

IN THE ZONE

MAGAZINE

NOVEMBER 2008 • VOL 1 • ISSUE 2

'Repo Man'
driven to success in IZ

Deciphering the
ins and out of

Taking Leave

**Largest
FOB in IZ**
transfers into
JASG-C hands

Red Zone kids
make a splash at

FOB Freedom

Get Smart
with Army Ed programs



Produced by the Joint Area Support Group-Central Public Affairs Office

JASG-C Commander:
Col. Steve Ferrari

JASG-C Public Affairs Staff:
Maj. Jon Powers
1st Sgt. David Moore
Sgt. 1st Class Robert Stephenson
Staff Sgt. Shawn Morris
Sgt. Bill Addison

SEMPER FI - Current and former U.S. Marines mark the 233rd birthday of the military branch by cutting a cake at the Embassy Annex Dining Facility Nov. 10. From left are Army Sgt. Daryl Caufield, Marine Corps Lt. Col. John Caroll, Army Sgt. Shawn Collins and Marine Corps Sgt. Anthony Strowder. Photo by 1st Sgt. David Moore, JASG-C Public Affairs



DEPARTMENTS

- LEADERS' LOG 3**
- CHAPLAIN'S WORD 7**
- JAG CORNER 16**
- ANNOUNCEMENTS 19**

NEWS

- JASG-C takes over FOB Prosperity from 101st **4-5**
- TroopTube keeps families, Soldiers connected **7**
- Triathlon tests physical and mental endurance **10**
- Senior Sailor of Quarter receives award **12**
- National Guard's top NCO visits International Zone **13**
- Airman earns Red Cross Military Hero Award **18**
- Holiday Mailing Deadlines **19**

FEATURES

- Utility company donates laptops to Soldiers **6**
- The ins and outs of leave explained in detail **8-9**
- 'Repo Man' wrangles up delinquent vehicles **11**
- Iraqi youths enjoy day of fun with service members **14-15**

Get smart with Army Education programs **17**

PHOTOGRAPHY

Military working dogs display talents during demo **20**

ON THE COVER:

Iraqi children cool off in the Forward Operating Base Freedom pool Oct. 24 in an event sponsored by the Joint Area Support Group-Central. For story and more photos, see pages 14-15.

Photo by Maj. Jon Powers



Do you have a story to share? In The Zone welcomes columns, commentaries, articles, letters and photos from readers. Submissions should be sent to shawn.morris@iraq.centcom.mil. Include the author's name, rank, unit, and contact information. In The Zone reserves the right to edit submissions selected for the newsletter. For further information or to request to be on our distribution list, e-mail the In The Zone staff or call DSN (318) 239-9529.

In The Zone is published monthly as an electronic news magazine under provisions of AR 360-1, para 3-6 by the Command Directorate's (JASG-C) Command for all military personnel serving in the Operation Iraqi Freedom International Zone. The views and opinions expressed herein are not necessarily those of the Department of Defense, the U.S. Army, Air Force, Navy or the Marine Corps, or the National Guard Bureau.

LEADERS' LOG

Team effort leads to mission success



The 50th Joint Area Support Group - Central (JASG-C) in Baghdad has now had a full month on the ground running day-to-day operations and every day brings new challenges and opportunities to excel. We have met many new friends and colleagues, and

one thing I can say for sure is that it takes a complete team effort to accomplish our mission to provide support to the U.S. Embassy, Multi-National Force-Iraq and all the tenants located in the International Zone.

As we transition the International Zone back to the Government of Iraq in the midst of a pending Status of Forces Agreement, local and U.S. elections, and many unknown variables, we must not lose focus on the mission at hand.

The conditions in which we operate may change, but our priorities are to plan and execute the Inter-

national Zone (IZ) transition while simultaneously ensuring force protection and IZ security are not compromised.

Day-in and day-out the members of the JASG-C continue to perform magnificently. Every day our professional and dedicated Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen truly make a difference. Know that your efforts don't go unnoticed and are appreciated by all who benefit here in the IZ. All should be proud of their accomplishments.

As always, a big thanks to our families, friends, family support groups and Rear Det personnel. Your support and overwhelming generosity truly make all the difference in the world and allow all of us to maintain focus and accomplish our mission. Never forget to say thank you to these great Americans.

Always look out for each other and be safe. One team, One Mission! Thanks for all you do!

Col. Steve Ferrari
Joint Area Support Group – Central
Commanding

Remember the basics...and your families

We are rapidly approaching the holiday season and soon the first 100 days in Baghdad's International Zone. While most of us enter this time with thoughts of home heavy on our minds, we cannot allow distractions and complacency for the mission to occur. I cannot stress that point enough. We must look beyond that 100 days and focus twice as hard to maintain the same excellence and proficiency that is present in all JASG-C operations.

Most of you feel somewhat comfortable inside our area but what happens just beyond our entry control points is a whole different story. As we have already witnessed during an indirect fire incident last month and an IED two weeks ago, the situation inside the IZ can quickly change.

With the holiday season and our first 100 days in theater in mind, it is certainly time to make sure we all remember the basics:

- Be aware of your surroundings. If it doesn't look right, it probably isn't.
- Always travel with a buddy and keep looking after one another

- Listen to your leaders
- Avoid routine and predictable patterns
- Use personal protective equipment (PPE)

We have been fortunate so far; don't let complacency, idle times and disruptions cause you to lose focus on your missions. Plan, rehearse and then, only then, execute your mission. NCOs need to enforce these standards and hold Soldiers accountable.

As we approach the first day of the holiday season, everyone needs to take a moment of their day to remember their families. Their resolution is a major component of our success. I appreciate all of our families' service and their commitment to us, helping ensure our success.

Command Sgt. Maj. David Kenna
Joint Area Support Group – Central
Command Sergeant Major



JASG-C TAKES OVER



'Screaming Eagles' relinquish control of IZ's largest FOB

Story by Sgt. Bill Addison
Photos by Maj. Jon Powers
JASG-C Public Affairs

The Joint Area Support Group-Central (JASG-C), took ownership of the International Zone's (IZ) largest Forward Operating Base (FOB) from the Headquarter and Headquarters Company, 2nd Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division, under the watch of Maj. Michael Bobinis Oct. 27.

The transfer of authority marked an important step in streamlining overall ownership of the IZ under the JASG-C, which is made up of New Jersey Army National Guard Soldiers from the 50th Infantry Bri-

gade Combat Team. Bobinis recognized the daunting task ahead.

"We found out our five guys are replacing about 40 guys, so now we have a challenge ahead of us," said Bobinis, a native of Bethlehem, Pa. With that challenge ahead of them, Bobinis and his team remain confident in their mission. The key, according to him, is teamwork.

"We call it Team Prosperity. We want people to be proud to be part of Prosperity," said Bobinis.

Part of his team is 1st. Sgt. Edward Santiago, noncommissioned officer in charge (NCOIC) of the mayor's cell. Santiago's typical answer to the everyday challenges: "Too easy."

Does the mailroom need a Con-

ex? "Too easy."

Your tent is flooding and you need gravel? "Too easy."

Does a vendor need a tree branch cut down? "Too easy."

As a matter of fact, that turned into a big event.

"There was a tree branch that people kept banging their head on, we went and cut it down for them. That gave us instant credibility with the people, and it's spreading around the FOB. All it took was cutting down a tree branch."

Santiago, a New Jersey State Trooper from Vineland, N.J., said running a mayor's cell is like nothing he's ever done before, and added that the key to success is situational adaptability.

“You’ve got to be a jack of all trades. You’re a mayor, you’re a policeman, you’re a plumber, you’re a construction worker, you’re a counselor, and you’re a mediator. You name it, we do it all. We wear like 15 different hats. That’s the job of a mayor’s cell. It’s a very unique and interesting job to say the least.”

Santiago said that while being a company first sergeant prepared him to take care of Soldiers here, running a mayor’s cell is a wholly different experience.

“When you first come here and they tell you you’re going to be a mayor or a deputy mayor or an operations sergeant of a FOB, you really don’t know that’s out of your element,” he said.

But stepping outside of his normal role didn’t faze Santiago.

“We may not be doing our MOS but hey, we’re going to put 120 percent more into this job to get it done,” he added.

Bobinis said that success in this mission comes down to two things: Customer service and teamwork. And he wants every tenant of the FOB to know that his mayor’s cell is there to help.

“If you ask us for something, we’re going to help you, and everybody knows that,” said Bobinis. He said the tenants of the FOB have a lot invested in it, and that sometimes the solution is delegation.

“We match the people who can do stuff with the people who need stuff,” he said. “Someone comes



into my office with a problem; I’ve got to think who can fix that problem best... That’s how we operate, we connect people.”

It’s with that idea that Bobinis sees his five-man team reaching out to the more than 3,000 personnel of FOB Prosperity. He wants to see everyone on the FOB helping each other, with the knowledge that who you help today may be able to help you tomorrow.

“That’s how it works. Everybody knows what the deal is around here,” he said. That includes the vendors, civilians and U.S. military tenants on the FOB. Bobinis said that the Soldiers of the 3-29th and the 4-42nd Field Artillery have offered up their services to the mayor’s cell whenever they need additional manpower.

STAKING THEIR CLAIM - Maj. Michael Bobinis, Forward Operating Base (FOB) Prosperity mayor, above left, and 1st. Sgt. Edward Santiago, mayor cell NCOIC, prepare to raise the flag after the transfer of authority ceremony at the FOB Oct. 27. These Joint Area Support Group-Central (JASG-C) Soldiers, far left, took control of the FOB from the 101st Airborne Division.

“That’s teamwork right there... we’re doing this for the benefit of everyone,” said Bobinis.

Bobinis said that the same thing applies when they have to give the tenants bad news as well.

“They say ‘got it, we understand why you’re doing it, it’s for the good of the FOB,’ and they drive on.” Santiago said that it was important that they maintain a sense of fairness among the FOB as well, stressing that there is no favoritism. Every decision is made for the team; it’s not just one person.

“We’re all involved with this... Everybody has input, everybody has a stake in this thing.”

Bobinis said his ultimate goal is to leave the FOB a better place than when he got it. He wants to make improvements to make the FOB look better, be safer and have more MWR facilities.

“I’m positive you won’t even recognize this place when we leave,” he said. 

“You’ve got to be a jack of all trades. You’re a mayor, you’re a policeman, you’re a plumber, you’re a construction worker, you’re a counselor and you’re a mediator. You name it, we do it all.”

- Master Sgt. Edward Santiago, FOB Prosperity Mayor’s Cell NCOIC

Digital Donations



Utility company generates power of communication for deployed troops

Story and photo by
Sgt. Bill Addison
JASG-C Public Affairs

Three New Jersey Soldiers were given the gift of connectivity with friends and family back home, when Newark-based utility company Public Service Electric and Gas (PSE&G) provided them with free laptop computers.

The trio, all of the Joint Area Support Group-Central (JASG-C), received the donation via Lt. Col. Robert Jarvis, JASG-C Installations deputy director and PSE&G employee. According to the Hainesport, N.J. native, the company has a fairly robust computer infrastructure and is rotating new equipment into the line regularly.

"They realized when they take a computer out of service that there's still some good life left in it," he

said of the company's computer donation project, which regularly donates computers to schools and other needy organizations. The effort was initiated by Chip Gerrity, president of IBEW Local 94, representing employees at PSE&G. Gerrity was invited by PSE&G to attend the Enlisted Support of the Guard and Reserve boss lift trip to Fort Bliss, Texas, where the members of the JASG-C and the rest of the New Jersey National Guard's 50th Infantry Brigade Combat Team were training for mobilization to Iraq.

"During the trip, he found that there was an opportunity to aid Soldiers in communication with their families and suggested that PSE&G donate computers to the Soldiers through the company's computer donation project," said Jarvis.

The lucky Soldiers were Sgt. 1st Class Barry Douglas and Staff

LOVING THEIR LAPTOPS - From left, Staff Sgt. Jesus Barrio, Lt. Col. Robert Jarvis, Sgt. 1st Class Tracy Cianfrano and Sgt. 1st Class Barry Douglas, all of the Joint Area Support Group-Central, display the laptop computers donated to them by N.J. utility company Public Service Electric and Gas (PSE&G), for which Jarvis works as a civilian.

Sgt. Jesus Barrio of the JASG-C's Badging section and Sgt. 1st Class Tracy Cianfrano, logistics NCO for JASG-C.

"The first night I got it, I e-mailed my wife, and then I went on iTunes and downloaded a bunch of songs," said Douglas, of Vernon, N.J. Douglas said that the computer has made it much easier to communicate with his wife and son. "I'm going to be getting a Webcam, so I can talk to them and they can see me; I couldn't do that before ... Thank you very much PSE&G."

Barrio said that he also planned on getting a Webcam, a far cry from the letters he was sending home.

"I'm very happy that I'm able to communicate and see the videos my family has sent me," he said. "I'd

continued on page 12

CHAPLAIN'S WORD

Holiday season time for thanks

*Chap. (Maj.) Jan Koczera
JASG-C Chaplain*

It's hard to believe that it is already November and that we're almost at Thanksgiving!

The holiday season, with days such as Thanksgiving, Christmas, Hanukah and Kwanza, are difficult during a deployment since they all share the common trait of a gathered family. Thanksgiving is all about being grateful after the example of the Pilgrims who were thankful for their arrival and first harvest in America. But how can we feel grateful when we're not with those we love?

Perhaps we need to think about some words in the Bible from the Apostle Paul who said, "But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that," and, "I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances."

Contentment is a difficult thing to achieve - there's always something missing, something more that would make things "just right." Everyone is very aware of what we



are missing back home when we're deployed, and I'm sure our families back home miss us just as much as we miss them.

But think for a moment about the times that you were content and the times that you were not. What was the difference? Was it the events or did it go a little bit deeper than that?

I've noticed that when I was discontented and unhappy, I focused on the negatives in my life. Not only that, but I continually thought about it, about how bad it was, and would complain, and would ask, "Why me?" I would let myself sink into

inaction and eventually depression. I would be grumpy and cause those around me to be unhappy.

That, in turn, only made the situation worse.

When I was content, the situation might not have been different but my focus was entirely different because I concentrated on what was going right and what I going to accomplish, and when I told people about how I was content and doing well I found that I both felt stronger and that my encouragement encouraged them as well!

We'll never be in a situation like this again; we're meeting people and seeing events that we would never have the opportunity for back in Jersey. We do have food (probably too much!) and shelter, we have the esteem of an entire nation for the work we're engaged in, and we're seeing history made before our eyes.

Make a choice like the Apostle Paul this Thanksgiving and in our remaining months in Iraq focus on how life is a great gift from our Creator. 

TroopTube keeps families, Soldiers connected

TroopTube is a new video-sharing Web site for service members and their families. It is the only video-sharing site for military families sponsored by the Department of Defense.

TroopTube extends the virtual military community by enabling service members and families to connect with each other and share videos wherever they may be.

While the site is primarily intended for military families, anyone who registers can post videos by simply creating an account and receiving account authorization.

Almost any type of video can be

posted, within guidelines: Videos must fall within accepted boundaries of community standards and safety, must not compromise military missions, and must not feature graphic violence or obscenity.

TroopTube adopts standards proposed in DoD Directive 5230.9: Clearance of DoD Information for Public Release. The site reserves the right to decline a posting if it contains sensitive material.

Deployed service members can also use TroopTube, but should check with their commanding officers for current protocol. The site emphasizes the ability for deployed

troops and their families to stay in touch and share information.

Most video file types are accepted, including .mov files. Videos are limited to 5 minutes in length and/or 20MB.

Current operating system requirements are Windows 2000, XP or Vista, or Mac OS X 10.3 or higher. Supported browsers are Internet Explorer 5.0+, Firefox 1.1+, Safari 1.0+ and Google Chrome 1.0+. A broadband Internet connection of 500+ Kbps is also recommended.

For more information, visit www.militaryonesource.com or www.trooptube.tv/home. 

THE INS AND OUTS OF

LEAVE

*Story and photo by
1st Sgt. David Moore
JASG-C Public Affairs*

Nearly 6,000 miles separate Baghdad and Trenton, N.J. For troops of the Joint Area Support Group-Central (JASG-C) departing on leave, each foot step can feel like a daunting task without some guidance along the way.

The good thing is the leave paperwork process does not span the thousands of miles most Soldiers will travel. Many Soldiers have already taken the first step by submitting their leave and pass date request. Those dates will likely be approved depending on mission requirements and conditions in the IZ.

But one major fact remains; it's tough getting out of the International Zone, and when Soldiers do it's no picnic.

"Soldiers going out on leave need to be asking questions and get-

ting answers all the way through this process, so they don't get lost in the cracks," said Sgt. 1st Class Juan Platasantos, the JASG-C leave and pass NCOIC. The paperwork drill begins in M208 in the Embassy Annex, where a Leave Checklist is built and data is tracked on each Soldier.

Once the unit administrative requirements are completed, it's time to start the movement process; one that some people would say is similar to Indiana Jones trying to navigate the Temple of Doom.

The uniform for the trip to Baghdad International Airport (BIAP) will be at a minimum ACH, Body Armor (with plates), ballistic eye protection and gloves. When preparing for the trip, the body armor will be stripped down to name, rank,

and plates. Packing luggage for the trip is minimal. Only one bag is authorized and it will be placed on the Soldiers lap for the trip. The standard military carry-on should be about the size of your patrol pack.

Troops will leave the International Zone (IZ) and travel to Baghdad International Airport (BIAP) at least two days before a tentative flight date. Soldiers are encouraged to take a Rhino convoy, which will be scheduled and manifested by the HHC. For operational security reasons, once they report to the Rhino yard at their scheduled time, Soldiers may not leave or make telephone calls.

Air Transportation is another option, but being bumped from your helicopter seat is more likely to occur as a result of other theater mission requirements. Remember, this is a war zone, Plata said.

A midnight Rhino, which you must be manifested on, will take you directly to Camp Striker where

you will be dropped off in front of the Mayor's Cell and Billeting. But a daytime run will require additional steps since the daytime mission arrives at Victory Base. Once there, get off the vehicle, go to Jackson Street, make a right turn and go directly to the bus stop. Take the bus marked for BIAP. Depending on traffic, it can be an average half-hour ride.

Once at BIAP, follow the outbound arrows to the R&R desk of the BIAP Terminal. There, your name will be verified on the flight manifest list. Then, you will receive a slip of paper that lists flight number, roll call, baggage call, and gate call times. One important time each day is the manifest call that occurs at 10 p.m.

"The whole process can be quite interesting," said Sgt. Wilfredo Gonzalez, 101st Airborne, who works at the R&R Gate. "We want to make sure the person flies for their R&R, but sometimes outside of our control there can be delays," the Puerto Rico native said.

The weather, and in particular sandstorms, can cause a major hang-up in the process. "Then we get doubled up on the flights," Gonzalez said. "We ask people to be patient and polite."

Depending on your arrival at BIAP and your fly date, you may find yourself spending at least one night there. There is a fallback position: At the top of each hour, a bus arrives at BIAP which travels to Camp Striker and drops off at the Mayor's Cell, which houses billeting and transit facility.

Larry 'Gunny' Sizemore, billeting manager at Camp Striker, explained the facility always has a place to let a "person put their head down for a few hours," and also provides a cot, blanket and pillow.

One important point to know about this area is that on any given day about 4,000 Soldiers in theater may pass through this facility. "That fact alone makes us the busiest hotel in the world," Sizemore said.

Soldiers departing the area of operations must:

- > Possess a valid CAC card
- > Have five copies of DA Form 31 (signed by the directorate and company)
- > Have two copies of travel orders
- > Have a signed counseling statement
- > Complete and carry DD Form 93
- > Sign out at the Directorate of Information Management
- > Sign out of Billeting
- > Turn in weapon(s)

From Stryker, you can board a bus that will return you to BIAP and the flight to Ali Al-Salem Airport, Kuwait. Once in Kuwait, you will be processed for U.S. travel, known as CONUS, or OCONUS for over-

seas destinations. There you will receive a briefing, a ticket and turn-in your body armor, which will be stored until your return.

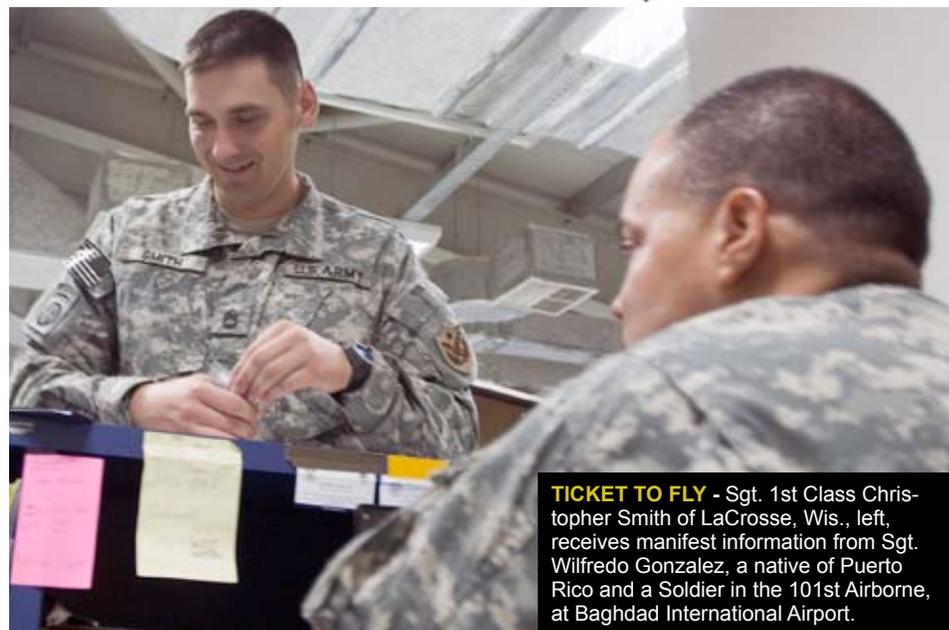
Staff Sgt. Steven White of 18th Airborne Corps and NCOIC of the R&R Pass and Leaves program said one major key for a successful leave program is to prepare the Soldier for leave. On an average day, his office begins tracking about 500 military personnel starting the leave and pass process.

The program works on a 90-, 60-, 30-day cycle. "Once the unit sends me the 30-day out report the leave for the most part, barring any operational matters, is a lock," White said.

"If the unit is doing their job with the pass and leave program, then everything will go smooth. But if unit Soldiers are not tracking the troop going on leave and working with the Soldier when things come up, then there can be problems," White said.

Soldiers must call when they arrive at their port and receive their leave return date, and also upon arriving back in the OIF theater. Remember the following telephone numbers:

- Commercial: (703) 343-9119
- DSN: (318) 239-9119
- Cell: 770-444-1747 or 770-443-6028 🇧🇪



TICKET TO FLY - Sgt. 1st Class Christopher Smith of LaCrosse, Wis., left, receives manifest information from Sgt. Wilfredo Gonzalez, a native of Puerto Rico and a Soldier in the 101st Airborne, at Baghdad International Airport.

TROOPS



TRI TO BE FIT

Story by Maj. Jon Powers
Photos by Sgt. Bill Addison
JASG-C Public Affairs

I was tired of swimming, moving my arms more to avoid drowning rather than actually racing. After this was half the run with the bike event last. At that moment I realized I could still be sleeping.

Fortunately, five other Soldiers of the Joint Area Support Group - Central (JASG-C) skipped the extra ZZZZs too and watching them exit the pool I paddled on. Not your usual relaxing Sunday morning; but an all-out attack on the three-sport fun called triathlon.

“For those of you who have never done a triathlon, after this you still won’t have done one – but you will have fun,” joked Col. David Moore, CJ5 chief of concepts. Though the classic events of swim,

bike and run were represented, the course was laid out to accommodate what was available. The run came in two halves; to and from the pool swim, and lastly a stationary bike.

“It’s less of a triathlon than it is an organized workout,” said Moore.

“The rest of my officers were participating, so to show my support, I committed to competing in all three events.”

“The first triathlon I ever did was here in the IZ, this same race last year,” said Olga Porter, a LOGCAP contractor who has been in the IZ for five years. She finds exercise key to maintaining a healthy attitude.

“Having something familiar makes life feel normal,” she said. She was also pleased when the 50th Infantry Brigade

Combat team (IBCT) took the reins of the JASG-C.

“This unit (50th IBCT) is more physically active than the last, I noticed it right away,” stated Porter. “Seeing all the new people running and in the gym, I knew I had to plan something.”

- Lt. Col. Christopher Eads

She has trained for several events while living here. “I trained for the San Francisco marathon. Some days I would go for a run and it was quiet – other days I would hear the sirens and sprint to the next bunker,” Porter recalled.

Some got more than they bargained for in the tune-up triathlon. After being pestered by his C8 staff for his desire to be-

come a “one-athlete” and not a tri-athlete, Lt. Col. Christopher Eads stepped up to the challenge.

“The rest of my officers were participating, so to show my support, I committed to competing in all three events,” said Eads.

“My personal goal was to complete the triathlon, not necessarily to make a competitive showing. I finished all three events, supported my officers and did not injure myself. Not too bad for an early Sunday morning,” he added.

Some of the athletes pushed their physical limits; aiming for the fastest time was 1st Lt. Douglas Coppola.

“I have gotten myself into a routine of gym, work, sleep and any break from the ordinary definitely excites me. I was excited to do the event,” said Coppola. “By the time I was done, I was completely exhausted. I have run races before, but this was a total body workout. Swimming was definitely the hardest event.”

In the end, we shared a memorable experience and the bond of permanent marker numbers on our skin, something that reminded us days later of our sacrificed sleep, longer for those who didn’t shower. It was also a perfect excuse to stay in bed the next Sunday.

Congratulations to the other JASG-C athletes; 1st Lt. Doug Coppola, Cpt. Brian Stramaglia, Cpt. Chris Lazas, Cpt. Mike Panzera and Lt. Col. Chris Eads. 🇺🇸

Driven to Success

'Repo Man' scours IZ streets in search of delinquent vehicles

Story and photo by
Sgt. Bill Addison
JASG-C Public Affairs

He's on the hunt.

Suddenly, eyes widening, he cries, "Got one!" throws his vehicle into park, and jumps out to claim his prize.

His name is Spc. Jonathan Pierce - the Repo Man - and he just swiped your car.

However, it's not late payments Pierce is enforcing, it is late dispatches. Pierce is the fleet vehicle manager for the Joint Area Support Group-Central's Transportation Directorate. It's his job to keep track of more than 440 vehicles under his charge.

According to Pierce, re-dispatching vehicles is an important step needed to keep track of the fleet. Up-armored vehicles need to be re-dispatched every two weeks and non-armored every 30 days.

"That way we can keep track of our fleet, and make sure that none of them are being stolen or used for improper reasons," said Pierce, of Sicklerville, N.J.

He added it also gives the Kellogg, Brown and Root (KBR) maintenance shop a chance to do a standard service inspections and make sure they are safe and in good working order.

Pierce said he receives

delinquent dispatch reports every day, but his first response is to contact the individual via e-mail to inform them they have a late dispatch. But after five days of delinquency, Pierce said that's when he goes down to the KBR dispatch office to get the keys for the delinquent vehicles.

"They give me the keys, and I hop into my vehicle, go out and look for them. When I find them, I drive them back to the shop," he said. Averaging about five repossessions per week, he noted that while most are in the main parking lots, others aren't so easy to find and he'll often spend hours driving around the IZ not finding a single vehicle.

Pierce must also coordinate with the International Zone Police. If he didn't, he said, the vehicle may be reported as stolen. And while he is willing to

"There's the whole thrill of taking someone's vehicle."

- Spc. Jonathan Pierce

work with people to help them get their vehicles back, there are limits to whom he will return them. He said multiple repossessions will result in individuals losing their vehicle permanently.



THE REPO MAN COMETH - Spc. Jonathan Pierce, Joint Area Support Group-Central (JASG-C) Transportation Directorate, checks the bumper number of a vehicle he is about to reposses.

"If they can't be responsible for their own vehicle, why should we keep going out of our way to return it to them?" he said. He added that another reason to deny vehicle return is if the records show it's not being used much. Vehicles that are re-dispatched or repossessed with very little difference in their mileage from month to month most likely will not be returned.

But Pierce isn't acting on a power-trip; he explained there are reasons for this policy.

"There are other people who need vehicles and we may not have one available for them. We have to look at who really needs them and make sure those people are taken care of,"

said Pierce.

Pierce, who joined the New Jersey Army National Guard in August 2005 as a tracked vehicle repair specialist, said the last thing he ever expected was to be repossessing vehicles in Iraq.

"This is something I've never done before," he said. "It's surreal; who would have thought I'd be driving around taking people's vehicles in Baghdad."

And while he recognizes his position doesn't make him very popular, he is excited about the task he was appointed.

"There's the whole thrill of taking someone's vehicle. It's different, and you don't do that every day," he said. 

SUPER SAILOR - Petty Officer 1st Class Kevin Rhoads, left, receives the Petty Officer's Association of the International Zone's Senior Sailor of the Quarter award from Rear Adm. David Buss, director of Multi National Force-Iraq's CJ5 section.



Top Sailor named

Story by Sgt. Bill Addison

JASG-C Public Affairs

Photo by Staff Sgt. Susan R. James

MNFI CJ9 STRATCOMM

Petty Officer 1st Class Kevin Rhoads was named Senior Sailor of the Quarter Nov. 8 by the Petty Officers Association of the International Zone (IZ).

Rhoads has been with the Joint Area Support Group-Central (JASG-C) Human Resource Management (HRM) office since May of this year and said that since that time he has processed more than 3,600 Common Access Cards.

Now, as he prepares to re-deploy to his ship, the U.S.S. Dwight D. Eisenhower stationed at Norfolk

Naval Station, Va., he said the award is a great accomplishment.

“Surprised, happy, elated; It’s a great end to a great tour here. A definite feather in my cap,” he said.

Navy Capt. Thomas Karnowski nominated Rhoads for the award. He said that he had high expectations of Rhoads, as he came to the JASG-C from a nuclear carrier.

“You do not make mistakes because there’s zero defects allowed in the nuclear program, and he brought that mentality right here into the JASG,” he said.

Karnowski said that Rhoads was responsible for more than just the JASG-C HRM mission, but was also charged with handling the human resources issues specific to the naval personnel within the IZ. And Karnowski was pleased with Rhoad’s work.

“It’s been beyond outstanding. It’s been letter perfect, it’s been timely, it’s been what I expect out of a top-drawer petty officer,” he said.

Rhoads said he is proud of his accomplishments and his time in the IZ with the JASG-C, which he said was his first time serving in a joint environment.

“This definitely surpassed my expectations of an individual augmentee assignment. Working here has been a definite bright spot in my career,” he said. 🇺🇸

Power of communication

continued from page 6

like to thank whoever was involved at PSE&G for donating these laptops to us.”

For Browns Mills, N.J., resident Cianfrano, the donation gives her not only connectivity back home but to other parts of Iraq as well. Her husband, 1st Sgt. Nicholas Cianfrano, also deployed with the 50th IBCT, is stationed at Camp Cropper. Now she can communicate with her husband in Iraq, and her step-son back home with ease.

“I set my step-son up on AKO

so we can communicate and he sent me a birthday card to my e-mail. I wouldn’t have been able to see it if I didn’t have the laptop,” she said. “I would thank them from the bottom of my heart. I think it’s absolutely wonderful that they thought of everyone over here.”

While Jarvis was moved by the company’s efforts, he wasn’t at all surprised.

“It’s actually pretty common for folks in the company to do things like this,” he said, noting the efforts of his co-workers to support

a number of local charity groups. Jarvis said that since 9/11, a number of employees have been called to active duty, and so the company has heightened its awareness of the needs of Soldiers.

Jarvis said he’s hoping to receive more donations from the company, and has already made arrangements to branch out and help other Soldiers in the brigade who could benefit from these laptops.

“If we can continue to get equipment for them, we’ll continue to get them set up,” he said. 🇺🇸

National Guard's top NCO visits IZ

Story and photo by
1st Sgt. David Moore
JASG-C Public Affairs

The Army National Guard's top noncommissioned officer, Command Sgt. Major John D. Gipe, teamed up with New Jersey Army National Guard Soldiers of the Joint Area Support Group-Central (JASG-C) in an effort to visit troops serving in Baghdad's International Zone providing force protection to make the area safe and secure.

Escorted by Soldiers from the JASG-C, Gipe visited some of the entry control points (ECPs) manned by Arkansas Army National Guard Soldiers around the International Zone (IZ).

The Arkansas Soldiers work closely with Iraqi Army Police, as well as other security firms responsible for protection inside the IZ.

Sgt. 1st Class Brian Smoke of Arkansas's A Co., 153rd Infantry, spoke to Gipe and explained how security measures used at the checkpoint is a team effort.



BE, KNOW, DO - Sgt. 1st Class Brian Smoke, A Co., 153rd Infantry, Arkansas Army National Guard, left, provides National Guard Bureau's Command Sgt. Maj. John D. Gipe, center, and Enlisted Advisor of National Guard Affairs Sgt. Maj. John Houck, a briefing about entry control operations in Baghdad's International Zone.

The Prescott, Ark., everyone uses different native said while there is methods to meet that standard. He added that every-

one at the checkpoint is conscious of the fact the enemy continues to probe security systems used at the entry control points.

"No one wants anything bad to happen here," he said.

Gipe said Guard Soldiers continue to impress him with the professionalism and dedication to get the job done.

"We have been at this for nearly seven years and Soldiers continue to stay in and new Soldiers come in ... people don't stick around unless they enjoy what they are doing. If they weren't doing a great job leading them they wouldn't be sticking around," he said.

Gipe also talked about the 50th Infantry Brigade Combat Team (IBCT) with Soldiers spread throughout the OIF theater. He said the IBCT has great senior leadership, some of the strongest senior leadership in the NCO Corps he has seen.

"As a brigade combat team as a whole, they are doing great things," he said.

After visiting ECPs, Gipe took the opportunity to promote Master Sgt. Tim Bushee, Multi-National Corps-Iraq, to sergeant major at Saber Stadium parade grounds near the historic Crossed Sabers

"Next to me getting promoted, this promotion was the most memorable," he said. 

“ We have been at this for nearly seven years and Soldiers continue to stay in and new Soldiers come in. If (the NCOs) weren't doing a great job leading them they wouldn't be sticking around.”

- Command Sgt. Major John D. Gipe

JASG-C makes children cheer

Iraqi youths enjoy day of fun and games with service members

Story by Sgt. Bill Addison
Photos by Maj. Jon Powers
JASG-C Public Affairs

Service members working in Baghdad's International Zone (IZ) had a unique opportunity to play with Iraqi children at Forward Operating Base (FOB) Freedom Oct. 24 in an effort to give the children a safe place to play.

Approximately 20 children and their parents from outside the IZ showed up to play games, swim and eat during an event sponsored by the Joint Area Support Group-Central (JASG-C).

"The children here don't have a place to play in their neighborhoods; it's too dangerous," said Marine Lt. Col. Sean Salene of Multi National Force-Iraq's CJ5 section.

Salene said he first noticed the children needed a place to play during a church fellowship at the Al-Rasheed Hotel. He said he noticed the children running around playing in the lobby.

"They looked like kids everywhere. They want to go out and play," he said.

Salene said the ultimate goal was to give the children a day to play without fear. But he wasn't alone: Salene worked with the church's mother's union and the JASG-C to help facilitate the event. Maj. Paul Rumberger, JASG-C governor of all U.S. military facilities in the IZ, said he was excited to help facilitate the event.

"Kids are kids, no matter where you're at, and if you give them a chance to play I think this is something they'll remember forever," he said.



According to Rumberger, the JASG-C Soldiers provided total logistical support for the event, from making FOB Freedom available, to coordinating buses to bring the families from the Al-Rasheed to Freedom and coordinating with Kellogg, Brown and Root to provide catering services. They also coordinated a lifeguard and medical support for the event.

While Rumberger admits it took a lot of coordination to make all the moving parts come together, he said it was well worth it.

"The proof is in the pudding; the smiles on the kids faces, the smiles on everybody else's faces. I think this was a real win," he said.

The children spent the day playing games like egg races and egg toss, soccer, horseshoes and, of

course, swimming in FOB Freedom's pool alongside U.S. service member volunteers. Winners received prizes of soccer balls, other toys and candy.

Air Force 1st Lt. Jaimie Howard of Multi-National Security Transition Command-Iraq Health Affairs said she volunteers to work with local children whenever possible. Along with going into the schools and visiting classrooms, she volunteers with the Green Zone Council.

"I love it!" she said. "The littlest things make them so happy. It was fun to be part of it... What we do brings out so many smiles and sparkles and they're so cute," she added.

For the event, Howard was acting as the pool's lifeguard, and said she was surprised to see how well

the children were swimming considering many of them have never swam before.

“They weren’t afraid to put their face underwater. They were excited to learn; they kept calling me teacher,” she said.

One of the mothers echoed the importance the day had for her children, who don’t have the luxury of playing games outside with their friends

“Since the old regime, they never go out or play like this- it’s the first time,” she said through an interpret-

er. She also expressed how happy it made her feel, as a mother, to see her children playing outside.

Salene was so happy with how the families and service members reacted, he wants to hold more events like this in the future.

“This was kind of a trial run,” he said.

Salene said when he originally approached the mother’s union he expected there to be a dozen to two-dozen children who could take advantage of the opportunity. However, the mother’s union responded

with more than 150 children they’d like to involve in the event.

“We said we’ll go with twenty, we’ll see how it goes and if everybody’s happy, we’ll try it again,” he said.

Salene said the day provided more than just a chance to help some local children; for him it was a reminder of what he left behind.

“One thing you miss when you come here is the opportunity for kids and for happiness. I know I miss my kids, so to have a day like this is something that reminds me of home and why we’re here,” he said. 🇮🇶



FOR THE CHILDREN -

Approximately 20 Iraqi children and their parents from outside Baghdad’s International Zone (IZ) enjoyed a day of games and activities at the IZ’s Forward Operating Base Freedom Oct. 24, courtesy of the Joint Area Support Group-Central (JASG-C). Activities ranged from horseshoes with Sgt. 1st Class Robert Stephenson, above, to egg tossing with Spc. Hyacinthe Luna, right, to swimming with Air Force 1st Lt. Jaimie Howard, top right.

JAG CORNER

General Order Number 1 explained

*Col. Daniel G. Giaquinto
Command Judge Advocate*

Undoubtedly you have heard, even as far back as our pre-mobilization training, about General Order Number 1. But sometimes questions remain: What exactly is a GO-1, what are the prohibited activities, and what are the consequences of a violation? Since it is still relatively early in our deployment, it behooves us to address these important principles of military justice at this time.

Keep in mind, however, that this article should not act as a substitute for your own review of GO-1, its prohibitions and exceptions. The GO-1 relevant to our conduct is located on the Multi National Force-Iraq (MNF-I) homepage and should also be available in your unit. You are highly encouraged to obtain a copy-read it and seek appropriate advice if there are any aspects you do not understand.

Broadly speaking, a GO-1 that pertains to an overseas location in a combat zone will address and prohibit the possession and use of alcohol, inappropriate relationships, and acts or conduct that would offend local customs or religious and cultural sensitivities. These orders are based upon mission requirements, and are issued to maintain good order and discipline; to ensure operational readiness; and to foster, preserve, and enhance US/host nation relations and relations with other friendly forces.

A general order is issued by a general or flag officer in command or an officer who has general court-martial convening authority. They are applicable to the area of responsibility of the issuing officer. Once issued and disseminated, a general order that specifi-

cally prohibits certain conduct or activities requires strict compliance by those who have a duty to obey. A violation of the prohibited activities section of a general order is punitive, meaning it may be the subject of non judicial punishment (an Article 15), or prosecuted in a court-martial under Article 92 of the UCMJ-Failure to Obey Order or Regulation. Unlike the charges of willfully disobeying a superior commissioned officer or warrant or noncommissioned officer, knowledge of a general order is not an element of the offense, therefore it is not a defense that the defendant was unaware of the order. The maximum punishment for a violation is a dishonorable discharge, forfeiture of all pay and allowances, and confinement for two years.

General orders apply not only to US military personnel, but also to civilians serving with, employed by, or accompanying the US Armed Forces. Civilians are not only subject to adverse administrative sanctions, but in appropriate cases may also be criminally prosecuted under the Military Extraterritorial Jurisdiction Act (MEJA).

So what exactly is off limits? In our case there is a United States Central Command GO-1 that applies to the entire USCENTCOM AOR, and an almost identical Multi National Corps-Iraq (MNC-I) GO-1 that applies to Iraq and Kuwait. Without addressing all of the exceptions to or nuances of the rules, be aware that in our area of operation the following are prohibited:

- consumption, possession, and transfer of alcohol and controlled substances
- sexual relations with foreign or local nationals who are not members of coalition forces

- cohabitation of males and females (except lawfully married spouses)

- privately owned firearms, ammunition, and explosives

- entrance into a Mosque or other site of Islamic religious significance by non-Moslems (unless directed by military authorities or required by military necessity)

- possession, transfer, or creation of pornography

- photography/filming of detainees and human casualties

- gambling

- removing, possessing, selling, defacing, destroying artifacts or national treasure

- unofficial sale, bartering or exchange of currency

- adopting, caring, feeding of domestic or wild animals

- proselytizing any faith or religion

- war souvenirs-taking or retaining public property or property of an enemy

- possession, use, sale or purchase of motor vehicle not owned or leased by US government

Experience has shown the most frequent violations of GO-1 to be inappropriate relationships and possession of alcohol. All of the prohibited activities are important to avoid, and violations could subject you to UCMJ action and adverse administrative action, and could act as a career stopper. In short, you will be well-served if you take the time to review GO-1 and behave accordingly.

Remember no alcohol, no inappropriate relationships, and no behavior that is prejudicial to good order and discipline or of a nature to bring discredit upon the armed forces.

Mission first, have a successful and safe deployment. 

Education options spell success

Story and photo by
1st Sgt. David Moore
JASG-C Public Affairs

With a revamped GI Bill worth tracking by military personnel, there are educational programs in play to make a difference in a person's future through distance learning.

"Some Soldiers have found the time to pursue their education and that's a good thing," said Capt. Benjamin Stoner of the Joint Area Support Group-Central's Human Resource office, who works as the New Jersey National Guard education officer when not deployed.

He cautions Soldiers, though, that they need to be aware of their mission requirements to ensure they have time to do courses online.

The first thing a National Guard Soldier needs to do, he said, is find the right school that fits the Soldier's program of study. Army National Guard Soldiers should visit the National Guard Bureau's Virtual Armory home page at www.virtualarmory.com and click on the education link. Once inside the educational area, Soldiers can apply to get in touch with a counselor or degree planners. A Soldier can also call the toll-free number at (866) 628-5999 or e-mail esc@pec.ngb.army.mil.

For Active Duty or Army Reserve troops, they too can get information by calling educational counselors at Camp Victory who will provide similar educational advice and testing services to all Soldiers. The education counselors can be reached by calling DSN (318) 485-2648 or 2714. Camp Victory Education Center info may be found by visiting the MNFI SharePoint site under the "Theater Signal Battalion" and then clicking on the "Education Workcenter" link.

Enlisted Soldiers of all Army services will also use www.goarmyed.com for information on schools and

application of Tuition Assistance benefits. Enlisted Soldiers should contact the Tuition Assistance counselors at Camp Victory at DSN 318-485-2935 to get the application process started. Army Guard officers, however, will need to apply for their Tuition Assistance through the Virtual Armory site.



INVESTING IN TOMMOROW - Sgt. Laura Long, JASG-C Human Resource Office, is one of several Soldiers doing online courses using the Federal Tuition Assistance Program. "By taking courses you gain military promotion points and civilian career progression. You definitely need some sort of degree if you are going to get ahead in society," she said.

Depending on when a Soldier came into the military, there are several methods to fund education even when deployed since most paperwork can be processed online.

Stoner said some National Guard Soldiers may be able to use their GI Bill benefits while taking courses on Title 10. However, combining them with the Federal Tuition Assistance Program may be problematic.

"The Veterans Administration will limit funds so Soldiers are not paid twice for the same educational benefits," Stoner said.

For Soldiers wishing to use the GI Bill program, known as the Montgomery GI Bill, there are several chapters available and options to use them when deployed.

For example, Reserve Component Soldiers deployed for more than 90 days may be eligible to use the Reserve Education Assistance Program, or Chapter 1607.

"Under any one chapter, a Soldier can use up to 36 months of full-time enrollment entitlements, but under multiple chapters can use up to 48 months," Stoner said.

Another program that extends educational benefits is the PLUS-UP, or Additional Contribution program. Soldiers may add up to a \$600 lump-sum contribution to their GI Bill and it increases full-time benefits up to \$150 a month.

For Soldiers who may not have used their Active Duty GI Bill educational benefits in the past since they expired and were not used within 10 years of leaving the service, by deploying the clock was reset to use the benefit package or the portion remaining unused when the 10 years expired.

This year, a new chapter known as Chapter 33 was approved by Congress. This program is not expected to be online until August 2009.

"Many Soldiers are inquiring about transferring educational benefits to dependents. It's true there is a transferability benefit, but the rules for this part of the program have not been spelled out," he said. Soldiers need to visit the Veterans Administration home page at www.gibill.va.gov to track developments.

Other chapters of the existing GI Bill program also exist for certificate programs, flight training, apprenticeship/on-the-job training and correspondence courses training. Soldiers will also be able to use educational benefits upon returning home from deployment. 🇺🇸

Hero's Journey



TRAINING IN ACTION - Air Force Tech. Sgt. Jason Seibel, Joint Area Support Group—Central Law and Order Directorate, received the Red Cross International Military Hero Award for medical aid rendered at a bus crash June 10.

Airman earns International Military Hero Award

*Story and photo by
Sgt. 1st Class Robert Stephenson
JASG-C Public Affairs*

When Tech Sgt. Jason Seibel was preparing for his deployment to Iraq, he knew lifesaving classes would probably come in handy. He just didn't know they would be needed so soon.

While his unit was undergoing pre-deployment training in Germany, the 12-year Air Force veteran was at the right place at the right time when his team members needed him most, as one of two buses they were taking back from the range overturned on the steep hills outside of Baumholder June 10.

"Me and a couple of other guys ran up behind the bus itself, which was now on its side, smoke coming out," explained Seibel. "Then I grabbed the emergency hatch and ripped it open, and everybody started spilling out. Then we ran around to the front of the bus and kicked the windshield out."

As soon as the first few injured Airmen managed to crawl out of the bus, Seibel knew the extent of the situation.

"One of the first guys off had a big gash in his head and he was

bleeding, and I remembered thinking to myself, 'Oh my God, if that's what he looks like, what does everybody else look like?'" he said, knowing there were another 30 to 40 people on the bus.

Seibel, who is now serving as the operations superintendent with the International Zone (IZ) Police un-

"I was doing what I was trained to do, I was doing what I think anybody else would have done in that situation."

- Tech. Sgt. Jason Seibel

der the Joint Area Support Group—Central (JASG-C) Law and Order Directorate in Baghdad, remembers his training kicking in as if he was on autopilot.

"I remember just saying, 'You go here, this guy's going into shock, do this,' and without even thinking about it, I took out my little field notepad and started [asking] 'what are his vitals, what's his heart rate,

what's wrong with this guy?' because I knew that the cadre, who were actually trained Combat Lifesavers, were right behind us," he said.

In addition, a German medical battalion was also out training that day, and as they approached the crash site, Seibel was able to rely on his knowledge of German from his high school days to convey the situation to them as expeditiously as possible.

"They were sending in MEDEVAC helicopters and someone said, 'You speak German, find out where are these MEDEVAC helicopters,' and I remember asking, 'how far out,' and 'this is where they need to land,'" he recalled. "That was pretty crazy, and everybody lived."

As a result of his decisive action that day, Seibel received the International Military Hero Award from the Spokane chapter of the American Red Cross, in Washington, although he doesn't consider his actions any more special than others he was with at the time.

"To a certain extent, I was doing what I was trained to do, I was doing what I think anybody else would have done in that situation and there were a lot of people on that bus that had more stripes than me, or more bars, than the five that I've got," he said.

Unfortunately, Seibel's Iraq deployment precluded him from picking up the award at the Spokane Red Cross chapter in person Nov. 15, but he did want to thank the Red Cross for recognizing his achievements, noting that it was a great honor.

Looking back on that day, Seibel has gained a new perspective on how quickly a situation can change from good to bad, and although he anticipated using his life saver training in Iraq, he now has the experience of that actual event under his belt, as well as the knowledge that when the time comes, he can step up and pitch in, and in the final analysis, make a difference. 

NEWS FROM HOME

Sign-up available for Guard Family Portal

An invitation is extended to join the online Guard Family Portal community.

The Web site will provide up-to-date, relevant and state-specific content, including announcements, news, events, discussion forums, documents, surveys and reports.

In addition, you can learn about Family Readiness, Program Services and Plans & Operations, take on-line training, and the site keeps you informed and involved about your benefits as a serving family.

To join, visit <http://www.guardfamily.org>, click the Join link on the top right, complete the form and click Submit.

College scholarships available through DeCA

The Defense Commissary Agency (DeCA) is making college scholarships worth \$1,500 available to qualified children of military families. Applications are now available at commissaries worldwide or through a link at www.commissaries.com or at www.militaryscholar.org.

Qualified applicants are dependent, unmarried children of active duty, Reserve, Guard or retired military personnel. Applicants must be under the age of 23, enrolled in the DEERS database and have

a current ID card. The applicants must be planning to attend, or already be attending, an accredited college or university full time in fall 2009 or be enrolled in a program of studies designed to transfer directly into a four-year program.

Applicants will be asked to submit an essay on the following topic: What would you place inside a time capsule to help people in the next century understand military life today?

Applications must be turned in by Feb. 18, 2009.

U.S. Post Office offers discount mailing options

The U.S. Postal Service is making it easier for families to send care packages with a larger flat-rate box and a special discount to FPO/ APO addresses.

The new boxes are 50-percent larger than the current flat-rate box and can be sent to any domestic address for \$12.95. A special military version of the box will carry the "America Supports You" logo and can be shipped to any FPO/ APO address for \$10.95. The new Priority Mail Large Flat-Rate Box is "12 x 12" x 5½."

For complete guidelines on mail services to military members overseas visit the USPS Web site at: www.usps.com/supporting_ourtroops/welcome.htm?from=household&page=troopsupport.

Consolidated Worship Schedule

<p>Sunday 0915 – Mass/Camp Prosperity (Confession available before Mass) 1030 – General Protestant Worship 1200 – Catholic Mass/Embassy Chapel 1200 – Episcopal/Lutheran/Anglican 1400 – Latter Day Saints 1630 – Catholic Mass/Embassy Chapel (Confession available before Mass) 1815 – Contemporary Protestant 2000 – Spanish Latter Day Saints (Chapel Annex) 2000 – Church of Christ (Embassy S214-B) 2000 – Spanish Catholic Mass/Embassy Chapel</p>	<p>Wednesday 1200 – Catholic Mass/Embassy Chapel 1800 – Adult Education/B104</p>
<p>Monday 1200 – Catholic Mass/Embassy Chapel</p>	<p>Thursday 1200 – Catholic Mass/Embassy Chapel</p>
<p>Tuesday 1200 – Catholic Mas/Embassy Chapel 1800 – RCIA/Adult Education/Embassy Chapel 1900 – Rosary in the Embassy Chapel</p>	<p>Friday 1200 – Catholic Mass/Embassy Chapel 1830 – Jewish Shabbat 2000 – Orthodox "Reader's Service"</p>
	<p>Saturday 1100 – Catholic Mass/CSH Compound (Chapel Annex) - Confession available before Mass 1830 – Catholic Mass/Embassy Chapel (Confession available before Mass)</p>
	<p><i>Where not indicated otherwise, services are held at the Palace's Community Chapel, which is located out the South Lobby entrance of the Palace, to the left behind the T-walls.</i></p>
	<p>Prayer Breakfast First Wednesday of the month 0630 – 0730, Palace Rm. M100</p>

2008 Holiday Mailing Deadlines

Cards and Letters	Home to Iraq- 4 December Iraq to Home- 6 December
Packages / Parcels	Home to Iraq- 21 November Iraq to Home- 19 November



Check out the Official Website of the Multi-National Forces in Iraq



WWW.MNF-IRAQ.COM

MWR Facilities & Contacts

MWR/Recreation Facility Hours

Palace Pool
6 a.m.-midnight
(Quiet hours 10 p.m.-6 a.m.)

Liberty Pool
6 a.m.-midnight

Palace Fitness Center
24/7

Palace Theater
7:30 & 10 p.m., nightly

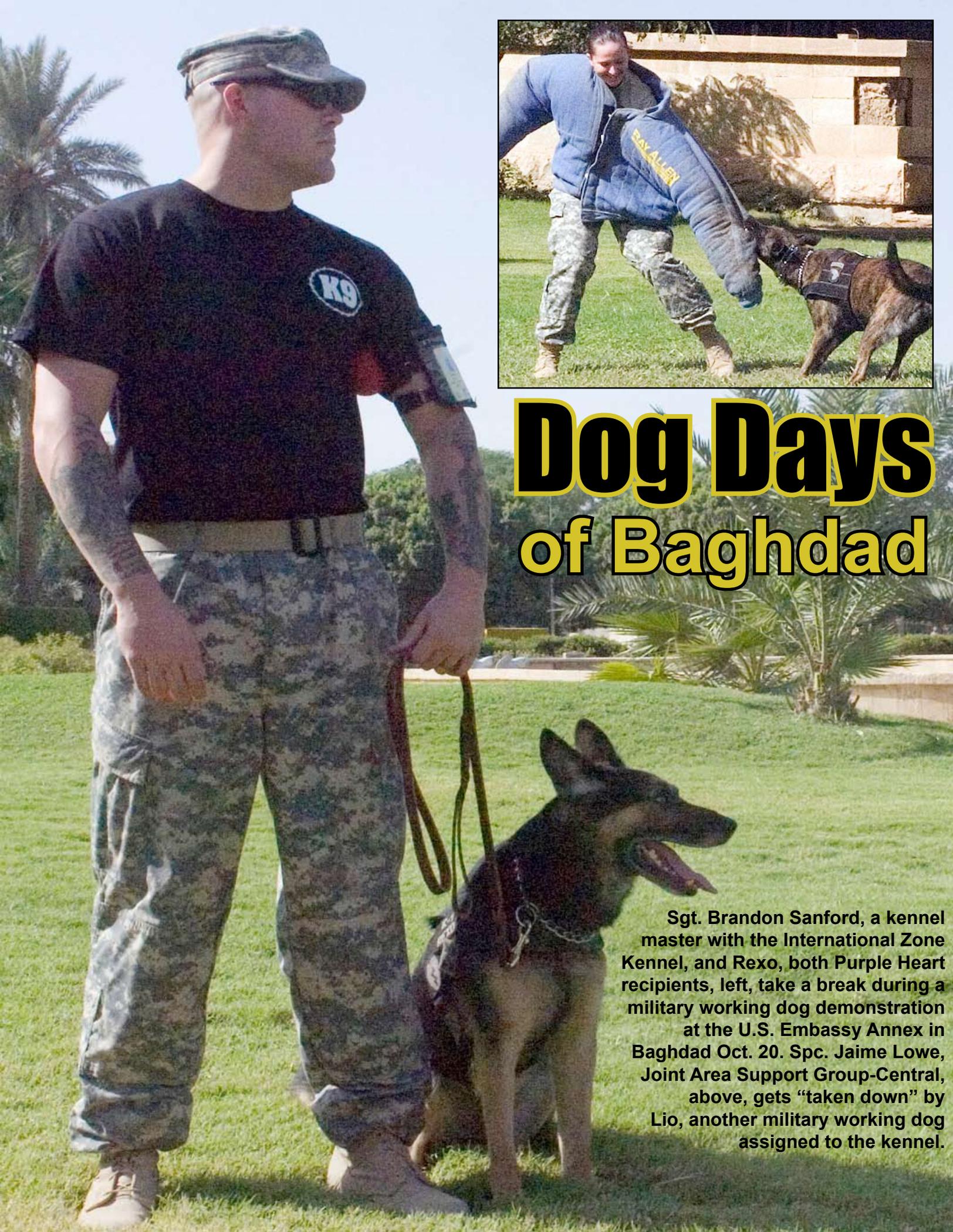
NEC MWR Desk
239-2222, ext. 560-3459
(Commercial: 240-553-0581, ext. 560-3459)

The Military Salute Project has released

the United States Flag Manual

a 45-page comprehensive summary of the history of the American Flag and the regulations and guidelines for its display and use.

Visit <http://home.att.net/~militarysalute3/> for more information



Dog Days of Baghdad

Sgt. Brandon Sanford, a kennel master with the International Zone Kennel, and Rexo, both Purple Heart recipients, left, take a break during a military working dog demonstration at the U.S. Embassy Annex in Baghdad Oct. 20. Spc. Jaime Lowe, Joint Area Support Group-Central, above, gets “taken down” by Lio, another military working dog assigned to the kennel.