



The Mountain View

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Soldier Edition

March 12, 2009

An issue dedicated to soldiers' stories

U.S. Army Chaplains: Solid as a Rock



SPC. CREIGHTON HOLUB
4TH BCT, 1ST CAV DIV.



FOB HUNTER – Two U.S. Army chaplains are building much more than the faith of their Soldiers on the remote base here. Chaplains Colt Randles and Michael Roberts, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, are building the Solid Rock Chapel for the Cav. Soldiers, one board at a time.

“I waited four months for a tent,” said Randles, a native of Muskegon, Mich. “It was me and my kit. I was conducting services with a cardboard box in the dining facility.”

The Solid Rock Chapel provides a permanent structure for the Soldiers of FOB Hunter and smaller transient units to celebrate their religious beliefs, but is also available for interpreters and civilian patrons, such as AAFES and KBR employees. The chaplains have even expanded the facility by adding ‘Holy Joe’s Café,’ which has hot coffee available for the Troops. The chapel has a large-screen television so troops can play video games or watch DVD movies during their down time.

“Guys relate to video games,” explained Roberts, who hails from Killeen, Texas. “They slaughter me on Call of Duty 4, but it’s a tool to relate with them.”

He said fortunately he’s winning 80 percent of his Madden ’09 games against the troops, because it’s more than pride that’s on the line. Sometimes the chaplain does pushups if he loses, but the troops have to show up for the next Sunday service if he wins.

Randles and Roberts are not only brothers in Christ, but met each other early on

Photo by Spc. Creighton Holub

Ch. (Capt.) Colt Randles, 1st Squadron, 9th Cav. Regt. chaplain, cuts a wooden block for a new door handle of FOB Hunter’s Solid Rock Chapel. Randles works with Ch. (Capt.) Michael Roberts, 5th Bn, 82nd FA Regt. chaplain, to attend to Soldier’s religious needs.

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The Meaning of Life



Sgt. 1st Class Jeffrey Mullett

CHAPLAIN

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during their Chaplain Officer Basic Leadership Course.

They are currently planning a strategy to help Soldiers re-integrate with their families when the 4th BCT, 1Cav. Div. re-

turns to Ft. Hood, Tx. in a few months. Roberts is scheduled to teach classes about financial responsibility, while Randles is set to hold marriage enrichment classes. Since the Chaplains are co-located here, near the south-eastern border of Iraq, they can share the course-load, the same way they share the process of improving the Solid Rock Chapel.

THE Mountain View

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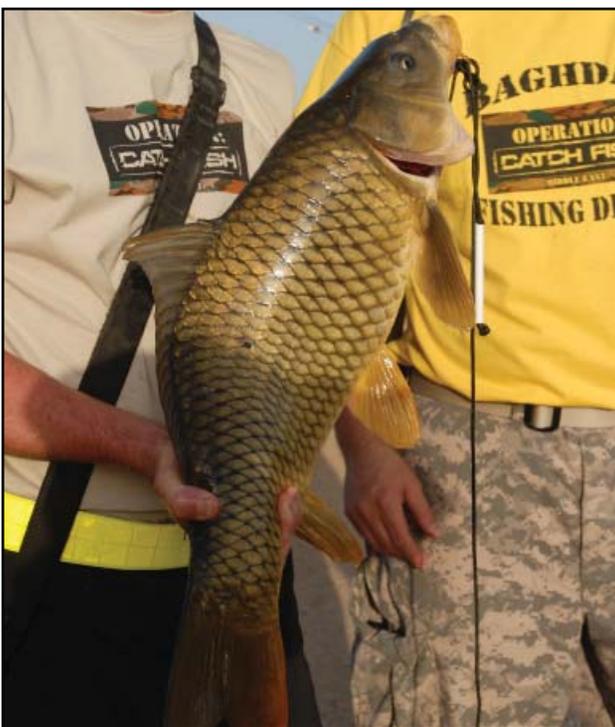
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 Task Force 449

Operation Catch Fish hosts second annual Baghdad Fishing Derby



(Left) Capt. Frank Gibbons, 464th Medical Command, dentist, at Liberty Dental Center, hauls a fish out of the water at Slayer Lake during the second annual Baghdad Fishing Derby hosted by Operation: Catch Fish and Multi-National Corps-Iraq March 7. The Cranston, R.I., native said he caught several fish earlier in the day, the biggest weighing in at 1 pound, 12 ounces. The event, which had more than 500 participants, was hosted by several celebrity fishers, including Joe Mercurio, former professional tournament fisher and current host of the Professional Tarpon Tournament Series, televised in more than 44 million homes across the United States on Sun Sports and World Fishing Network. The Sarasota, Fla., native has also worked with Operation: Catch Fish to provide equipment for Soldiers to fish with while deployed to Iraq. "We have collected and donated more than 700 rods and reels to Morale, Welfare and Recreation here at Victory Base Complex in the past two years," Mercurio said. "We will continue to do that and to put on this fishing event every year as long as Soldiers are here."

Photos by Sgt. Frank Vaughn



(Bottom Right) Sondra Rankin, professional fisher on the Forrest L. Wood Tour and host of "Turn Up The Bass with Sondra Rankin," televised on Fox Sports Net, signs autographs for Soldiers before the second annual Baghdad Fishing Derby hosted by Operation: Catch Fish and Multi-National Corps-Iraq March 7.



(Above) Soldiers display the winning fish at the second annual Baghdad Fishing Derby hosted by Operation: Catch Fish and Multi-National Corps-Iraq March 7. The fish, caught by Jason Sparkman, weighed in at 13 pounds, 1 ounce. First prize for the Derby was a 26-inch flat screen television with built-in DVD player.

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Word Search

Car Parts

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AIR BAG
AIR CONDITIONER
ALTERNATOR
AXLE
BATTERY
BODY
BRAKE
BUMPER
CAR SEAT
CARBURETOR
CARRIER RACK
CHILD SEAT

CLUTCH
COOLING FAN
CRANKCASE
CRUISE CONTROL
DEFOGGER
DEFROSTER
DOOR
DRIVE LINE
DRIVESHAFT
ENGINE
FRAME
FUSE

GAS TANK
HEADLIGHT
HOOD
HORN
IGNITION
MUFFLER
POWER WINDOW
RADIATOR
RADIO
REAR VIEW MIRROR
ROOF
SEAT BELT

STARTER
STEERING WHEEL
SUSPENSION
TAIL LIGHT
TIRES
TRANSMISSION
TRUNK
TURN SIGNAL
WHEEL RIM
WHEELS
WINDSHIELD

AROUND THE COMMUNITY

Lions Den

March 12
Karaoke @ 8 p.m.

Fishbowl Gym

March 27
Relay for Life HOPE Ceremony @ 8 p.m.

March 28

Cancer awareness 5K/10K walk run. Free t-shirt and continental breakfast. Race begins @ 7 a.m.

April 11

Pirate's Cove Run 5K/10K. Registration begins @ 7 a.m., race begins @ 8 a.m. T-shirts awarded to top finishers.

Victory

March 15
Victory Marathon/half marathon @ 7 a.m. Start at multi-purpose stage next to Oasis Dining Facility. Individual and team runners. Teams must consist of one male and one female. Runners must complete registration forms and email them to joseph.may@us.army.mil. Packets must be picked up March 14 at the multi-purpose stage.

Liberty

March 14
Jacksonville River Run 15K at Z Lake. Registration begins @ 6 a.m. Contact Jeffrey Heise for more information, jeffrey.heise@iraq.centcom.mil.

Babylon Theater

March 16
Newcomers Brief @ 1 p.m.
March 17
Fire Warden Class @ 1 p.m.
Fire Extinguisher Class @ 2 p.m.

The Norris Roundhouse

"Chuck Norris doesn't read books. He stares them down until he gets the information he wants."

