a convoy. She said the training helps the Soldiers react to different scenarios like engine fires, interior fires and the other types of fires.

“To alleviate that, the battalion needed a fire suppressant team,” said Ross “every convoy that goes out, we send a team with them.”

That tasking not only presents the unit with a challenge, but gives Soldiers an opportunity and the experience they would never receive.

“We thought we were going to be working in a warehouse,” said Spc. Domingo Perezchaina, a Miami native and fire suppressant

See **FIRE** pages 8-9



371st steps up for command

371st assumes logistics role in NMD-W

Page 2



Getting the right foot forward

Therapists help injured Iraqis get back on their feet

Page 6



Smiling faces

Children, first signs of the improvement in Balad area

Page 10

PMO Blotter: 24- 30 July

Communicating a threat- A foreign national working in the DRMO yard was overheard making threats against the United States Government and against its citizens. The individual was questioned by intelligence personnel prior to being terminated from his employment and expelled from the installation.

Breaking and Entering- A male suspect broke into the housing unit of two female soldiers in H-4, E Pod. The male was caught in the room by another female soldier in the area. The suspect gave the witness a false name prior to fleeing from the scene. The unidentified male suspect was described as a Caucasian male, approximately 5'8"-5'10", slender build, with strawberry blond colored hair, a mustache, and last seen wearing a tan t-shirt and black gym shorts. The incident occurred in the afternoon.

Breaking and Entering- An unknown suspect broke into a female soldier's room and stole an external hard drive from H-4, C Pod.

Attempted Breaking and Entering- An unknown suspect attempted to break into a soldier's housing unit in H-5, E Pod; the victim noticed marks the front door. The incident occurred in the early morning hours.

Attempted Breaking and Entering- An unknown suspect attempted to break into a female soldier's room in H-7, S Pod. The victim was home at the time of the attempted break-in and heard someone attempting to pry open the door to her housing unit. The incident occurred in the late evening hours.

Major Traffic Accident- A 5 ton truck travelling northbound on New York St struck an up armored HMMWV while attempting to make a left turn onto Sapper St. The 5 ton made too sharp a turn, resulting in the crash.

Stolen Vehicle- An Air Force NCO had his vehicle stolen from the parking lot adjacent to the H-6 ECP. The NCO left the keys in the vehicle, above the visor, at the time of the incident. The vehicle was described as a white Dodge Dakota, VIN # 1D7HE28K365684342, with red tape on the antenna and slight damage to the front and rear bumper. PMO Commentary: It's never a good idea to leave the keys in an unattended vehicle.

Stolen Bicycle- A sailor had his bicycle stolen from outside of his room in H-6, V Pod; the bicycle was unsecured at the time of the incident.

If you have any information in any of the above incidents, contact the Provost Marshal Office: NIPR- 443-8602 SIPR- 242-9982

371st assumes logistics role

by Spc. Charlotte Martinez

Expeditionary Times staff

AI ASAD AIR BASE, Iraq- After a rigorous 15 month tour, the 507th Corps Support Group, under the command of Col. James G. Currie, relinquished its command to the 371st Sustainment Brigade, led by Col. Daniel Tack, during a transfer of authority ceremony at Al Asad Air Base, Iraq, July 27.

"This ceremony represents the official transfer of authority from one unit to the next to let Soldiers know about the significance of what they have done for the outgoing unit and what the incoming unit can hope to achieve," said the 507th CSG, Command Sgt. Maj. Sultan Muhammad.

No one could be more pleased with the efforts of the 507th CSG than the leadership as referenced by Brig. Gen. Michael J. Lally, the commander of the 3d Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) during his speech.

With only 2,600 CSG Soldiers supporting more than 35,000 servicemembers throughout the entire theater of operations, the 507th also served contractors and Department of Defense civilians, Lally said.

The unit drove an extensive 7.6 million miles under some of the harshest combat conditions they could face. That's enough miles to drive from Fayetteville, N.C., to Seattle, Wash., over 1,600 times, Lally said. These Soldiers also executed more than 2,709 combat logistics patrols.

"We took the 'w' out of the wild wild west," said Muhammad.

Currie, whose unit is based out of Fort Bragg, N.C., thanked



Photo by Spc. Charlotte Martinez

Command Sgt. Maj. Sultan Muhammad, the command sergeant major for the 507th Corps Support Group, and Col. James G. Currie, the 507th's commander, case their flag during the transfer of authority ceremony July 27 at Al Asad Air Base.

all of the servicemembers and civilians that helped support the 507th. He specifically thanked those who help them run support hubs out of Al Taqqadum Air Base, Iraq, as well as Al Asad.

The Soldiers of the 507th helped establish the first Iraqi Location Command at Camp Mejid, located on Al Asad, which will serve as a logistics hub for the local Iraqi Security Forces. This Iraqi hub is one of the first of its kind.

The 371st became a Sustainment Brigade in September

2007, and comes with an impressive list of credentials. They Served during Operation Iraqi Freedom One, in Kuwait, to supporting the Hurricane Katrina relief efforts during their time as a Corps Support Group. The 371st became a Sustainment Brigade in September 2007.

"This is your first deployment as a sustainment brigade," said Lally, "and I know that you are excited about writing the next chapter in your unit history."

The 371st will continue to help the 7th Location Command

on Camp Mejid as a part of their mission as well as providing logistics support to Multinational Forces - West, to include running the support hub at Al Taqqadum.

Lally closed his remarks by congratulating the 371st on a well-built team and wishing the 507th God Speed. The 507th will return to Fort Bragg as the 371st takes the reins.

"I anticipate a strong partnership as we work together to sustain, stabilize and unify Iraq," Tack said. "I look forward to a successful year."

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.

Did you know?

by William S. Parrish & Michelle Gray
TRADOC Culture Center

The U.S. Army has a culture center that produces training materials for deploying soldiers. The TRADOC Culture Center is located at Ft. Huachuca, Ariz. The TCC provides the U.S. Army with mission-focused culture education and training. This includes training available for all units and soldiers that prepare to deploy, and enabling all institutional organizations to effectively educate and train culture. The TCC also develops Training Support Packages which focus on the culture of specific regions in the world. The TCC has been invited to be a regular contributor to the Expeditionary Times.

Culture Points

1. It is as difficult to view your own culture from the inside as it is easy to view another culture from the outside.
2. When you find yourself determining the behavior of another culture is wrong, you have identified a cultural chasm worth exploring.
3. Jokes are a cultural minefield: step carefully.
4. Matters of faith are truth to the faithful.
5. Culture is the wide range of ways societies use to adapt to their physical and social environment.

Cultural Reminder

Ramadan will begin on September 1st this year. As many of you are aware, fasting during Ramadan

is one of the Five Pillars of Islam. The Prophet Mohammed chose Ramadan to be spent restfully in prayer and meditation. Ramadan is a very special month, as it is the month in which the Quar'an was first revealed as God's guidance to mankind. Fasting during this month is to make man realize his many blessings and is a means of showing his thanksgiving and gratitude to God. Muslims may eat and drink at night after sundown. "Id al-Fitr" is celebrated at the end of a period of fasting. Eid is an Arabic word which means "a day which returns often." The joy and happiness of the occasion originate mainly from managing to complete the Ramadan fasting and in being nearer to God. Celebration of the feast following Ramadan has a family focus. As a matter of consideration during Ramadan, please refrain from eating in public or in front of your Muslim counterparts.

Helpful Website

You can access the Army Culture Education and Training Curriculum by going to, <http://www.universityofmilitaryintelligence.us/tcc/cultural/default.asp>. Lecture presentations and lesson plans for the Horn of Africa TSP and the Primary Military Education TSP are available. The PME TSP is password protected, in order to access the PME package click "more" under the PME box, then scroll down and click, "Click here to access PME package." You will receive the password prompt (User name: tccreviewer, Password: Huachuca06).

'Hooah' of the week



Photo by Spc. Michael Behlin

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq – Sgt. Oscar Nieves-Martir, 3d Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) communication security custodian and Isabela, Puerto Rico native, is congratulated by Brig. Gen. Michael Lally, 3d ESC commanding general, for being selected this week's "Hooah Soldier of the Week". Nieves-Martir is responsible for providing communications security support to all of Joint Base Balad.

CHESS CLUB

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

WEST SIDE

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.	FREEDOM CHAPEL (WEST SIDE)
8 P.M.	GILBERT MEMORIAL (H-6)
SUNDAY 8:30 A.M.	PROVIDER CHAPEL
11 A.M.	AIR FORCE HOSPITAL CHAPEL
11 A.M.	PROVIDER CHAPEL
MON-SAT 11:45 A.M.	AIR FORCE HOSPITAL CHAPEL
THURSDAY 11 A.M.	PROVIDER CHAPEL
MON,WED,FRI 5P.M.	GILBERT MEMORIAL

LATTER DAY SAINTS-(LDS)-(MORMON)

SUNDAY 1 P.M.	PROVIDER CHAPEL
3:30P.M.	FREEDOM CHAPEL (WEST SIDE)
7 P.M.	GILBERT MEMORIAL (H-6)

JEWISH SHABBAT SERVICES

FRIDAY 6 P.M.	GILBERT MEMORIAL (H-6)
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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.*

Commander maps careful route for gun crew's return

by Staff Sgt. Les Newport

Expeditionary Times staff

MOSUL, Iraq - Capt. Mathew Haywood, commander of A Battery, 163rd Field Artillery Battalion, a Carmi, Ill., native, has an obvious dislike for idleness. He has a precisely defined mission: keep his three platoons operationally prepared to be security escorts for logistical convoys, and wastes as little time as possible making sure they are ready.

A Battery, armored in Evansville, Ind., keeps a demanding schedule, often operating with just enough time between missions to catch up on rest.

When Haywood has more time, he uses it to push his unit through additional training and has them pull deep maintenance on his gun trucks making sure they are fully mission capable as well.

"I have platoon leaders give me what they think they need to work on," said Haywood, "Occasionally I'll dictate, but I want them doing their jobs."

Training can include combat lifesaver training, mass casualty exercises, reaction alert exercises, and more. Haywood says the primary training remains focused on conducting successful convoy security missions.

"That means hunting IEDs," said Haywood, admitting it is not an easy job, especially on routes that his platoons must share with the local populace.

"It's one of the big issues and we train to do the right thing. I give platoon lead-

ers a different scenario every day, and they have to come up, as a team, with a right answer," said Haywood. "There isn't one single right answer, but there are wrong answers. If they give me a wrong answer, then we talk."

Haywood's priorities shifted recently when one of second platoons' trucks was hit by an IED. An experience they train for, but would prefer to do without.

"This is the biggest hit we've taken," said Haywood. "Our main effort is the maneuvering of platoons, and we can't afford to lose one Soldier."

The crew hit was, Sgt. Patrick Weber, an Anderson, Ind., native and truck commander; Cpl. Corey Mauck, from Evansville, Ind., and driver and Spc. CJ Johns, from Evansville, Ind., and gunner.

Stunned and disoriented from the blast, Weber said they probably spent too much time on the scene and credits Sgt. Carol

Brown with taking control and getting them to safety.

"He was yelling at us to get in the other trucks and threatened us with article 15s if we didn't," said Weber. "We realized we probably weren't being very helpful," said Weber. "(Brown) was right."

All three were taken to Forward Operating Base Marez and were taken to the Combat Army Service Hospital.

"They were waiting for us (at the hospital)," said Weber. "They took our vitals, x-rays and had us do a bunch of neurology tests."

"Our main effort is the maneuvering of platoons, and we can't afford to lose one Soldier."

Capt. Mathew Haywood
A Battery, 163rd Field Artillery Bn.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Les Newport

Cpl. Corey Mauck, Evansville, Ind., driver, Sgt. Patrick Weber, Anderson, Ind., truck commander and Spc. CJ Johns, Evansville, Ind., gunner, provide security for logistical supply convoys near Mosul, Iraq. The crew recently returned to duty after an IED attack on a gun truck during a convoy security mission. The Indiana National Guard Soldiers of the 76th Infantry brigade are supporting counterinsurgency missions in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Fortunately, the three checked out and returned to duty with only minor injuries and instructions to return to the hospital for follow on checkups.

Arriving back to the unit feeling lucky, they were greeted by the rest of the gang glad they were not seriously injured.

"They were hugging on us," said Johns, the youngest of the three.

"They told us don't do that again," added Mauck. And Weber somewhat grudgingly admitted to some emotional moments, but defended them as being amongst family.

For both Weber and Mauck, it was the second time around when Weber's vehicle was struck in a 2003 deployment

and Mauck's truck was hit earlier in this deployment, a recognition neither wears comfortably.

Within hours of the latest strike, the two NCOs were consulting with Haywood on measures to mitigate the risk of future incidents.

After several counseling sessions with Haywood the crew returned to duty, but only after the commander gave them the go ahead.

The crew credits their training and equipment with nothing less than saving their lives and say that although the procedures can be tough and the equipment uncomfortable, the effort is well worth it.

I-Corps visits JBB



Photo by Pfc. Amanda Tucker

Brig. Gen. Mike Lally, commander of the 3d Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), based out of Fort Knox, Ky., chats over dinner with Col. Mark Ritter, G-3 of I-Corps based out of Fort Lewis, Wash., during a recent visit to Joint Base Balad July 31.

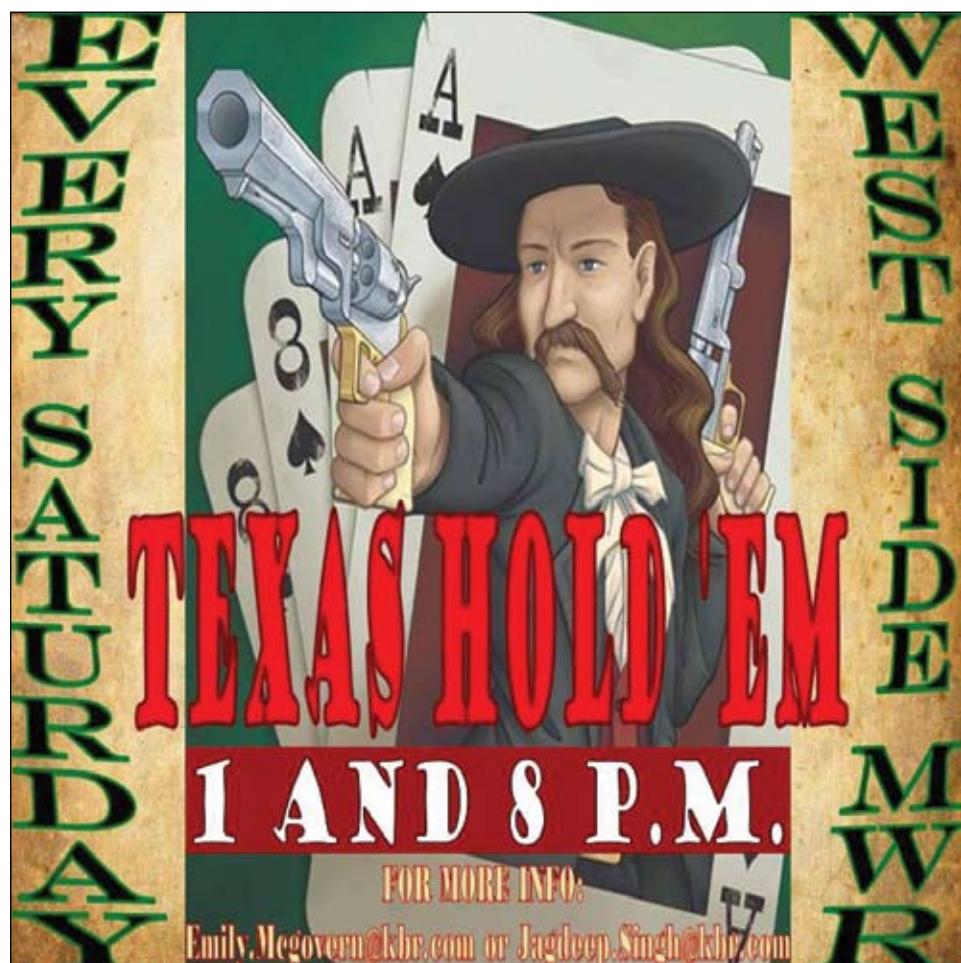




Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Chris Seaton

The Blackjack Education Center offers an array of opportunities for Soldiers ranging from college courses to GT improvement courses.

Blackjack's a big bonus for JBB

by Spc. Michael Behlin

Expeditionary Times staff

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq – Neatly tucked into the confines of Joint Base Balad is the Blackjack Education Center, a place that has become important to Soldiers as the education system progresses over time. Located in building 4250 on the corner of Sustainer Street and Muleskinner Boulevard, the Blackjack Education Center is here to help Soldiers in any educational way it can.

Under the guidance of the Army Continuing Education System, the Blackjack Center's mission is to improve the combat readiness of the total Army by planning, resourcing and implementing educational programs and services to support the professional and personal development of Soldiers.

While most Army posts have them, being in a combat zone, insures that Soldiers have educational opportunities similar to those of the U.S.

Blackjack Center is open Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. and Saturday through Sunday 11:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Being open extra hours helps Soldiers, in a combat zone, complete educational goals that can help advance their military career.

"With the education center, one thing that I feel we needed to establish here was good customer service," said Chief Warrant Officer Reginald B. Bailey, Blackjack Education Center Officer in Charge. "I want the Soldiers, who put their lives on the line by going in and out of the wire, to be able to come in and get a quality education in a comfortable, relaxed environment I feel they need to be treated with the utmost respect."

The education center offers information on college degree programs, online college courses and allows Soldiers to take college level examination program courses. It also offers some correspondence courses and provides Scholastic Aptitude Test and American College Test

study guides.

While the course offerings listed above are important, one of the more popular courses has been the General Technical improvement course. This course allows Soldiers who scored low on the Armed Services Vocation Aptitude Battery test to improve their score.

The ASVAB score is used to determine qualification for enlistment in the United States Armed Forces. Typically, the better the GT score, the better the job offer when enlisting.

This course is also as important as, it allows those looking to reclassify, into another military occupation, since some jobs require a certain GT score to be eligible.

"The GT improvement course is not only a career enhancement, it's a life enhancement," said Barney. "It opens many opportunities for Soldiers to reclassify, become commissioned or warrant officers."

Another popular reason Soldiers visit the education center is to take classes to increase their promotion points. Soldiers know, different military occupations require different scores for promotion. By taking military and civilian education courses, Soldiers have the opportunity to increase promotions points while striving to reach the cut-off score. Usually the more points, the better the chances are of him /her being promoted. And while increasing promotion points is a good reason to visit the education center, the Blackjack staff doesn't want it to be the only reason.

"Sure we have Soldiers who just visit us to take courses in order to increase their promotion points, but I would like to see them go beyond that," said Barney. "My recommendation is for Soldiers not to just come here for promotion points, but to come here to get an education to help better themselves. The promotion points will help in an Army career, but a quality education will help with a civilian career after the military."

Soldiers seeking more information on the Blackjack education center and what it has to offer can visit the center, call (318) 433-2195, or visit it on the share point at <http://jbb.iraq.centcom.mil/soldierservices/jbbeduceneter/default.aspx>.



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Chris Seaton

Lt. Col. Gregory Thingvold (left), and Command Sgt. Maj. Daniel Mueller of 2nd Battalion, 147th Aviation Regiment, case their unit's colors during a transfer of authority ceremony July 19. The battalion served 11 months in Iraq, performing aviation support and air assault missions in support of Task Force 12 and Multi-National Corps – Iraq.

Dust Devils complete combat tour Task Force "Voodoo" takes on aviation missions for MNC-I

by Sgt. 1st Class Chris Seaton

Task Force XII

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq – After nearly a year in combat, the Minnesota Army National Guard's 2nd Battalion, 147th Aviation Regiment transferred authority to 1st Battalion, 244th Aviation Regiment of the Louisiana National Guard July 19.

The outgoing 2-147th "Dust Devils" arrived in Iraq August 2007. During their time here the unit, also comprised of Soldiers from Hawaii and Washington, flew nearly 18,500 flight hours, moved 77,422 passengers, and transported 1.9 million pounds of cargo.

In November, the battalion also took on the air assault mission for Multi-National Corps – Iraq, flying 131 assault missions in just over seven months.

"It's been a long haul and the mission accomplishment speaks for itself," said Lt.

Col. Gregory Thingvold, Commander of 2-147th. "Of course it's the Soldiers who are behind (the accolades), and they deserve every bit of praise."

The incoming 1-244th "Task Force Voodoo," commanded by Lt. Col. Patrick Bossetta, returns to Joint Base Balad for their second tour of duty in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. The unit deployed here in December 2003 in support of OIF II. Pilots from TF "Voodoo" also played an integral role in operations following the aftermath of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

During a ceremony to welcome the new unit, Col. Timothy Edens, Commander of MNC-I's aviation Task Force 12, challenged TF Voodoo to build on the accomplishments of the outgoing unit.

"2-147th has laid a great path for you," said Edens. "Follow it, and you will be just as successful. You're already off to a great start."

August 2008

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

Combatives LV1 0800-1600 East Side Main Fitness Center

Therapists help Iraqi patients gain independence

by Staff Sgt. Don Branum

332nd Air Expeditionary Wing

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq—Moqdad lay on a raised bed in the middle of the Occupational Therapy and Physical Therapy clinic. Nearby, a pair of crutches leaned against a wall, waiting for the Iraqi Marketplace employee to use them for the first time since he left the hospital. He smiled and chatted with medical technicians as they wove bandages around the pins of a large metal brace -- known as an external fixator -- attached to his right ankle.

An Iraqi man whose leg was shattered two months ago can walk again thanks in part to a team of physical and occupational therapists at Joint Base Balad's Air Force Theater Hospital July 22.

The physical therapists first saw Moqdad as an inpatient here, said Lt. Col. Lisa Smith, element chief of occupational and physical therapy for the 332nd Expeditionary Medical Operations Squadron here.

"We started therapy with him, trying to get him to walk again," said Smith, deployed from Wilford Hall Medical Center, Lackland Air Force Base, Texas. "That was the big challenge for us."

Moqdad was accidentally shot in the lower leg, splintering both his tibia and fibula, said Emad, an Iraqi translator and the eldest of Moqdad's six brothers. Air Force

surgeons repaired what damage they could and attached the fixator to Moqdad's limb to help the bones heal properly.

When the hospital discharges a patient, staff members determine what follow-up treatment the patient may need, Smith said. In Moqdad's case, the follow ups included regular visits to physical therapy.

Smith's staff works closely with the Orthopedic Clinic, which installed Moqdad's fixator, so the orthopedic doctors can focus primarily on surgeries.

"Because this is a trauma hospital, we see a lot of patients who would ordinarily go straight to the Orthopedic Clinic," Smith said. The clinic assumes many of the duties of an orthopedic clinic stateside, including screening patients and treating injuries that don't require surgery.

While patients at a hospital in the United States get continuing treatment and advice on how to modify their environment to accommodate their disabilities, patients here don't have that luxury, said Maj. James Ronyak, an occupational therapist deployed from the 88th Surgical Operations Squadron at Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio.

"We don't see our patients on an extended basis like we would back in the United States," Ronyak said, "but as much as we can, we try to help them get back to full

function."

The therapists do as much as they can while their patients are in the clinic. The physical therapy team pulled a set of horizontal bars next to the bed's edge for Moqdad and helped him stand on his uninjured left foot. As he hopped gingerly along the bars, Airmen eased him onto the waiting set of crutches.

Moqdad carefully navigated the room, with Smith following close behind to make sure he didn't fall backward. Finally, he made it back to his bed and lay down as Airmen took the crutches and examined his injured leg.

Once Moqdad leaves the clinic, however, his continued rehabilitation is up to him.

"Continuity of care is important," said Tech. Sgt. Dan Wilson, a physical medicine technician from the 75th Medical Operations Squadron at Hill AFB, Utah. "We can't go out to the community, so we have to make sure we're giving him the resources to take care of himself."

"We give them whatever they need when they leave the hospital, including illustrated exercises, translated into Arabic," Smith said. "We go over the exercises with the translators and patients and tell them how important it is to do it."

Most Iraqi patients are grateful for the treatment they receive from Air Force therapists, Smith said. Moqdad was no exception, as he



Photo by Airman 1st Class Jason Epley

Tech. Sgt. Daniel Wilson wrap a bandage around Moqdad's leg during a physical therapy appointment here July 22.

frequently thanked the medical team in Arabic during his therapy.

Moqdad's family also appreciated the hospital's medical care,

Emad said.

"They're the best," Emad said. "Moqdad is very lucky. This is the best hospital in Iraq."



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Chris Seaton

Airmen learn hazmat skills

ALI BASE, Iraq -- Senior Airman Timothy Bennett checks a package for hazardous material during training here July 26. Suspicious packages are a threat to American and coalition forces in Iraq. Trained Airmen across U.S. Central Command's area of responsibility can prevent these types of attacks. Bennett, a 407th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron Emergency Management Flight member, is deployed from Seymour Johnson Air Force Base, N.C., where he works in plans and operations.

SHOUT OUT!!!

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Contact the 316th Public Affairs Office for scheduling.

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



Photo by 1st Lt. George Fowler

Staff Sgt. Jeffery Criswell (left) and his dad Staff Sgt. Sammy Criswell, both mechanics, repair a Humvee transmission. The Criswells, who are both Mark Tree, Ark., residents, have made the National Guard a family affair and make quite a maintenance team for the 1123rd Transportation Company, an Arkansas National Guard unit, attached to the 1st Squadron, 152nd Cavalry Regiment, stationed at Camp Taji, Iraq.

Maintenance & National Guard runs in Family

by 1st Lt. George Fowler

1123rd Trans. Co

CAMP TAJI, Iraq – Staff Sgt. Sammy Criswell, a mechanic with the 1123rd Transportation Company, has been in the Arkansas National Guard and the same unit since joining the military Aug. 14, 1976.

His middle son, Staff. Sgt. Jeffery Criswell, also a mechanic, joined the 1123rd Trans. Co. in 1997 after graduating from high school, and they have made quite the team ever since working the full time job.

Not only are they both in the same National Guard unit, but they also work at the

same field maintenance site in Jonesboro, Ark.

“We both like fixing things and want to serve our country, so this made sense to us,” said Jeffery.

From 2003 to 2004, both deployed and worked in maintenance, with Jeffery driving one of the wrecker trucks recovering vehicles that had been disabled.

They were joined on their first deployment by Sammy’s brother, William, who also was in the 1123rd Trans. Co at the time.

The Criswells epitomize the concept of the National Guard being a family and they are part of the backbone of the unit. Sammy is the longest serving member of

the 1123rd Trans. Co., and he keeps adding his biological Family to his National guard family.

In September, Sammy’s youngest son, Adam, will be shipping off to basic training in order to become the newest member of the 1123rd Trans. Co. Family.

When not working, drilling, or deploying together, the Criswells enjoy fishing and playing with the children and grandchildren.

There is no quit in the family, either. Both intend to continue serving in the 1123rd Trans. Co. until forced to retire when they turn 60.

“I learn something new every day, so why would I want to leave,” said Sammy.

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Note: Letters will be subject to review based on content and relativity to the newspaper and its contents.

Basra Transformed by Iraqi Army’s Operation Charge of The Knights

by Sgt. Ronald Reeves

Expeditionary Times staff

BASRA, Iraq -- Basra residents move about their districts to shop, work, and attend school without fear.

Operation Charge of The Knights began in March with Iraqi Army Soldiers leading the way. Residents express gratitude for the Iraqi Army’s commitment to the rule of law.

In the Abu al-Khaseeb District of Basra, one elderly resident stood shoulder-to-shoulder with a young Iraqi Soldier from the 14th Division and, through an interpreter, said, “I feel safe when the Iraqi Army is around. I’m proud of the Iraqi Army, yes!”

Military Transition Teams comprised of British military personnel work side-by-side with Iraqi Army Soldiers from the 14th Division. Other MITTs staffed

by U.S. Army and Marines work with the 26th Brigade and 1st Quick Reaction Force Brigade, both from al-Anbar Province.

“The role of the MITTs is to advise, coach, teach and mentor during full-spectrum operations in Basra,” said Maj. James Scrogin, executive officer of the 26th Brigade MITT.

The 26th Iraqi Brigade did a good job providing security for the people of Basra allowing essential services to be delivered in a timely fashion, said Scrogin.

As long as Coalition Forces support and aviation resources are provided to Iraqi Forces, there will be a need for MITTs, said Lt. Col Chris Degaray, team chief for the 26th Brigade MITT.

British Ground Forces commander Gen. Sir David Richards visited British Military Transition Teams working with Iraqi Army Soldiers in a training environment

July 13.

“Having visited in January, the change is almost stupendous actually,” he said.

“I think it was that ability, as soon as we were able, to get right along side the Iraqis and show them, literally, on the job, how to do some of the things that they, at that stage, had not yet mastered,” said Richards.

The success with Operation Charge of The Knights in Basra allowed the emphasis to shift from combat operations to counter insurgency operations, said Degaray.

Iraqi Army Soldiers gave children coloring books with inspiring caricatures and stickers showing proud Iraqi Soldiers as part of Gen. David Petraeus’ COIN philosophy.

In the Tannumah District of Basra, medical personnel gave screenings and treatment to more

than 500 residents on May 14 while Iraqi Soldiers provided security and gave picture books to children.

One Iraqi teen exited a treatment room with his mother and told the doctors and Iraqi Soldiers “we love you.”

“I think what’s happened is we’ve seen a remarkable change since the start of April,” said Nigel Haywood, Her Majesty’s Consul General.

We are now seeing projects opening that we haven’t really been able to do much with over the past year or so. These projects have a real effect on local communities; delivering power; delivering water; building electricity substations; building water pumping stations; building sewage stations – these are the things that make a real difference to the individual in Basra,” said Haywood.

A 94-bed hospital, first Iraqi hospital to be constructed in 28 years, will focus on cancer care. The facility will include state-of-the-art equipment, two operating rooms, and a neonatal intensive care unit.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers pledge their continued support for the Basra Children’s Hospital.

“We are on target for completion by year’s end. The hospital will be one of the most integral parts of the country’s health care system,” said Arthur Bennett, project manager with USACE.

The recent openings of water treatment facilities, power substations, and sewage treatment plants are just the beginning of the long-term plans for the Provincial Reconstruction Team, said Fiona Gibb, deputy consul general for Britain.

Efforts of both U.S. MITTs and the Iraqi Army continue to move Basra toward a true sense of normalcy. As the residents here start to enjoy the benefits of what was once taken for granted, they are assured of peace and protection from the fearless Iraqi Army.

“My soldiers have promised the public they will fight the outlaws and uphold the law. The people are fed up. If the militias return, we will be waiting for them,” Maj. Gen. Aziz said.



Two Soldiers of the 548th Quartermaster Company practice using a fire truck hose during a live burn training exercise July 25 at Al Asad Air Base, Iraq. The Soldiers are members of a convoy fire suppressant team.



Capt. Riesharde Prenell, a Baton Rouge, La., native and company commander of the 584th Maintenance Company sprays water into an Armored Security Vehicle during a live burn exercise July 25 at Al Asad Air Base, Iraq. Where automated logistics specialist are being trained to be fire suppressant team members.



Automated logistics specialists, with the 548th Quartermaster Company, use different agents to put out a fire on an Armored Security Vehicle during a live burn training exercise July 25 at Al Asad Air Base, Iraq. The Soldiers are currently tasked as the battalion's fire suppressant team for convoy operations.

Flame, from Page 1

team member. "Before (arriving to Iraq), we received no (fire) training, but once we got tasked, our platoon sergeant set it all up for us."

Since fighting fires is not the Soldiers MOS, the team works with the base fire department to do self training. To ensure they are proficient in the necessary skills needed and ready at all time, Warren arranges to have a live burn training exercise once a month.

During a recent training exercise, the Soldiers had to react to two vehicles on fire at the same time and use a new type of chemical called "Purple K" used to put out electrical fires.

"It's important for the Soldiers to stay fresh on the techniques and the (tactics and procedures)," Warren said. "We hope (a fire) never happens, but we've had it happen before."

"Safety is a key element during our training," said Warren. "It is the difference between a team succeeding at their mission and failing it."

Perezchaina said the training was difficult

at first, but the team has learned to adapt and overcome.

Pfc. William Evans, an Elyria, Ohio, native, said so far they have learned how to efficiently put out a fire, learning everything from proper distance and angles of the trucks to what chemical is used for what types of fires.

"(The battalion) needed some people to (become the fire suppressant team) and we hit the ground running," Evans said.

The unit's overcome many obstacles since being deployed, however, that has not stopped them from continuing on with their mission to the best of their ability. Warren said they are constantly training and they are learning a lot about what it takes to do their job effectively and proficiently.

So the next time someone claims to be an automated logistics specialist don't jump to the conclusion that they are a 'paper pusher' or 'desk jockey' because they could be the Soldier that pulls you out of a vehicle fire.

"I would have never thought I would be (receiving fire suppressant training), but I love it," said Ross. "It's something new to do; you know that you're helping (fellow Soldiers.)"



Members of the 548th QM Co. finish spraying water into the cab of a vehicle during a live burn training exercise July 25 at Al Asad Air Base, Iraq. The Soldiers are automated logistics specialists who are training to become a convoy fire suppressant team.



Spc. Kendra Carter, a Montgomery, Ala., native and automated logistics specialist, for the 548th Quartermaster Company, trains on a fire hose as a part of the fire suppressant team training July 25 at Al Asad Air Base, Iraq.

Photos by Spc. Charlotte Martinez

Background Photo: Automated logistics specialists with the 548th Quartermaster Company put out two vehicle fires during a live burn training exercise July 25 at Al Asad Air Base, Iraq. The exercise keeps the Soldiers familiar with techniques they might need while out on convoys.

Iraqi females stepping forward to ensure security at check points

by Pfc. Amanda Tucker

Expeditionary Times staff

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq – A Soldier stops a car at a checkpoint and does a vehicle inspection after making the male driver step out. The Soldier walks around the vehicle and sees a woman sitting in the back seat wearing the standard black clothing, her eyes and hands are the only parts visible. She looks nine months pregnant so he doesn't think she needs to get out into the over 115 degree heat and be searched. The Soldier allows the vehicle to pass through, and it happens. A thunderous boom with shrapnel flying and screams reverberate throughout the checkpoint. One act of a Soldier's "compassion" was his last.

Female suicide bombers are becoming more common, as seen by a recent incident on July 24, when a female detonated a suicide vest killing eight civilians and injured 15 in Diyala Province, according to Multi-National Corps-Iraq. Even some male insurgents are taking advantage of Soldiers who are reluctant to search females by dressing as women to get through checkpoints.

Now, Iraqi females are stepping forward to be trained on how to search women and helping to solve the problem at some checkpoints.

"Having the females searching Iraqis is a good thing," said Col. Hussein

Al-Aalan, the Balad District Director of Police. "She can search females that is something males can't do."

Manar Abdul Mutaleib, the only female member of the Balad City Council, started inquiring to the council about using Iraqi females after seeing a story on the television about a female suicide bomber blowing herself up in a market.

"My mission (is) to find the females a job to work because right now, in my association, I have more than 950 without job(s)," said Mutaleib.

Mutaleib fulfilled her mission with more than 50 Iraqi females volunteering to take the job of helping at the Balad checkpoints. The city council chose females who had lost their Iraqi police husbands to insurgents as priority to help feed their families.

"We have 10 females in Balad that are actually able to search females coming into Balad," said Staff Sgt. Iris Munoz, a Phoenix native and a squad leader for the 164th Military Police Company, based out of Fort Richardson, Alaska.

"We went over all of the search methods and we had hands on training with them on how to search make sure their checking everything," said Cpl. Jamie Brown, a MP Team Leader for the 164th MP Company and Colorado Springs, Colo., native.

Soldiers in the 164th MP Company organized and conducted an eight hour class at a



Photo by Pfc. Amanda Tucker

Fatma Mohammed Abdulrassol, an Iraqi female trained by the 164th Military Police to do checkpoint searches, checks an Iraq female at a checkpoint in Balad, Iraq July 24.

local police station to teach the female Iraqis how to properly search another female.

"They were really eager to learn and they always had a lot of questions to ask about what to do and in certain situations at checkpoints," said Pfc. Leilani Carroll, a gunner for the 164th MP Company and San Antonio native. "Having the females out there searching keeps Balad safe. They actually go out there and do everyday work."

"Sgt. Munoz and her squad really have bent over backwards to get these women trained, to get them out on the checkpoint and feel like they're part of the team," said Capt. Matthew Norris, Commander for the 164th MP Company, and Phoenix native.

"They freely talk to her, they call her by her first name; that right there shows the trust and how they feel about what we're doing here."

The training is going to be a continuous process, said Munoz. Teaching them one class is just the beginning.

With the ongoing threat of female insurgents, Iraqi females' continuous training is important to the Iraqi Army by helping male Soldiers to maintain their public relations without compromising security or disrespecting Iraqi culture. The 164th MP Company will continue to train the Iraqi females as long as the mission dictates.

Signs of success in the Balad area

by Sgt. Rick Rzepka

1st BCT, 101st Air Bourne Div.

BALAD, Iraq – The gains can be seen everywhere. Children, once timid and withdrawn, now flock to the sight of Iraqi and U.S. Soldiers in neighborhoods once thought to be lost. The wry smiles that were once fierce scowls, worn on the faces of men and women here, are subtle signs of Iraqi success.

However, Iraqi and Coalition forces remain relentless in their pursuit of the enemy here and across Iraq. The area, vast and easily accessible, has been used by enemy fighters in the past as a place to reorganize and resupply in order to carry out attacks on the population centers of the Salah ad Din province.

Iraqi Security Forces, together with Soldiers from the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division, recently conducted Operation Balls Pursuit. Part of a larger Multi National Division-North effort, the operation has aimed to disrupt enemy activity in the Jisat and Jalam Deserts, said Sgt. Maj. Edward Estep, 2nd Battalion, 320th Field Artillery Regiment, Command Sergeant Major.

"Operation Balls pursuit was intended to deny enemy safe haven, limit enemy freedom of maneuver, and interdict the flow of foreign fighters in the area," said Estep, whose

"Balls" Soldiers were joined by elements of the 1st and 2nd Battalions of the 327th Infantry Regiment in the operation.

"The Soldiers performed great," said Estep. "There was not a house that didn't get a visit."

The "Balls" operation and continued efforts in the area have led to greater security for the people of Balad. Many residents in the area said that they have not seen a terrorist presence there in months.

"The Son's of Iraq and constant presence of Iraqi and Coalition Forces has made the area much safer, allowing people to travel to the markets to sell and purchase goods," Estep said.

Recently, the township of Ad Dujayl has seen a dramatic increase in the flow of goods and services thanks to the security situation. Residents are enjoying the freedom to buy and sell goods at their leisure.

"On any given day the market place is very busy. The Iraqi police have stepped up patrols that make people feel safe and the local government representatives are starting to make their way to areas once not traveled," said Estep.

As the people of Balad become more comfortable and secure, Soldiers are seeing more genuine smiles and eager children everyday. Sure signs of success.



Photo by Sgt. Rick Rzepka

Soldier from the 2nd Battalion, 320th Field Artillery Regiment, 1st BCT, 101st Airborne Division, plays soccer with local Iraqi children near Balad, Iraq. The "Balls of the Eagle" Soldiers have seen the Balad area make great strides in terms of security and economic development.

Soldier continues Jujitsu training while in Iraq

by Staff Sgt. Michel Sauret

Army News Service

CAMP VICTORY, Iraq - He moved from being locked in the guard to base with little effort, wrapped his opponent's neck in the crook of his arm and locked in until his opponent's head turned red.

This was just a demonstration, but his moves were so swift it showed he knew his way around the mat.

Sergeant Scott Sperling has been fighting in the Brazilian Jujitsu style since 2005, and now, he trains with fellow service members in the basement of the Multi-National Division - Center Headquarters here.

Sperling, a lightweight from Rochester, N.Y., says he keeps training for a simple reason.

"I like competition. It's kind of a release as well when you've been in the office all day, and then, you get to go work out," Sperling said. "When I'm rolling full speed, I try not to think of anything. I just let it happen."

In Iraq, Sperling works as an intelligence analyst for the Analyst Control Element involved with MND-C.

Sperling earned his blue belt in December shortly before moving to Fort Drum,

N.Y., and subsequently deploying to Iraq. Sperling fills in as the instructor when his group trains, though he always welcomes everyone to bring new techniques to the mat - whether wrestling, grappling or submissions.

Jujitsu training can be a very intensive and rigorous commitment, especially if training for a specific tournament. Sperling would train anywhere between five and seven times a week, lifting weights in the morning and practicing Jujitsu in the evening when preparing for a fight. Running, or cardio-vascular fitness, is also very important in order to maintain stamina through a fight.

"In Jujitsu, there are a lot of different aspects to the game as far as strength and speed," he said.

Jujitsu was first developed by the Samurai as early as the 14th century. The word literally means the "art of softness." This fighting style consists of grappling and striking techniques that use an attacker's energy against himself, rather than directly opposing it. Today, Jujitsu is still practiced in its original form or modified for sport practice.

It's definitely more technical (than other fighting styles) ... You have to train the

movements over and over and over, Sperling said. Everyone can throw a punch, but not everyone knows how to wrap someone up and put him in an arm bar... In Jujitsu, you also have to think at the same time. It's almost like a chess match, said Sperling

A clear mind allows one to hear the coaches during competitions. Good training partners who can coach and shout out moves from outside the ring during a fight are very important too.

"You have to be able to listen to their voices when they're coaching you," Sperling said. "A lot of times you get tunnel vision during the fight. So you have to practice (listening to them) in the gym before you go out there."

Sperling said some of his greatest memories in fighting range from body-slammings his opponent to standing inside a ring surrounded by the sheer energy of a crowd.

"You would not believe the intensity," he said. "I've had some friends go to (watch) tournaments who never went before - couldn't take their eyes off the mat. Screaming. They left there with no voice."

Sperling hopes to one day earn his black belt. For now Sperling continues to train while deployed to Iraq and takes the opportunity to teach others what he knows.

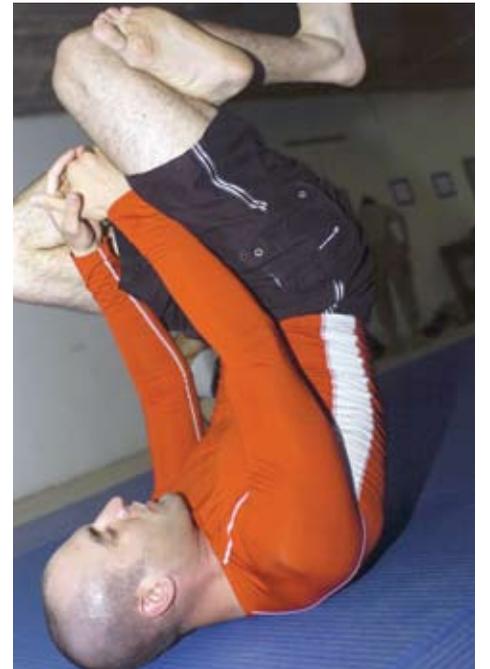


Photo by Staff Sgt. Michel Sauret

Sergeant Scott Sperling, of Rochester, N.Y., demonstrates the triangle submission technique as a stretching exercise during a Brazilian Jujitsu training session on Camp Victory July 15.

"It's my life now. I've been doing it for three years, and I want to continue to progress."

Testing the water



Photo by Airman 1st Class Jason Epley

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq - Tech. Sgt. Denisse Portunato tests water taken from a base dining facility here July 28. Routine water checks ensure that Balad's water meets required parameters and is safe for use. Currently, both the Air Force and Army test Balad's water. Portunato is assigned to the 332nd Expeditionary Aerospace Medicine Squadron here and is deployed from Lackland Air Force Base, Texas.

Have You Been Sexually Assaulted?

SEXUAL ASSAULT IS A CRIME!

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.



SEXUAL ASSAULT RESPONSE COORDINATOR (SARC) CONTACT INFORMATION:

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YOUR REPORTING OPTIONS

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.

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).

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).

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.

News around Iraq

Reconciliation efforts taking shape in Ninewa province

MOSUL, Iraq – Since the Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration program began in early March, 287 petitioners have come forward to seek a cease-fire with Coalition forces in the Ninewa province.

“The goal of the DDR process is for petitioners to progress from a cease-fire phase to full reintegration into Iraqi society, including legitimate employment, in cooperation with the Government of Iraq,” said Cpt. Matt Rodano, reconciliation program manager, Multi National Division-North.

The DDR process is designed for petitioners to provide information on weapons caches and insurgent activity.

“We are encouraged by the progress of the DDR, and look forward to continued participation from citizens displaying the courage to come forward,” said Maj. Gary Dangerfield, a spokesman, for the 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment.

Market Street reopens in Siniyah

SINIYAH, Iraq – For more than a year, the former Ba’ath Party stronghold of Siniyah was without its main thoroughfare for trade and commerce, but that all changed as the city’s Mayor officially opened Market Street during a ribbon-cutting ceremony July 26.

More than 40 shops and small businesses were forced to close due to the lack of business when the restriction of the road was announced in July of 2007.

The Joint Security Station located near the market area was vulnerable to vehicle-borne improvised explosive devices, causing Iraqi Security and Coalition forces to take measures ensuring the safety of the forces housed there.

Market Street was also closed due to the high levels of violence and the significant number of attacks the area was experiencing.

“Shop owners were anxious to reopen their shops,” said Capt. Aaron Billingsley, commander of U.S. forces in Siniyah.

The recent successes in Siniyah are directly contributed to the hard work of the joint efforts by the Iraqi Police, Iraqi Army, Sons of Iraq, City Council, Coalition forces and the people of Siniyah, Billingsley said. There is now an opportunity for them to improve the local economy in the city.

“There are micro-grants and micro-loans that will be offered to some of the shops,” said Billingsley. “This will help them expand their businesses and revitalize the economy.”

Hawijah’s literacy program gains national attention in Iraq

HAWIJAH, Iraq – Iraq’s Deputy Minister of Education, Nehad Al-Juburi, and the Prime Minister’s Education Advisor, Zaid Chaid, paid a historic visit to Hawijah to bring national attention to its pilot literacy program July 5.

Five-hundred Sons of Iraq members are currently participating in this program, which teaches students at a 3rd to 4th grade reading level.

“Education is the foundation to rebuilding,” Dr. Nehad told the audience, “You should be proud of what you are accomplishing here and know that you are setting the example for your country to follow.”

According to its Ministry of Education, 5.6 million Iraqis are illiterate.

The pilot program was envisioned by Gen. David Petraeus, the commanding general of Multi-National Force – Iraq, and is being facilitated by Soldiers from the 1st Brigade, 10th Mountain Division.

The program kicked off in Hawijah, June 15, and is already fulfilling the dreams of some participants.

“I do not have the words to explain this great feeling I have when I was able to write and show my family my name for the first time,” said Abdulkarem Khalif Faris, 24. “It was like flying. I want to thank God and my government for this chance.”

Hawijah Mayor Sabah Khalaf Ali praised the combined efforts of the CF and ISF for the security gains measuring around a 90 percent reduction in violent attacks against CF, ISF and citizens in this region which will now allow the country to focus its efforts on jobs and education,” he said.

“It’s only fitting on the day after our nation’s birthday I quote one of our founding fathers, Benjamin Franklin, who said that education is a gift to the people,” said Col. David Paschal, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division commander.

Lt. Col. Christopher Vanek told the SoI students in attendance to be proud of their accomplishments, referencing the security increases over the past 10 months that were key to the area’s selection by Gen. Petraeus.

ISF, CF thwart terrorist activities, uncover weapons caches

BALAD, Iraq – In the northern and western regions of Iraq, Iraqi and Coalition forces hindered terrorists and insurgents July 16-18.

On July 18, the Salah ad-Dinh Emergency Services Unit and the Tikrit National Emergency Response Unit conducted a joint operation to capture known insurgents and disrupt terrorists’ use of Bayji Island as a safe haven and logistical cache area. They detained two men are believed to be members of the terrorist group in Bayji who conducted improvised explosive device attacks against Coalition forces.

On July 17 in Abu Dohon Village, northeast of Baghdad, Muqdadiya, Special Weapons and Tactics Team detained five suspected terrorists. One of the suspected terrorists claims to be the leader of 13-person cell responsible for crimes ranging from extortion to attacks against the Government of Iraq and Coalition forces. During the operation, SWAT uncovered a bag of ammonium nitrate.

On the same day in the western

regions of Iraq, Haditha SWAT conducted an operation to execute an arrest warrant for a suspected terrorist believed to be involved with attacks against Iraqi and Coalition forces.

Iraqi and Coalition forces also continue to uncover weapons caches in the northern region of the country. On July 17, the Salah ad-Dinh SWAT recovered a weapons cache in Abu Ajil, east of Tikrit, based on information that IEDs were being constructed and stored in the area. Reports also indicated that attacks were being conducted against Coalition forces. The cache, which consisted of concrete blocks, boosters and artillery rounds, was safely destroyed by a Coalition explosive ordnance disposal team.

On July 16, Coalition forces uncovered another munitions cache in the Jazeera Desert consisting of several gallons of home-made explosives, mines, rocket launchers and several sticks of explosive materials. They also detained two men for questioning.

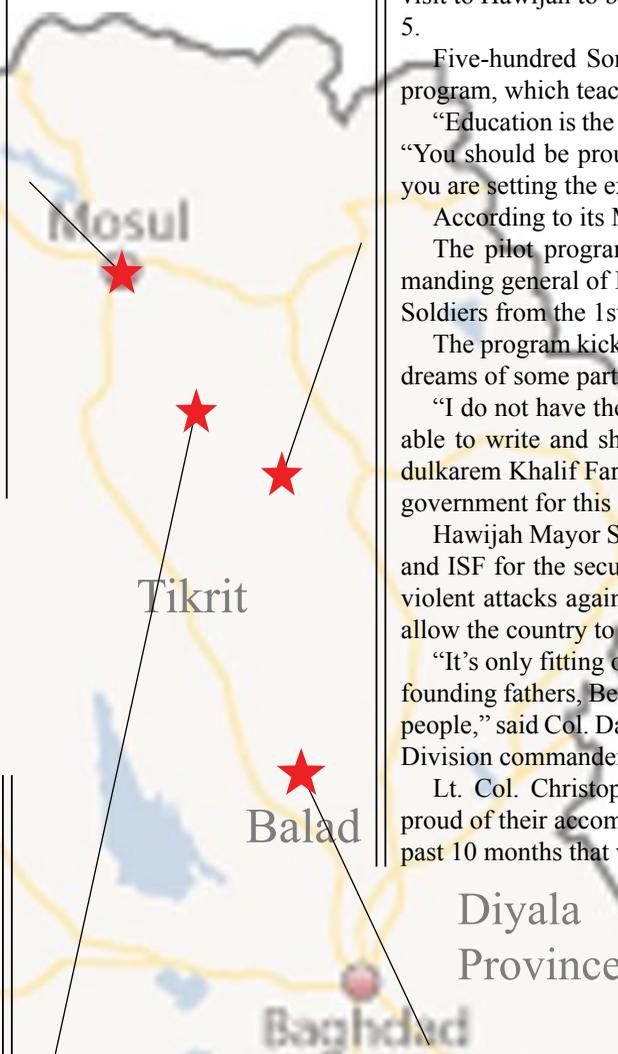


Photo favorites for the week



Photo by Spc. Anthony Hooker

AI BATHRA, IRAQ – Sgt. Sharon Hinkle, center, and Spc. Sarah Cherry, members of the 216th Military Police Company, take guidance from a Romanian officer with the 151st Infantry Battalion June 28 at an Al-Bathra medical clinic. The soldiers were preparing to provide security for Coalition Forces during a medical service drive sponsored by the 7th Sustainment Brigade.



Photo by Pfc. Amanda Tucker

A little Iraqi girl at a checkpoint in Balad July 23.



Photo by Sgt. Gary Hawkins

Joint Base Balad, Iraq – An Iraqi man poses for a photo with his mother at the Joint Services Communications Center. Because of joint efforts between Coalition Forces, IP and IA, Yethrib citizens can now smile because of the 90% drop in terrorist activity.

MESSAGES FROM HOME

To: Capt. Gary Blagburn

We just wanted to let you know how proud we are of you and the best way we can do that is by sending you something that your daughter wrote! I am sure that many kids are feeling the same way and many parents there need to know how proud their children are of them!

We love you!!!

Joy, Amanda, Brittany and Darren

To Spc. Farthing, 164th MP Comp.

Hey Tony. Sounds like you and your company are really making a difference. Keep up the good work. We pray every day for you and those around you. Stay safe. We love you and miss you! Mom and Dad.

As time has gone on I have finally realized how close god is to not only me but especially you. He is the only thing that holds all of us together while we are with out you. He truly mends a broken heart. He also knows the only thing keeping you from us is time. He is making it fly like no one has ever seen. Before any of us knew it we were already in June then July and closing in on august. We have all become familiar with our ways of communication phone or e-mail. Every so often we get to share laughs or catch up with pictures on where life has taken us and see the geographical areas from far away or right here at home. It takes somebody with a huge heart to stand up in what they believe and I was blessed to not only know one but to share a home with one. I miss your "songs" and your jokes but I know you are sharing them with your fellow soldiers and that may be what makes their day so I would much rather you share your jokes and "songs" with them since they are the ones who may need it. You will always be in god's hands and I can't wait to see you when you get home!

Messages From Home
Show your Soldier how much you miss them by sending messages, pictures, or poems in the ExpeditionaryTimes newspaper.

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

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



Spc. Jose Coria-Torres

America's warrior

A snapshot of servicemembers in the Global War on Terrorism

Full Name and rank: Spc. Jose Coria-Torres
Unit: Company C, 126th Finance Detachment
Job Title: Financial dispersion clerk
Time in Service: Two years
Age: 21
Hometown: Anaheim, California
Pastimes: playing basketball and video games, making jokes
Life-changing event/moment: Being in 'beautiful Iraq' (Laughs hilariously)
Lesson learned: Do not give your spouse a full power of attorney.
Why I joined the military: I didn't have anything better to do . . . it was an easy choice.
If I wasn't in the military I would be: In college.

The one thing I would change about the Army: Increase in pay.
The one thing I think the Army got right: The bonuses.
What makes a good soldier?: Someone who respects others.
What makes a good leader?: Someone who can effectively communicate.
Unusual fact about you: I eat ketchup with almost everything.
Goals: To get a four-year degree in education and become a teacher.
Hardest part of my job here: Dealing with customers who try to use their rank to get preferential treatment.
Best part of my job here: Balancing out my account correctly at the end of the day.

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: Sat-

urday- 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, August 6

5 p.m. Step Brothers

8 p.m. Don't mess with Zohan

Thursday, August 7

5 p.m. Get Smart

8 p.m. Step Brothers

Friday, August 8

2 p.m. The Love Guru

5 p.m. The Incredible Hulk

8 p.m. Swing Vote

Saturday, August 9

2 p.m. Swing Vote

5 p.m. The Love Guru

8 p.m. The Incredible Hulk

Sunday, August 10

2 p.m. The Incredible Hulk

5 p.m. Swing Vote

8 p.m. The Love Guru

Monday, August 11

5 p.m. The Incredible Hulk

8 p.m. Swing Vote

Tuesday, August 12

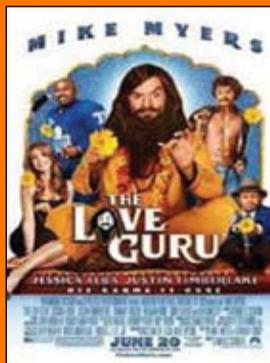
5 p.m. Made Of Honor

8 p.m. Get Smart

(Schedule is subject to change)

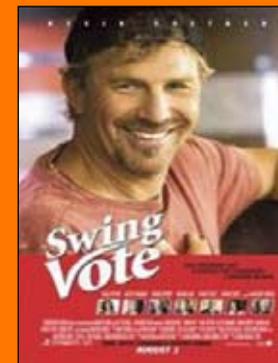
New Movies

The Love Guru



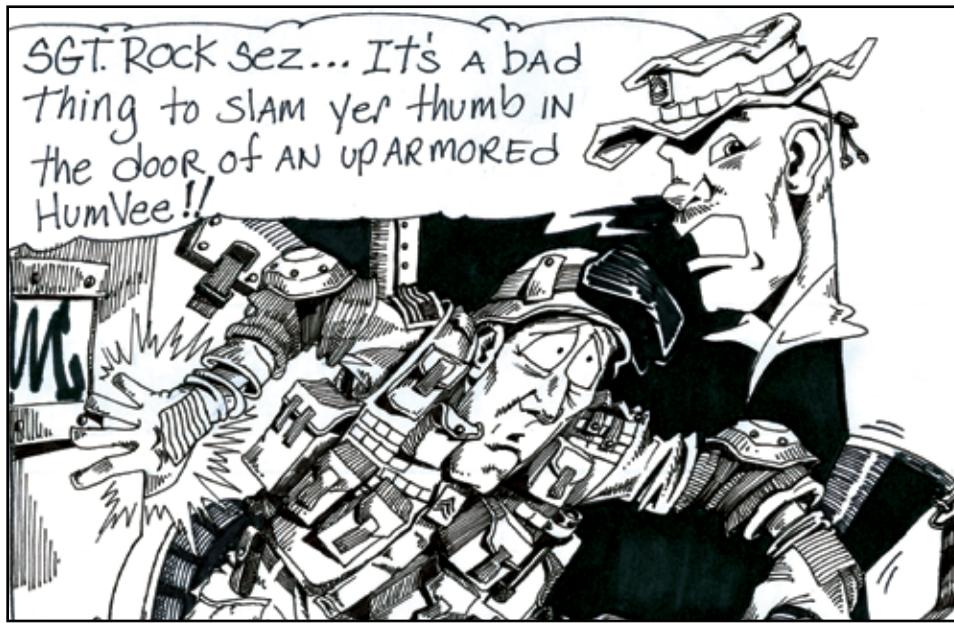
Austin Powers trilogy star Mike Myers collaborates with writer Graham Gordy for this comedy concerning a self-help guru named Pitka (Myers) who devotes his life to un-knotting the romantic entanglements of troubled couples. As a young child, Pitka is abandoned at the gates of an ashram in India and taken in by kindly gurus. An American by birth, Pitka absorbs the lessons taught to him by his teachers and later returns to the United States to become a leading authority on spirituality and self-help. While Pitka's methods are decidedly unorthodox, they may be the only means of ensuring that the Toronto Maple Leafs win the coveted Stanley Cup. Maple Leafs star Darren Roanoke (Romany Malco) is in trouble. His estranged wife has recently begun dating L.A. Kings star Jacques Grande (Justin Timberlake) in a vengeful effort to send her husband's career into a tailspin, and when Roanoke starts to falter on the ice, the whole team starts to suffer. As their visions of leading the Maple Leafs to the Stanley Cup are quickly going up in flames, team owner Jane Bullard (Jessica Alba) and Coach Cherkov (Verne Troyer) enlist the aid of the world's best-known relationship expert in restoring the peace between Roanoke and his wife, and getting their team back on track to the championships.

Swing Vote



When the mischievous antics of a precocious 12-year-old girl result in the outcome of the United States presidential election hinging on the vote of her apathetic, likable loser of a father, the man who thought that life had long since passed him by is reluctantly thrust into the national spotlight in this political-themed comedy starring Kevin Costner. Bud Johnson (Costner) is your typical American -- a simple man and loving father who never would have thought he had the power to change the world. Though when election day finally arrives and Bud prepares to cast his ballot, his over-achieving daughter Molly proves the catalyst for a stunning series of events that place the fate of the free world in the hands of a man more comfortable slinging cases of beer -- her father. The two candidates will be portrayed by Dennis Hopper and Kelsey Grammer, with Nathan Lane and Stanley Tucci set to play their campaign managers. George Lopez also stars as a local TV-station manager that has to deal with the political factions as they set up camp in the small town.

Iraq according to Opet



PVT. MURPHY'S LAW

The Ornamental Head-dress for first time "Cherry" Jumpers:



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.

Nevada

- It is illegal to drive a camel on the highway.
- It's still "legal" to hang someone for shooting your dog on your property. No person shall raise pet rats.
- In the city of Elko everyone walking the streets is required to wear a mask.
- In the city of Reno it is illegal to lie down on the sidewalk.

New Hampshire

- You may not tap your feet, nod your head, or in any way keep time to the music in a tavern, restaurant, or cafe.
- You may not run machinery on Sundays.
- On Sundays citizens may not relieve themselves while looking up.

Sudoku

Level: Easy

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.

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

Upcoming sports on AFN

Wednesday 8/6/08

MLB: Pittsburgh Pirates @ Arizona Diamondbacks, 10 a.m. tape delay AFN/sports
 Summer Olympics: Women's Soccer USA vs. Norway, 2:30 p.m. live delay AFN/sports
 MLB: Milwaukee Brewers @ Cincinnati Reds, 7:30 p.m. live AFN/sports

Thursday 8/7/08

MLB: Teams TBA 2 a.m., live AFN/sports
 MLS: FC Barcelona @ New York Red Bulls, 2 a.m. live AFN/xtra
 MLB: Washington Nationals @ Colorado Rockies, 4 a.m. live AFN/xtra
 Summer Olympics: Men's Soccer USA vs. Japan, 12 p.m. live AFN/xtra
 MLB: Los Angeles Dodgers @ St. Louis Cardinals, 3 p.m. tape delay AFN/sports
 PGA: First Round Oakland Hills, 8 p.m. live AFN/sports

Friday 8/8/08

MLB: Houston Astros @ Cincinnati Reds, 2 a.m. live AFN/xtra
 NFL: New Orleans Saints @ Arizona Cardinals, live 3 a.m. AFN/sports
 MLB: Tampa Bay Rays @ Seattle Mariners, 5 a.m. live AFN/sports
 MLB: New York Yankees @ Texas Rangers, 10 a.m. tape delay AFN/sports
 MLB: Los Angeles Angels @ New York Yankees, 10 a.m. tape delay AFN/sports
 PGA: Second Round Oakland Hills, 8 p.m. live AFN/sports

Saturday 8/9/08

MLB: Florida Marlins @ New York Mets, 2 a.m. live AFN/xtra
 Summer Olympics: Opening Ceremony, 3 p.m. live AFN/prime pacific
 MLB: New York Yankees @ Los Angeles Angels, 5 a.m. live AFN/xtra

Summer Olympics: Woman's Soccer USA vs. Japan, Canada vs. China; Women's Basketball USA vs. Czech Republic; Equestrian Dressage; Beach Volleyball; Women's Fencing: Individual Sabre Gold Medal Final; Women's Shooting: Air Rifle Gold Medal Final; Badminton: Singles Competition; Women's Weightlifting: Flyweight Gold Medal Final, 9 a.m. live AFN/sports
 Summer Olympics: Women's Volleyball: USA vs. Japan; Swimming; Beach Volleyball: USA Match; Men's Cycling: Road Race; Rowing, 5 p.m. live AFN/prime pacific
 PGA: Third Round Oakland Hills, 6 p.m. live AFN/xtra
 Summer Olympics: Women's Soccer: Nigeria vs. Germany, Brazil vs. North Korea; Women's Volleyball: Italy vs. Russia, Poland vs. Cuba; Women's Handball: France vs. Angola, Russia vs. South Korea; Badminton: Singles Competition, 9 p.m. live AFN/xtra

Sunday 8/10/08

Summer Olympics: Boxing: 75kg and 81kg Competition, 12 a.m. live AFN/xtra
 MLB: Boston Red Sox @ Chicago White Sox, 2 a.m. live AFN/sports
 Summer Olympics: Swimming: Men's 400m Freestyle Gold Medal Final, Men's 400m Individual Medley Gold Medal Final, Men's 100m Breaststroke Semifinals, Women's 400m Individual Medley Gold Medal Final, Women's 4x100m Freestyle Relay Gold Medal Final, Women's 100m Butterfly Semifinals; Beach Volleyball: USA Match; Men's Gymnastics: Team Competition, 3 a.m. live AFN/prime pacific
 UFC: Seek and Destroy (Target Center, Minneapolis, MN) live 5 a.m. AFN/xtra
 Summer Olympics: Men's Volleyball: USA vs Venezuela; Women's Swimming: 100m Breaststroke, 7:30 a.m. AFN/prime pacific
 Summer Olympics: Tennis: First-round Singles and Doubles Matches live 8 a.m. AFN/xtra
 Summer Olympics: Boxing: 57kg and 60kg Elimination Bouts, live 9 a.m. AFN/xtra
 Summer Olympics: Men's Soccer: USA vs Netherlands,

Argentina vs Australia; Men's Basketball: Lithuania vs Argentina; Tennis; Beach Volleyball; Equestrian: Dressage; Women's Archery: Team Gold Medal Final; Men's Weightlifting: 56kg Gold Medal Final, 9 a.m. live AFN/sports
 IndyCar: IndyCar Racing Series: Kentucky Indy 300 (Kentucky Speedway, Sparta, KY), 3 p.m. live AFN/xtra
 Summer Olympics: Men's Basketball: USA vs China; Swimming; Beach Volleyball; Men's Water Polo: USA vs China; Women's Cycling: Road Race; Rowing, live 5 p.m. AFN/prime pacific
 PGA: Final Round Oakland Hills, 6 p.m. live AFN/xtra
 NASCAR: Sprint Cup Series: Centurion Boats at The Glen (Watkins Glen International, Watkins Glen, NY), 9 p.m. live AFN/xtra

Monday 8/11/08

NHRA: POWERade Drag Racing: Lucas Oil NHRA Nationals (Brainerd International Raceway, Brainerd, MN), live 12:30 a.m. AFN/xtra
 Summer Olympics: Swimming: Men's 100m Breaststroke Gold Medal Final, Men's 4x100m Freestyle Relay Gold Medal Final, Men's 200m Freestyle Semifinals, Men's 100m Backstroke Semifinals, Women's 100m Butterfly Gold Medal Final, Women's 400m Freestyle Gold Medal Final, Women's 100m Backstroke Semifinals, Women's 100m Breaststroke Semifinals; Women's Gymnastics: Team Competition; Women's Diving: Springboard Synchronized Gold Medal Final, live 2 a.m. AFN/prime pacific
 Summer Olympics: Women's Volleyball: USA vs Cuba, live 7:35 a.m. AFN/sports
 Summer Olympics: Women's Basketball: USA vs China; Women's Volleyball: Brazil vs Russia; Women's Water Polo: USA vs China, Hungary vs Netherlands; Beach Volleyball; Rowing; Men's Archery: Team Gold Medal, live 9 a.m. AFN/sports
 Summer Olympics: Women's Basketball: Australia vs Brazil; Beach Volleyball; Women's Handball: South Korea vs Germany; Women's Volleyball: China vs Poland; Men's and Women's Badminton: Singles Competition; Women's

Water Polo: Russia vs Italy; Men's Weightlifting: Russia vs Italy; Tennis, live 7 p.m. AFN/sports

Tuesday 8/12/08

Summer Olympics: Boxing: 57kg and 60kg Elimination Bouts, live 12 a.m. AFN/sports
 Summer Olympics: Men's Gymnastics: Team Gold Medal Final; Swimming: Men's 200m Freestyle Gold Medal Final, Men's 100m Backstroke Gold Medal Final, Men's 200m Butterfly Semifinals, Women's 100m Backstroke Gold Medal Final, Women's 100m Breaststroke Gold Medal Final; Beach Volleyball: USA Match; Men's Diving: Platform Synchronized Gold Medal Final, live 3 a.m. AFN/prime pacific
 MLB: Boston Red Sox @ Chicago White Sox, live 3 a.m. AFN/xtra
 NFL: Cincinnati Bengals @ Green Bay Packers, live 3 a.m. AFN/sports
 Summer Olympics: Softball: USA vs Venezuela, live 7 a.m. AFN/sports
 Summer Olympics: Men's Volleyball: USA vs Italy; Swimming: Women's 200m Freestyle Semifinal, Women's 200m Individual Medley Semifinal, live 8:05 a.m. AFN/prime pacific
 Summer Olympics: Boxing: 51kg and 54kg Elimination Bouts live 9 a.m. AFN/xtra
 Summer Olympics: Men's Basketball: USA vs Angola; Tennis; Rowing; Beach Volleyball; Women's Field Hockey: USA vs Japan; Men's Handball: Spain vs Poland live 9 a.m. AFN/prime pacific
 Summer Olympics: Beach Volleyball; Swimming; Men's Water Polo: USA vs Italy; Canoeing: Whitewater Gold Medal Finals, live 5 p.m. AFN/prime pacific
 Summer Olympics: Men's Basketball: China vs Spain; Women's Soccer: USA vs New Zealand, Nigeria vs Brazil; Men's Wrestling: Greco Roman, 55k and 60kg Competition and Finals; Men's Volleyball: Serbia vs Brazil; Tennis; Badminton: Round of 16 Competition; Men's Weightlifting: 69kg Competition; Men's Water Polo: Serbia vs Croatia, live 7 p.m. AFN/sports

Swishhhh!!!



Spc. Brandon Ellison, with the 240th Quartermaster Company drives the ball down court for a lay-up during the MWR basketball tournament.



Photo illustration by Spc. Ryan Hohman

A servicemember takes a jump shot in the East Morale Welfare and Recreation Center basketball tournament game July 29.



Sgt. Michael Shelton, with the 240th Quartermaster Company, takes a jump shot during the MWR basketball tournament. The gold team won with a final score of 72-53.



Staff Sgt. Carlos Heron, with the 602nd Maintenance Company, drives the ball for a lay up.



Two servicemembers battle for a rebound during the MWR basketball tournament.

Background: Spc. Espino Jame, with the 240th Quartermaster Company, takes a technical shot during the MRW basketball tournament.