

Ramadi Star



Camp Ramadi Command Information Newsletter

JANUARY 28, 2008



Maj. Gen. Martin Post, the deputy commanding general of Multinational Force-West, and Ali Al Yasiri, an official from the Council of Ministers Operations, Government of Iraq, sign official documents Jan. 26 handing ownership of Camp Ramadi back over to the Iraqi Government. A memorandum of agreement was signed last week outlining the areas that will continue to be used by Coalition Forces. Representatives from the Iraqi army, Government of Iraq and Coalition Forces signed as witnesses. (Photo by Army Sgt. Amanda Gauthier)

Iraqi Officials take ownership of Camp Ramadi

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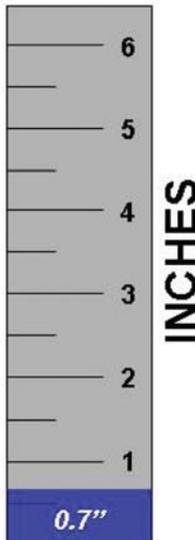


Ar Ramadi, Iraq Climatology (February)



PRECIPITATION

Monthly Mean



Extreme Max: 2.1"
Extreme Min: <.05"

SKY CONDITION

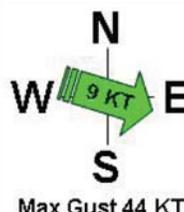


5% ≤ 3,000'
D25-30%, N15% ≤ 10,000'

MONTHLY

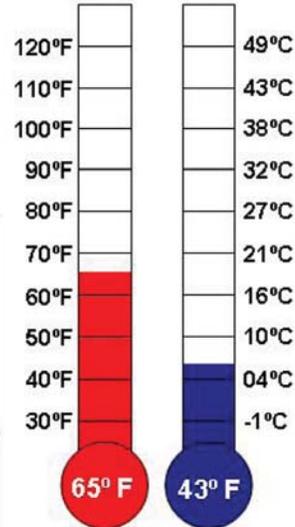
Day(s) with:
Rain 5
Thunderstorms 1
RH: 81% (0600C)
RH: 41% (1500C)

WINDS

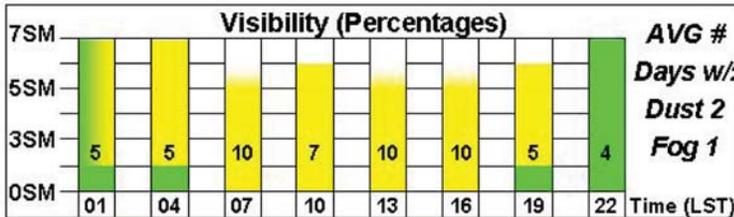


TEMPERATURE

Monthly Mean



Extreme Max: 87°F/31°C
Extreme Min: 24°F/-04°C



- A weak High centered over northwestern Saudi Arabia is reinforced by migratory highs, as 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.
- Low level turbulence is light to moderate for UAV's and helicopters.

SAFETY NOTES

By Army Capt. Kasey Vu
Camp Ramadi Safety Officer

Hello Tenants of Camp Ramadi!

As I walked around Camp Ramadi the past several weeks, I noticed a lot of new faces. As it turns out, there have been two significant unit changes on this camp: RCT-6 has replaced RCT-1, and 8th Comm Battalion has replaced 9th Comm Battalion. I am sure there are other smaller units, both military and civilian, who are new to this camp that I am not aware of. I would like to take this opportunity to welcome these new units to Camp Ramadi – our home away from home!

For those units who are new to this camp, please take a few minutes to review the Camp Ramadi Operational Safety SOP, as well as the Fire Prevention and Protection SOP. These two documents outline

the requirements for safety-related matters on this camp, including traffic and vehicle safety, electrical safety, fire safety, weapons and ammunition safety and others. The safety SOPs can be accessed on the Ramadi Portal (SIPR) under the "Safety Policies" button inside the "Camp Ramadi Safety" link. Better yet, if you are a new unit to Camp Ramadi, please have your unit safety representative come by the Camp Ramadi Safety Office any time during the day for a safety inbrief. Chief Warrant Officer 5 Curry or myself will provide you with all the safety information you need to pass along to members of your unit for working and living on Camp Ramadi.

Speaking of safety SOPs, CW5 Curry and I are in the process of updating our current Operational Safety SOP, and Fire Prevention and Protection SOP. Our goal is to publish these updated safety SOPs within the next couple weeks. If you have any

suggestions or recommendations about what you would like to see added, deleted or changed in our current SOPs, please send them to us; we would welcome any input from you.

As always, CW5 Curry and myself are available if you have any questions or issues. Our contact information is as follows:

Office: Bldg 2610, Rm 5
DSN: 344-0921
SVOIP: 696-5418
NIPRNET: kasey.vu@ar.mnf-wiraq.usmc.mil
kenneth.curry@ar.mnf-wiraq.usmc.mil
SIPRNET: kasey.vu@ar.mnf-wiraq.usmc.smil.mil
kenneth.curry@ar.mnf-wiraq.usmc.smil.mil

Continue to integrate safety into your everyday activities and operations. Have a safe and productive month!



Staff Brig. Gen. Adel, the commander of the Iraqi army's QRF 1, headquartered at Camp Ali, and U.S. Army Col. Ronald Kapral, the commander of Camp Ramadi and the 81st BCT, sign a memorandum of agreement turning Camp Ramadi over to the Iraqi government Jan. 20 at Camp Ali, Iraq. (Photo by Army Sgt. Amanda Gauthier)

U.S. military signs over Camp Ramadi

By Army Sgt. Amanda Gauthier
81st BCT

Camp Ramadi was signed over to the Iraq government in a memorandum of agreement signed by Iraqi army and U.S. military officials at Camp Ali, Iraq Jan. 20, 2009.

Camp Ali is a segment of Camp Ramadi occupied by the Iraqi army. The MOA was signed by Staff Brig. Gen. Adel, the commander of the First Quick Reaction Force Brigade, Iraqi army, headquartered at Camp Ali, and U.S. Army Col. Ronald Kapral, the commander of Camp Ramadi and the 81st Brigade Combat Team, Washington Army National Guard. The memorandum was a tenant agreement of sorts. It

outlined the areas that will be used by Coalition Forces through 2011.

The signing over of Camp Ramadi is a step toward Coalition Forces pulling out and handing complete responsibility and control back over to the Iraqis.

"Signing over of Ramadi is more symbolism than it is an actual event," said Kapral. "It shows that the U.S. military and the Coalition Forces are starting to prepare to turn over and demilitarize the bases that we have been using for the past five years. If you look at what has been done in the past five years, the Iraqi army has started taking responsibility for their actions. They're starting to support themselves. They are proving training we have given them over the past three years is starting to pay off. The Iraqi army wants to take charge of their country, wants their bases, and wants to provide the security for the people of Iraq that they have been lacking up until we came in and started a democracy in Iraq."

Ar Ramadi was a center of Sunni insurgent resistance in the years following the U.S. invasion of Iraq in 2003. The area is now better known as one of Iraq's biggest success stories.



Staff Brig. Gen. Adel, the commander of the Iraqi army's QRF 1, headquartered at Camp Ali, signs a memorandum of agreement turning Camp Ramadi over to the Iraqi government Jan. 20 at Camp Ali, Iraq. (Photo by Army Sgt. Amanda Gauthier)

Coalition Forces took possession of Camp Ramadi, formerly known as Camp Junction City, in 2003 shortly after the ground offensive. Since the start of Operation Iraqi Freedom, Ar Ramadi has had a handful of bases occupied by Coalition Forces returned to the Iraq government. Camp Ramadi is now one of the last Coalition-only bases left in the Ar Ramadi area.

Although the signing marks a big step for the Iraqi government and leaders of Coalition Forces, the majority of the troops stationed

"It is the beginning of the end. We are posturing to give back bases to the Iraqis."

Lt. Col. Kevin McMahan

on Camp Ramadi will notice little change, if any.

"For those of us who physically live on Camp Ramadi, it really doesn't change the normal day-to-day operations. What it does mean, from a long-term perspective, is that Coalition Forces are giving back the bases and land to the Iraqis, due to their sovereignty," said Lt. Col. Kevin McMahan, the Camp Ramadi operations officer.

Force protection measures will not be changed. All camp improvement projects will continue. Iraqis will take a look at the buildings on Camp Ramadi to see if it is something they want to keep. The physical structures built on camp Ramadi will either be prepared to be handed over in 2011 or torn down. Part of the agreement is for Coalition Forces to put the base back to the way they found it.

The Iraqi army and the Iraqi Police have been taking control much more, as Coalition Forces have been stepping into the background.

"From my personal opinion, it is the beginning of the end. We are posturing to give back bases to the Iraqis. This will allow us to take a more supportive role," said McMahan. 

TAX TIME IN A COMBAT ZONE

By Army Capt. Kurt Rorvick
81st BCT

Tax time is upon us for tax year 2008. A reminder that all members of the Armed Forces serving in a combat zone automatically qualify for an extension past the normal April 15 deadline to file their tax returns. The extension to file is 180 days from the date of the servicemember's last day in the combat zone. If they choose, servicemembers do not have to exercise this right to an extension and may file their tax returns between now and April 15 as well.

Servicemembers' deadline for taking actions with the IRS is extended for 180 days after the later of:

- 1) The last day you are in a combat zone, have qualifying service outside of the combat zone, or serve in a contingency operation (or the last day the area qualifies as a combat zone or the operation qualifies as a contingency operation), or
- 2) The last day of any continuous

qualified hospitalization (defined later) for injury from service in the combat zone or contingency operation or while performing qualifying service outside of the combat zone.

The 180 day extension is automatic; no forms need to be filled out. The servicemember should attach a copy of their deployment orders or DD 214 with their tax return when they file, however, showing qualifying service.

Spouses of individuals who served in a combat zone or contingency operation are entitled to the same deadline extensions with two exceptions:

1) The extension does not apply to a spouse for any tax year beginning more than two years after the date the area ceases to be a combat zone or the operation ceases to be a contingency operation.

2) The extension does not apply to a spouse for any period the qualifying individual is hospitalized in the United States for injuries incurred in a combat zone or contingency operation.

Camp Ramadi does not have a tax center. If you have questions or need further assistance, contact your legal section. 

Looking for a place to hangout with friends?

Check out the fellowship hall next to Memorial chapel. The chapel staff is transforming it into a place for socializing during non-duty hours.

Staff Sgt. Shelley Cline will be organizing movie nights, game nights, dance lessons and other activities. If you would like to schedule your own event, have special requests or suggestions, please see her.

- Enjoy free refreshments
- Challenge a buddy to a game
- Watch a movie
- Relax on the couch with a book
- Check out the "free room" before going to PX



Finance Tips

By Army Maj. Todd H. Bonham
81st BCT

Many people have asked me about what they should do to get started investing.

First of all, most Soldiers can benefit from serving in Iraq by participating in the DOD Savings Deposit Program (SDP). The SDP was established to provide members of the uniformed services serving in designated combat zones the opportunity to build their wealth. Amounts up to \$10,000.00 may be deposited, earning 10% interest per annum. This is an excellent vehicle for short-term money. Most investors benefit from having a short-term fund available for emergencies because it allows them to forgo liquidating long-term investments for short-term needs.

The rule-of-thumb for emergency money (short-term funds) is three to six months of bill paying power. Usually, cash and cash equivalents pay very little interest in return for liquidity. That's what makes the SDP a great deal.

Deposits can be made by allotment, check, eagle card or cash at the finance office, building 2610 room #8 on Camp Ramadi. Deposits may not be more than the unallotted pay and allowances per month. Additionally, deposits may not be less than \$5.00 and must be in multiples of \$5.00 and no interest is earned on amounts exceeding \$10,000.00.

The finance team operates on Camp Ramadi part-time. They are stationed at Al Asad. The hours of Operations at Camp Ramadi are 9:00 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesday's and Thursdays. They support all military branches for SDP and Eagle Cash disbursements and civilians if they have check cashing agreements with their company. They do not do Casual Pays unless it is an emergency situation.

The point of contact is Sgt. Buonamia, Disbursing Agent, Al Asad DSN 318-440-6267 SVOIP 696-3670. 

Assessing education in Ramadi

By Army Staff Sgt. Matthew Lima
1-158th FA

Servicemembers from Camp Ramadi, Iraq help improve the quality of life for the Iraqi people by assessing local schools and helping them make improvements.

1-158th FA Soldiers transported Frank Dall, an evaluator from Washington D.C., as he went to evaluate the schools in Ramadi Jan. 22. The purpose of the visit was to observe how the schools were operating and identify areas where the schools could improve to benefit the education for the children.

Dall traveled with Capt. Georgia Parment and Maj. Providence Nagy, both with the Marine Expeditionary Forces G9, who work as educational advisors along with



Marine Capt. Georgia Parment poses with students in Ramadi while visiting local schools Jan. 22. (Photo by Army Staff Sgt. Matthew Lima)

with the Marines as they spoke to the rest of the class. Surrounded by children, the Marines took turns asking and answering questions. They also took pictures with the students, who enjoyed their time with the visiting Marines.

The team took a tour of all three schools, which was extremely important, and will help streamline assistance to improve the shortcomings the schools are experiencing. Some critical shortfalls were identified, such as a lack of drinking water and shortages of electricity. Every school visit included meetings with the headmaster, the teachers, the students and some parents. These meetings were conducted separately to promote honest and open discussions. Once necessary improvements are identified, they will be elevated to the agencies that can help provide necessary requirements for these young Iraqis to be able to better their education and build a better future, not only for themselves, but for the future of a country building a fresh start. 



Marine Maj. Providence Nagy holds a young student in Ramadi while visiting local schools Jan. 22. (Photo by Army Staff Sgt. Matthew Lima)



Members of Bravo Battery, 1-158th FA provide security in Ramadi while escorting an evaluator from Washington D.C. and two Marines to local schools Jan. 22. (Photo by Army Staff Sgt. Matthew Lima)

the Provincial Reconstruction Teams. Their first visit was to the Ar Ramadi High School for boys. Dall met with Provincial Assistant Directorate General of Anbar Province to ask questions about how budgets were handled, and how those funds were allocated. The two Marines took time to visit with many of the teenagers at the school. A forum was also held in the high school auditorium, and students were able to interact with the team. They were able to answer questions about their school and ask any questions they had on their minds.

The team was able to relate to the students, and there were times of laughter as the students were asked to answer questions in English, to see how much knowledge they had learned of the language. One requirement for the high school students is to learn English and French as additional languages.

The following visits were to the Al Anbar High School for girls, and to a grade school where younger children, both boys and girls attended. Parment and Nagy definitely had the attention of the young students, as some of the children insisted on being held, or sitting



Sgt. Christopher Kelement, from 81st BCT, practices giving an IV to Sgt. Joshua Bonachea during a combat lifesavers class put on by Staff Sgt. Scott Borkin and Lt. Col. Stephen Anderson, both with 81st BCT. (Photo by Army Lt. Col. Stephen Anderson)

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: 344-0696/2179

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: 344-0763

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

0530-0830 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

Finance Office

0900-1600 Wednesday and Thursday

Camp Ramadi Legal Office

Legal Assistance (bldg 2250)

Walk-in hours Thurs: 0900-1200 & 1300-1700

To make an appointment for another time contact: Staff Sgt. Keeley Weeks, NCOIC, Keeley.weeks@us.army.mil or Keely.weeks@ar.mnf-wiraq.usmc.mil. DSN number 318-344-0919.



U.S. Swears in 44th president; Makes history

By Army Sgt. Amanda Gauthier
81st BCT

Our new Commander-in-Chief, Barack Hussein Obama, took his place in the history books Jan. 20, 2008, becoming the 44th President of the United States and the first African-American to take the presidential oath of office.

An estimated 1.5 million people attended the inauguration speech, during which, President Obama offered “humble gratitude (to) those brave Americans who, at this very hour, patrol far-off deserts and distant mountains.”

He encouraged the nation to embody a spirit that so many of us already have. “We honor them not only because they are guardians of our liberty, but because they embody the spirit of service; a willingness to find meaning in something greater than themselves.”

The day of his inauguration the



Barack Obama is sworn in as the 44th president of the United States by Chief Justice of the United States John G. Roberts Jr. in Washington, D.C., Jan. 20. Obama's wife Michelle stands by his side. (Photo by Air Force Master Sgt. Cecilio Ricardo)

new president was sworn into office, rode in the Inauguration Parade and danced at 10 inaugural balls. The inaugural parade was coordinated by the U.S. Armed Forces Inauguration Committee. Members from all branches of the armed forces honored their new commander in chief through their participation in the parade.

The evening of his inauguration, President Obama and his wife Michelle attended the Commander-in-Chief Ball. Hundreds of servicemembers were in attendance as the President danced with Army Sgt. Margaret Herrera and First Lady Michelle Obama danced with Marine Sgt. Elidio Guillen.

Obama noted his appreciation and respect for the military members and said how honored he was to be in his newly bestowed position.

“It is wonderful to be surrounded by some of the very

best and bravest Americans. Your courage, grace, and your patriotism inspire us all,” said Obama. “To you, and to all those watching around the world, know that as President, I will have no greater honor or responsibility than serving as your commander in chief.”

“So tonight, we celebrate,” he said, “but tomorrow the work begins. And I look forward to joining you in that effort. Together I am confident that we will write the next great chapter in America's story.”



The Armed Forces Joint Color Guard passes in review at the east front of the U.S. Capitol during the 56th Presidential Inauguration in Washington, D.C., prior to beginning the inaugural parade Jan. 20. Armed Forces Inaugural Committee Commander Maj. Gen. Richard J. Rowe Jr. stands with President Barack Obama, Michelle Obama, Vice President Joe Biden and his wife Dr. Jill Tracy Biden. (Photo by Coast Guard Petty Officer 1st Class Kyle Niemi)



President Obama dances with Army Sgt. Margaret Herrera while First Lady Michelle Obama dances with Marine Sgt. Elidio Guillen during the Commander-in-Chief's ball. (Photo by Joe Gromelski)

A DREAM REALIZED

America celebrates its first black president

By Army Staff Sgt. Francisco Velez
81st BCT

They had a dream...

On Feb. 12, 2009, the NAACP will mark its 100th anniversary. Spurred by growing racial violence in the early twentieth century, and particularly by race riots in Springfield, Ill., in 1908, a group of African American leaders joined together to form a new permanent civil rights organization, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). Feb. 12, 1909 was chosen because it was the centennial anniversary of the birth of Abraham Lincoln.

That 100-year vision is becoming clearer. As we listened to the news from Washington D.C., at the Lincoln Memorial, our first black president was just inaugurated. The equal rights movement marches on. We have an African American



"I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character."
Martin Luther King, Jr.

President.

It was not an earth-shaking event for me at first. Okay, he was elected. End of story. But then as I watched some of the elderly in the crowd, this event became more significant to me. I watched the eyes of those who had seen the oppression and hate first hand. I watched the tears and the pride, the memories, the pain. What really happened this day?

Racism has not disappeared, but

in its faint shadow is a bright light of hope. A hope that all Americans, regardless of race, color, gender, religion, or national origin, can succeed.

February is Black History Month. Take the time to learn something you didn't know about one of the cultures that molded America into the great nation that we defend. 🇺🇸



"There is not a liberal America and a conservative America - there is the United States of America. There is not a black America and a white America and Latino America and Asian America - there's the United States of America." Barack Obama

QUICK FACTS

~ Black History Month began as "Negro History Week," which was created in 1926 by Carter G. Woodson. It became a month-long celebration in 1976.

~ February was chosen for Black History Month to coincide with the birthdays of Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln.

~ The black population of the U.S. in 1870 was 4.8 million; in 2007, the number of black residents in the U.S., including those of more than one race, was 40.7 million.

~ It wasn't until after WWII that the U.S. armed forces became integrated, under a 1948 executive order by President Harry S. Truman

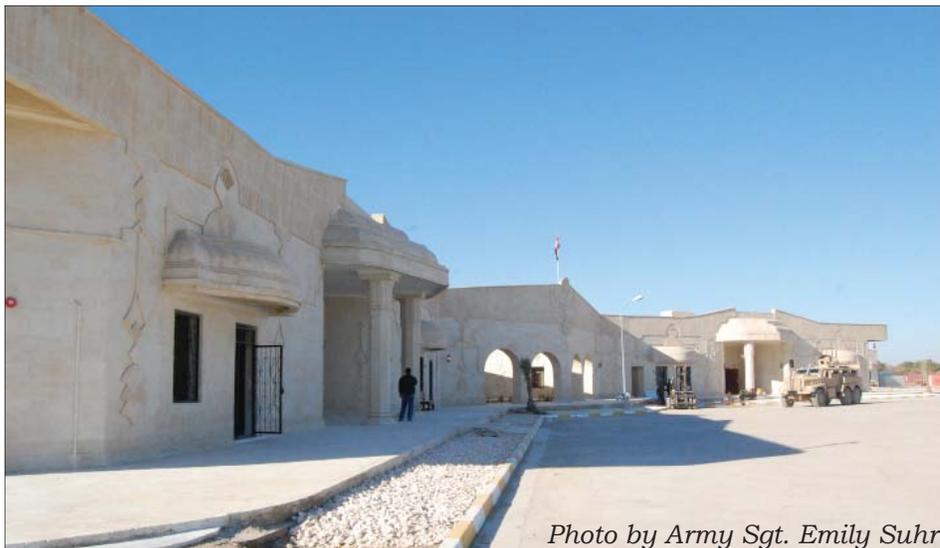


Photo by Army Sgt. Emily Suhr

New Ramadi Justice Center

By Army Sgt. Emily Suhr
81st BCT

Construction at Hurricane Point, Iraq brings security to Iraqi courts and judges.

Hurricane point is located at the junction of the Euphrates River and the industrial canal just outside of Camp Ramadi.

During Saddam Hussein's reign, Hurricane Point was part of an elaborate palace compound, where three meals were prepared every day just in case guests stopped by. The compound stretched across the Euphrates River, encompassing what is now known as Blue Diamond and Shark Base. After the war began in 2003, the palace guest villas on Hurricane Point were ravaged by looters and combat. The Marines set up make-shift barracks there, and for the next few years called Camp Hurricane Point home. Now, Hurricane Point is becoming the center for Anbar Province justice.

With the help of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, ALMCO, an Iraq-based construction and engineering company, kicked off the \$21.5 million renovation project in May 2008. The new judicial compound has three courthouses, a 270-bed provincial transfer jail, where prisoners will be held during their trial and appeal process, daytime holding cells, a training

center, barracks for Judicial Iraqi Police, a café and a dining facility. The compound, expected to be finished around June 2009, will also be home to ten Iraqi judges and their families.

"One of the projects that was needed was to provide secure facilities for the criminal courts to cut down on the amount of intimidation to the judges. This included not only the court itself, but the living quarters for the judges and their families to be safe," said Marine Col. Matthew Dougherty, the Deputy Coordinator of Anbar Provincial Reconstruction Team, Rule of Law section.

Dougherty, a reservist who has been a state prosecutor in Alabama for the past 16 years, and his team, act on behalf of the Iraqi courts, making sure the compound design mirrors their requirements.

While the original goal of the project was to protect the courts and judges from terrorist intimidation inside the self-sustained compound, the improved security situation in Anbar Province has caused a shift from security to symbolism.

"Now you have one of the major palaces in Anbar provinces, that used to be one of Saddam's palaces, and you turned it over to the courts, which has the psychological effect of saying, this is an important institution," said Dougherty. 

What is your favorite Camp Ramadi hangout?

Capt. Casey Ramirez, 2nd Bat. 2nd National Police Transition Team



"Right here, at the Green Bean. You just kind of get away from everything. It's relaxing out here. Have a cup of coffee and go back to work."



Army Sgt. Donald Zeitler, PSD Team, 81st BCT

"My [housing area] because it's really like a neighborhood where everyone gets along and we can have a good time"

Army Spc. Thomas Rovik, 81st BCT



"The Friends shop. They have a wide selection of [movies] that I can choose from."

Ramadi preps for new dental clinic

By Army Sgt. Emily Suhr
81st BCT

With a little help from across Camp Ramadi, the Camp Ramadi Dental Clinic gets a much-needed overhaul.

Navy Dental Officer Lt. An Nguyen arrived at Camp Ramadi with the mission to renovate the sparse dental clinic.

"I'm sent where they need me," said Nguyen, who spent three months in Al-Taqqadum setting up the dental clinic there.

One of the major challenges faced by Nguyen and his assistant, HN Romnick Sotto, was the lone dental field unit they had to work with. While it can be a great asset in the field, a field unit does not have the capacity needed for a base dental clinic. Many dental procedures, such as placing fillings, require the teeth to be perfectly dry, thus a suction system must be used. The field unit can only handle 15 minutes of suction at a time. Also, dentists must wear a light system on their heads and patients have to recline on a fold-out chair.



Navy Lt. An Nguyen and HN Romnick Sotto conduct a check up on a patient using their field unit Jan. 22 at the Camp Ramadi Dental Clinic. (Photo by Army Sgt. Emily Suhr)

"To do routine dentistry with this field unit is inefficient at best because we can only work with one patient at a time, and often times we'll have to wait for the machine to catch up," said Nguyen, who has been practicing dentistry for six years.

The first step in Nguyen's renovation plan called for the acquisition of a professional dental chair, one with a built in light, a complex suction system and the ability to recline. After obtaining one from Fallujah, Nguyen began the dental clinic transformation with some help from Camp Ramadi tenants. The Seabees helped clear out old gear and rearrange furniture to clear space for the new chair. Staff Sgt. Albert Calangan, from 81st Brigade Combat Team, built a new organizing shelving unit to help categorize all the different dentistry tools.

"I wrote home and told everyone I probably have the best looking, Ethan Allen wood product out here," said Nguyen about his new shelving unit.

Once the clinic was arranged, the Seabees carried in the new chair for the two-man dental team. The clinic began operating both chairs, but the professional chair wasn't hooked up to a compressor for the suction system, so patients had to spit in a cup. The Marines from CLB-5 stepped up and started working on plans to build the complex compression and tubing system in a conex outside the clinic. Once the Marines finish with the outside part of the system, KBR will finish the job by doing the internal work. The evacuation system they're putting together can handle up to three chairs.

"Because of the evacuation equipment and because of the unlimited suctioning ability and the chair's power, we would be able to do multiple fillings in one sitting and do it at a very efficient rate," said Nguyen, who added that with the new chair they would be able to place three to four fillings in an hour, rather than the entire morning it would take with the old system.

Nguyen and Sotto are expected to leave in March, and hope the new clinic will be complete before they leave. They also expressed their gratitude to all the units that came forward to help with the renovations.

"We appreciate the support we've received so far on base. Progress is coming along," said Nguyen. 

HEALTH CORNER

By Army Lt. Col. Stephen Anderson
81st BCT Surgeon Cell

With "spring training" coming up here in Camp Ramadi, as well as working and walking on uneven surfaces, I would like to review some basic sprain and strain treatments. Some of you may already be familiar with the RICE treatment protocol.

R: REST. Stop what aggravates your injury. Do not finish the game or exercise routine if it causes pain. Get sufficient rest to allow healing.

I: ICE. Apply ice or cold packs to the sore area for 20 minutes every few hours. Do not apply the ice packs directly to the skin. Always put a cloth or towel next to your skin, then the cold pack.

C: COMPRESS. Wrap it up with an ACE wrap or similar to help control swelling and ease pain. It also provides some additional support to prevent re-injury.

E: ELEVATE. Try and keep the sprained area elevated higher than your heart if possible.

Following these simple guidelines will ensure you recover quicker from an injury, and help prevent re-injury. Sprains/Strains that do not respond to this treatment should be seen by your local BAS.



Marines from A Co., 2nd CEB burn reeds Jan. 6, 2009 on Camp Ramadi. (Photo by Army Maj. Robert Paulson)



Sgt. Gerald Ritter from Headquarters 81st BCT salvages usable parts off beds that were scrapped Jan. 19, 2009. The salvaged parts will be used to fix equipment and furniture around Camp Ramadi. (Photo by Army Sgt. Amanda Gauthier)



Texas Gov. Rick Perry poses for a photo with Texas natives currently stationed on Camp Ramadi Jan. 7 2009. (Photo by Army Maj. Paul Fison)



Washington Gov. Christine Gregoire greets Pfc. Timothy Powell, from 81st BCT, Washington National Guard, at the Camp Ramadi chow hall annex Jan. 7, 2009 during her visit to Washington troops. National Guard Soldiers pledge to serve two commanders in chief, the president and their state governor. (Photo by Army Sgt. James Hoge)



Washington Gov. Christine Gregiore tells Washington National Guard Soldiers "how appreciative she is of their service and sacrifice" at the Camp Ramadi chow hall annex Jan. 7 2009. (Photo by Army Maj. Paul Fison)



Texas Gov. Rick Perry visits with Marines and Soldiers over lunch at the Camp Ramadi chow hall annex Jan. 7 2009. (Photo by Army Maj. Paul Fison)

Local bands rock Ramadi

Three local bands entertained the tenants of Camp Ramadi during a concert at the Green Bean's Stage New Year's Eve. The Ravens, from the 81st BCT, opened the show with an eclectic playlist that included the Beatles and Nickleback. House of Black, from 1-158th FA, entertained with original tunes written in their armory in Oklahoma. Undiscovered, who finished out the show, were the ones who came up with the idea for a local band New Year's Eve concert in the first place. Servicemembers and civilians from across base gathered to hear good music and ring in the New Year together. (Photos by Army Sgt. Amanda Gauthier and Army Staff Sgt. Matthew Lima)



The Ravens



Undiscovered



House of Black



HUNDREDS OF PEANUT BUTTER PRODUCTS RECALLED

Story courtesy of MNF-W

A recent outbreak of Salmonella has been reported to have infected 488 persons (as of Jan. 21, 2009) from 43 states in the United States. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) are currently investigating the outbreak.

Preliminary analysis indicates that peanut butter is the likely source of the bacteria causing the infections. To date, no association has been found with major national brand name jars of peanut butter sold in grocery stores. A recall has been issued for products containing peanut butter and peanut paste produced under the brand King Nut by a Peanut Corporation of America facility in Blakely, Georgia.

The list of products that may be affected is still being determined and is incomplete at this time. However, a list of products known to be implicated at this point in the investigation can be found at:

<http://www.accessdata.fda.gov/scripts/peanutbutterrecall/index.cfm>

Multi-National Forces - West food inspectors have addressed this incident, inspecting DFAC and AAFEES facilities to ensure recalled products are not being used or sold in theater. MNF-W personnel cannot however, inspect the care packages individuals receive from the U.S.

Please take the time to read through the recalled products list to determine if you may have received any of these products. If you have received, or do receive in the immediate future, a care package containing any of the recalled products, the CDC and FDA recommend the following:

* Do not eat products that have been recalled and throw them away in a manner that prevents others

from eating them.

* To determine if commercially-prepared or manufactured peanut butter/peanut paste-containing products (such as cookies, crackers, cereal, candy and ice cream) are subject to recall, consumers are urged first to visit FDA's website and check the searchable database of recalled products.

* For information on products containing peanut butter from companies not reporting recalls, consumers may wish to consult the company's website or call the toll-free number listed on most packaging.

Information consumers may receive from the companies has not been verified by the FDA.

* If consumers cannot determine if their peanut butter, peanut butter/peanut paste-containing products or institutionally-served peanut butter contains PCA peanut butter/peanut paste, FDA recommends that they do not consume those products.

Thank you for your attention and cooperation in this matter. 🚫

Crazy Laws

☞ In Alaska it is forbidden to push a moose out of a plane in motion.

☞ In California it is illegal to set a mousetrap without a hunting license.

☞ In Sterling, Colorado it is Unlawful to allow a pet cat to run loose without a taillight. (in Berea, Ohio this applies to any animal)

☞ In Oklahoma Whale hunting is strictly forbidden throughout the entire state.

☞ In Washington all lollipops are forbidden

☞ In Lowes Crossroads, Delaware, it's a violation of the local law for any pilot or passenger to carry an ice cream cone in their pocket while either flying or waiting to board a plane. (also in Kentucky)

☞ In Florida elephants tied to a parking meter must pay a regular parking fee.

☞ In Baltimore, Maryland. It is illegal to take a lion to the movies

☞ In North Carolina, its illegal to take a deer swimming in water above its knees.

☞ In Topeka, Kansas, its against the law to annoy squirrels

☞ In Jonesboro, Georgia. It is forbidden to say "Oh, boy".



Salsa Lessons

Come join Staff Sgt. Julaine McIntire for salsa dance lessons.

Monday and Wednesday nights at 8:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Everyone is Welcome!

Chaplain's Corner

By Army Lt. Col. Carl Steele
Camp Ramadi Chaplain

Winston Churchill once said, "There comes a special moment in everyone's life, a moment for which that person was born. That special opportunity, when he seizes it, will fulfill his mission – a mission for which he is uniquely qualified. In that moment he finds greatness. It is his finest hour."



Deployment provides us with many surprising opportunities to test the quality of our individual and team character. Whether here or at home, it is perfectly natural to struggle when separated from our friends and family. There are sacrifices made on behalf of our mission. We miss birthdays, anniversaries and many holidays. But what is the nature of our struggle? Who are we becoming, how are we growing? Are we transforming into something better by surmounting difficulties or are we simply surviving until redeployment. A lot of us are working jobs that are unfamiliar, working in different areas, learning new skills.

Proverbs teaches, "The crucible for silver and for gold is the furnace, but the Lord tests the heart." As we help the people of Iraq struggle toward a vital, free nation, we can only hope that the character which the people forge in the fight will launch them to greater futures. Our struggles, sacrifices, and sufferings we hope will contribute to their betterment. ☹️

Emergency Chaplain Services are available 24/7

To get a hold of the on-call chaplain call 3440-834 or 3440-652 from any DSN.

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

Alcoholics Anonymous meetings

By Army Lt. Col. Carl Steele
Camp Ramadi Chaplain

"Alcoholics Anonymous is a worldwide fellowship of more than one hundred thousand alcoholic men and women who have banded together to solve their common problems and to help fellow sufferers in recovery from that age-old, baffling malady, alcoholism" (Twelve Steps and Twelve Solutions). It is estimated that over two million men and women have recovered through A.A. Whether it is called "Friends of Bill," "Serenity in the Sand" or A.A., the focus is the same, to help men and women overcome their addiction to alcohol.

If you are struggling with your addiction, I want to invite you to Camp Ramadi A.A. on Tuesday nights at 7:00 in the Camp Ramadi Memorial Chapel (Bldg 2900). For further information, call Staff Sgt. Shelley Cline at DSN 318-344-0835.

Chapel Services



Sunday

- 0930 Communion Service
- 1100 Contemporary Protestant Service
- 1400 Gospel Service
- 1600 Contemporary Worship Service
- 2000 LDS – Lay Leader
- 2100 Evening Praise

Monday

- 1930 Bible Study (Fellowship Hall)
- 2000 Ugandan Choir Practice

Tuesday

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

Wednesday

- 1900 Gospel Bible Study (Chapel)
- 2000 Gospel Choir rehearsal

Thursday

- 1900 Contemporary Protestant Band Rehearsal
- 2100 Roman Catholic Rosary Group

Friday

- 1300 Muslim Service "Juma'a" prayer
- 1700 Jewish Service
- 1900 Gospel Intercessory Prayer
- 2000 Gospel Choir rehearsal

Saturday

- 1500 The Truth Project (Fellowship Hall)
- 1900 Contemporary Protestant Band Rehearsal (Chapel)



The red patchers of Landing Support Company from left to right: Lance Cpl. Jonathan Thorton, Lance Cpl. Wilmer Gossard, Cpl. Bobby Case, Sgt. Jonathan Bennett, Gunnery Sgt. Jesse Ramirez, Cpl. John Gorman, Pfc. Cody Daluz and Lance Cpl. Michael Soto (Photo courtesy of Gunnery Sgt. Jesse Ramirez)

The Red Patchers of Camp Ramadi

By Army Sgt. Emily Suhr
81st BCT

They've been called many things, heat casualties, flame throwers, AIDS patients. They often enjoy perpetuating or even starting their own rumors about what the red patches sewn onto the legs and covers of their Marine Corps uniform means, like the one about how they're in flight missile inspectors. If you've ever flown in or out of Ramadi, you've met the red-patch wearing members of the Landing Support Company.

They are the ones who graciously help you through the maddening process of air travel in Iraq. They check passengers in and out of Camp Ramadi, track cargo so it doesn't get lost, monitor flights and coordinate getting passengers and cargo into the air. They have assisted nearly 10,000 people and almost 70,000 pounds of cargo through their helicopter landing zone in the past five months.

The red patch tradition dates back to World War II when the Marines were island hopping in the Pacific. The first troops off the ships were the landing support specialists, who set up the beaches for the incoming infantrymen. They cleared lanes of travel and arranged for food and fuel, and other necessary supplies. The support teams provided crucial logistics and supply support throughout the beach missions. When the infantrymen would arrive for the fight, commanders had trouble distinguishing their fighting Marines from the support Marines. Too often, infantrymen would blend in with the landing support team to avoid the fight,

while many landing support specialists were confused for infantrymen and sent to the front lines. To combat the growing problem, the landing support teams were all given red patches.

"Ever since then, [the red patches] distinguish who runs the port, or who runs the beach or LZ," said Gunnery Sgt. Jesse Ramirez from Detroit, the landing support chief in charge at Camp Ramadi.

Ramirez's eight-man team prides themselves in being polite and tactful with all their passengers and making sure their travel time through Ramadi is as painless as possible.

"Help as many people as you can," Ramirez, a 13-year veteran on his third tour, tells his Marines. "Be ready for anything."

The team stays ready through routine. While the mission may change at a moment's notice, the process and the steps never change. They are ready to handle anything from routine travel to VIPs unexpectedly flying in to a mass casualty evacuation incident. Ramirez also ensures the team is cross-trained.

"At any given time anybody can do any job out here," he said. "Everyone pretty much knows every position here."

Pfc. Cody Daluz from North Kingstown, R.I., the only private first class on the team, has been in the Marine Corps just shy of one year. After completing his five-week MOS school, Daluz spent just two days in the Fleet Marine Force before volunteering to deploy with

See "RED PATCHERS" Page 18

This month in history

February 1, 1960 - In Greensboro, North Carolina, four African American students sat down and ordered coffee at a lunch counter in Woolworths. They were refused service, but did not leave. Instead, they waited all day. The scene was repeated over the next few days, with protests spreading to other southern states, resulting in the eventual arrest of over 1,600 persons for participating in sit-ins.

February 1, 2003 - Sixteen minutes before it was scheduled to land, the Space Shuttle *Columbia* broke apart in flight over west Texas, killing all seven crew members.

February 2, 1848 - The war between the U.S. and Mexico ended with the signing of the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo. In exchange for \$15 million, the U.S. acquired the areas encompassing parts or all of present day California, Nevada, Utah, Arizona, New Mexico, Colorado, Wyoming, and Texas. The treaty was ratified on March 10, 1848.

February 3, 1870 - The 15th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution was ratified, guaranteeing the right of citizens to vote, regardless of race, color, or previous condition of servitude.

February 3, 1913 - The 16th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution was ratified, granting Congress the authority to collect income taxes.

February 3, 1943 - One of the most extraordinary acts of heroism during World War II occurred in the icy waters off Greenland after the U.S. Army transport ship *Dorchester* was hit by a German torpedo and began to sink rapidly. When it became apparent there were not enough life jackets, four U.S. Army chaplains on board removed theirs, handed them to frightened young soldiers, and chose to go down with ship.

February 9, 1943 - During World War II in the Pacific, U.S. troops captured Guadalcanal in the Solomon Islands after six months of battle, with 9,000 Japanese and 2,000 Americans killed.

February 10, 1942 - The first U.S. Medal of Honor during World War II was awarded to 2nd Lt. Alexander Nininger (posthumously) for heroism during the Battle of Bataan.

February 11, 1990 - In South Africa, Nelson Mandela, at age 71, was released from prison after serving 27 years of a life sentence on charges of attempting to overthrow the apartheid government. In April 1994, he was elected president in the first all-race elections.

February 15, 1898 - In Havana, the U.S. Battleship *Maine* was blown up while at anchor and quickly sank with 260 crew members lost. The incident inflamed public opinion in the U.S., resulting in a declaration of war against Spain on April 25, 1898, amid cries of "Remember the Maine!"

February 15, 1933 - An assassination attempt on newly elected U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt occurred in Miami, Florida. A spectator deflected the gunman's aim, as a result, Chicago Mayor Anton Cermak was shot and killed instead. The gunman, an Italian immigrant, was captured and later sentenced to death.

February 19, 1942 - Internment of Japanese Americans began after President Roosevelt issued an executive order requiring those living on the Pacific coast to report for relocation. Over 110,000 persons shut down their businesses, sold off their property, quit school and moved inland to relocation centers.

February 21, 1965 - Former Black Muslim leader Malcolm X (1925-1965) was shot and killed while delivering a speech in a ballroom in New York City.

February 23, 1942 - The first attack on the U.S. mainland occurred as a Japanese submarine shelled an oil refinery near Santa Barbara, California, causing minor damage.

February 23, 1991 - In Desert Storm, the Allied ground offensive began after a devastating month long air campaign targeting Iraqi troops in Iraq and Kuwait.

February 26, 1848 - The *Communist Manifesto* pamphlet was published by two young socialists, Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels, advocating the abolition of all private property and a system in which workers own all the means of production, land, factories and machinery.

February 27, 1991 - In Desert Storm, the 100 hour ground war ended as Allied troops entered Kuwait just four days after launching their offensive against Iraqi forces.

February 28, 1994 - NATO conducted its first combat action in its 45 year history as four Bosnian Serb jets were shot down by American fighters in a no-fly zone.



Engineers blow up a section of the wall leading to Shark Base in order to move the gate Jan. 6, 2009. (Photos by Army Sgt. Emily Suhr)

Sexual Assault Response Coordinator



By Army Master Sgt. CathyJo Wings
81stBCT, Camp Ramadi SARC

How can I protect myself from being sexually assaulted?

There are things you can do to reduce your chances of being sexually assaulted. Follow these tips from the National Crime Prevention Council.

- Be aware of your surroundings — who's out there and what's going on.
- Walk with confidence. The more confident you look, the stronger you appear.
- Don't let drugs or alcohol cloud your judgment.
- Be assertive — don't let anyone violate your space.
- Trust your instincts. If you feel uncomfortable in your surroundings, leave.
- Don't prop open self-locking doors.
- Lock your door and your windows, even if you leave for just a few minutes.
- Watch your keys. Don't lend them. Don't leave them. Don't lose them. And don't put your name and address on the key ring.
- Watch out for unwanted visitors. Know who's on the other side of the door before you open it.
- Be wary of isolated spots, like underground garages, offices after business hours, and apartment laundry rooms.
- Avoid walking or jogging alone, especially at night. Vary your route. Stay in well-traveled, well-lit areas.
- Have your key ready to use before you reach the door — home, car, or work.
- Park in well-lit areas and lock the car, even if you'll only be gone a few minutes.
- Drive on well-traveled streets, with doors and windows locked.
- Never hitchhike or pick up a hitchhiker.
- Keep your car in good shape with plenty of gas in the tank.
- In case of car trouble, call for help on your cellular phone. If you don't have a phone, put the hood up, lock the doors, and put a banner in the rear mirror that says, "Help. Call police."

Sudoku

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

By 1LT Joseph Cluever

See page 15 for the solution to this month's puzzle

RED PATCHERS continued from page 15

Logistics Regiment-17, Landing Support Company, 3rd Platoon.

The first day Daluz met his new NCOs he walked past Cpl. Bobby Case without rendering a proper greeting. Case corrected the private first class on the spot.

"From then on I knew Cpl. Case was going to be a tough leader," said Daluz. "He's good to go. He squares us away."

"I knew we were going out with good leadership, so I knew I was going to learn a lot out here," added the 19-year-old Marine.

The LS team is split into two 12-hour shifts, with Sgt. Jonathan Bennett running the night shift and Ramirez running the day shift.

"He's always looking out for us, making sure [stuff] gets done, anything we need," Daluz said about Ramirez. "I couldn't ask for a better team."

On their off time, the Marines spend their time in the gym and keep busy with Marine Corps Institute correspondence courses, which help the junior Marines, most of whom have spent almost no time in garrison, learn things like Marine Corps customs and courtesies and the fundamentals of leadership. They also spend their down time playing video games and watches movies or AFN. Sometimes they throw a football around the landing zone or compete to see who can do the most pull ups.



Pfc. Cody Daluz and Lance Cpl. Michael Soto, both landing support specialists, walk back after loading a helicopter. Because the team doesn't have a forklift and Heavy Equipment support is not always available, they must lift most of the heavy cargo themselves. (Photo courtesy of Gunnery Sgt. Jesse Ramirez)

"We're all about having a good time out here. We try to make the best of a situation," said Daluz.

Whether at work or at play, the Marines of LS company can always be counted on, which is why they live by the words, "We're ready to ride."

"Things gotta get done," explains Daluz, "it's going to get done. We're ready to ride; we're going to do it." 

Confused about your education choices?

Not sure about how to register for classes? Need help figuring out your career choices? Confused by tuition assistance or your G.I. Bill? Need a proctor for an exam?

Staff Sgt. Shelley Cline is the education center/career counseling point of contact for Camp Ramadi. She can help answer any questions you may have about your education and career options, both in and out of the military.

The education center is also a place for servicemembers taking classes to work on their school work. The center is not yet equipped with computers, but servicemembers showing proof that they are enrolled in formal classes or certificate programs can have unlimited time at Spawar to work on their courses. The unlimited time must be used for school work only. For any questions, contact Staff Sgt. Shelley Cline at DSN: 344-0835

HELP US MAKE THE RAMADI STAR BETTER!

What type of things is your unit doing? We want to know! Send your stories, story ideas and/or photographs to emily.suhr@ar.mnf-wiraq.usmc.mil by the 23rd of each month.

Photographs need to be in a JPEG or TIFF format. Please include a Microsoft Word document identifying who is in the photo (Identification = full name, rank, unit, duty position and hometown), what they are doing, when and where.

Don't forget to tell us who took the photos and/or who wrote the story!

CAMP RAMADI PHOTOS ARE 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 the Camp Ramadi signing, 5K January run and more.

[\\arn02c\AR_Shares\Camp Ramadi\PAO](http://arn02c\AR_Shares\Camp Ramadi\PAO)

SUPER BOWL XLIII PARTY

PLACE: CHOW HALL

TIME: 2 FEBRUARY 2009, 0100 - 0500

- BREADED CHICKEN WINGS
- HOT & SPICY JUMBO CHICKEN WINGS
- BEEF FRITTER MINI BITES PIZZA FLAVORED FILLING
- CHICKEN BREAST MINI BITES WITH BUTTERED RANCH FLAVORED FILLING
- CHICKEN BREAST MINI BITES WITH BUFFALO FLAVORED FILLING
- MEATBALLS
- TURKEY WINGS,
- MOZZARELLA CHEESE STICKS
- JALAPENO POPPERS STUFFED WITH CREAM CHEESE
- PEPPER JALAPENO POPPERS, STUFFED WITH CHEDDAR CHEESE
- BEER BATTERED ONION RINGS
- FRENCH FRIES & POTATO WEDGES
- NON-ALCOHOLIC BEER

CryptoQuip

BW RGCT LIJ ZGMGU
 AFR, XGHLJJC FDRG-
 ZFC FVJRGZFCX AJRJ
 FAFRBJB LIJ ZOC-
 TRJXXGOCFU VJBFU
 OD IOCOR

Valentines Day

10K Run

Feb. 14

Meet at 0645

MWR gym

Run kicks off

at 0700



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PHOTOS NEED TO BE IN A JPEG OR TIFF FORMAT. 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).

Solution to this month's puzzle

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