

IRON STRONG DAILY



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'If you call, we haul!' S&T troop resupplies displaced troops

**Story and photos by
Spc. Opal Vaughn
14th Public Affairs Detachment**

The unofficial creed of the United States Postal Service has been adapted by many people around the world. In 2001, the USPS created a television commercial that featured no famous actors or flashy action sequences, only these words:

*We are mothers and fathers,
and sons and daughters, who
every day go about our lives
with duty, honor and pride.
And neither snow, nor rain,
nor heat, nor gloom of night,
nor the winds of change, nor a
nation challenged, will stay us
from the swift completion of our
appointed rounds.*

It is as true today as when this saying was first written, originating from Herodotus' Histories (8.98), referring to the Persian Empire's courier service.

Even now, the Soldiers with Supply & Transportation troop, 2nd Stryker Cavalry Regiment, Regimental Support Squadron, live by those same standards and continue that long history of excellence.

"Our regiment supports a ton of units displaced throughout the Diyala province," said 1st Lt. Stephen Neves, supply platoon leader, Supply & Transportation troop, 2nd Stryker Cavalry Regiment, Regimental Support Squadron.

"Some of the units do a lot of missions

as far out as the Iranian border which can cause a strain on supplies," continued Neves, a Portsmouth, N.H. native. "When we re-supply our Soldiers, it helps them get their vehicles and equipment up so that they are ready to fight the fight against the enemy and not be held up because of supply issues."

Having the manpower to push supplies out to troops on mission has become a big problem for some forward operating bases. To alleviate the problem S&T troop makes sure supply shortages never become an issue for those displaced troops.

"We are one of the main hubs in the area, like a satellite, so we support several locations including Forward Operating Bases Normandy and Caldwell," Neves said. "They don't have the personnel or the equipment to be able to do supply runs continuously, so we take care of that problem for them."

Back home and across Europe, several delivery services are available for customers to ship goods at cost to them, and shipping bulk items can become even more costly. But regardless of how big or small the item may be, S&T troops get the job done costing only a couple hours of hard labor.

"Straps, flat tires, overheated engines, out dated vehicles, all these things affect our mission," said Spc. Lance Patenode, a gunner with S&T troop, 2SCR, RSS.

"We go out on these delivery missions that can take all day. They drain you a lot, especially with this heat," continued Patenode, a Sisseton, S.D. native.

We can't choose to not deliver supplies



Sgt. Rodolfo Carrasco, an Andrews, Texas native with Supply & Transportation troop, 2nd Stryker Cavalry Regiment, Regimental Support Squadron, assists in unloading a freight truck to deliver needed supplies to 3rd Squadron, 2nd Stryker Cavalry Regiment Soldiers at Forward Operating Base Normandy located in the Diyala Province, Iraq. FOB Normandy was the first stop but not the last to get supplies delivered to them by the S&T troop.

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IA, US sergeants major convene for the future

**Story and photos by
Pfc. Alisha Nye
14th Public Affairs Detachment**

A meeting of both Iraqi Army and U.S. Army sergeants major and command sergeants major was held in the base theater on Forward Operating Base Warhorse, located in the Diyala Province, Iraq.

The sergeants major convened to discuss the training of Iraqi Army noncommissioned officers and focused mainly on the improvements the training has undergone as well as the improvements that can be made.

“This meeting is about noncommissioned officer training and



Command Sgt. Maj. Adel Abdul Jabar Abdul Wahed, the Iraqi Army equivalent of the U.S. sergeant major of the Army, looks back over his PowerPoint presentation to make sure he has covered all of the information while speaking during a Sergeant Major Symposium held in the theater on Forward Operating Base Warhorse, located in the Diyala Province of Iraq.

refers to raising the level,” said Iraqi Command Sgt. Maj. Adel Abdul Jabar Abdul Wahed, the Iraqi Army equivalent of the U.S. sergeant major of the Army.

“It is a fantastic conduit to speak and just hear about all the things that are going on in their Army because sometimes it takes a long time to hear it,” said Command Sgt. Maj. William E. High Jr., the sergeant major of the Coalition Army Assistance Transition Team.

“Some of the things we wanted to get out of this conference are, number one, listening to the Iraqi sergeant major talking to his division sergeants major and his brigade sergeants major,” High said. “But also, we’re taking the opportunity to talk to them about how we’re in an advisory role. We have the responsibility of advising them on basic combat training from corporal all the way up to platoon sergeant courses. We’re taking the opportunity to educate them on what we’re working on in the way ahead.”

High said Iraqi Army officials are the ones taking the lead and Coalition Forces are merely in an advisory position at this point.

“We advise the Iraqi leadership,” High said. “With everything we do, there is an Iraqi making the final decision.”

Every training school for the Iraqi Army is Iraqi ran and has all Iraqi instructors, High said.

“In an advisory capacity we work with them to make those schools better, to build a better noncommissioned officer for the Iraqi Army,” High said.

Wahed said he thinks the advice from



Both Iraqi and U.S. sergeants major listen intently at a Sergeant Major Symposium held in the theater on Forward Operating Base Warhorse, located in the Diyala Province of Iraq.

Coalition Forces is helpful for improving the development of Iraqi Army NCOs.

“We discussed a lot of things that the U.S. has in relation to developing NCOs and the problems they sometimes have in their units,” Wahed said. “We gained a lot of information and they helped raise the level of education for our NCOs.”

High said Iraqi Army NCOs are eager to learn and like what they see in American NCOs as the “backbone” of the Army.

“Iraqi Army NCOs want to get better through education and training,” High said. “So, their NCOs can be the backbone of their Army.”

Iraqi Army NCOs feel empowered by the training they are receiving and, as a result, are not only stepping up to lead their soldiers more, but are also more highly encouraged by their command, High said. The meeting was just another step toward cementing this process.

“You get a lot of information which helps to stand those Iraqi forces up – to go out and have the ability to take over the battle space as we move on down the line,” High said.

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to these troops because we deliver items like medical, maintenance and ammo supplies, which are all mission essential items for the Soldiers, Patenode went on.

“Setting aside hunger and tiredness is just a part of the job,” Patenode added.

As a safety measure, combat medics travel with the troops on missions, regardless of how long it may take.

“I give medical support on convoys, from place to place,” said Pvt. Jenny Etheredge, with Medical Troop, 2SCR, RSS.

“If anything happens, I take care of the Soldiers by conducting first aid or any medical attention needed to save lives,” stated Esperia, Calif. native, Etheredge. “I usually carry a lot of bandages, tourniquets, I.V. bags, air way support, just the basic life saving equipment.”

Adamant about the safety of his troops and making sure that every Soldier is mission ready, Neves continues to put safety first.

“Our troops go above and beyond to make sure that from the highest to the lowest ranking Soldiers, all of our troops are prepared so that we can reduce risk while out on missions,” Neves continued. “I’m confident in my operators, my non commissioned officers and all of the Soldiers that I work with.”

“My Soldiers train hard and well and are prepared for pretty much anything. I am very confident in my Soldiers and I am proud of them,” Neves said.

With duty, pride and honor, S&T



The convoy noncommissioned officer in charge, Sgt. Jason King, a Muskogee, Okla. native with Supply & Transportation troop, 2nd Stryker Cavalry Regiment, Regimental Support Squadron, gives the driver, Spc. Kevin Goodman, an Orangeburg, S.C. native, directions to back a Stryker off the flat bed of a freight truck while delivering supplies to 3rd Squadron, 2nd Stryker Cavalry Regiment Soldiers at Forward Operating Base Normandy located in the Diyala Province, Iraq.

troop continue to set a standard. Due to redeploy to Germany in the upcoming months, their Soldiers have answered the call to duty.

“And neither snow, nor rain, nor heat, nor gloom of night, nor the winds of change, nor a nation challenged, will hold [them] from the swift completion” of their appointed duties.

“You name the time and place, and we can get it there,” said Muskogee,

Okla. native Sgt. Jason King, the convoy noncommissioned officer in charge with Supply & Transportation Troop, 2nd Stryker Cavalry Regiment, Regimental Support Squadron.

“There’s never a dull day with this job,” smiled King as he tightened down the last of the supplies, scheduled to be delivered to Warhorse. “We’re like the government’s personal delivery service. If you call, we haul.”

IA posts colors, CF retires colors

**Story and photo by
Staff Sgt. Margaret C. Nelson
1BCT, 10th Mountain Division**

As one flag was retired, another was raised—Soldiers of Company B, 2nd Battalion, 22nd Infantry Regiment, 1st Brigade, 10th Mountain Division relinquished command of Patrol Base Pickett to Soldiers of 4th Company, 15th Battalion, 4th Iraq Army Division during a Transfer of Authority Ceremony, at the PB located in the northern Rashaad Valley in the province of Kirkuk.

“It’s been an honor serving with you,” Capt. Matthew Lee, commander of Company B, 2-22 Inf. Regt., said. “We have sacrificed much so that the people of the Rashaad Valley and Al Noor village can live in peace. I have complete faith that you will carry on our mission here with distinction.”

The patrol base was named after Staff Sgt. Tyler E. Pickett, killed June 8, in an attack against the PB perpetrated by a suicide bomber driving a vehicle laden with explosives. One of the conditions of the turn-over was that the Iraqi Army retain the PB’s name, according to 1st Sgt. Carl Yarbrough, Company B, 2-22 Inf. Regt.

The first sergeant told the IA Soldiers during the ceremony that they would be successful due in part to their undying love for their country... “because you believe in the cause of a democratic society and truly want a brighter future for your families, loved ones and fellow countrymen,” he said.

The ceremony concluded with Lt. Darha, the commander of 4th Company, 15-4 IA, thanking the 2-22 Inf. Regt. Soldiers for their sacrifices, leadership, and friendship.

“We will always remember what you did for us here,” he said.



Soldiers with the 4th Company, 15th Battalion, 4th Iraqi Army Division prepare to take command of Patrol Base Pickett from Soldiers of the 2nd Battalion, 22nd Inf. Regt., 1st Brigade, 10th Mountain Division during a Transfer of Authority ceremony, in the northern Rashaad Valley of the Kirkuk province. The PB will retain its name Pickett in honor of Staff Sgt. Tyler Pickett, a ‘Triple Deuce’ Soldier who was killed during a suicide vehicle-borne improvised explosive device attack at the PB, June 8.

Iraqi Army receives mine detection vehicle instruction from 10th Mtn. Div. Soldiers

**Story and photos by
Spc. Jason Jordan
1st BCT, 10th Mountain Division**

Soldiers with Company A, 1st Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 10th Mountain Division's Sapper Platoon, recently conducted the 'The Iron Claw Academy'; where members of the Iraqi Army were trained by U.S. Soldiers in a series of 'left seat-right seat' exercises that taught the IA Soldiers how to conduct route clearance operations to help ensure local roads were secure for travel.

"Iraqi Security Forces have been doing a phenomenal job lately of proving that they are ready to stand on their own and move forward as a new country," said 1st Lt. Adam Pray, Co. A Platoon Leader from Camillus, N.Y. "This partnership we are experiencing as we share knowledge and experience is solid reassurance that everything will be ok as we, the Coalition Force, gradually draw down."

Thirty-two members of the IA's 15th Brigade, 4th Division, completed the academy – receiving insignia patches for their uniforms, along with plaques commemorating the historic event.

"This type of partnership training that will eventually result in the handover of certain vehicles and technologies to Iraqi Security Forces is

something that has only recently begun to occur in certain parts of the theater," said Lt. Col. Tarn Warren, 1st BSTB commander.

Among the training was a checklist used in the reaction to an IED known among the engineers as the five Cs: Confirm, Clear the area, Call higher headquarters, Cordon and Control. The IA

members learned this - and other tasks usually described as difficult, such as the finesse of the Buffalo's arm extension. Several IA soldiers quickly grasped the work and did remarkably well, according to the engineers assigned to conduct the training. They also received instruction on



Spc. Cory Browning, a native of Boise, Ind., Cpl. Brett Murphy, from Tom's River, N.J. and Sgt. Thomas Struna, a native of Mentor, Ohio -- all Soldiers with the Sapper Platoon, Company A, 1st Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 1-10th Mountain Division, along with Battalion Commander Lt. Col. Tarn Warren -- observe members of the Iraqi Army's 15th Brigade, 4th Division as they learn to operate the military anti-mine vehicle, the Buffalo.

the operation of several different vehicles and special equipment designed for IED removal.

"These guys impress us time after time – displaying a constant motivation to gain as much knowledge and experience as they possibly can – and they do it rather quickly," said Sgt. 1st Class Andrew Way, Company A, 1st BSTB platoon sergeant from Oshkosh, Wis. "The atmosphere is almost always heartfelt and easygoing as we try to have fun learning from each other. They like to joke to us that the reason they learn so quickly is because of the Playstation 2," he continued.

The 1st BSTB's Iron Claw Academy occurs at a time when the world is hopeful that the continued progress in Iraq is a sign for better things to come.

"We are very proud to help lead our country forward with a new hope that we can be a free and democratic nation," said Capt. Mustafaa, 15-4th IA. "We are grateful for our American brothers, but we are prepared to show the world that we can stand on our own."



Members of the 15th Brigade, 4th Iraqi Army Division, practice finessing the operation of the large, articulated arm bar of the Buffalo, an armored mine detection vehicle. Soldiers with Sapper Platoon, Company A, 1st Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 10th Mountain Division, recently conducted The Iron Claw Academy, where members of the IA trained with U.S. Soldiers in a series of 'left seat-right seat' exercises. There, they taught the IA members how to conduct route clearance operations to ensure the local roads are secure for travel.

NEW JERSEY



(AP) Cries for help inside a Trenton, N.J., home turned out to be for the birds. Neighbors called police Wednesday morning after hearing a woman's persistent cry of "Help me! Help me!" coming from a house. Officers arrived and when no one answered the door, they kicked it in to make a rescue.

But instead of a damsel in distress, officers found a caged cockatoo with a convincing call.

It wasn't the first time the 10-year-old bird named Luna said something that brought authorities to the home of owner Evelyn DeLeon.

About seven years ago, the bird cried like a baby for hours, leading to reports of a possible abandoned baby and a visit to the home by state child welfare workers. But it was only Luna practicing a newfound sound, DeLeon says.

DeLeon says her bird learns much of her ever-growing vocabulary from watching television, in both English and Spanish.

WASHINGTON



(Reuters) GeoEye Inc said it successfully launched into space on Saturday its new GeoEye-1 satellite, which will provide the U.S. government, Google Earth users and others the highest-resolution commercial color satellite imagery on the market.

It was a picture-perfect launch and we've now gotten confirmation that ... we have commanded the satellite and it has responded," GeoEye Chief Executive Matthew O'Connell told Reuters in a telephone interview from Vandenberg Air Force Base in California, where the satellite was launched at 11:50 a.m. PDT.

"Everybody is now slapping high fives," he said, adding that it would take 30 to 45 days before the company calibrates the camera aboard the satellite and receives imagery.

GeoEye-1 will be able to capture images at .41 meters resolution in black and white and 1.65 meters in color, but under current government rules, the company can only offer the public half-meter images.

The satellite will take digital images of the Earth from 423 miles and moving at a speed of about 4 1/2 miles per second.

O'Connell said the \$502 million satellite, built partly with money from the U.S. National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency, would "open up a lot of opportunities" for the GeoEye, and capped four years of work on the spacecraft.

On hand to watch Saturday's launch of the satellite -- shot into space by a Delta II rocket emblazoned with Google's logo among others -- were Google founders Larry Page and Sergey Brin, Google spokesman Brian O'Shaughnessy said.

GeoEye's other satellites provide images to Google, Microsoft and Yahoo, but Google will be its only online-search mapping customer.

O'Shaughnessy said Page and Brin "look forward to getting some real quality, high-resolution imagery into Google Earth in the months to come."

He said the new color imagery would mean that Google Earth and Google Maps users would have access to more detailed images in about three to four months, after the new imagery had been loaded into Google.

GeoEye's main rival, Digital Globe, which plans an initial public offering this year, launched its new high-resolution satellite, WorldView-1, in late 2007. It offers half-meter resolution in black and white.

GeoEye-1 was built by a unit of

General Dynamics and its imaging system was built by ITT Corp. The 4,310-pound satellite was launched by United Launch Alliance, a joint venture of Lockheed Martin Corp and Boeing.

POLITICS

(AP) When political junkies flip through television stations on Sunday morning, they'll find policy-driven interviews with three of the four candidates on the presidential tickets — John McCain, Barack Obama and Joe Biden. They won't, though, see Sarah Palin.

Less than two months before voters hit the polls, Palin has yet to sit down for or even schedule an issues-oriented interview with any newspaper, magazine or television network.

Meanwhile, the McCain campaign has significantly scaled back the access of the national press he used to jokingly refer to as his "base," and several speakers, including Palin, took shots at the media in their speeches at last week's Republican convention.

Since her debut in Dayton, Ohio, the McCain campaign has been receiving about 80-100 requests a day from news organizations around the world, according to spokesman Ben Porritt, who said interest in an interview was "through the roof" and that the campaign was going through them now.

"There's no doubt in my mind that the McCain campaign would like to run out on the clock on this," said David Chalian, political director for ABC News.

He expects the campaign will tightly manage access to Palin, but give some national interviews shortly before the Oct. 2 vice presidential debate with Biden, moderated by PBS' Gwen Ifill.

"They know they're not going to get through the next 60 days without doing interviews and being tested and prodded," Chalian said.



OLYMPICS



(AP) LeBron James could be excused for his poor shooting from behind the arc, and for being blown out in a game of H-O-R-S-E with a warehouse worker in a beach exhibition. James was still floating in the clouds from his Olympic experience.

"I still haven't (come down). It's an unbelievable experience to go out there and represent your country the way we were able to do it, showcasing our talent to the world, playing the game that we love to play," James said Wednesday. "It was really fun that we were able to bring home our game, that's the game of basketball.

"I guaranteed the gold medal would be back in the United States of America. You hate the fact that it's over. You're never going to have that team again, as powerful as we were, we're never going to have that team again."

He has special plans for his gold medal.

"It's being framed as we speak. I sent it away to be framed and cased up so I could set it in my office and not so many people can touch it now. It got enough fingerprints on it from the time I brought it home," he said with a chuckle.

James was on an outdoor court at Venice Beach to take on David Kalb in a shooting game, mostly of trick shots, although James' outside shooting touch was way off. At one point, he grinned and said, "That wind."

Kalb won the matchup with James

in an online contest, "LeBron's Trick Shot Challenge sponsored by Cub Cadet."

Kalb's bag of trick shots including one where he bounced the ball very high in the lane, raced around the goal post, caught the ball as it came down, and tossed it in the basket. James missed his try, and after losing the first game, declared best two-of-three. Each made, among other shots, left-handed free throws, but Kalb went on to win the second game as well.

After he missed his final shot, James tossed the ball away in mock anger.

Asked if the matchup against Kalb was tougher than winning a gold medal, James said it was, because he was by himself and didn't have his Olympic teammates.

He seemed to have taken on the mantle of leader of the U.S. team that included a roster of other superstars, including Kobe Bryant, Dwyane Wade and Jason Kidd. James said that experience will help him with his Cleveland teammates.

"Leadership, being able to go out and lead some of the best in the world makes it a lot easier to lead some of the guys on my team," James said. "When you can tell Kobe Bryant and Dwayne Wade and Chris Bosh some things that they're doing wrong, or right, it's a lot easier to go home to your respective team and tell those guys what they're doing wrong or right."

James played sparingly on the U.S. team that settled for an Olympic bronze in 2004. He's not absolutely certain about playing in three Olympics.

"I'm still living on what happened this past month, haven't thought about 2012 in London. But I think it's going to be unbelievable. I'm definitely open to being a part of the Olympic team in 2012," he said. "Hopefully the next group of guys, and if it's including myself, will be good."

BASEBALL

(Reuters) The Chicago White Sox outlasted the Anaheim Angels 7-6 over 15 innings on Saturday, powered by Jim Thome's walk-off home run.

The designated hitter belted his 30th home run of the season, and 537th of his career, off reliever Justin Speier as the White Sox (80-61) extended their American League Central lead to two games.

"We knew Minnesota had lost. It makes it a big win for us right there," Thome told reporters.

"No chance (the lead) is comfortable; when we clinch, that's when it's comfortable."

Chicago's third consecutive win was a long time coming with the two teams combining to use 13 pitchers.

Anaheim starter John Lackey and Chicago's Gavin Floyd both pitched seven innings and allowed five runs apiece before the bullpens took over.

Ehren Wassermann picked up the victory after recording the third out in the top of the 15th.

"I don't know if it's the greatest win this year so far because we've had lots," White Sox manager Ozzie Guillen said. "But fighting and coming from behind, it's nice to see."

The Angels (85-56) used the long ball to take early control of the game. Juan Rivera hit a two-run shot and Mike Napoli added a solo in the sixth to give the visitors a 5-2 advantage.

Nick Swisher's two-run home run in the seventh tied the game at 5-5 and both teams added runs in the ninth to send the game into extra innings.

The White Sox will put John Danks on the mound on Sunday as Chicago goes for a three-game sweep of the Angels.



CUBA

(AP) Cuba politely declined a U.S. offer to send a disaster assessment team to the island after Hurricane Gustav, saying Saturday it would rather Washington suspend restrictions on travel and the sale of food and other materials it needs to recover.

Cuba's Foreign Ministry did not mention some US\$100,000 in humanitarian aid that Washington offered to send through nonprofit groups, along with the assessment team. It said in a statement that it appreciated the U.S. government gesture recognizing the destruction that Gustav caused.

The Cuban statement was released as forecasters predicted another powerful hurricane, Ike, will likely sweep across the length of the island early in the week.

"Today when the country's east already is under storm alert with the threat of Hurricane Ike, just as powerful as Gustav, Cuba affirms that in reality the only correct,

ethical (action) ... would be the total and definitive elimination of the harsh and cruel economic, commercial and financial blockade applied over nearly a half century against our nation," the statement said.

The Foreign Ministry noted that Democratic presidential candidate Barack Obama has called for a temporary suspension on restrictions on family travel and remittances to the island while Cuba recovers. His rival, Republican John McCain has called for easing restrictions only when the U.S. is "confident that the transition to a free and open democracy is being made."

Currently, people of Cuban origin living in the U.S. can visit the island only once every three years and can send money only to members of their immediate families, excluding cousins, aunts and uncles.

Ailing former leader Fidel Castro wrote this week that recovery from Gustav could cost billions of dollars on an island where the average state salary is only about US\$20 per month.



PHILIPPINES

(AFP) Authorities in the southern Philippines on Sunday ordered the evacuation of 50,000 people following two landslides in a remote mining village that left 25 dead or missing.

Villagers joined soldiers in a desperate attempt to unearth a cluster of houses buried in thick mud and rocks on the outskirts of the town of Maco in the Compostela Valley, but there were no immediate signs of life in the rubble.

The provincial disaster rescue agency said the death toll has risen to nine, with 19 people injured. Sixteen others were

listed as missing, and hopes of finding them alive were fading quickly.

It said at least 18 houses had been completely buried while dozens of others were damaged in the landslide-hit village of Masara, with a population of 7,000 people.

Heavy monsoon rains over the past three days triggered two landslides -- one on Saturday and another before dawn on Sunday.

Among the casualties was local village chief Jovencio Anggera, his two young children and a house maid. They survived the first landslide, but did not evacuate.

"I am praying that rescuers can at least find their bodies," said his wife, Cita Anggera, as she quietly sobbed while watching the rescue effort.

Army Major Rolando Rodil, whose team was the first unit to respond, said they were woken up by the second, pre-dawn landslide.

"There was a very loud sound, and the earth shook. We were roused from our sleep," he said.

The provincial government has ordered the evacuation of Masara and three other

villages, which have a total estimated population of about 50,000, Compostela Valley Governor Arthur Uy said.

Uy said survivors had said more than 50 people could still be beneath the rubble, but there was no way to independently confirm that figure.

Intermittent heavy rains were hampering rescue operations, along with the sheer volume of mud and rock that needed to be shifted, officials said.

Airforce helicopters have been dispatched to help evacuate the injured, while local Red Cross teams were rushing medics to the area.

Provincial social welfare officer Josephine Franco said the number of casualties may still rise.

"This morning's landslide was bigger than the previous one," she said.

In Manila, the National Disaster Coordinating Council said relief supplies had been sent to more than 100 people sheltering in a chapel.

Last year, 10 people died in a rain-triggered landslide in the same area. The Mines and Geo-Sciences Bureau, a government agency, had warned of more landslides after that incident.

In February 2006, a landslide buried the entire village of Guinsaugon in the central island of Leyte, killing more than 1,000 people.

