

# Ramadi Star



Camp Ramadi Command Information Newsletter

DECEMBER 7, 2008



## Camp Ramadi goes country

Country music star Aaron Tippin shakes hands and signs an autograph for Sgt. Larry E. Trampel from Regimental Combat Team 1, during his visit to Camp Ramadi, Iraq Nov. 26, 2008. Camp Ramadi was one of six U.S. military bases Tippin visited throughout Iraq and Kuwait, during his Drill N' Thrill Thanksgiving Tour. The overseas tour was sponsored by Stars for Stripes, a non-profit organization dedicated to bringing entertainment to deployed troops. Read more about Tippin's visit on page 6. (Photo by Army Staff Sgt. Matthew Lima)

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## Chaplain's Corner

By Navy Cmdr. Bill Muhm  
RCT-1 Chaplain

### BEAUTIFUL BUT STRESSFUL

For those of us on deployment, our lives out here in Iraq are simple, but the holidays are an especially painful time of family separation. No matter how old we are, the holidays carry with them a certain quality that cannot be found at any other time of year. It's a real sacrifice to spend them away from our families and loved ones. This can produce stress.



The season is also stressful for our loved ones back home. Psychologists tell us that December is the most stressful month of the year in today's American society. It's not hard to see why. The holiday season is great, but expectations are always very high, and there is a lot of pressure to make the holidays perfect. Many times this translates into big spending and big debt to pay for expensive gifts and parties. Time is always short this time of year as well, since most shopping and most holiday parties and celebrations take place in the weeks before Christmas. Children eagerly anticipate the holidays and can easily become impatient and difficult at this time of year. High school and college students are busy studying for final exams, and this generates a lot of pressure. Add to the mix a heavy travel season, icy roads and airport delays, and you can see why it all adds up to STRESS!

What to do in times of stress? For those of us on deployment and for those of you back home, keep in mind the basics. Take life one day at a time, and let's remember to keep our expectations realistic. Practice good self-care: eat right, get enough rest and remember to keep physically fit. Practice your faith, and hopefully make some time for daily prayer on a regular basis. You will be surprised at how fidelity to the basics will help you in reducing stress at this beautiful and holy time of year. Enjoy it! Happy holidays!

## Emergency Chaplain

Services are available 24/7

To get a hold of the on-call chaplain call  
3440-835 or 3440-652 from any DSN.

## Christmas Pageant

Come hear the Christmas story, sing all your favorite carols and see local wise men, shepherds, angels and more!

**8 p.m. Dec. 22 and 23 at the Memorial Chapel**

There will be a pageant meeting Tuesday, Dec. 9 and Dec. 16 at 8:00 p.m. For those looking to participate, help is still needed. They are looking for a narrator, some more shepherds, towns people and help creating the set.

Everyone is invited, military and civilians.

## Chapel Services



### Sunday

- 0930 Roman Catholic Mass
- 1100 Contemporary Protestant Service
- 1400 Gospel Service/Lay Leader
- 1600 Contemporary Worship Service
- 1830 Traditional Protestant Liturgy with weekly Communion
- 2000 LDS - Lay Leader
- 2100 Evening Praise

### Monday

- 1930 Bible Study (Fellowship Hall)

### Tuesday

- 1900 Iron on Iron Men's Bible Study (Fellowship Hall)
- 1900 AA meeting (Chapel)

### Wednesday

- 1900 LDS Bible Study (Fellowship Hall)
- 1900 Gospel Bible Study (Chapel)
- 2000 Gospel Choir rehearsal

### Thursday

- 1900 Contemporary Protestant Band Rehearsal
- 1900 Promise Keeper Bible Study (Fellowship Hall)
- 2100 Roman Catholic Rosary Group

### Friday

- 1300 Muslim Service "Juma'a" prayer
- 1900 Gospel Intercessory Prayer
- 2000 Gospel Choir rehearsal

### Saturday

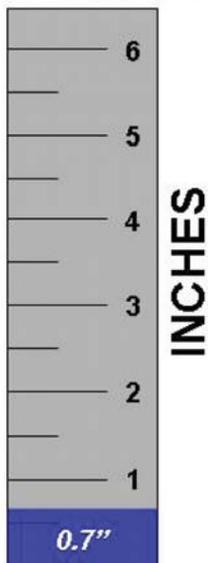
- 1500 The Truth Project (Fellowship Hall)
- 1900 Roman Catholic RCIA (Fellowship Hall)
- 1900 Contemporary Protestant Band Rehearsal (Chapel)
- 2100 Roman Catholic Mass



# Ar Ramadi, Iraq Climatology (December)



## PRECIPITATION Monthly Mean



**Extreme Max: 3.1"**  
**Extreme Min: 0.0"**

**SKY CONDITION**

Partly Cloudy

5% ≤ 3,000'  
D25-30%, N15% ≤ 10,000'

**MONTHLY**

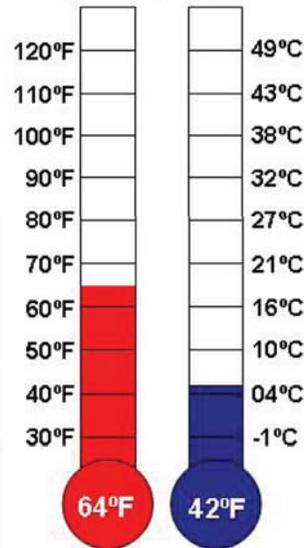
# Day(s) with:  
Rain  
5  
Thunderstorms  
1

RH: 84% (0600C)  
RH: 50% (1500C)

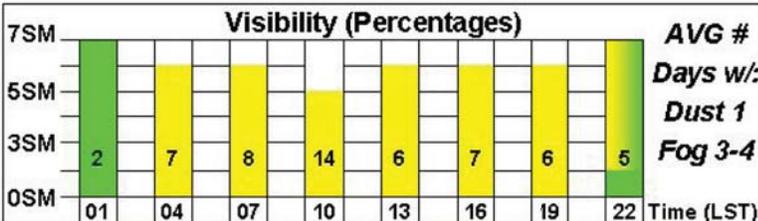
**WINDS**

7 KT  
Max Gust 38 KT

## TEMPERATURE Monthly Mean



**Extreme Max: 81°F/27°C**  
**Extreme Min: 20°F/-07°C**



- A weak High centered over northwestern Saudi Arabia is periodically reinforced by migratory highs.
- Migratory lows and troughs impact the region every 3-5 days with short periods of precipitation and occasional dust storms.
- Low visibility with nocturnal and morning fog in the Euphrates River Valley.
- Low-level wind primarily northwesterly, but will vary with the synoptic situation.
- Two (2) types of Shamals during this period: 24-36 hr and 3-5 day (avg. max 35kt).
- Ceilings below 25,000' occur 25-35 percent of the time.

# SAFETY NOTES

By Army Capt. Kasey Vu  
Camp Ramadi Safety Officer

**G**reetings Camp Ramadi tenants!

A couple weeks ago, we had a dumpster fire in one of our LSAs on Camp Ramadi. It was probably started by a lit cigarette that someone inadvertently threw into the dumpster. What compounded this situation was that during the investigation, the fire department discovered live ammunition, .50 caliber rounds, inside the dumpster – and one round had cooked off from the heat of the fire. Fortunately, no one was injured in the incident. I want to remind everyone of two things: 1) do NOT throw ammunition of any type into any garbage receptacles, and obviously do not leave any ammunition

unsecured. Do the right thing and use one of the many amnesty boxes we have situated throughout camp. 2) make sure you fully extinguish your cigarette/cigar and the coals from your grills before you throw it in the dumpster. Taking these simple steps will prevent re-occurrences of these incidents.

On a related note - the holiday season will soon be upon us, with Christmas being the centerpiece of the celebration. As is the tradition in many parts of the world, Christmas is celebrated with displays of many types, often times with twinkling bright lights and beautiful decorations.

Unfortunately, these holiday decorations also pose an increased risk in electrical fires. While not trying to discourage the practice, I want to remind everyone of several

safety precautions when using electrical holiday decorations:

1. Use electrical decorations designed for 220 volt electricity, or else use a step down 110 volt power converter.
2. ALL electrical decorations must meet UL or CE standards.
3. Plug electrical decorations directly into outlets or into surge protectors with fuses. Do not daisy-chain power strips.
4. Turn off electrical decorations when unattended.
5. Do not use "exterior use only" lights indoors.
6. Replace all damaged light bulbs immediately.

Taking these few safety steps will ensure that everyone will have an enjoyable and safe holiday season!

# 1<sup>ST</sup> Annual Turkey Bowl



After four days and 20 scheduled games, 16 flag football teams from across base were whittled down to just two. With the crowds cheering and Monday night football music blaring, Regimental Combat Team 1 and the Oklahoma National Guard 1-158 Field Artillery Battalion T-birds faced off for the final Turkey Bowl game the night of Thanksgiving. The RCT-1 team beat the T-birds 32-18 and were awarded a trophy and bragging rights.



After their victory, 1<sup>st</sup> Sgt. Rodney L. Lane, the first sergeant for HQ Co., RCT-1, presented the RCT-1 commander, Col. Lewis A. Craparotta, with the trophy (Photo by RCT-1 Public Affairs)



Col. Ronald Kapral, the commander for 81<sup>st</sup> BCT and Camp Ramadi, coached the 81<sup>st</sup> BCT Ravens until their defeat in the semi-finals and presented the trophy to the winning team (Photo by Army Sgt. Amanda Gauthier)



RCT-1 and 1-158 FA squared off at 7 p.m. Nov. 27 for the final game (Photo by Army Sgt. Emily Suhr)



Servicemembers and civilians from across base came out for the games, which ran from Nov. 24 through Nov. 27 (Photo by Army Sgt. Emily Suhr)

# Who to call in case of emergency

In case of fire, call: 344-0911

If you have general questions about fire safety, extinguishers, smoke alarms or fire warden training, call 344-0770

For medical emergencies, call: 344-0376

If you find an unexploded ordnance, or for any other emergency, call the Ramadi Operations Center:  
VOIP: 696-5966/5967  
DSN: 344-0696/0179



The camp Ramadi fire department gives a Fire Warden class Saturday, Nov. 29, 2008. Twenty Camp Ramadi tenants were taught proper use of a fire extinguisher, how to identify fire hazards and fire safety. Classes are given every Saturday at 2 p.m. at the Camp Ramadi fire station, next to KBR village (Photo by Army Sgt. Amanda Gauthier)



Employees of the Rayan Group, Staff Sgt. Julaine McIntire, Sgt. Tobias Suhr and Sgt. Rhonda Buffington from the 81<sup>st</sup> BCT, take a break from paving Camp Ramadi roads to share their lunch (Photo by Army Sgt. Amanda Gauthier)



Command Sgt. Maj. Robert Sweeney, the 81<sup>st</sup> BCT Command Sergeant Major, Col. Ronald Kapral, the 81<sup>st</sup> BCT Commander and Camp Ramadi Commander, and Lt. Col. Carl Steele, the Camp Ramadi Chaplain, serve Thanksgiving dinner to Camp Ramadi (Photo by Army Sgt. Emily Suhr)

## Camp Ramadi photos are now posted

We are now posting Camp Ramadi photographs on NIPR. Please copy the following link into "Run" under the start menu to view photos from Aaron Tippin's visit, the Turkey Bowl flag football games, the WWE visit and more.

\\arn02c\AR\_Shares\Camp Ramadi\PAO

We will continue to update this folder with new photographs of Camp Ramadi and encourage you to submit your photos for posting.

# Happy Holidays!



# Country comes to Camp Ramadi

By Army Sgt. Amanda Gauthier  
81<sup>st</sup>BCT

Country music star Aaron Tippin visited Camp Ramadi, Iraq Nov. 26, 2008 during his six-base Drill N' Thrill Thanksgiving tour sponsored by Stars for Stripes.

Tippin has done three morale tours in Iraq and two in Afghanistan, as well as performances throughout the Middle East during the 1990 Gulf War.

"Some folks might not know this, but my career was kind of kicked off by the military. I came along during the days of the Persian Gulf War, and I got invited along on a Bob Hope tour," said Tippin. "So the first Americans to ever hear me sing, 'You've Gotta Stand for Something', were in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia and they were our troops. I guess you could say it's a friendship that's lasted 20 years."

During Tippin's Stars for Stripes tours he makes a point of shaking



Country music star Aaron Tippin poses with Marines during his visit to Camp Ramadi, Iraq Nov. 26, 2008. (Photo by Army Sgt. Amanda Gauthier)

hands and signing autographs for as many troops as possible, despite the fact that he has traveled thousands of miles and had very little sleep.

"We didn't come here to hide out; we came here to shake hands," stated Tippin.

At one point, Tippin got back out of his vehicle after wrapping up an autograph and photo session to get to his sound check, so a couple of Marines who arrived late after getting off duty could get autographs and pictures with him as well. His travel throughout Iraq often involves late night flights, all-day visits and evening performances. He may get a little sleep on the flight and then start the whole thing over again the next day. By the time Tippin heads back to the U.S., he will have played five shows in Iraq and one in Kuwait.

While in Ramadi, Tippin visited several units to see what they were doing and observe the changes in Iraq since his last visit in 2007.

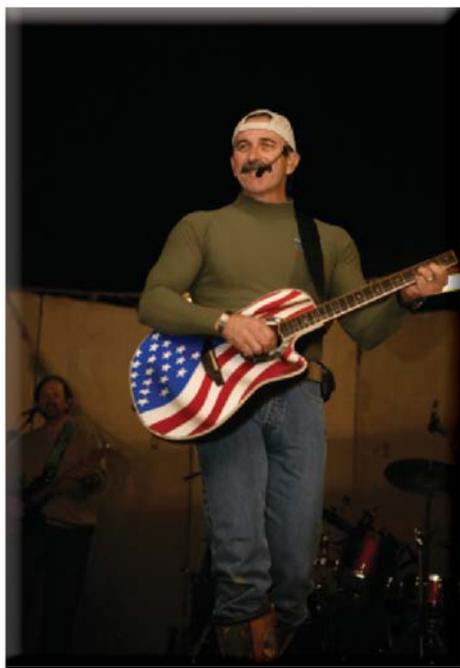
"My favorite part is seeing all of the good that is being done. Shaking hands with all of you guys and gals is a big blessing. All we ever get is what is shown on the media, most

of the time that's whatever bad news they can dream up. Not everybody in America gets to see all the good," said Tippin about his favorite part of coming over here. "It's what I like to call bringing the love over and hauling the truth back. It's a blessing to be the messenger."

Tippin has always supported U.S. military members. The overseas performances are his way of showing it.

When asked what he would like to say to all deployed servicemembers, Tippin said, "Happy holidays to all you guys and gals out there. You can't be home with your families and being over here just a few days without mine makes me realize the suffering, among the many other sacrifices, that you do for me. Thank you very much. I appreciate it. I want to see you at an Aaron Tippin show on the other side of the world."

Tippin's Iraq and Kuwait tour was sponsored by Stars for Stripes, a charity organization devoted to bringing a morale boost to United States military deployed overseas

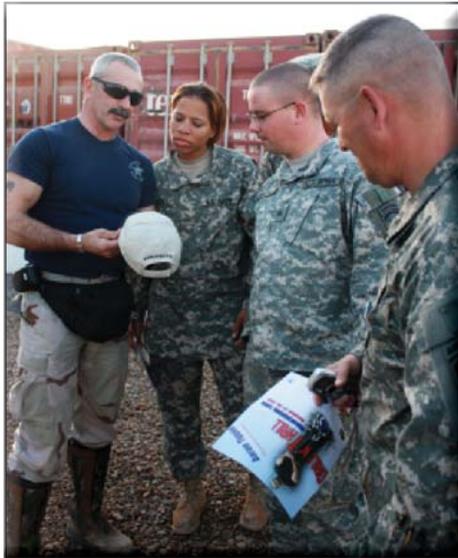


Country music star Aaron Tippin performs his hit "Where the Stars and Stripes and the Eagle Fly" during his visit to Camp Ramadi, Iraq Nov. 26, 2008 (Photo by Marine Staff Sgt. Joshua Higgins)

See TIPPIN page 7

**TIPPIN Continued from page 6**

through celebrity entertainment. It was formed by Judy Seale in 2003. With a background in country music and international tours, she formed the organization to entertain troops who otherwise might not get to see the entertainers that come



*Tippin signs autographs and meets with Soldiers from the 194<sup>th</sup> MP Co. during his visit to Camp Ramadi Nov. 26 (Photo by Army Sgt. Amanda Gauthier)*

through.

“In 1991 I was managing a group called the Forester Sisters, and the USO called and wanted them to go to Iceland for New Year's Eve. They flew us up there in a P3 submarine surveillance plane, from Nashville to Iceland. There was a white-out and it was so remote, it just opened my eyes to the places we had the military deployed. I'm not from a military family, I had no idea that people were doing this for our country,” said Seale about what inspired her to start Stars for Stripes. “I started helping the USO after that and I've never stopped.”

Seale visited Camp Ramadi along with Tippin and Fox News Channel contributor Bill Cowan, a retired Marine Lieutenant Colonel. Seale has spent nearly 18 years dedicated to bringing entertainment to the troops. During these trips the entertainers are giving up their time and money. They are not paid for their time or performances, according to Seale.



*Army Gen. Raymond T. Odierno, Multi-National Forces-Iraq commander, visits with troops on Thanksgiving Day at Camp Ramadi, Iraq, Nov. 27. Odierno made several stops throughout the day to speak and eat with the troops (Photo by Marine Lance Cpl. Jerry J. Murphy)*

## MNF-I commander spends Thanksgiving with Ramadi troops

*By Marine Lance Cpl. Jerry Murphy RCT-1*

**A**rmy Gen. Raymond T. Odierno, the commanding general of Multinational Forces-Iraq, spent his Thanksgiving visiting troops at Camp Ramadi and other locations throughout Iraq, Nov. 27.

During his visit at Camp Ramadi, Odierno greeted Marines of 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 9<sup>th</sup> Marine Regiment, Regimental Combat Team 1, and later ate Thanksgiving lunch with Marines from the regiment and Soldiers with Task Force Ramadi.

Odierno thanked the Marines and Soldiers for their service and said he is proud to be serving with them during this demanding time.

“I just want to say that I am proud to be able to serve with you, especially on days like this,” Odierno said to Marines at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Bn., 9<sup>th</sup> Marines' headquarters. “Many people all over the United States are thankful for a lot of things but I'll tell you one thing, they're thankful for you and the job you do.”

Sgt. John F. Newhouse, a 36-year-old maintenance chief from Pittsburg with Headquarters and Support Company, 2<sup>nd</sup> Bn., 9<sup>th</sup> Marines, commented on what it meant to him and his Marines that Odierno took time to visit on the special day.

“He just stopped by to see how we were doing and it's great that out of all the places he could have stopped on Ramadi, he came here to our shop. It's really a great morale boost for the Marines,” Newhouse said.

Odierno left the Marines with some advice before departing for the camp's dining facility.

“It's a different world in Iraq now than it was 18 months or even a year ago,” Odierno said. “What you need to do now is stay focused on what you're doing, take care of your battle buddies, maintain standards and don't get complacent.”

Odierno also made stops in Baghdad, at Forward Operating Base Iskan and at Contingency Operating Base Speicher.

## STOP! READ THIS BEFORE YOU BUY!

All Third Country Nationals and Local Nationals on Camp Ramadi are prohibited from possessing the following items:

Portable digital media devices (thumb drives, external hard drives), personal digital assistants (PDAs), alcohol, drugs, controlled substances and drug paraphernalia, weapons, pornographic or sexually explicit material, cell phones, satellite phones, sim cards and all privately owned two-way communication devices, personal computers, GPS devices, cameras (digital, film, video), military uniform items and equipment, maps and/or documents related to installation security

Any servicemember or civilian purchasing for, or providing any of these contraband items to a TCN/LN is subject to adverse administrative or punitive action.

These items are restricted due to the potential security threat. The rules are in place to protect all the residents on Camp Ramadi.

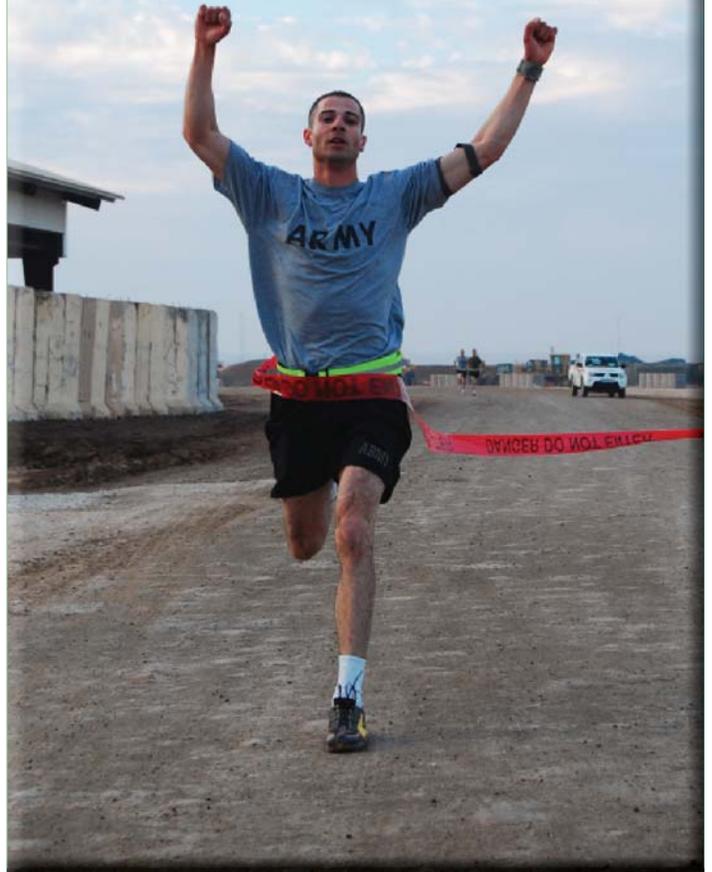
## MEDICAL CORNER

By Lt. Col. Stephen Anderson  
81<sup>st</sup> BCT Surgeon Cell

Most of us have settled into a routine here at Camp Ramadi. The weather is mild, and the food is good. Many of you have also settled into a healthy exercise routine. If you have not, we encourage you to start a regular exercise program. A regular exercise program can add years to your life, and add life to your years! Some of the benefits of regular exercise include:

1. Exercise improves your mood. A workout can help blow off steam and calm you down. It also stimulates chemicals in your brain that will leave you happier and more relaxed.
2. Exercise combats chronic disease. It can manage or even help prevent conditions like high blood pressure and high cholesterol. It can also help prevent type II diabetes, osteoporosis and certain types of cancer.
3. Exercise helps manage your weight. When you exercise you burn calories, the more you burn, the easier it is to keep your weight under control.
4. Exercise strengthens your heart and lungs. Exercise helps your entire cardiovascular system. You will have more energy to do other things you enjoy.
5. Exercise promotes better sleep. Regular exercise can help you fall asleep faster and deepen your sleep. Start gradually, and perform at least 20-30 minutes of aerobic exercise 3-4 times a week. You will be amazed at how quickly your health will improve.

## Beat this: 5K Turkey Run won in 18:13



Sgt. Tobais Suhr from 81<sup>st</sup> Brigade Combat Team beat out 33 Marines, Soldiers and Sailors from various units on Camp Ramadi with a time of 18:13 to win the 5K Turkey Run Nov. 22. He won a \$20 AAFES gift certificate and a Camp Ramadi MWR coin.

## 5K Jingle Run



DEC. 20 MEET AT 0645  
MWR GYM  
RUN KICKS OFF AT 0700



2<sup>nd</sup> Region commanding general, Maj. Gen. Hadi, talking with 2<sup>nd</sup> Region BTT 4200 leader, Lt. Col. Thomas J. Galvin, with assistance from team interpreter "Goose" (Photo by Marine Staff Sgt. Charles T. Walker Jr.)

## BTT 4200 teams up with Iraqis

By Staff Sgt. Charles T. Walker Jr.  
BTT 4200

Ten Marines, a Navy Corpsman and three translators make up the composition of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Region Border Transition Team 4200. Their mission, simple, yet complex, is to train, advise and mentor their Iraqi counterparts from the 2<sup>nd</sup> Region Department of Border Enforcement Headquarters in independent border operations.

Sunday through Thursday, the Iraqi work week, members of BTT 4200 conduct combat patrols to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Region DBE HQ temporary site 70 kilometers west of Camp Ramadi where they interact with their Iraqi counterparts and discuss issues within the 2<sup>nd</sup> Region pertaining to

operations, training, intelligence, logistics, maintenance and communications.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Region BTT 4200 relocated from Contingency Observation Base Speicher to Ar Ramadi in mid-August of this year due to the minister of interior directing the 2<sup>nd</sup> Region DBE commanding general, Maj. Gen. Hadi, to relocate his staff from Tikrit to Camp Ramadi. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Region DBE area of responsibility covers 47 percent of Iraq from the port of entry Rabiah to the POE Ar Ramadi.

Members of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Region DBE BTT 4200 are from various units within 1<sup>st</sup> Marine Logistics Group located at Camp Pendleton and Air Station Miramar.

### What is one of your favorite holiday traditions?

Pfc. Dennis O. Green, 1-158<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery, from Lawton, Okla.



"We sing a little song when we light the [menorah] candles. It's made up and we add a different verse to it every day"



Lance Cpl. Ben J. Turansky, 2/9 Marines, from Lawrenceville, N.J.

"We always open one present on Christmas Eve and my dad always cooks breakfast for everybody instead of my mom."

Sgt. Kenneth Barnes, 81<sup>st</sup> Brigade Combat Team, from Shelton, Wash.



"My wife's family's tradition is to watch "A Christmas Story" over and over again. It's on the TV and it drives me batty."



### Why walk when you can ride?

There are four buses running two routes on Camp Ramadi. The bus is scheduled to arrive at each stop every 15 minutes. There are 17 stops all together

## Women Marine Association



By Army Sgt. Emily Sahr  
81<sup>st</sup> BCT

The Women Marine Association Iraqi Lioness Chapter: Camp Ramadi met Nov. 29 for a luncheon to discuss new business and get to know new members.

The WMA is a civilian non-profit veterans association comprised of women who have served or are serving honorably in the United States Marine Corps regular or reserve components, according to their website, [www.womenmarines.org](http://www.womenmarines.org). The organization is a place to encourage and perpetuate the spirit of comradeship among women in the Marine Corps and to conduct programs for charitable and educational purposes, among other things.

Though the official organization is for female Marines, the Ramadi chapter is open to both men and women from any service. Men, especially those at the command level with women serving under them, are encouraged to join. The organization promotes camaraderie among serviemembers on base by setting up social events, like the luncheon.

The Ramadi chapter is setting up programs to help members of the camp, such as self-defense classes, which will include instruction from two Marine Corps Martial Arts Program black belt instructors. The WMA headquarters in Washington will also be sending out packages to junior servicemembers who don't normally get a lot of mail. Units need only to submit names and addresses and the WMA will personalize each package. Their current goal is to send out 2,000 personalized stockings to deployed Marines, Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen deployed in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The Ramadi chapter of the WMA is led by Gunnery Sgt. Carla Perez, the outgoing president, Capt. Mary Noyes, the incoming president, and Cpl. Catherine Sosinsky, the vice president. Sosinsky became involved in the association after she received a Red Cross message while deployed in Fallujah in 2006 stating her grandfather had died. While devastated, she was not able to go home for the funeral. The Fallujah WMA chapter set up a video teleconference so Sosinsky was able to see her family and the funeral.

"It was an amazing support group for me at the time and it also was a gateway for me to go into the Iraqi Lioness and IWE programs," said Sosinsky.

Sosinsky helped bring the WMA to Ramadi after her arrival in October. Look for postings in the future for the next meeting.

## Sexual Assault Response Coordinator

By Army Master Sgt. CathyJo Wings  
81<sup>st</sup>BCT, Camp Ramadi SARC

### Army Regulation 600-20 Chapter 8-4 Definitions



According to Army Regulation 600-20 Chapter 8-4, there are two types of sexual violations.

The first type, sexual assault is classified as a crime. Sexual assault is defined as intentional sexual contact, characterized by use of force, physical threat or abuse of authority, or when the victim does not or cannot consent. Sexual assault, includes rape, nonconsensual sodomy (oral or anal sex), indecent assault (unwanted, inappropriate sexual contact or fondling) or attempts to commit these acts. Sexual assault can occur without regard to gender, spousal relationship or age of victim.

"Consent" shall not be deemed or construed to mean the failure by the victim to offer physical resistance. Consent is not given when a person uses force, threat of force, coercion or when the victim is asleep, incapacitated or unconscious.

The second type, other sex-related offenses, are defined as all other sexual acts of violation of the Uniform Code of Military Justice that do not meet the above definition of sexual assault, or the definition of sexual harassment as promulgated in DoD Directive 1350.2, Department of Defense Military Equal Opportunity. Examples of other sex-related offenses could include indecent acts with another and adultery.

In the event you you are sexually assaulted, contact your SARC, unit victim advocate, chaplain or medical personnel

Camp Ramadi SARCs:

HM1 Jean-Gilles  
[phillip.jeangilles@ar.mnf-wiraq.usmc.mil](mailto:phillip.jeangilles@ar.mnf-wiraq.usmc.mil)  
CLB-5/Combat Stress Team  
DSN 344-0998  
VOIP 696-5051

Master Sgt. CathyJo Wings  
[cathyjo.wings@ar.mnf-wiraq.usmc.mil](mailto:cathyjo.wings@ar.mnf-wiraq.usmc.mil)  
TF Ramadi SARC  
DSN 344-0932  
VOIP 696.5171



1-158<sup>th</sup> FA Participate in a pre-deployment ceremony at Fort Hood, Texas just prior to their departure to Kuwait (Photo courtesy of 1-158<sup>th</sup> FA)

## CHANGING OF THE GUARD

by Army Staff Sgt. Matthew Lima  
1-158<sup>th</sup> FA

The first wave of Soldiers from the 1-158<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery (High Mobility Artillery Rocket System) Battalion arrived in Iraq to begin operations in the Ramadi area Nov. 16, 2008 at 12:00 p.m.

The 1-158<sup>th</sup> FA, known as the T-birds, is part of the 45<sup>th</sup> Fires Brigade, Oklahoma Army National Guard, which was alerted in the fall of 2007 it would be deployed to Southwest Asia in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The 45<sup>th</sup> Fires Brigade is primarily providing support in Kuwait, while the 1-158<sup>th</sup> FA is replacing 1-125<sup>th</sup> Infantry, Michigan Army National Guard, who is preparing to redeploy back to the United States after completing their tour in Ramadi. The 1-125<sup>th</sup> Inf. has conducted several missions in the Ramadi area for approximately the last seven months. The 1-158<sup>th</sup> FA will be continuing those missions in order to support the transition of security to the Iraqi People.

This is not the first mobilization for the 1-158<sup>th</sup> FA. In 1991, they were deployed for Operation Desert Storm where they fired more rockets than any other Multiple Launch Rocket System unit in theater. Fires conducted by the 1-158<sup>th</sup> FA helped coin the nickname "steel rain" in describing the MLRS's devastating effects. In 2003, the unit was mobilized, validated and prepared to deploy as the second wave of the initial OIF push, but was stood down following the success

of the Coalition Forces reaching the Bagdad objective. In 2005, a security forces company was formed from the Battalion and was deployed to Balad, Baghdad, Diwaniyah and Al Kut. The company conducted over 1,400 route security, personal security and police transition team missions, and logged over 200,000 Kilometers of travel during their fifteen-month deployment. During the 2005 SECFOR deployment, the 1-158<sup>th</sup> FA supported not only the Iraq mission, but at the same time was called to support missions in Louisiana to assist in relief efforts following Hurricane Katrina and Operation Jump Start along the New Mexico border.

Lt. Col. Greg Lankford, commander of the 1-158<sup>th</sup> FA, is looking for a smooth transition during the transfer of authority.

"Myself and the T-Bird battalion are looking forward to picking up the ball from Lt. Col. Durkac and the 1-125<sup>th</sup> and continuing the mission. Our soldiers are well prepared and will hit the ground running upon completion of the RIP/TOA."

The members of the Battalion began training long before the post mobilization training at Fort Hood. Training for this mission began following the alert order in 2007, and continued until their deployment in August 2008. The Soldiers are well trained and prepared to take over their role along with other servicemembers and Coalition Forces, to provide the people of Iraq the sovereignty and security they have long deserved.

## Inspector General

It is everyone's right to contact an Inspector General. Some key things to keep in mind before contacting the IG are:

1. What do you want the IG to do for you?
2. Have you given your chain of command an opportunity to address the problem?
3. Have you requested assistance from any other source or agency?
4. Do you have supporting documentation?

Some issues are not IG appropriate, such as:

1. Equal opportunity complaints. See your EO representative.
2. Hazardous work conditions. Contact your local safety representative.
3. Criminal allegations. Contact your chain of command, CID, NCIS or PMO

When in doubt, ask and we can work to get you to the appropriate person or agency to work your issue.

Camp Ramadi IG:

Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Paul Scott

DSN: 344-0953

e-mail address:

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### Camp Ramadi Memorial Chapel United through Reading Program



- ~Record a CD for your loved one
- ~Read a book to a child
- ~Wish happy birthday, anniversary or say hello

Walk-ins welcome or e-mail  
casey.holbrook@us.army.mil  
to schedule an appointment

# WWE VS. RAMADI



WWE pro-wrestler David Batista poses for a photo with Marine Cpl. Jacob D. Chadwick, an administrative clerk for RCT-1 (Photo by Marine Cpl. Nicholas Lienemann)



WWE pro-wrestler Alicia Fox hams it up for the cameras Dec. 3 during a visit with troops (Photo by Army Staff Sgt. Matthew Lima)



Spc. Jesse Keller from 194<sup>th</sup> Military Police Company holds on to his trophy belt awaiting the arrival of the WWE wrestlers (Photo by Marine Cpl. Nicholas Lienemann)



Camp Ramadi tenants eagerly await the arrival of WWE wrestlers Batista, Micki James, CM Punk, Miz, Alicia Fox and Morrison Dec. 3 (Photo by Marine Cpl. Nicholas Lienemann)



Mickie James, a WWE pro-wrestler hangs out with the crowd during their Camp Ramadi visit Dec. 3, 2008 (Photo by Army Staff Sgt. Matthew Lima)



Marine Cpl. Jacob D. Chadwick and Navy HM3 Terrance R. Jones, both with RCT-1, pose with WWE pro-wrestlers CM Punk, Morrison and MIZ Dec. 3 (Photo by Marine Cpl. Nicholas Lienemann)

RAMADI STAR, DECEMBER 7, 2008  
*This month in history*

December 1, 1955 - The birth of the modern American civil rights movement occurred as Rosa Parks was arrested in Montgomery, Alabama, for refusing to give up her seat to a white man and move to the back section of a municipal bus. Her arrest resulted in a year-long boycott of the city bus system by African Americans and led to legal actions ending racial segregation on municipal buses throughout the South.

December 5, 1791 - Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart died a pauper at age 35 in Vienna, Austria. He had become seriously ill in the fall and rapidly declined, leading to speculation that he had been poisoned, although this was later proven false. During his brief life, he created over 600 musical compositions and is widely considered one of the finest composers who ever lived.

December 5, 1933 - The 18<sup>th</sup> Amendment (the Prohibition Amendment) to the U.S. Constitution was repealed. For nearly 14 years, since January 29, 1920, it had outlawed the manufacture, transportation, and sale of alcoholic beverages in the U.S.

December 6, 1865 - The Thirteenth Amendment to the Constitution was ratified, abolishing slavery in the U.S.

December 7, 1941 - The U.S. Naval base at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, was attacked by nearly 200 Japanese aircraft in a raid that lasted just over one hour and left nearly 3,000 dead.

December 8, 1980 - Former Beatle musician John Lennon was assassinated in New York City.

December 8, 1991 - The USSR (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) ceased to exist, as the leaders of Russia, Byelorussia and the Ukraine signed an agreement creating the Commonwealth of Independent States. The remaining republics, with the exception of Georgia, joined the new Commonwealth.

December 10, 1896 - Swedish chemist Alfred Nobel died at San Remo, Italy. His will stipulated that income from his \$9 million estate be used for awards recognizing persons who have made valuable contributions to humanity. Prizes for Peace, Physics, Chemistry, Medicine, Literature and Economics are presented annually in a ceremony in Stockholm, Sweden, on the anniversary of his death.

December 13, 1862 - During the U.S. Civil War, the Battle of Fredericksburg occurred in Virginia as the Union Army of the Potomac under Gen. Burnside suffered a costly defeat, with a loss of 12,653 men after 14 frontal assaults on well entrenched Rebels on Marye's Heights. "We might as well have tried to take hell," a Union soldier remarked. Confederate losses were 5,309. "It is well that war is so terrible - we should grow too fond of it," stated Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee during the fighting.

December 14, 1962 - The Mariner II space probe sent back information from the planet Venus, the first information ever received from another planet.

December 16, 1773 - The Boston Tea Party occurred as colonial activists disguised as Mohawk Indians boarded English ships anchored in the harbor and dumped 342 containers of tea into the water.

December 17, 1903 - After three years of experimentation, Orville and Wilbur Wright achieved the first powered, controlled airplane flights. They made four flights near Kitty Hawk, North Carolina, the longest lasting about a minute.

December 19, 1998 - The House of Representatives impeached President Bill Clinton, approving two articles of impeachment charging Clinton with lying under oath to a federal grand jury and obstructing justice.

December 20, 1860 - South Carolina became the first state to secede from the Union in a prelude to the U.S. Civil War. Within two months Mississippi, Florida, Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana and Texas seceded. In April of 1861, Virginia seceded, followed within five weeks by Arkansas, Tennessee, and North Carolina, thus forming an eleven state Confederacy with a population of 9 million, including nearly 4 million slaves. The Union had 21 states and a population of over 20 million.

December 21, 1945 - Gen. George Patton died in Germany following a car accident. He had been injured on December 9 near Mannheim and was taken to a hospital in Heidelberg, where he died. He was buried in Luxembourg. Nicknamed 'Old Blood and Guts,' he once stated during World War II, "We shall attack and attack until we are exhausted, and then we shall attack again."

December 21, 1988 - Pan American Flight 103 exploded in midair as the result of a terrorist bomb and crashed into Lockerbie, Scotland. All 259 passengers and crew members along with 11 persons on the ground were killed.

December 23, 1888 - Dutch painter Vincent van Gogh cut off his left ear during a fit of depression.

December 30, 1803 - The Stars and Stripes was raised over New Orleans as the United States took formal possession of the territory of Louisiana, an area of 885,000 square miles, nearly doubling the size of the country. The territory had been purchased from France for approximately \$15 million.

## Camp Ramadi Phone Numbers

### Support

Camp Mayor: 344-0986  
 KBR Operations: 344-0884  
 Chaplain's Office: 344-0834  
 Staff Judge Advocate: 344-0918/919  
 Public Affairs Office: 344-0767  
 Safety Office 344-0920

### Medical

Sick Call: 344-0376  
 Combat Stress: 344-0998

### Emergency Services

Fire Emergency: 344-0911  
 Marine Fire Station: 344-0997  
 KBR Fire Department: 344-0770

### Services

Post Office: 344-0522  
 MCX / PX: 344-0885  
 Marine Finance: 344-0886  
 Army Finance: 344-0522

## Camp Ramadi Hours of Operations

### Sick Call

0900-1000 & 1600-1700 Monday - Friday  
 1300-1400 Saturday and Sunday  
 24 Hours / 7 Days for emergencies

### Combat Stress

0800-1700 Monday - Saturday

### Dining Facility

0530-0800 Breakfast  
 1130-1400 Lunch  
 1730-2000 Dinner  
 2330-0100 Midnight Chow

### MCX / PX

0900-2000 Monday - Saturday  
 1100-1900 Sunday

### Green Beans Coffee

24 Hours / 7 Days

### Barber Shop

0900-1900 Daily

### Subway

0900-2300 Daily

### Alteration Shop

0900-1900 Daily

### Gift Shop

0900-1900 Daily

### AT&T Calling Center

24 Hours / 7 Days

### Laundry Facility

0500-1900 Drop Off  
 24 Hours / 7 Days Pick Up

### Post Office

0900-1700 Monday - Friday  
 0900-1600 Saturday  
 0900-1200 Sunday



## Camp Ramadi Legal Office

**Legal Assistance walk-in hours (bldg 2250):**

Tues: 0900-1200  
 Thurs: 1300-1630 & 1800-2000  
 Fri: 0900-1200

Contact Info: Staff Sgt. Keeley Weeks, NCOIC, Keeley. weeks@us.army.mil or Keely.weeks@ar.mnf-wiraq.usmc.mil. Phone number 318-344-0919.

## CAMP RAMADI CAC (ID) CARD OFFICE BLDG 2254

**Office hours:** Mon-Fri 0800-1800, Sat 0900-1600  
 Sun CLOSED\*

\*CAC (ID) Card services available for emergencies. Go to BLDG 2250 and knock on the front door. Ask for a representative from the 81<sup>st</sup> BCT S1 Section for assistance.

\*\*With the exception of emergencies, the CAC (ID) Card office will be closed on Thursday, Dec. 25 2008, in recognition of Christmas

## CAMP RAMADI PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE



PHONE NUMBER: DSN 318-344-0767

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 PLEASE INCLUDE A MICROSOFT WORD DOCUMENT.

IDENTIFY WHO IS IN THE PHOTO, WHO TOOK THE  
 PHOTO, WHEN AND WHERE.

(IDENTIFICATION = FULL NAME, RANK, UNIT, DUTY  
 POSITION AND HOMETOWN).