October 8, 2008

JOINT BASE BALAD'S

EXPEDITIONARY TIMES

Proudly serving the finest expeditionary Servicemembers throughout Iraq

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Vol. 1, Issue 16

7th SB, Iraqi government open water purification facility pg. 10

Photo by Spc. Anthony Hooker

Members of the 7th Sustainment Brigade, Iraqi Army officials and local Iraqi leaders cut a ribbon during the dedication ceremony of the Abdul Razaq Reverse Osmosis Water Purification Unit Sep. 30 at Abdul Razaq, Iraq. The 7th SB has refurbished two ROWPUs in the Dhi Qar province.

Now with 50% more news

SoS visit Balad

Secretaries of State and chief election officials delegation visit Joint Base Balad to better understand voting

See page 3

Remember the fallen

Soldiers of Task Force 34 gather to remember seven of their recently fallen comrades

See page 9

Sergeant major challenge

See pages 12-13

CAT 621 transforms abandoned building into health clinic for Iraqis

by Air Force Staff Sgt. Mike Meares

CJSOTF-AP PAO

Editor's note: This is the third of a five-part series on U.S. Army's Civil Affairs Team 621 working on community projects in various villages in southern Iraq. Names are withheld for security purposes.

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq - The smell of fresh paint permeated the air outside of a building as Iraqi officials and community leaders gathered in al Basrokea, a village 10 km south of al Kut, on Aug. 21 for a historical town event – the opening of a community health care clinic.

> *"(This new facility) positively impacts the perception of the government and the security forces protecting them in the region."*
>
> CAT 621 team sergeant

"When we first visited the community, the people thought the Iraqi government didn't care about their needs," said the CAT 621 team leader. "Now the Ministry of Health has stepped in and provided support for the clinic by getting it up and running."

The fresh coat of white paint on the building shone brightly in the southern Iraqi sun as Mahir Ghanim Murad, Wasit Province Ministry of Health director general, cut the red ribbon that stretched across the front gate to the clinic. The building is completely made over with new floors, windows, plumbing, electrical system, and lighting. The al Basrokea Health Clinic also has a waiting room and new generator.

"We are very thankful for (Iraqi people and U.S. Forces) making this happen," said the director general. He told the people in attendance that MoH understands how im-

See **HEALTH**, Page 8

PMO Blotter:
27 Sept. – 2 Oct.

Larceny: A male soldier staying in the PPC Annex had his assault pack, containing an HP laptop, stolen from the wooden lock boxes provided for soldiers to store their valuables. **PMO Commentary- PMO and the Mayor's Cell are working on making the lock boxes in the PPC Annex more secure**.

Stray Rounds: In one 24 hour period there were reports of stray rounds at the H-6 Recreation Center, the fire department garage area, the fire department housing area, and in S-5 Housing.

Breaking and Entering: A foreign national employed by PMA had his room broken into. The window had been broken and his personal items were spread around the room, but nothing had been taken.

Larceny: A female Soldier lost her wallet in the latrine of the Phipps Medical Clinic on Sept. 14. She checked with finance during the two weeks following the disappearance and found that someone had been accessing her Eagle Cash account. The Soldier, with the help of her first sergeant and AAFES loss prevention, was able to determine the identity of the Soldiers that stole her wallet and used her Eagle Cash card to make purchases.

Negligent Discharge: A female Airman discharged her firearm inside her unit armory while attempting to clear it. The Airman chose not to clear the firearm in the clearing barrel and discharged a round into a wall which ricocheted off the wall and into the ceiling.

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NIPR- 443-8602
SIPR- 241-1171
Email- PMOdesk@iraq.centcom.mil

Property accountability: you make the choice

by Pfc. Amanda Tucker
Expeditionary Times staff

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq – Without their equipment, Soldiers cannot fulfill their mission. Across the 3d Sustainment Command, some property books and hand receipts contain items valued at over one million dollars. While accountability of such items is a large responsibility, occasionally property is lost or damaged. When this happens - the military investigates to fairly assess who is accountable.

Whenever government equipment is lost or damaged a Financial Liability Investigation of Property Los (FLIPL) report must be conducted. "It puts ownership on the individual to take proper care of government equipment." said LTC John Hamilton, the Assistant Chief of Staff G4, internal logistics section, of the 3d Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), based out of Ft. Knox, Ky

The process starts when the appointing authority, usually a battalion commander, chooses an investigating officer with no conflict of interest to investigate the case. The investigation focuses on the facts of the incident and makes recommendations on whether or not the Soldier or Soldiers were negligent in the care of the property and if that negligence resulted in the damage or loss. The officer also has to determine the type or responsibility the person over the equipment that was lost or damaged. Responsible for the equipment falls into following five categories: command responsibility, supervisory responsibility, direct responsibility, custodial responsibility and personal responsibility.

After the IO finishes the investigation, the Soldier being investigated receives a copy of the IO's Findings and recommendation on the missing or damaged equipment and has seven days to submit a rebuttal or 15 days if the information travels through the mail.

The IO will look at the rebuttal and recommend who should pay for the damages to the approving authority.

In some cases, when no negligence is found, the government will pay for the loss. These cases occur only when all the precautions were taken to care for the equipment before the incident occurred.

"Just because you signed for an item, doesn't not mean that you will end up paying for it if it's lost," said Master Sgt. Gerardo Flores, the NCOIC of the G4 section of the 3d ESC.

LTC Hamilton gave a comparison between two vehicle fires. In the case where a Soldier was smoking in the vehicle and a fire started, the Soldier would be held liable. In a case where a parking break malfunction caused a fire to start, the Soldier would not be held accountable.

"We won't hold someone liable unless it's able to withstand legalities," said LTC Hamilton.

Soldiers need to focus on their individual responsibility to maintain accountability and safeguard government equipment. The number one item that results in a FLIPL is the loss or damage of NVGs. Soldiers are not maintaining proper safeguarding of this equipment and are being charged for their loss and or damage.

The 3d ESC has already processed 70 FLIPLs since the Transfer of Authority in June. The 3d ESC Commander handles FLIPLs dealing with the loss or damage of any sensitive items or losses amounting to more than $100,000. All other property lost or damaged is handled at the Brigade and Battalion level.

Soldiers Charged for Lost /Damaged Equipment

ACCOUNTABILITY ALERT

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, 3d SUSTAINMENT COMMAND (EXPEDITIONARY)
JOINT BASE BALAD
APO, AE 09391

1 OCT 2008

3d ESC FLIPL Report

Proper safeguarding of government equipment is a leadership issue. The most common lost and damaged item is Night Vision Goggles (NVGs). Leaders need to insure that their Soldiers are properly securing and maintaining their NVGs.

Item	Description	Action	Cost
NVG	Soldier placed his NVGS on the grill of an ASV during PMCS. ASV drove off crushing NVGS.	Soldier Charged	$1,840.20
NVGs	Soldier left his NVGS on the tire of the vehicle. Vehicle was moved crushing NVGS in the process.	Soldier Charged	$1,699.50
PEQ 4	Soldier failed to secure his AN/PEQ-4 to his rifle resulting in him losing the AN/PEQ-4.	Soldier Charged	$384.00
NVGs	Soldier placed his NVGS on the tire of his vehicle while conducting PMCS on the vehicle. He drove the vehicle inside the maintenance bay crushing the NVGS in the process.	Soldier Charged	$2,683.00

ACofS G4
Joint Base Balad, Iraq
DSN: 318-433-2023

Sustaining the Line!

ACCOUNTABILITY ALERT

Soldiers Charged for Lost /Damaged Equipment

EXPEDITIONARY TIMES

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

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

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

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

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

3d ESC G2, Security Manager
Lt. Col Dale Davis, 3d ESC
dale.davis@iraq.centcom.mil

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

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

Layout and Design
Spc. Ryan Hohman, 215th MPAD
ryan.hohman@iraq.centcom.mil

Staff Writers
Spc. Anthony Hooker, 215th MPAD
anthony.hooker@iraq.centcom.mil
Spc. Charlotte Martinez, 215th MPAD
charlotte.martinez@iraq.centcom.mil
Spc. Michael Behlin, 3d ESC
michael.behlin@iraq.centcom.mil
Pfc. Amanda Tucker, 3d ESC
amanda.tucker1@iraq.centcom.mil

Contributing Public Affairs Offices
1st Sustainment Brigade
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CJSOTF-AP
76th Infantry Brigade Combat Team
Task Force 34

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

Contact the Expeditionary Times staff at:
expeditionarytimes@iraq.centcom.mil

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 3d 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.

Secretaries of State visit 3rd ESC, JBB for overseas voting update

by Spc. Michael Behlin
Expeditionary Times staff

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq – Secretaries of State and a chief election officials delegation from Pennsylvania, California, Indiana, Mississippi and Florida visited Joint Base Balad Sept. 30 to meet with Brig. Gen. Michael Lally, 3rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) commanding general, and receive updates on the voting process for servicemembers serving in Iraq.

The delegation visited JBB to promote voting participation by servicemembers and learn about the installation's voting assistance program and Servicemembers' overseas voting experience. The delegation also visited an installation post office and the Joint Military Mail Terminal here and received a briefing on overseas voting operations,.

With responsibility for mail distribution in Iraq, the 3rd ESC individually tracks registrations and ballots from remote post offices in Iraq back to New York's John F. Kennedy Airport where they are received for distribution.

At each stop, the delegation received an in-depth look at the voting processes and procedures provided to Servicemembers deployed to Iraq.

"Servicemembers are already providing a valuable service for our country in defending our democracy," said the Hon. Pedro Cortes, Pennsylvania Secretary of State and president of the National Association of Secretaries of State. "That democracy cannot continue to stand if people do not participate in the electoral process. It's our most fundamental right of citizenship and also our responsibility."

Cortes also stated that he and his colleagues were very impressed with the way and the 3rd ESC and other installation voting assistance officers were taking proactive steps in making sure all Servicemembers are aware of specific voting deadlines and requirements of their respective states.

Photo by Spc. Michael Behlin

Staff Sgt. Stephanie Zolnak, technical inspector for postal services on Joint Base Balad, explains to the Hon. Delbert Hosemann, the Secretary of State for Mississippi, the process absentee ballots go through after they are delivered to Joint Base Balad post offices.

"We are trying to inform the troops, no matter if they are in the States, or overseas, in remote sites or right here on Joint Base Balad, they still have the right to vote and we are providing the opportunity and are dedicated to giving them the opportunity," said Maj James Hess, plans and operations officer in charge for the 3rd ESC's personnel section.

The overall message that Cortes and the delegation continuously stressed to Servicemembers was the importance of voting and having their voices heard.

"I'm so delighted to be here in Iraq and I want to wish our troops a great election time," said Cortes. "It's very important that you vote so please make sure that you do."

Still strong after 30 years of service

by Staff Sgt. James E. Brown Jr.
1st Sustainment Brigade

CAMP TAJI, Iraq – The year was 1971 and the Vietnam War was still raging. Joe Frazier defeated Muhammad Ali at Madison Square Garden, Apollo 15 was launched, Walt Disney World opened its gates in Orlando, Fla., and Lance Armstrong, Mary J. Blige, and Kid Rock were born. These were only a few of the significant events that happened that year. 1971 was also the year Sgt. Maj. Kevin Bateman, a native of Salem, Ind., entered the Army. Now, 34 years later, he's still going strong.

Bateman's first enlistment was for three years with the XVIII Airborne Corps based out of Fort Bragg, N.C., where he served as an infantryman. After completing a three-year commitment in the active component, he decided to give the Indiana National Guard a try.

Bateman worked his way through the ranks to become the first sergeant of Charlie Company, 1st Battalion, 151st Infantry Regiment, and later transferred to Scottsburg, Ind., to become the first sergeant of Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 151st Infantry Regiment.

In 2003, Bateman moved to the Camp Atterbury Joint Maneuver Training Center, located near Edinburg, Ind., to serve as the Installation G3 operations sergeant major. His reason - he wanted to deploy to Iraq.

"Here I sat with 30 plus years of military service and had never been in a combat environment and I felt it was time I did my part over here. So when I found out the 76th Infantry Brigade was being mobilized, I volunteered to deploy with them," said Bateman. "I had too long watched Soldiers that had been in my platoon or in one of the companies I had as a first sergeant be deployed overseas as many as three times. It was time I took one of those slots and let someone else stay at home for a change."

Bateman currently serves with Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 1st Squadron, 152nd Cavalry Regiment, 1st Sustainment Brigade, as the operations sergeant major.

'Hooah' Soldier of the week

Photo by Spc. Michael Behlin

Sgt. Melissa Valdez, a Portland, Maine, native and casualty operations noncommissioned officer with the 3d Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), is congratulated by Brig. Gen. Michael Lally, 3d ESC commanding general, for being selected this week's "Hooah Soldier of the Week".

Air Force bids farewell, retires historic helicopter

by Staff Sgt. Andrea Thacker

AFCENT News Team

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq – Since its introduction into the U.S. Air Force arsenal nearly 40 years ago, the MH-53 Pave Low helicopter has proven crucial to special operation missions dating back to Vietnam.

After a lengthy and distinguished career, the remaining six Pave Low helicopters flew their last combat mission in support of special operations forces here Sept. 27.

The last mission, a SOF logistical resupply and passenger movement throughout central and southern Iraq, marks their last before the airframe retires in combat from Air Force inventory.

"We really feel like we are standing on the shoulders of giants," said Lt. Col. Gene Becker, 20th Expeditionary Special Operations Squadron commander and a MH-53 pilot of 13 years. "(We owe it to) the folks, who, over the past 40 years, have built the capability of this aircraft and the mission. We were just the lucky ones to be here at the end."

"We felt a great responsibility to close the (M)H-53's remaining months in the Air Force in a professional, disciplined and safe manner," he added. "At the end of the last mission, we felt like we achieved that goal. A goal, that we believe, was the best way to honor those (who contributed to) the last 40 years of this magnificent helicopter."

Pave Low helicopters, with their unique special operations mission and capabilities, have played a vital role in several operations during a career spanning four decades.

The MH-53 was the lead command and control helicopter during a raid of Son Tay Prison Camp in 1970, a mission linked to improving conditions for prisoners of war in North Vietnam.

In 1990, Pave Low helicopters led the way for Army AH-64 Apaches during an air strike, which opened the air war during Operation Desert Storm.

Since March 2003, the MH-53 Pave Low has played a crucial part in special operations missions supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The 20th ESOS MH-53 helicopters and their crews have provided much of the vertical lift, direct action and logistical resupply to the Combined Joint Special Operations Task Force in Iraq.

According to Air Force Special Operations Command officials, the MH-53 costs too much to maintain, fly and keep in the fight because of its age. Although its flying safety record is stellar, it has reached the end of its service life.

"It is a bittersweet ending," said Tech Sgt. Corey Fossbender, 20th ESOS MH-53 Pave Low aerial gunner and a crew member on the lead helicopter during the final mission. "These birds have been around for so long. Our maintenance (teams) have basically been magicians keeping them in the air. ... A legacy is going away. With all the history they have been apart of, it's sad to see them go."

Fossbender, who has spent 13 of his 16-year career in the Pave Low community, said he will miss the camaraderie that the Pave Low crews shared.

"It wasn't just a job, it was a brotherhood," he said.

The six-man Pave Low crew consists of two pilots, two flight engineers and two aerial gunners.

"Most of the Pave Low crew members … will head to (Air Force Special Operations Command)'s new weapons systems like the CV-22 (Osprey), AC-130 (Gunship) … and (MQ-1) Predators," said Becker, "while some will head over to Air Combat Command and fly the HH-60(G) rescue helicopter."

Becker added that retirement was also an option for some of the former Pave Low crew members.

Senior Master Sgt. Mark Pryor, 20th ESOS superintendent, will retire after more than 28 years; half of which he served as a flight engineer on the Pave Low.

"I don't think it has had an opportunity to sink in," said Pryor. "When I grabbed those throttles and pulled them off for the last time – realizing, 'this is it … the last time I will fly on the Pave Low and work with this group of guys' – was bitter sweet. The (M)H-53s are retiring, and then I retire. It's a perfect ending to a wonderful career."

Some of the Pave Low helicopters from Iraq will become relics of the past when they become displays in Air Force museums. Others will go to the Aircraft Maintenance and Regeneration Center at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Ariz., commonly referred to as "The Boneyard."

"As the Pave Low goes on to retire from combat today, she goes out as she came in – the very best," said Becker.

Equal Opportunity Leaders receive graduation certificates

Col. Marvin Whitaker, the chief of staff for the 3d Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), addresses graduates of the Equal Opportunity Leadership Course Sept. 12 at the Blackjack Education Center. Soldiers participated in a 60-hour, 6-day course to meet graduation requirements.

Photo by Spc. Anthony Hooker

Photo by Sgt. Keith M. Anderson

Command Sgt. Major Willie C. Tennant Sr., the senior-ranking enlisted member of the 3rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), congratulates Sgt. Tyler Wurm, 17th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, on his induction into the corps of noncommissioned officers, during a 17th CSSB NCO induction ceremony at the Morale, Welfare and Recreation Center at COB Q-west, Iraq Sept. 22.

Battalion holds final NCO Induction ceremony in Iraq

by Sgt. Keith M. Anderson

16th Sustainment Brigade

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE Q-WEST, Iraq — The 17th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion held its second and final noncommissioned officer induction ceremony in Iraq to honor 44 NCOs at the Morale, Welfare and Recreation Center here Sept. 22.

After a presentation entitled "The NCO Watch," where the new NCOs learned about the tradition of commemorating the passing of a Soldier to a NCO — a tradition dating back to Frederick the Great — and another presentation, "Boots of an NCO," the inductees heard "A Soldier's Request."

Guest speaker Command Sgt. Major Willie C. Tennant Sr., command sergeant major, 3rd Expeditionary Sustainment Command, Joint Base Balad, told the battalion's newest corps of NCOs to demonstrate inspiring leadership.

"To me it means your leadership style draws Soldiers to want to look like you, dress like you and lead like you," said Tennant. "In other words, it means your Soldiers want to some day lead Soldiers, just like you do."

After his remarks, the new NCOs were sworn in with "The Charge of the NCO."

The NCOs raised their right hands, en masse, and swore, "I will discharge carefully and diligently the duties of the grade to which I have been promoted and uphold the traditions and standards of the Army…," and then formed a line passing through an archway painted with all the enlisted leadership ranks.

Sgt. Jual Olivencia, team leader, 51st Transportation Company, said he was glad to finally be inducted.

"It meant a lot because I've witnessed other ceremonies and never took part," said the 34-year-old from Tamarac, Fla. "I didn't want to get out of the Army having never been inducted."

Staff Sgt. Joshua Cameron, light wheel mechanic, 574th Quartermaster Support Company, was able to watch his wife, Sgt. Jennifer Cameron, petroleum supply non-commissioned officer, 574th QMS Co., get inducted.

"I'm very proud," Joshua said. "She's highly motivated. She motivates me everyday."

The two NCOs, both 25-years-old, have been married for three years and this is their third deployment together.

The 17th CSSB, from Fort Richardson, Alaska, will formally end a 15-month deployment here with a transfer of authority ceremony to the 30th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, Tennessee Army National Guard, at Lion Memorial Field Oct. 4.

Facilities dedicated to sustainers help tell the story of troops fighting for freedom

by Spc. Anthony Hooker
Expeditionary Times staff

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq – Since 2004, sustainment units have constructed or renamed facilities on base in memory of fallen American Servicemembers.

The Sgt. Ivory L. Phipps Troop Medical Clinic, the Spc. Eric Burri Rigger Facility and the Sgt. Germaine L. Debro Improvised Explosive Device Training Lane are clear reminders to that service in the fight against terrorism is highly regarded and not forgotten.

For Servicemembers who carry out their tasks daily, the dedications are reminders that even the simplest tasks are significant.

Phipps, a Chicago native, was a 44 year-old Illinois National Guardsman with the 1544th Transportation Company when he was killed by shrapnel from incoming mortar rounds on March 17, 2004. In 2006, Phipps' home unit initiated the effort to rename the building, formerly known as the Cobra Troop Medical Clinic, during their tour of duty on Balad.

Photo by Spc. Anthony Hooker

Spc. Michael Bowers, left and Spc. Matias Lara take a moment to read the memorial plaque of Sgt. Ivory L. Phipps Sept. 22 at Phipps Troop Medical Clinic. Bowers is a member of the 76th Infantry Brigade Combat Team; Lara a medical assistant with the 546th Area Support Medical Company.

1st Lt. Nolan Ellis, the officer in charge at Phipps TMC and a St. Roberts, Mo., native, said a majority of patients assume Sgt. Phipps was a medic and are surprised to know that he served as a transportation specialist.

"We gladly explain to our patients that our clinic proudly supports those who provide support on Joint Base Balad," Ellis said. "Like many (forward operating bases), (contingency operating bases), and buildings that have been named for fallen Soldiers and Servicemembers, our staff understands the significance of our clinic's name and why it is an important honor."

When a person has their image dedicated, people who come in contact with the image often make the relationship relevant to their lives. The 546th Area Support Medical Company, a unit deployed from Fort Hood, Texas, has managed the Phipps Clinic for the last 13 months. Spc. Matias Lara, a medical assistant with the 546th ASMC and Kingsville, Texas, native, said many Soldiers are driven to work a little harder because the clinic is dedicated to a fallen Servicemember.

"This is his house," Lara continued. "A lot of us here feel we are paying (Phipps) respect by working here. It's like he's watching over us when we are doing our best."

Spc. Micheal Bowers, a member of the 76th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, who was on appointment at the clinic, took a moment to view a picture and plaque memorializing Phipps in the lobby. Bowers, a native of Indianapolis, said it is nice to see a person recognized for their show of character and valor.

Ellis said the 546th ASMC hopes to dedicate an additional memorial plaque on behalf of Sgt. Phipps by the end of the month.

Sgt. 1st Class Jack Wilson, the noncommissioned officer in charge of combat aerial delivery for a detachment of the 824th Quartermaster Company, and a Fayetteville, N.C. native, recently helped organize the renaming of a Balad facility after Spc. Eric Burri. Burri, a rigger with Ft. Bragg's 623rd QC, and Wyoming, Mich., native, died when an improvised explosive device detonated near his Humvee in 2005. Wilson didn't know the Soldier personally, yet felt the connection between Burri and his troops was real.

"The rigging field is a small family," said Wilson, a native of Helena, Okla. "For me, he represents the people in our field."

Sgt. Debro's story is the most common and the most compelling. A National Guardsman from Nebraska, Debro, of Omaha, Neb., lost his life Sept. 4, 2006 after an IED explosion hit the humvee he was driving. Debro, 33, left no wife or children, but motivated his fellow troops to dedicate a training site in his name. He also inspired Jim Betts, a forensics officer from Nebraska, to join Task Force Troy, a military operation in Baghdad dedicated to eliminating the threat of explosives in Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom.

Maj. Scott Romero, the officer in charge of counter-IED operations for the 3d Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), said Soldiers training on a range that is dedicated to a fallen Servicemember should drive home the importance of continuous training.

"Improvised explosive devices are the greatest threat to Soldiers on the road," said Romero. "Debro Range is a life-saving asset. Because it is named for a fellow Soldier who died from an IED attack, it cements the fact that Soldiers must routinely train to sharpen their IED recognition and reaction skills."

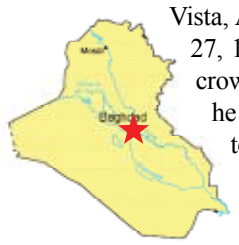
Each person interviewed said that when you work or train at a site named after someone, it's a little more personal. Lara said he gets the reminder every time he shows up for duty.

"When we come to work and see this picture or answer the phone –'Phipps TMC,'" said Lara while looking at Phipps' photo on the wall, "you know you're representing someone

A Veteran returns to proud profession

by Capt. Latasha R. Thomas
1st Sustainment Brigade

CAMP LIBERTY, Iraq — Cpl. Donald Paul of Sierra Vista, Ariz., served in the Army from June 27, 1975 to December 7, 1983, as a microwave repair specialist. In those days, he was on the cutting edge of military technology.



"We were using spectrum analyzers to measure radio frequencies for IBM. They used the data to build simulators for the then new M1A1 Abrams tanks," said Paul.

During his initial enlistment, Paul reached the rank of sergeant. Afterward, he decided to leave the military to pursue a career in government contracting. He worked as an engineer designer for facilities built in Wiesbaden, Germany. Paul eventually settled in Sierra Vista, Ariz., and worked in maintenance at Fort Huachuca, Ariz., for 12 years.

"I just wanted to be near the Soldiers," said Paul. At the time, it was best way he could serve the military since he had exceeded the maximum age of enlistment, which was 35 at the time. In 2006, the Army increased the enlistment age to 42.

"As soon as I found out about it, I was at the recruiter the next day," said Paul. In order to enter the Army, he had to pass a battery of tests and take a demotion to specialist. "I was happy to do it. I always knew I was a better Soldier than civilian. I love being a Soldier."

Paul entered the Army again on January 24, 2007. He went through Warrior Training Course and later attended Advanced Individual Training at Ft. Leonard Wood, Mo.

The biggest adjustment for Cpl. Paul was the training time. "We were training 16 hours a day," Paul recalled. Once he completed his training, he and four of his classmates were assigned to 57th Transportation Company where he was told he would be deploying to Iraq in support of the Global War on Terrorism.

"I was happy that I was deploying. This is why I came back because our Army needed Soldiers," said Paul. "My brothers and sisters, my wife and son, they are all proud of me. My friends as well, they are all veterans and have been very supportive."

Paul has been a great example of the capabilities of older enlistees. He has lived a full life and understood military culture.

"He has been a leader since day one," said Sgt. 1st Class Bernard Lithkousky, Paul's platoon sergeant.

Within two months of joining 57th Trans. Co., Paul was laterally promoted from specialist to corporal due to his demonstrated leadership ability. During the deployment, he has contributed greatly to the mission by traveling more than 3,500 miles in support of units in the Baghdad areas of operation.

More importantly, his patriotism is an inspiration to all the Soldiers, NCOs, and officers who have the pleasure of working with him.

Contact the 3d Public Affairs Office for scheduling. E-mail jessica.wilson@iraq.centcom.mil

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)
8:30 P.M.	FREEDOM CHAPEL (WEST SIDE)
WEDNESDAY 8 P.M.	GILBERT MEMORIAL (H-6)

PROTESTANT – LITURGICAL

SUNDAY 11 A.M.	LUTHERAN-PROVIDER CHAPEL
3 P.M.	EPISCOPAL- LUTHERAN GILBERT CHAPEL (H-6)

PROTESTANT --MESSIANIC

FRIDAY 8:30 P.M.	FREEDOM CHAPEL (WEST SIDE)

PROTESTANT—SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST

SATURDAY 9 A.M.	PROVIDER CHAPEL

PROTESTANT—CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

ROMAN CATHOLIC MASS

(SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION 30 MIN. PRIOR TO MASS)

SATURDAY 5 P.M.	GILBERT MEMORIAL (H-6)
8 P.M.	FREEDOM CHAPEL (WEST SIDE)
SUNDAY 8:30 A.M.	GILBERT MEMORIAL (H-6)
11 A.M.	PROVIDER CHAPEL
11 A.M.	AIR FORCE HOSPITAL CHAPEL
MON-SAT 11:45 A.M.	PROVIDER CHAPEL
THURSDAY 11 A.M.	AIR FORCE HOSPITAL CHAPEL
MON,WED,FRI 5P.M.	GILBERT MEMORIAL
FRIDAY–HOLY HOUR 7 P.M.	PROVIDER CHAPEL

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)
SATURDAY 8 A.M.	GILBERT MEMORIAL (H-6)
6 P.M.	GILBERT MEMORIAL (H-6)

ISLAMIC SERVICE

FRIDAY 12:30 P.M.	PROVIDER CHAPEL

PAGAN/ WICCAN FELLOWSHIP

THURSDAY, SATURDAY 7 P.M.	EDEN CHAPEL

BUDDHIST FELLOWSHIP

TUESDAY 7 P.M.	EDEN CHAPEL

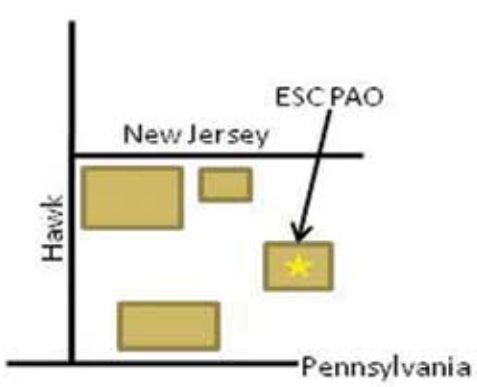
PROTESTANT – SPANISH NON–DENOMINATIONAL

SATURDAY 7:30 P.M.	PROVIDER CHAPEL
SUNDAY 4:15 P.M.	GILBERT MEMORIAL CHAPEL

EASTERN ORTHODOX- DEVINE LITURGY

SUNDAY 9 A.M.	PROVIDER CHAPEL ANNEX

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



Who: Former members of all our Armed Forces on Joint Base Balad
What: Participate in interviews for the 3rd ESC's Voices of Veterans Project
Where: BLDG 7508, 3rd ESC PAO
When: Every Monday, 6 October thru 3 November - 1100-1300 hours
Why: We appreciate your service and want to hear your story!

- Where did you serve?
- What units were you in?
- What lessons do you have for today's Servicemembers?
- Do you have a VFW or Legion Post you want to say hi to?

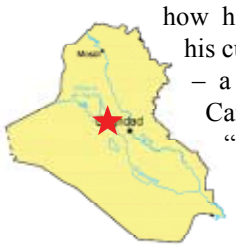
"We'll have a cup 'o Joe waitin' for ya!"

Contact: ESC PAO @ 433-2412 or 483-4608 or escpao@iraq.centcom.mil

‘Strange road’ brings Soldier to Iraq

by 1st Lt. George Fowler
1st Sustainment Brigade

CAMP TAJI, Iraq – Cpl. Troy Reeves of Jonesboro, Ark., considers how he ended up in his current situation – a gate guard at Camp Taji, Iraq. “It is a strange road to where I am,” said Reeves.



The road began in 1991, when Reeves enlisted into the Army as a mechanic. Reeves was stationed at Fort Benning, Ga., where he stayed for a couple of years before leaving the service and moving to Chicago. In Chicago, Reeves picked up his current profession – truck driver.

His first endeavor as a truck driver was to buy four “piggy-back” trailers to transport containers. “I didn’t want to have to work for anyone else, so I bought enough to hire others to work for me,” said Reeves. Things were going well until fuel and permit prices skyrocketed, then he sold everything and went to work for someone else.

Enroute to Arkansas, Reeves moved to Indiana to pursue better employment opportunities, but they never materialized, so he completed his journey to Jonesboro, Ark.

One of the primary reasons Reeves moved to Jonesboro was so his wife, Kim, could attend Arkansas State University and earn a bachelors in social work. Reeves also reunited with his father in Arkansas, which led to his joining the Arkansas Army National Guard.

After hearing how his father had been in World War II and Vietnam, Reeves decided it was his responsibility to support his country.

“It is a generational responsibility, and this time it fell on my shoulders,” said Reeves.

In 2004, Reeves became a member of the 1123rd Transportation Company as a truck driver. Then, in 2007, he was mobilized with the 1123rd for their deployment with the 39th Infantry Brigade Combat Team to Iraq as a force protection company. Currently, Reeves is a gate guard with the 1123rd at Camp Taji, Iraq, and is attached to the 1-152nd Cavalry Regiment, an Indiana National Guard unit under the 1st Sustainment Brigade.

Cpl. Troy Reeves

When not driving trucks at home - which isn’t often - Reeves spends his time playing with his sons and working toward an MBA.

60 vehicles in 30 days

CAMP TAJI, Iraq – An Iraqi Soldier finishes a new paint job after replacing damaged body panels at the level III Maintenance facility on Camp Taji, Iraq, Sept. 27. The Level III facility is striving to repair 60 vehicles in 30 days as part of an Iraqi Army initiative to further enhance and challenge the capabilities of the Iraqi maintenance Soldiers working there.

Photo by Staff Sgt. Gary Hawkins

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Photo by Air Force Staff Sgt. Mike Meares

An abandoned building in al Basrokea was transformed into a health clinic and began seeing patients Aug. 21.

HEALTH, from Page 1

portant this clinic is to the people in the village to get medical care when they need it. He went on to promise the villagers and the reporters that the Wasit Province the MoH will supply the clinic with all the necessary furniture, equipment, medicine and doctors to keep the clinic going.

"We renovated the medical facility and created an agreement with the Wasit Ministry of Health to provide the things they need," said the CAT 621 team sergeant. "We helped them get started. Now they have to maintain it from here."

The town sits more than 30 kilometers from the nearest medical facility. As an isolated and impoverished farming village with little to no transportation, getting to a medical facility is a difficult chore.

"This new facility provides care immediately for this town," the team sergeant said. "This also improves the relationship with the Iraqi government and the people. They have seen the government as apathetic to their needs. It positively impacts the perception of the government and the security forces protecting them in the region."

The economic impact is another positive aspect the clinic is already having on the community. Several small businesses have opened across the street from the clinic to support the town and visitors to the clinic.

"This clinic has the potential to change the lives of the people here, but will certainly change their quality of life" said the CAT 621 team medic. "People who suffer from chronic diseases and illnesses - especially the older population and children - will get the care the burden of travel has kept them from."

The building was once a headquarters for the Ba'ath Party when Saddam Hussein was in power. After the fall of Saddam's regime, the building was converted into a medical facility but closed because of its dilapidated condition. Criminal elements then used the abandoned building as a meeting place until Iraqi and Coalition Forces began operations to rid the criminals from the area. Now that the Iraqi Security Forces are making the village more secure, the town elders decided they would like to see the building transformed back into a health care facility.

The MoH is already living up to its promises to maintain the clinic. They have hired a mechanic to take care of the generator and a guard to maintain the building's security. The GoI and ISF also remain committed to providing security and stability to the area.

Photo by Air Force Staff Sgt. Mike Meares

Children from al Basrokea are going to benefit from the renovated building that was transformed into a health clinic Aug. 21.

Shout Out from home

Show your Soldier how much you miss them by sending messages, pictures, or poems in the Expeditionary Times newspaper.
Contact the 3d ESC Public Affairs Office to print your message.
E-mail expeditionarytimes@iraq.centcom.mil

Remembering the fallen

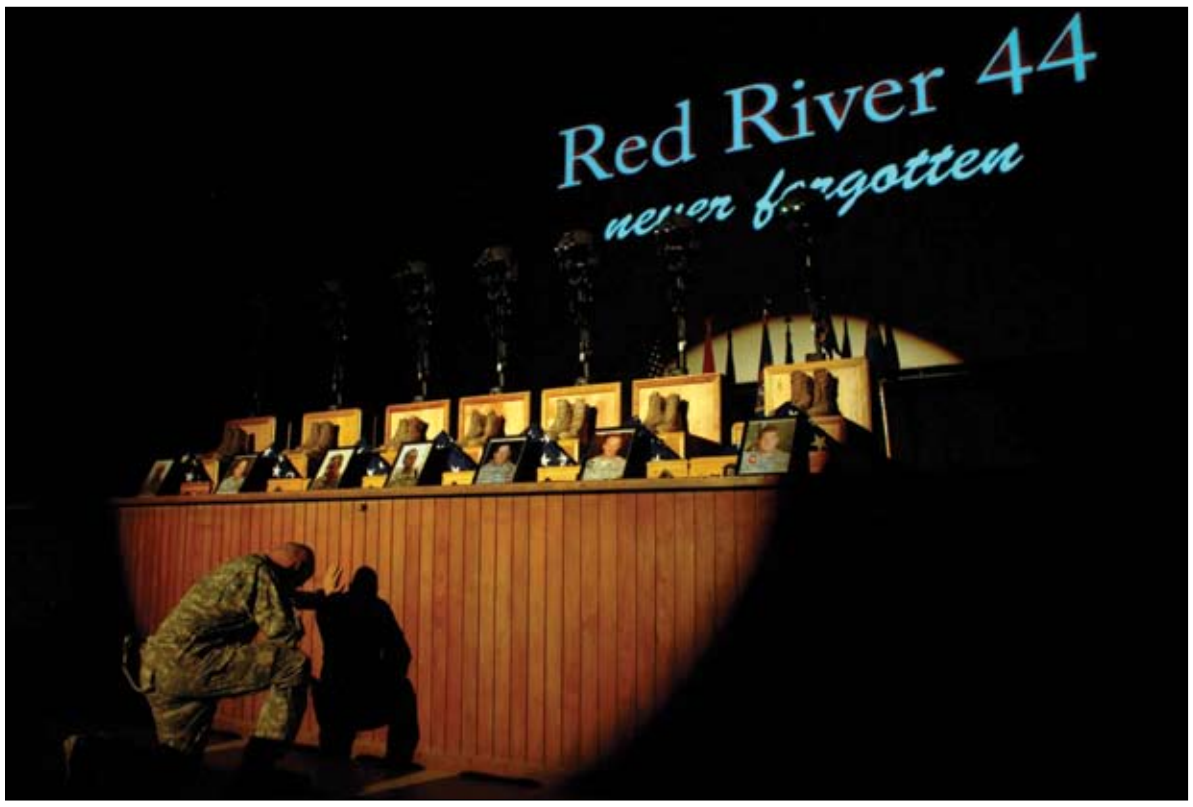

Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Daniel Ewer

A memorial was held by Task Force 34 for their seven fallen Soldiers on Sept. 22.

by Sgt. Lynette Hoke

Task Force 34 PAO

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq - On Soldiers of Task Force 34 gathered together to remember the life of seven of their recently fallen comrades Sept. 22.

Capt. Robert Vallejo II, Chief Warrant Officers Brady J. Rudolf and Corry A. Edwards, Command Sgt. Maj. Julio C. Ordonez and Staff Sgt. Anthony L. Mason, all from the Texas Army National Guard, and Sgts. Daniel M. Eshbaugh and Michael E. Thompson from the Oklahoma Army National Guard were aboard a Chinook CH-47 in route to Joint Base Balad when it was unexpectedly and catastrophically lost.

"As these teams fly missions, bonds of trust are made, and friendships are strengthened," said Capt. Jason Rowe, B Co. commander, 2-149th General Support Aviation Battalion. "Over the years that I have been with this group, our friendship has grown … I am proud to say that the men we honor were more than friends, they were like family to me."

Each of the command staff who addressed the crowd spoke of the fallen Soldiers like they were their own brother or son.

"As their commander, I will be forever indebted to each of them for their personal sacrifice," said Lt. Col. Joanne MacGregor. "It breaks my heart to know the pain and sense of loss their family and loved ones will experience in the coming months and years. I take great comfort in knowing their families and their loved ones back home have the full support and love of the Texas and Oklahoma National Guard families and our Army family."

The company commanders reflected upon the Soldiers' lives and their deep bonds to unit and camaraderie.

"Strength, bravery, dedication – these are some of the words we can use to describe our brothers," said Maj. Matthew Masias, D Co. commander, 2-149th General Support Aviation Battalion. "Let us not forget their families and sacrifices they have made and the challenges they will face, and together we will remain courageous and will honor their memories as we continue the mission at hand."

When the final honors were completed, the Servicemembers were able to say goodbye to their brothers in arms.

"As aviators, they understood the inherent risk and danger associated with flying but they also knew the joy, love and excitement of flying," said MacGregor. "They were professionals who loved their work and loved their country."

Photo by Sgt. Edward Thorne

A memorial was held by Task Force 34 for their seven fallen Soldiers on Sept. 22.

"Soldiers and units are not judged by how they respond when faced with easy decisions, when things are going well; Soldiers and units are judged by how they respond when faced with adversity," said MacGregor. "I know that in the final analysis, history will depict our Soldiers and this unit as resilient, courageous, professional and steadfast – for that is who and what you truly are."

"So now great Task Force 34 Soldiers, aircrewmen, and commanders, we will not forget our fallen seven. In honor of their selfless commitment to duty, carry the memory of our friends in your heart and go forward to finish the good race that was set before them and still lies before us today," said Col. Clay Brock, commander, Task Force 34.

Road Warrior earns battlefield promotion

by Capt. Latasha R. Thomas

1st Sustainment Brigade

CAMP LIBERTY, Iraq — Cpl. Olivia Haddock is serving her second deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, both times in a convoy security section. This deployment she is a truck commander for a convoy security section, attached to 168th Brigade Support Battalion. She has been promotable since October 2007, but promotion points for transportation sergeants have been maxed out for just as long. As it turns out, her hard work just paid off with the renewal of an old policy.

On April 1, 2008, the Department of the Army approved a pilot program designed to promote enlisted Soldiers based on extraordinary performance while serving on the battlefields of Iraq and Afghanistan.

"Cpl. Haddock is definitely deserving of the honor, she works hard and has been a leader in this company since 2006. This (promotion) couldn't have happened to a more deserving Soldier," said Staff Sgt. Gallagher, 57th Trans Co, 168th BSB, 1st Sust. Bde.

Haddock distinguished herself from her peers time and time again. She was the first mission commander under the grade of staff sergeant. She set the standard that was recognized by the battalion commander. Because of her discipline and combat experience. She was chosen to be a vehicle commander for the company's convoy security section. She has been on every mission with the section and has served with distinction.

"You couldn't ask for more in a corporal. She just stepped up to the plate when we needed her," said her convoy commander.

Haddock was promoted to sergeant on September 1, 2008, by Lt. Col. Todd A. Heussner, commander of the 168 BSB. She is an excellent noncommissioned officer and an example that we hope all Road Warriors will follow.

The 20th Engineer Brigade "tribe" returns to Fort Bragg

by 1st Lt.Jennifer Patterson

20th Engineer Brigade

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq - With more than 1,200 craters repaired, 10 bridges maintained, and more than 600 improvised explosive device found and cleared, the 20th Engineer Brigade handed over the reins to the 555th Engineer Brigade from Fort Lewis, Wash., during a transfer of authority ceremony Sept. 29 at Joint Base Balad, Iraq.

The 20th Engineer Brigade Headquarters, led by Col. Peter A. Deluca and Command Sgt. Maj. Todd Burnett, is returning to Fort Bragg, N. C., after serving in Iraq for 15 months.

When the Brigade arrived in July 2007, DeLuca explained that his engineers planned to "put it all on the table and hold nothing back." Making good on their promise, DeLuca and Burnett led the unit through a diverse mission set focused on counter improvised explosive device operations, rapid crater repair, tactical outpost and base construction, and partnering with the Iraqi engineers.

During Operation Iraqi Freedom 07-09, the 20th Engineer Brigade led the construction of the Baghdadi Bridge in Al Anbar Province, facilitated the handover of the province to Iraqi Security Forces, developed relationships with the Iraqi Army engineer branch - leading to the creation of an Iraqi geospatial school and training of Iraqis to restore vital infrastructure - and pioneered new initiatives in job creation and economic development in order to capitalize on the security gains in the region.

"We use the word 'tribe' to describe our group of engineers because it provides a foundation for us to come around together as a multifaceted and relentless team," said DeLuca.

Comprised of engineers from the Army, Air Force and Navy, the brigade led the construction of more than 60 combat outposts and patrol bases throughout Iraq.

"Our multi-component tribe of engineers demonstrated the versatility, creativity and responsiveness needed to expand engineer operations all over the theater of operation," said Burnett.

Col. Randi Fofi and Command Sgt. Maj. Matthew Thomas will lead the 555th Engineer Brigade over the next 12 months as the Corps Engineer Brigade in Iraq.

7th Sustainment Brigade, Iraqi government join forces to furnish healthy drinking water

by Spc. Anthony Hooker
Expeditionary Times staff

Photo by Spc. Anthony Hooker

Photo by Spc. Anthony Hooker

Top: Iraqi children fill buckets with water Sept. 30 at Abdul Razaq, Iraq. Abdul Razaq, a village in the city of Ur, is located near Contingency Operating Base Adder.

Left: Chief warrant officer Chris Gauthreaux, a member of the 7th Sustainment Brigade, explains how the reverse osmosis water purification unit will work during a ribbon-cutting ceremony Sept. 30 at Abdul Razaq, Iraq. Gauthreaux, a native of New Orleans, works for the 7th Sust. Bde. civil-military operations office.

ABDUL RAZAQ, Iraq – Soldiers from the 3rd Sustainment Command, 7th Sustainment Brigade gathered with local Iraqi leaders in Abdul Razaq to participate in a ribbon-cutting ceremony of the village's water purification unit Sept. 30.

Col. Mark Barbosa, 7th Sus. Bde. commander, met with Iraqi government, military and tribal leaders to celebrate the combined effort between Iraqi and Coalition forces to improve clean water production.

Within the past two months, the brigade worked with Dhi Qar officials to refurbish two reverse osmosis water purification units within the province.

Barbosa and the local dignitaries were given a short demonstration of the facility along with its basic features. The unit, which an overhead delivery system to rapidly fill water trucks, is capable of producing 700 gallons of clean water per hour.

Resan Meqdad, the mayor of nearby Ur who initiated the project with 7th Sus. Bde. leaders, said the assistance was sorely needed. He recalled how, previously, many children drank directly from canals resulting in a number of health problems.

"The water system here was so bad," said Meqdad through a translator. "People could not get fresh water for drinking . . . it could not be used for consumption."

Meqdad said the Sustainment Soldiers' work on the water purification systems was greatly appreciated.

"We are so happy and this will give (citizens) more high spirits," he said. "We hope this project can lead to more advanced, bigger projects."

Local Iraqi enthusiasm over the project was matched only be the ingenuity of their U.S. partners. Chief Warrant Officer Chris Gauthreaux, a member of the brigade's civil-military operations office, served as lead engineer. Gauthreaux used his skills to troubleshoot and restore existing units - proving more cost-effective than buying new systems. Gauthreaux stated small measures like the purification unit help curtail suffering for the Iraqi people.

The purification unit is one in a series of 7th Sus. Bde. initiatives designed to build Iraqi civil capacity while also contributing to overall security.

"Our goal is to build viable systems that add value to the local communities and strengthen the Iraqi governing systems so we can eventually leave," Barbosa said. "We want to go home but we can't do that until the Iraqi government is stabilized and has a full handle on things."

Do you have a story idea?

Contact the Expeditionary Times

expeditionarytimes@iraq.centcom.mil

OPERATION SUSTAINER STRONG 2008

Reenlistment with the 3d ESC Commander
Brigadier General Michael J. Lally

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assigned to the 3d ESC
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530th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion keeps Soldiers prepared through sergeant major's challenge

Story and photos by Spc. Anthony Hooker
Expeditionary Times staff

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE ADDER, Iraq – Soldiers of Fort Lee's 530th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion competed against one another in a series of warrior training tasks during the unit's sergeant major's challenge Sept. 29 at Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq.

The event was sponsored by Command Sgt. Maj. James Sims, the senior-ranking enlisted member of the 530th CSSB, and a Miami native.

Twelve teams made of five members performed a series of events designed to assess the unit's basic survival skills. Team members alternated doing pushups and sit-ups over a timed period.

Afterwards, the teams raced against one another to disassemble and reassemble a M249 Squad Automatic Weapon, complete a radio transmission, push a humvee, and carry a team member on a field litter. After carrying the patient a designated distance, teams had to successfully apply an intravenous fluid injection and, finally, one member had to carry that patient unassisted to a safe area.

The action was fast and pressure-packed. Supporters of the teams provided coaching and encouragement as the competitors worked to complete the tasks. All of the units finished the challenge, but Sims' personal security detail posted the winning time of 25 minutes, 35 seconds.

Staff Sgt. Rickylee Pinkney, the leader of the PSD team, said he was happy to win, but was equally encouraged by the cohesion and morale-lifting efforts of the competitors.

"(Today) was an outstanding day because we saw a lot of teamwork and camaraderie," said Pinkney, a native of Augusta, Ga. "We were around people we normally don't interact with . . . seeing people out here give 100 percent really motivates you."

Afterwards, Sims said he was encouraged by the skill level of his troops and that he was highly impressed with their drive.

"The excitement of leading Soldiers and watching them execute tasks is great," said Sims. "They can perform their daily duties and also perform (on) a moment's notice their warrior skills and their skill to survive on the battlefield."

Sims said the competition allows he and Lt. Col. Robert Horneck, commander of the 530th CSSB, and a Kohler, Wis., native, to see the Soldiers perform and learn their strengths and weaknesses.

"The most important thing is having a group of Soldiers coming from different components – Active, (Army) Reserves, National Guard – bring them together as a team, and be able to validate that there's no difference," said Sims. "Today's activities were designed to do that."

Several Soldiers from the Army Reserve's 1st Platoon, 962nd Ordinance Company, deployed from Plattsburg, N.Y., also participated in the event.

Sims said the 530th CSSB validates their battalion personnel every month.

"With every system you have to be prepared," said Sims.

Sims finished his conversation by saying Soldiers become more confident with training tools like the challenge. He added that leaders who successfully perform tasks get more confidence and trust from their Soldiers.

Sgt. Kevin Lynch concentrates on doing pushups during the sergeant major's challenge Sept. 26 at Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq. Lynch is a member of Headquarters and Headquarters Company 530th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion.

Team members from the 1st platoon, 962nd Ordinance Company, a Plattsburg, N.Y., Army Reserve unit, push a humvee during the 530th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion's sergeant major's challenge Sept. 26 at Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq. Twelve teams comprised of five individuals competed in seven warrior-training tasks.

Spc. Willena Payne works to reassemble a M249 Squad Automatic Weapon during the 530th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion's sergeant major's challenge Sept. 26 at Contingency Operating Base, Iraq. Twelve teams comprised of five individuals competed in seven warrior-training tasks.

Sgt. Joshua Udell applies an intravenous needle into a fellow Soldier during the 530th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion's sergeant major's challenge Sept. 26 at Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq. Udell is a member of the Army Reserve's 1st Platoon, 962nd Ordinance Company, based out of Plattsburg N.Y.

Personnel Claims Act:

Know your rights under the

by Sgt. Matthew Sullivan
3d ESC SJA Office

Nobody wakes up in the morning and says, "I wish some of my things would get stolen" or "I hope my bags are not on the plane when I land." The sad truth is things like this happen. Hopefully, this will never happen to you, but if it does you want to ensure that you have followed the proper procedures to receive the maximum payment available to you. Here are a few things to keep in mind if you need to file a claim under the Personel Claims Act:

1. The claimant must be eligible to file a claim under PCA. Eligible claimants under the PCA are Soldiers on active duty, members of the U.S. Army Reserve the Army National Guard engaged in active service or inactive duty training, civilian employees of the Army or ARNG, and civilian employees of Department of Defense who are not employees of the Air Force, Navy, or Marine Corps. However, local nationals, third country nationals, and contractors are not eligible to file claims under the PCA. Civilian contractors may qualify under other claims statutes and should contact their respective claims office for further information.

2. Apply the double lock standard. The Army Claims Doctrine holds claimants to what is termed "the double lock standard" or, stated simply, keeping your valuables behind two locks. That laptop you spent a month's pay on or the twin mp3 player you treated yourself to should be secured in a wall or foot locker when you are not around. And, of course, the door to your combat housing unit should always be locked. You are expected to secure smaller, high value items every time you leave your dwelling. If you are going on leave your living area for any period of time, your personal property should definitely be secured.

3. Take accountability of your personal property. Do a personal item inventory and post it in your room. Take pictures of your high value items. Sometimes, pictures are worth more than a thousand words. When you take pictures of your personal electronic devices, take a picture of the placard on the back of the device. The placard has the model number, date of manufacture, serial number and all kinds of important information that tells the claims officer what you had. If you do not know what kind of television you had and you turn in a claim for a 21" TV, you get replacement cost minus depreciation for the most basic 21" TV.on the market. If you had proof that your television was high definition with all the bells and whistles, you could receive payment for that model instead. Also, keep your receipts, especially when you buy high value items. Receipts not only prove that you owned the item, but they also show exactly what you paid and when.

4. Place high value items in a carry-on bag when flying. If your checked luggage is damaged or stolen, you will minimize your losses. If your bags are lost by the airline, be sure to give a full and accurate inventory of what was in your bags. Don't let them tell you, "Oh we have enough on the inventory. You don't have to put anything else." The inventory list is going to become part of your claim later, so you need to be thorough. Also, if the airlines lose your bags, start getting statements immediately. Hopefully, the airlines will find your bags. However, if they do not, those statements will help validate and settle your claim.

Photo by Sgt. Matthew Sullivan

Damaged goods from a conex shipment to Iraq.

5. Get a surge protector for your electronics. If power surges are common where you are located, then damage to your electronic devices will not be compensable. Be sure to check the voltage of your electronic devices. If you feel that you just have to plug your 110V hair dryer into that 220 socket; that is on you, but this will not be reimbursable.

6. Do not carry large quantities of money on you. When more than $100 dollars is necessary for purposes such as traveling, traveler's checks should be used if available.

7. Beware of keeping personal property at the workplace. Items such as televisions, IPODs, or radios used during lunch, smoke breaks, or to decorate the office would likely not be considered reasonable and therefore would not be considered compensable.

8 . File your claim in a timely manner. Be sure to adhere to required timelines for household goods and hold baggage shipment claims.

In summary, the PCA is designed to assist with losses of personal property. Losses for TA-50 are not compensible under PCA. Remember, the Army Claims Program is a morale program but not an insurance policy. It was designed to offset losses incurred incident to military service, not pay 100 percent replacement cost. If you have additional questions on personnel claims, or any other legal issue, contact the Combined Legal Center. We stand ready and willing to assist you.

Iraqi Army Soldiers graduate Warrior Leader Course at Q-West

Photo by Sgt. Keith M. Anderson

Iraqi Army Col. Hazim Serhan Hussein, deputy commander, 7th Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division, Forward Operating Base Hawk, addresses Iraqi Army Warrior Leader Course 09-08 graduates after the ceremony at the Morale, Welfare and Recreation Center, Q-West, Sept. 19. Hussein told the graduates to be loyal to each other and to their country. The three-week course, run by Soldiers from the U.S. Army's 1st Squadron, 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment, "trains, teaches and mentors" Iraqi Soldiers in Army fundamentals such as rifle marksmanship, first aid, map reading and guard duty; and in leadership responsibilities like the law of war, effective communications, the military decision-making process and mission essential task list.

JOINT BASE BALAD
3d Sustainment Command (Expeditionary)

Presents

Hispanic Heritage Month

Luncheon

At OASIS Dining Facility (DFAC 1)

Audie Murphy Room

10 October 2008 1130-1300

Guest Speaker: MAJOR CARLOS MORALES

Deputy G-1 3d Sustainment Command (Expeditionary)

National Theme: " Getting Involved: Our Families, Our Community, Our Nation."

Seating is limited: Please RSVP by 8 October 08

Contact: MSG Tuynuykua Jackson, 3d ESC HR/EO Advisor at 433-2527/2695, NIPR: tuynuykua.jackson@iraq.centcom.mil or 332nd AEW & 76th IBCT EO Office

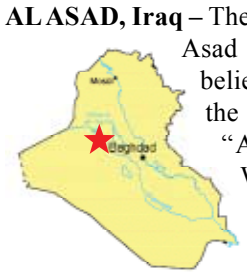
Soldiers preserve Al Asad's cultural, historical landmark: "Abraham's Well"

Photo by Spc. Charlotte Martinez

The sun rises over the reeds on the outskirts of the oasis known to locals on Al Asad Airbase as "Abraham's Well." The actual biblical "Abraham's Well" is located on the western coast of present day Turkey.

by Spc. Charlotte Martinez
Expeditionary Times staff

AL ASAD, Iraq – The oasis at Al Asad was once believed to be the biblical "Abraham's Well." Though research has proven otherwise, the importance of the oasis still has a rich historical and cultural significance to the citizens of Iraq. As guests in Iraq, Servicemembers should do our best to protect and preserve these sites.



For most Soldiers in Iraq, it is hard to imagine a small pond with lush green life around it in the middle of this sand-filled country. However, this oasis is located on the border of Camp Mejid on Al Asad Airbase, Iraq, and is home to several species of animals and other wildlife.

According to Maj. Randel Rogers, the plans and policy officer for support operations, 371st Sustainment Brigade, and an avid naturalist, it was believed that Abraham and his family stopped at the Al Asad oasis and camped there during their journey; however, through the years it has been proven that Abraham actually stopped in Canaan, which is located on the western shore of present day Turkey.

Through the centuries, the oasis at Al Asad was and has remained a stopping point for Bedouins during their travels. It wasn't inhabited until around 1920, when a group of families built a village, planted date palms and started a small community.

According to Rogers, a Galloway, Ohio, native, Saddam Hussein had the villagers that were in the area evicted so he could build Al Asad Airfield in 1985. Some of the settlers were able to hide around the oasis, but when the base expanded in 1995, the rest of them were forced to leave.

The villagers used the date palms as their main cash crop, according to Rogers, and when the base expanded, the palms and oasis were left intact.

Since the arrival of Coalition Forces at Al Asad, several efforts have been made to keep the area clean. Since he has been deployed to the area, Rogers has worked to gain awareness for its protection and preservation.

"I've always been interested in watching wildlife," Rogers said. There are several clean-up efforts currently in place and, eventually, Rogers would like to see the historical and cultural sites in Iraq handed over to the Iraqis.

Rogers said that he is currently working with a group called Nature Iraq, a non-governmental organization dedicating itself to the restoration of Iraq, to take the lead on cleaning efforts and continue the cultivation of the palm groves.

Rogers said there are close to 70 different species of birds, about three different species of canines, between 15 and 20 types of dates from the palm groves and several other types of plants, animals and other wildlife living in the Oasis alone and it is important to protect them.

Rogers, an avid birdwatcher and naturalist, said the best way for individual Soldiers to keep these cultural and historical resources like the oasis protected is to start with your own living areas and keep the trash picked up.

"It's easy to neglect the area," said Rogers. "Conserving water … can help save the environment because it takes a lot of time and money to purify the water."

Rogers said the chaplains at Al Asad have hosted several cleaning projects and they recently hosted a three-day class on the history of Al-Asad. There will be another class on the history scheduled for sometime in December.

"The oasis has a cultural significance to the local area and there is a great potential for eco-tourism in the future," said Rogers.

Sustainment Soldiers partner with IA transporters

Sgt. Robert S. Axtell, a truck driver assigned to the 68th Transportation Company from Manheim, Germany, presents a class to Soldiers of the Iraqi Army General Truck Regiment Sept. 24. The 68th Trans. Co. is partnering with the new formation to help increase Iraqi Army transportation capabilities through instruction and mentorship in transportation skills.

Photo by Staff Sgt Gary Hawkins

Country music star Trace Adkins performs for Q-West Soldiers

Photo by Sgt. Keith M. Anderson

Country music star Trace Adkins speaks to Soldiers between songs during a concert at Favors Outdoor Theater here Sept. 22. Adkins' visit to Q-West was one of seven stops in Iraq for the Country Music Television award-winning artist. He won CMT's 2008 Male Video of the Year for the song "I got my game on." His USO tour includes 15 stops in several countries. "We heard a rumor that for whatever reason Q-West usually gets scratched off the itinerary so we made a point of coming out here," said Adkins. "We were sent by several hundred million Americans to say thanks for what you do."

Puerto Rican Soldiers 'Parranda' at Hispanic Heritage Month celebration

by Sgt. Keith M. Anderson
16th Sustainment Brigade

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE Q-WEST, Iraq — Soldiers from the 266th Ordnance Company, a unit from Aguadillo, P.R., performed a Puerto Rican Christmas tradition and sang "En Mi Viejo San Juan," for the crowd at the Morale, Welfare and Recreation Center at Contingency Operating Base Q-West, Iraq Sept. 28 in celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month.

They call the Christmas tradition "Parranda," an event that involves going from house-to-house, singing Christmas carols such as "La Paloma," and taking the carol-recipients along with them to the next house in an escalating night of carols and socializing.

"We go to houses and wake people up and they join in," said Staff Sgt. Guillermo Matos, operations noncommissioned officer, 266th Ordnance Co. "That's what we're doing here, trying to bring something from home."

Hispanic Heritage Month, from Sept. 15 to Oct. 15, raises awareness of the contributions made by Americans of Hispanic origins. September 15 marks the anniversaries for the independence of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua.

September 16 is Mexico's Independence and Chile's is Sept. 18.

President Lyndon B. Johnson declared Hispanic Heritage week in 1968, but it was later changed to Hispanic Heritage Month by President Ronald Reagan in 1986.

Hispanic Soldiers have served in the U.S. military since the Civil War. Two hispanic Americans received the Medal of Honor for their heroism during the Civil War, and the Navy's first admiral, David G. Farragut, was hispanic. He is best remembered for uttering "Damn the torpedoes. Full steam ahead," during the capture of New Orleans.

In the Army, Richard E. Cavazos broke new ground when he became the Army's first hispanic brigadier general in 1976, and later became the Army's first hispanic four-star general in 1982.

Photo by Sgt. Keith M. Anderson

Soldiers from the 266th Ordnance Company, a unit from Aguadillo, P.R., perform a Puerto Rican Christmas tradition by putting on a skit and singing "La Paloma" for the crowd at the Morale, Welfare and Recreation Center at Q-West Sept. 28.

"The U.S. Army is a diverse force; it's a conglomeration of different ethnicities and backgrounds" said Staff Sgt. Omar Cardona, ammunition inspector, 266th Ordnance Co. "It's important to know what hispanic and latino Soldiers have given the Armed Forces."

Other speakers at the event gave presentations on Puerto Rico, the Dominican Republic, Brazil and Spain, and dancers performed bachata, merenge and salsa dances. Guest speaker 1st Sgt. Euripides Perez, first sergeant, Task Force 151, spoke about the importance of taking the time to get to know Soldiers and their families, using the fictitious "Sergeant Morales" story.

"At the end of the month, when his Soldiers were out of money, Sgt. Morales would cut their hair himself," Perez said. "Once a month, he gathered the Soldiers with their families so they could get to know each other, this was before (Family Readiness Groups). We need to be that kind of leader."

In Europe, the Army has the Sgt. Morales Club, similar to the Audie Murphy Club in the U.S.

The singing Soldiers from the 266th Ordnance Co., the unit that oversees the ammunition supply point at Q-West, are unique because all the Soldiers in the unit volunteered to deploy, said Sgt. 1st Class Jimmie Crespo, first sergeant, 266th Ordnance Co.

"This is our second deployment," Crespo said. "They only needed one platoon so basically everyone that came here, came as volunteers."

The Soldiers of the 266th Ordnance Co. began their 12-month deployment here in April. Their ammunition supply point supports not only Q-West but also Multi-National Division-North.

Quiet on the set

by Spc. Andrea Merritt
1st Sustainment Brigade

CAMP TAJI, Iraq – Soldiers are trained to be highly proficient in their jobs, but sometimes, unexpected opportunities come along and they are able to showcase other gifts and talents.

Sgt. Franshun Beard, a human resources noncommissioned officer for the 1st Sustainment Brigade, used her deployment as a time to focus on advancing in her military career. While trying to better herself, she showed her versatility and landed another role.

"Deployments are hard for everyone. You're away from family, you're away from friends, and you're away from the normality of everyday life. While I'm over here, I try to be positive and optimistic," said Beard, a Jackson, Miss., native.

"You want to surround yourself with positive people and engage in positive activities. I miss my son a lot, but to take my mind off of missing special occasions, I study for the boards and take college classes to help get me promoted," Beard explained.

During this deployment, Beard won two Soldier of the Month boards and the Special Troops Battalion, 1st Sust. Bde., NCO of the quarter board.

While videotaping a speech for the brigade NCO of the quarter board, it was discovered that Beard had a knack for the camera.

Staff Sgt. Bryant Maude, the noncommissioned officer in charge of the brigade's public affairs office, asked her to be the new personality for the 1st Sustainment Brigade Update, a weekly roll-up of news from within the Brigade.

"She came to our office to record a message for brigade NCO of the quarter and the minute I heard her speak I knew she would be great. She has a very natural presence on camera and a very pleasant look," said Maude, an Atlanta native.

Beard, who revealed she attended a performing arts school as a child and once had dreams of becoming a news broadcaster, accepted the offer. After six weeks of filming the update, Beard has really grown into the anchor position and has added a little of her own flair.

"This has been a wonderful experience. It has been a learning experience. The deployment can be stressful and it's good to have an outlet. I can come over here and have a little fun doing something that I enjoy doing," Beard said.

Photo by Spc. Andrea Merritt

Sgt. Franshun Beard, a human resources NCO for the 1st Sustainment Brigade, and Staff Sgt. Bryant Maude, the NCOIC of the brigade's public affairs office, go over the script for the 1st Sustainment Brigade Update, a weekly roll-up of news from within the unit, on Sept. 16.

Maryland Army Reserve unit takes control

by Spc. Andrea Merritt
1st Sustainment Brigade

CAMP LIBERTY, Iraq – The 398th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, an Army Reserve unit based out of Rockfeld, Md., officially took control of operations from the 553rd Combat Sustainment Support Battalion during a transfer of authority ceremony Sept. 21.

The 398th CSSB now has command and control of the Victory Base Complex bulk fuel farm, central receiving and shipping point yard, liberty ammunition supply point, and shower laundry and clothing repair teams in Multi-National Divisions – Baghdad and Center.

In order to prepare for their new mission, the 398th CSSB underwent months of premobilization and mobilization training. Upon arriving to Iraq, the Soldiers of the 398th CSSB trained closely with their counterparts in the 553rd CSSB to fully understand how to perform their duties.

"The 398th (CSSB) is fully ready to support the mission," said Lt. Col. William Arther, an Eldersburg, Md., native, and the 398th CSSB commander.

"(Our goal) is to get the mission done and try to make a positive impact to the mission," said Arther. "The main purpose here is the warfighters and the decision makers."

Although the 553rd CSSB has cased its colors and left its former responsibilities in capable hands, the unit's mission is far from complete. The battalion is not quite heading home, but to a different location on the camp.

The 553rd CSSB, a Fort Hood, Texas, unit, is scheduled to transition with the 168th Brigade Support Battalion and take on a new mission. The unit will be responsible for a multi-class supply support activity and for conducting direct support maintenance.

The unit will also be responsible for directing the transport of supplies to about 80,000 warfighters throughout MND – B and MND – C.

"We were aware before our deployment that our mission was going to change. That wasn't an issue for the battalion headquarters since we'd already trained on both mission sets at the National Training Center in November 2007," said Lt. Col. Gregory Koller, the commander of the 553rd CSSB.

"We look forward to our next mission and will continue to provide great support to our customers," said Koller, a Mobile, Ala. native.

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.

Vermont

- Women must obtain written permission from their husbands to wear false teeth.
- It is illegal to tie a giraffe to a telephone pole.
- It is illegal to deny the existence of God.
- All residents shall bathe every Saturday night.

Utah

- There is a state law prohibiting "corrupt practices of bribery" by any person other than candidates.
- You may not engage in business on Sundays, with the exception of almost every industry.
- Driving while not wearing shoes is prohibited.
- No animal may be hunted for on Sunday with the exception of raccoons, which may be hunted until 2:00 a.m.

Sudoku

Level: Hard

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

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

Upcoming sports on AFN

Wednesday 10/8/08

2008 National League Division Series - Game 5: Teams TBD* If Necessary, live 2 a.m. AFN/sports
ESPN2 College Football Primetime: Troy @ Florida Atlantic, live 3 a.m. AFN/xtra
2008 National League Division Series - Game 5: Teams TBD * If Necessary, live 5:30 a.m. AFN/sports
NFL RePLAY - Game 1: Teams TBD * 90-Minute Fast-Paced Game of the Week, tape delayed 2 p.m. AFN/sports
NFL RePLAY - Game 2: Teams TBD * 90-Minute Fast-Paced Game of the Week, tape delayed 3:30 p.m. AFN/sports
2008 National League Division Series - Game 5: Teams TBD* If Necessary, tape delayed 8 p.m. AFN/sports

Thursday 10/9/08

2008 American League Division Series - Game 5: Teams TBD * If Necessary, live 2 a.m. AFN/sports
HBO World Boxing - Junior Middleweight: Alfredo Angulo vs Andrey Tsurkan (Pechanga Resort and Casino, Temecula, CA), tape delayed 2 a.m. AFN/sports
American LeMans 2008: Grand Prix of Mosport, tape delayed 5 a.m. AFN/xtra
2008 American League Division Series - Game 5: Teams TBD * If Necessary, live 5:30 a.m. AFN/sports
2008 American League Division Series - Game 5: Teams TBD* If Necessary, tape delayed 2 p.m. AFN/sports
NFL RePLAY - Game 4: Teams TBD * 90-Minute Fast-Paced Game of the Week, tape delayed 3:30 p.m. AFN/sports
2008 American League Division Series - Game 5: Teams TBD* If Necessary, tape delayed 8 p.m. AFN/sports

Friday 10/3/08

ESPN College Football Primetime: Clemson @ Wake Forest, live 2:30 AFN/xtra
2008 National League Championship Series - Game 1: Teams TBD, 3 a.m. AFN/sports
NBA Europe Live 2008 (Preseason): Miami Heat vs New Jersey Nets (Omnisport de Paris Bercy, Paris, France), tape delayed 7:30 a.m. AFN/xtra
2008 WNBA Finals - Game 5: Teams TBD (If Necessary), tape delayed 10 a.m. AFN/sports
2008 National League Championship Series - Game 1: Teams TBD, tape delayed 2 p.m. AFN/sports
ESPN College Football Primetime: Clemson @ Wake Forest * 2-Hr ESPN Cutdown (If WNBA Game 5 is Necessary), tape delayed 8 p.m. AFN/sports

Saturday 10/4/08

2008 American or National League Championship Series - Game 1 or 2: Teams TBD, live 2 a.m. AFN/sports
ESPN College Football Primetime: Louisville @ Memphis, live 3 a.m. AFN/prime pacific
NASCAR Nationwide Series: Dollar General 300 (Lowe's Motor Speedway, Concord, NC), live 3 a.m. AFN/xtra
2008 American or National League Championship Series - Game 1 or 2: Teams TBD, live 5 a.m. AFN/sports
ESPN College Football Primetime: Louisville @ Memphis *2-Hr ESPN Cutdown., tape delayed 10 a.m. AFN/sports
2008 American or National League Championship Series - Game 1 or 2: Teams TBD, Tape delayed 2 p.m. AFN/sports
College Football: Teams TBD, live 7 p.m. AFN/prime pacific
College Football: Teams TBD, live 7 p.m. AFN/sports
College Football: Teams TBD, live 7 p.m. AFN/xtra
College Football: Teams TBD, live 10:30 p.m. AFN/prime pacific
College Football: Teams TBD, live 10:30 p.m. AFN/sports
College Football: Teams TBD, live 10:30 p.m. AFN/xtra

Sunday 10/5/08

NASCAR Sprint Cup Series: Bank of America 500 (Lowe's Motor Speedway, Concord, NC), live 2:25 a.m.
College Football: Teams TBD, live 3 a.m. AFN/prime atlantic
2008 American League Championship Series - Game 2: Teams TBD, live 3 a.m. AFN/sports
ESPN College Football Primetime: Teams TBD * 2-Hr ESPN Cutdown Version, tape delayed, 10:30 a.m. AFN/sports
CBS NFL Today or FOX NFL Sunday, live 7 p.m. AFN/prime atlantic
CBS NFL Today or FOX NFL Sunday, live 7 p.m. AFN/xtra
NFL: Week 6 Teams TBD, live 8 p.m. AFN/sports
NFL: Week 6 Teams TBD, live 8 p.m. AFN/prime atlantic
NFL: Week 6 Teams TBD, live 11 p.m. AFN/xtra
NFL: Week 6 Teams TBD, live 11 p.m. AFN/sports
NFL: Week 6 Teams TBD, live 11 p.m. AFN/prime atlantic
NFL: Week 6 Teams TBD, live 11 p.m. AFN/xtra

Monday 10/6/08

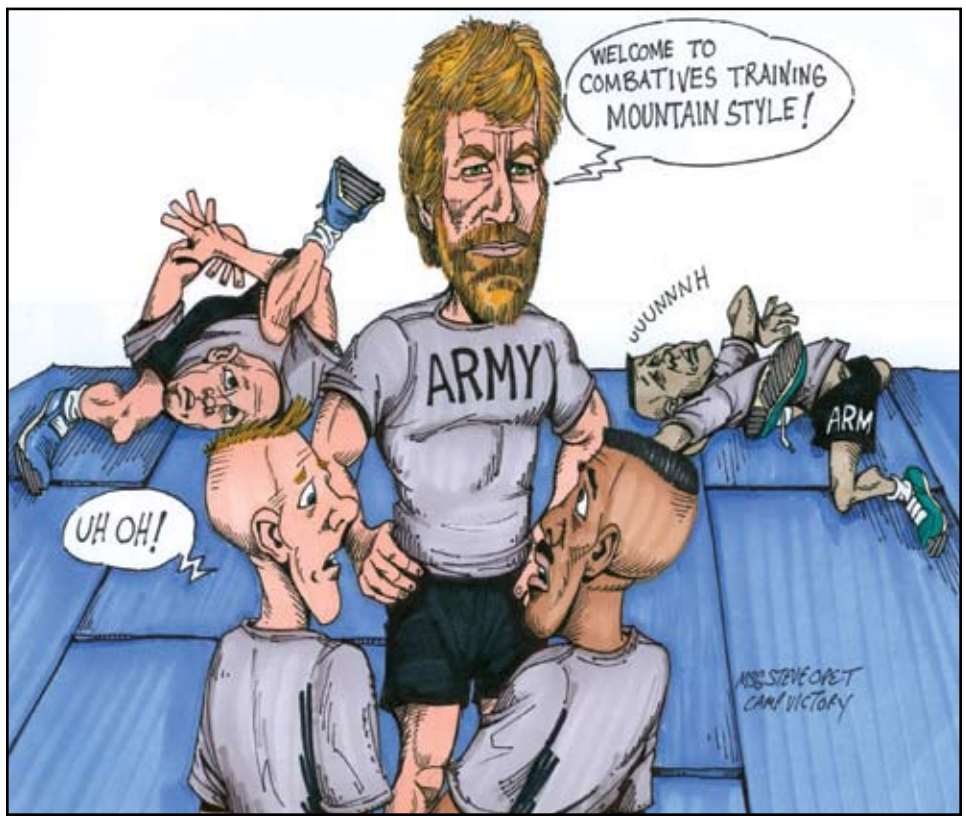
NHRA POWERade Drag Racing Series: Torco Racing Fuels NHRA Nationals (Richmond, VA), live 2:30 AFN/xtra
2008 National League Championship Series - Game 3: Teams TBD, live 3 a.m. AFN/sports
NBC Sunday Night Football - Week 6: New England Patriots @ San Diego Chargers, live 3:15 a.m. AFN/prime atlantic
NFL: Week 6 Teams TBD, tape delayed 10 a.m. AFN/xtra
NBC Sunday Night Football - Week 6: New England Patriots @ San Diego Chargers, tape delayed, 1 p.m. AFN/sports
NFL: Week 6 Teams TBD, tape delayed 5 p.m. AFN/xtra
NBC Sunday Night Football - Week 6: New England Patriots @ San Diego Chargers, tape delayed 8 p.m. AFN/sports

Tuesday 10/7/08

2008 National or American League Championship Series - Game TBD: Teams TBD, live 2 a.m. AFN/sports
ESPN Monday Night Football - Week 6: New York Giants @ Cleveland Browns,, live 3:30 AFN/xtra
2008 National or American League Championship Series - Game TBD: Teams TBD, live 5 p.m. AFN/sports
2008 National or American League Championship Series - Game TBD: Teams TBD, live 10 a.m. AFN/sports
ESPN Monday Night Football - Week 6: New York Giants @ Cleveland Browns, tape delayed 2 p.m. AFN/sports
ESPN Monday Night Football - Week 6: New York Giants @ Cleveland Browns, tape delayed 8 p.m. AFN/sports

PVT. MURPHY'S LAW

Iraq according to Opet



SUSTAINER REEL TIME THEATER

Movie Times

Wednesday, October 8
5 p.m. Tropic Thunder
8 p.m. Star Wars: The Clone Wars
Thursday, October 9
5 p.m. Eagle Eye
8 p.m. Tropic Thunder
Friday, October 10
2 p.m. The Rocker
5 p.m. The Longshots
8:30 p.m. Quarantine
Saturday, October 11
2 p.m. Beverly Hills Chihuahua
5 p.m. Mirrors
8 p.m. The Longshots
Sunday, October 12
2 p.m. Mirrors
5 p.m. Beverly Hills Chihuahua
8 p.m. The Rocker
Monday, October 13
5 p.m. The Rocker
8 p.m. Mirrors
Tuesday, October 14
5 p.m. Mirrors
8 p.m. The Longshots

(Schedule is subject to change)

Movies This Week

Quarantine

Television reporter Angela Vidal (Jennifer Carpenter) and her trusty cameraman (Steve Harris) were documenting a night in the life of a Los Angeles fire station crew when the firefighters were summoned to a nearby apartment building to answer a routine 911 call. Upon arriving at the scene, Angela and company discover that police have already arrived to investigate the blood-curdling screams ringing out from one of the apartments. One of the women living in the building has been infected with something terrible, but what? When a few of the other residents are viciously attacked, they try to escape and discover that the CDC has quarantined the building. The officials in charge won't relay any information to those trapped inside the building, and it's impossible to seek information from the outside since telephone, Internet, television, and cell-phone access have all been cut off.

Beverly Hills Chiuahua

In the tradition of Babe (2005) and Charlotte's Web (2007) comes the live-action talking animal picture Beverly Hills Chihuahua, directed by Scooby Doo vet Raja Gosnell. Chloe (voice of Drew Barrymore) is a pampered Chihuahua from Beverly Hills who spends most of her time riding around in her owner's (Piper Perabo) purse. When she gets accidentally separated from her "mobile home" on a trip to Mexico, she must rely on the help and kindness of strangers to find her way back; these include a hyper-romantic male Chihuahua named Papi (voice of George Lopez), and Delgado, a street-smart German Shepherd (voice of Andy Garcia. Cheech Marin, Paul Rodriguez, Edward James Olmos, Plácido Domingo, Luis Guzman, and other stars provide voices for the various characters Chloe meets along the way.

The Rocker

Fish (Rainn Wilson) has spent the past two decades languishing at soul-crushing day jobs while his old bandmates became legends, continuing to grace magazine covers and dominate the radio. He might just get another chance at musical success, however, when his teenage cousin invites him to drum for his high school garage band, and they end up catching the ear of record executives. Now, Fish is determined to live the hedonistic rock & roll lifestyle he missed out on 20 years ago, but his new bandmates don't appreciate his hard partying -- and neither do his middle-aged knees. This Fox Atomic comedy co-stars Christina Applegate. Shawn Levy (Night at the Museum) and Tom McNulty co-produced the feature, which was penned by Wallace Wolodarsky and Maya Forbes, and directed by Peter Cattaneo (Opal Dream).

MNF-I TF SAFE

Check CHUsdays

MNF-I TF SAFE

Each *Tuesday* Check The Following In Your CHU

- Power strips are free of debris and clothing
- Electrical devices not in use are unplugged
- Power strips and outlets are not overloaded
- Smoke detector is operational
- Fire extinguisher is serviceable (in the green)
- Room is neat and orderly

This Simple Act Could Save You, Your CHU and Your Buddy Too

Top 10 Things to Keep Safe

- If you feel a tingle of electricity or mild shock – **REPORT IT IMMEDIATELY**.
- **Leave the technical work to the experts**. Check for and report any potential electrical issues such as: loose connections, exposed wiring, and any burned or charred marks on the wall. If this exists, Report It.
- **Check your power strips and adapters to ensure they are certified**. Look for the European CE or US UL mark **embedded** in the device.
- **Never overload the circuit**. Do not daisy chain power strips and Do not stack adapters.
- Make sure you **keep at least 6" clearance** in front of and around the wall outlets. Keep items or debris from making contact with the power strips.
- Know where the fire extinguishers are in your living and working areas and know how to use them.
- **Unplug all non-essential items** when not in use.
- **Plug refrigerators and microwaves directly into an outlet**, not into a power strip.
- **No cooking or open flames** in your living and work areas.
- **Check CHU'sdays** (On Tuesday, Check your smoke detector and fire extinguisher.

MESSAGES FROM HOME

The class with the younger looking children are the 2nd grade class from Sacred Heart School in Boone,IA. Anthony Aspengren & Makenzie Patterson's Daughters are in this class...Greta belongs to Tony, & Chloie belongs to Makenzie. The older looking class is the 5th grade class from Sacred Heart in Boone also. Again, Tony's daughter Grier is in this class.

My girls wanted to do something special for their dad to remember 9/11, so I had this banner made up, took it to the school & all the kids in the 2nd & 5th grd classroom got to sign it. In turn I mailed the banner to my husband, Tony. But I thought it would be neat to let all the soldiers know how proud we are & that we salute them for all the sacrifices they are making, & that we haven't forgotten why they are over there.

Sincerely,
Brandi

Then & Now of Balad

Outdoor pool

Then 2003

Now 2008

JB BALAD ACTIVITIES

INDOOR POOL
Swim Lessons:
Mon., Wed.,- 6 p.m.
Tue., Thu., Sat.,- 6:30 p.m.
AquaTraining:
Tue.,Thu.,- 7:30 p.m., 8:30 p.m.

EAST FITNESS CENTER
Open Court Volleyball:
Sunday- 6 p.m.
Aerobics:
Mon., Wed., Fri.- 5:30-6:30 a.m.
Yoga Class:
Mon., Fri.- 6-7 a.m.
Step Aerobics:
Mon., Wed., Fri.- 5:30 p.m.
Conditioning Training Class:
Mon., Wed., Fri.- 7:15- 8 p.m.
Brazilian Jui-Jitsu:
Mon., Wed., Fri.- 9-10 p.m.
MMA Training:
Mon., Wed., Fri.- 10-11 p.m.
Abs-Aerobics:
Tue., Thu., 6-7 a.m., 5-6 p.m
Edge Weapons & Stick Fighting Combative Training:
Tue., Thur., Sat.,- 8-10 p.m.

EAST RECREATION CENTER
4-ball tourney:
Sunday- 8 p.m
8-ball tourney:
Monday- 8 p.m
Karaoke:
Monday- 8 p.m.
Swing Class:
Tuesday- 8 p.m.
Table Tennis:
Tuesday- 8 p.m.
9-ball tourney:
Wednesday- 8 p.m.
Dungeons & Dragons:
Thursday- 7:30 p.m.
Poetry Night:
Thursday-8 p.m.
6-ball tourney:
Thursday- 8 p.m.
Caribbean Night:
Friday- 8 p.m.
Chess & Dominoes Tourney:
Friday- 8 p.m.
Salsa Class:
Saturday- 8:30 p.m.
Poker:
Saturday- 7:30 p.m.

H6 FITNESS CENTER
Spin:
Sunday- 9 a.m.
Mon., Wed., Fri.,- 2 a.m., 8 a.m. 2 p.m., 7 p.m., 9 p.m.
Tue., Thu., -5:45 a.m., 9 a.m., 8:30 p.m.
Saturday- 9 a.m., 7 p.m.
Boxing:
Sunday- 4 p.m.
Tue., Thu.,- 2 p.m.
Boot Camp:
Sunday- 8:45 a.m
Tue.,Thu.,- 7 p.m.
Power Abs:
Mon., Tue., Thu., - 8 p.m.
Friday- 9 p.m.
CC Cross Fit:
Monday-Saturday- 10:30 p.m
Cross Fit:
Mon., Wed., Fri.,- 5:45 a.m., 7 a.m., 3 p.m., 6 p.m.
Tue., Thu.,- 7 a.m., 3 p.m.
Sunday- 5:45 a.m., 7 a.m., 3 p.m.
P90x:
Monday- Saturday- 4:30 a.m., 4 p.m., 10 p.m. 12 a.m.
Soccer:
Tue., Thu.,- 8 p.m.
Yoga:
Wednesday- 8 p.m.
MCAP Level 1:
Friday- 8 p.m.
5 on 5 Basketball:
Saturday- 8 p.m.

H6 RECREATION CENTER
Bingo:
Sunday- 8 p.m.
Texas Hold'em:
Mon., Fri.,- 2 p.m., 8:30 p.m.
8-ball tourney:
Tuesday- 2 a.m., 8:30 p.m.
Ping-pong tourney:
Tuesday- 8:30 p.m.
Spades:
Wednesday- 2 a.m., 8:30 p.m.
Salsa:
Wednesday- 8:30 p.m.
9-ball:
Thursday- 2 a.m., 8:30 p.m.
Karaoke:
Thursday- 8:30 p.m.
Dominos:
Saturday- 8:30 p.m.
Darts:
Saturday- 8:30 p.m.

WEST RECREATION CENTER
Green Bean Karaoke:
Sun., Wed., 7:30pm
9-ball tourney:
Monday- 8 p.m.
Ping-pong tourney:
Tuesday- 8 p.m.
Foosball tourney:
Tuesday- 8 p.m.
Jam Session:
Tuesday- 7:30 p.m
8-ball tourney:
Wednesday- 8 p.m
Guitar Lessons:
Thursday- 7:30 p.m
Game tourney:
Thursday- 1 p.m, 8 p.m.
Enlisted Poker:
Friday- 1 p.m., 8 p.m.
Officer Poker:
Saturday- 1 p.m., 8 p.m.
Squat Competition:
Saturday- 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:
Tue., Thu., - 7 p.m.
Dodge ball Game:
Tuesday- 7:30 p.m.
Furman's Martial Arts:
Mon., Wed., Sun.,- 1 p.m.
Gaston's Self-Defense Class:
Fri., Sat.- 7 p.m.
Open court basketball:
Thursday- 7 p.m.
Open court soccer:
Mon., Wed., - 7 p.m.
Zingano Brazilian Jui Jitsu:
Tue., Thu.,- 8:30 p.m.

CIRCUIT GYM
Floor hockey:
Mon., Wed., Fri.,– 8-10 p.m

MNF-I TF SAFE

SAFETY BULLETIN
Electrical Equipment Labeling

MNF-I TF SAFE

IS MINE SAFE ??

How do you know for sure if the power strip, converter, or adapter you are using is an approved "certified" device? The information below will help you determine that.

All certified devices will have a label embedded in the device. The primary European certification label is **CE**. (look for the symbol on the device or cord).

Another certification label used in Europe is the UL/GS.

European UL GS Mark

The most common label used is the UL Mark

Underwriters Laboratory

"BE AWARE OF COUNTERFEITERS Placing CE or UL Labels on unapproved Devices"

Bottom Line:

If your device does not have an embedded mark on the device or cord it is most likely not a certified device and can put you and others at serious risk. If you are unsure about your device have it checked at the Safety Office or the Mayor's Cell. Don't take risks with electricity - it's a deadly gamble.

Photos around Iraq

Photo by Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Joan E. Kretschmer

U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Paul Cruz and his military working dog, from 2nd Platoon, Bravo Company, Bandit 4-64 Armor, 3rd Infantry Division conduct patrols through the streets in Risalah, Baghdad on Sep. 26, 2008.

Photo by Spc. Richard DelVecchio

Photo by Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Joan E. Kretschmer

Top: An Iraqi woman watches as her house is searched by U.S. Soldiers with 2nd Platoon, Bravo Company, Bandit 4-64 Armor, 3rd Infantry Division in Risalah, Baghdad on Sep. 26, 2008.

Left: An Iraqi soldier proudly holds an Iraqi flag during a ceremony commemorating the hand over of Patrol Base Shanghai to Iraqi control on Sep. 30, 2008. The Patrol Base was occupied by U.S. Soldiers from the 1st Battalion, 187th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division.

Photo by Spc. Richard Del Vecchio

Photo by Staff Sgt. Brian D. Lehnhardt

TOP: Buffalo, N.Y. native, Capt. Chris Prevette of the 3-320th Field Artillery Battalion, HHB checks a young Iraqi boy for any health problems while working temporarily at a free clinic, set up by the 101st Airborne Division, 65th MP Company in Mahmudiyah, Iraq on Sep. 22, 2008.

LEFT: A U.S. Soldier from Alpha Company, 2nd Battalion, 30th Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division looks at a surgery scar and deformed foot of a little girl during Operation Boar Bobcats, a cordon and search mission in Muhallah 762 in Oubaidy, eastern Baghdad, Sep. 28, 2008. The family was seeking help from the U.S. Coalition forces for their daughter whom they said Iraq medicine could no longer help.

News around Iraq

Khalis Primary Health Clinic opens its doors in Diyala

DIYALA, Iraq – The Khalis Primary Health Care Clinic in Diyala province opened its doors to local citizens during a ribbon-cutting ceremony Sept. 28.

The new facility, which has six doctors' offices with adjoining exam rooms, an x-ray room, two dental exam rooms, a pharmacy, two treatment rooms and a classroom, is designed to provide basic medical service for up to 50,000 people and will provide advanced diagnostic and monitoring capabilities for acute and chronic illnesses as well as provide improvements in maternal and prenatal care.

"This clinic not only brings a wonderful medical capability to the people of Diyala, but also a wonderful environment for the medical personnel to provide their services," said Jerry Gardner, the Provincial Reconstruction Team senior public health advisor., "We are hoping with these new facilities and the improvements in the security situation, we will be able to recruit and retain additional highly skilled medical personnel to work within our evolving system."

Al Mustafa Expedient Local Police Station opens

CAMP STRIKER, Iraq – A ceremony marked the grand opening of the Al Mustafa Expedient Local Police Station Sept. 25.

"Without cooperation between the tribes, residents, Iraqi Police, 17th Iraqi Army Division under the leadership of Staff Maj. Gen. Ali … we would not have been able to open the Al Mustafa Iraqi Police Station," said Brig. Gen. Abed Muhammed Allwan, Mahmudiyah Police District commander, to the sheikhs and others who came to commemorate the event.

The station will allow an increased police presence in the area.

"There isn't necessarily a security gap," said Capt. Jessica E. Donckers, 65th Military Police Company (Airborne) commander. "It's one more step toward improving the security structure in Iraq."

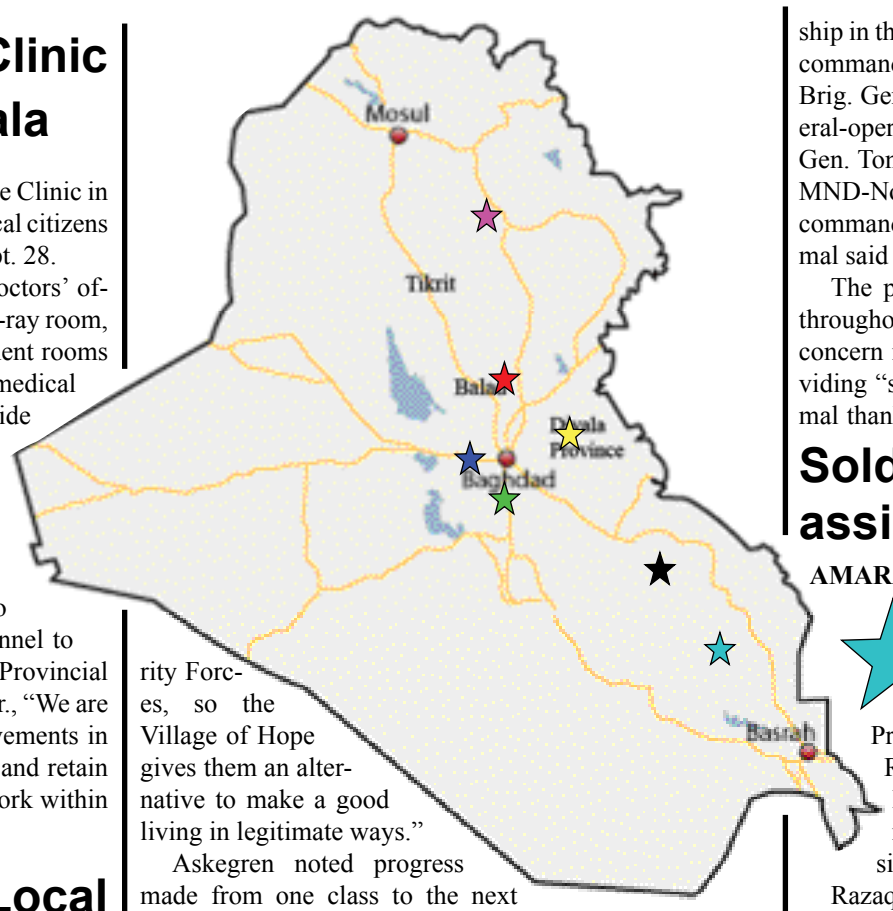
Al Mustafa IPs can now work their own cases and conduct daily police business self-sufficiently. Prior to the station opening, they worked from Al Rasheed, about five kilometers southeast of the new station. The force has 173 IP assigned.

"With the demand of the locals and support of Maj. Gen. Khadim (Baghdad provincial director of police), we resolved to open this station, and we pledged to the people to take out the insurgents," Allwan said. "This area between the rivers used to be the 'Triangle of Death;' now, it is the 'Triangle of Life.'"

Village of Hope training center graduates new class

PATROL BASE STONE, Iraq – Sixty students graduated from the fourth Village of Hope training center rotation during a ceremony at Patrol Base Stone Sept. 25.

"The Village of Hope was part of a civil service corps program that took Sons of Iraq members from checkpoints and taught them useable trades they can make a living with," said Capt. Michael Askegren, 557th Expeditionary Red Horse Squadron officer-in-charge of Village of Hope. "Not every SoI is going to make it into the Iraqi Security Forces, so the Village of Hope gives them an alternative to make a good living in legitimate ways."



Askegren noted progress made from one class to the next since the first graduation in May.

"When it started off, we had to build trust within the community and get them to believe that we are here to help and teach them something they can use," said Askegren. "Each class has steadily gotten better, and it all culminated with the graduation of the final class today."

The day also saw the official reopening of the Almainn School for boys, which was remodeled through construction efforts of both contractors and graduates from the Village of Hope.

"Iraqi service workers did all of the work on the school," said Tech. Sgt. Michael McKeen, 557th ERHS structure lead noncommissioned officer. "After their training, we put them straight to work. In the beginning, we had to do a lot of hands-on training with them, but after we got their first group of supervisors through their course, they kind of filled in our role."

"After the first graduating class of the Village of Hope, we ran into the problem that we were having to continuously supervise the projects the graduates were involved in," said Senior Airman Michael Hernandez, 557th ERHS supervisors' course instructor.

Individuals from each class, who displayed exceptional leadership skills, were placed into a supervisors' course where they learned supervisory skills and responsibilities.

"Having actual supervisors out on the construction sites allowed (the Coalition) to take a step back and let Iraqis train Iraqis," McKeen said.

MND-B Soldiers renovate Rashid schools

KIRKUK, Iraq— More than three thousand Iraqis, including 58 females, joined the ranks of the Kirkuk province's police force during a graduation ceremony held at the Kirkuk Police Academy Sept. 23.

"This is a historic event for the people of the Kirkuk province," said Maj. Gen. Jamal Thaker Baker, Kirkuk provincial police chief, referring to the unprecedented number of male and female recruits graduating. "This is the direct result of the combined efforts of our Coalition friends and the Ministry of the Interior."

The provincial police chief elaborated further by pointing out key Multi-National Division-North military leadership in the audience to include; Maj. Gen. Mark P. Hertling, commanding general of MND-North and Task Force Iron; Brig. Gen. James C. Boozer Sr., deputy commanding general-operations MND-North and Task Force Iron; Brig. Gen. Tony Thomas, assistant division commander-support MND-North and Task Force Iron; and Col. David Paschal, commander, 1st Brigade, 10th Mountain Division, who Jamal said he considers among a brotherhood.

The police chief credited the recent gains in security throughout the province to this brotherhood whose main concern is for the people of the Kirkuk province and providing "security and stability in this region for them." Jamal thanked God for the additional men and the inclusion

Soldiers help NGO provide assistance to Iraqis

AMARAH, Iraq – Approximately 680 Iraqi families received food distribution Sept. 25 in Amarah.

The Alyktha Organization, a non-profit organization dedicated to improving the quality of live for the citizens of Maysan Province, partnered with 2nd Battalion, 7th Cavalry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division Soldiers to provide assistance to the Amarah citizins by conducting a food-distribution mission at the city's main soccer stadium.

Razaq Saadun, an Iraqi citizen that received food at the event, feels this is a good start in helping the people in this area.

"The people of Amarah needed something like this," said Saadun. "We need food, medicine and clothing; but this is a good step in the right direction."

The 2nd Bn., 7th Cav. Div. Soldiers are stationed close to the soccer stadium, at the recently built Forward Operating Base Garry Owen.

Many of the MND-C Soldiers lending a hand that day believe the food drop was important to their mission because it immediately had a positive impact on the Maysan people.

"The Alkyth agency basically came in here and ran the show," said 1st Lt. David Collins, the fire support officer for 2nd Bn., 7th Cav. Regt., 4th BCT, 1st Cav. Div.

Kazakhstani Sappers share EOD smarts with IA

FORWARD OPERATING BASE DELTA, Iraq – Kazakhstani Soldiers conducted a three-day course in basic explosives handling and safe demolition techniques for 10 Iraqi Army Soldiers at Forward Operating Base Delta Sept 23-25.

The training was designed to prepare the Soldiers for the official Iraqi Army Explosive Ordnance Disposal training course at Rusmaya.

"It's a good chance for us to share our experience with them," said Azat Mukhamadiev, liaison officer for the Kazakhstani contingent. "Our officers are graduates of military academies and have extensive experience in practical exercises and training our troops."

The training consisted of two days of classroom exercises followed by a controlled detonation conducted by the Iraqi and Kazakhstani Soldiers.

"We taught procedures for finding and destroying unexploded ordnance, as well as the safe amounts of explosives to use in destroying certain devices," said Maj. Nurzhan Kulmanzhanov, commander of the Kazakhstani sapper platoon. "We also covered how to safely transport explosives and their basic composition."

The Iraqi Soldiers were appreciative of the training.

"This will help a lot," said one IA Soldier. "It helps the Iraqi people because when they see a bomb or a rocket, they can call and, once we've finished the training, we will be able to destroy it safely."

JBB 'digs' up some fun

Photo by Spc. Ryan Hohman

Tennants of Joint Base Balad come together to play a pick up game of volleyball at the west Morale, Welfare and Recreation Center here Oct. 1.

Photo by Spc. Ryan Hohman

Photo by Spc. Ryan Hohman

Staff Sgt. Christopher Norton, a member of the 834th Aviation Support Battalion, sets the ball during a pick up game of volleyball at the west Morale, Welfare and Recreation Center here Oct. 1.

Top: Spc. Dayna Dantzscher, a member of the 834th Aviation Support Battalion, passes the ball during a pick up game of volleyball at the west Morale, Welfare and Recreation Center here Oct. 1.
Right: Elvis Turkic blocks a spike during a pick up game of volleyball at the west Morale, Welfare and Recreation Center here Oct. 1.

Photo by Spc. Ryan Hohman