Truck handover brings hope of clean future

Staff Sgt. Mark Burrell
MND-B PAO

FOB LOYALTY, Iraq – Twenty waste sanitation trucks were turned over to the Government of Iraq during a ceremony at Forward Operating Base Loyalty, Feb. 25.

The new trucks, used for sewage maintenance and repair, give the Iraqis additional capacity to work out sanitation problems in eastern Baghdad, said Conrad Tribble, the chief of the Embedded Provincial Reconstruction Team with the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division.

“Ultimately, the goal is to increase the capacity of the municipal government and government legitimacy,” said Maj. Brad Hofmann, the civil military operations chief, 401st Civil Affairs Battalion, 3rd BCT, 82nd Abn. Div.

Hoffman and his team purchased the sewage trucks with Commander’s Emergency Response Funds to enable the municipal governments of Baghdad’s Karadah, Rusafa and 9 Nissan districts.

“The trucks are going to fix the sewage and people are going to love it,” said Abel Hassan Al Fetlawi, the chief engineer of the New Baghdad province. “This is a pretty good thing.”

Iron Brigade hosts Black History Month luncheon

By Sgt. Daniel Nichols
2nd BCT PAO, 1st Arm. Div.

BAGHDAD — “Iron Brigade” Soldiers from 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division, Multi-National Division — Baghdad, hosted a Black History Month observance luncheon in the Camp Striker dining facility, Feb. 24.

The luncheon included live performances from the Camp Striker Choir and Gospel Praise Dance Team along with presentations detailing the lives of important African-American figures in American history.

“There are a lot of things that we’ve accomplished over the years,” said 1st Sgt. Leon Brown II, of Milpitas, Calif., the luncheon’s guest speaker. “Barack Obama being the first black president is a huge accomplishment, but in that accomplishment let us not forget those that have come before us.”

The luncheon attendees included a wide mixture of Soldiers from different ethnicities and backgrounds; similar to the Army’s makeup.

“This theme of strength in diversity is absolutely true in...”

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MWR gives Soldiers desert barbecue

Spc. Laura Johnson
MND-B PAO

BAGHDAD — Camp Liberty’s East Life Support Area Morale Welfare & Recreation center hosted a barbecue cook-off Feb. 22 at the East Mayor’s Cell for Soldiers to blend past experiences and spices, conversation and family recipes, and to mix secret barbecue sauce with everyday operations. But most of all, it was an opportunity for them to relax.

Soldiers, MWR staff and members of East LSA’s Mayor Cell got a chance to loosen up and build relationships with fellow Soldiers. The barbecue was a way to show off hidden talents in the cooking arena, enjoy good food, and a chance to converse with those who are usually on the move.

“It’s all about the supporting the Soldier,” said Lt. Col. Howard Geck, East Camp Liberty’s mayor. “It also gives Soldiers a chance to network and to get to know the people they are around, such as MWR staff and us at the Mayor Cell.”

Unfortunately, four of the five teams who signed up for the event weeks in advance cancelled due to unexpected missions. Still, the MWR staff and East LSA’s mayor cell continued with the cook-off that eventually evolved into a cook-out.

“We’re still going to barbecue, instead of it being a contest,” said Pfc. Stanton Kelley, a radar operator of Battery C, 2 Battalion, 5th Field Artillery Regiment from Ft. Sill, Okla. “It’s good that they’re out here for us.”

As the barbecue started winding down, some of the Soldiers who initially entered the contest returned from their mission and were able to sit and eat a plate of ribs, brisket, steaks.

“We understand they have missions to go on, sometimes at the last minute,” said Louis Hunter, East LSA MWR staff member, participant in the cook-out another Houston native. “When we do these things for them, it builds morale for Soldiers and contractors alike.”

“These events such as the cook-offs …give the Soldiers a chance to relax and talk with us,” said Hunter. “It’s stressful to go outside the wire day in and day out, that’s what the MWR is here for.”

Black History Month one of many monthly observed cultural events

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the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, and we always emphasize that in the team,” said Lt. Col. Jason Kirk, of Shreveport, La., the brigade’s executive officer.

Although today’s equal opportunity situation for minority groups is far better than it was many years ago, Black History Month provides one way for people to remember how far America, and the Army, has come.
Checking up on progress: Refurbishing an Iraqi school in Rusafa

By Staff Sgt. Mark Burrell, MND-B PAO

BAGHDAD — Staff Sgt. Bryan Bass, a mortar man assigned to 5th Squadron, 73rd Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division, provides security while visiting a local school in the Rusafa district of eastern Baghdad, Feb. 25. Bass is a native of Fort Bragg, N.C.

BAGHDAD — Iraqi children come out to greet Multi-National Division — Baghdad Soldiers while other members of the 401st Civil Affairs Battalion, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division, check on the progress of a school being refurbished near the Saadoun neighborhood in the Rusafa district of Baghdad, Feb. 25.

Test of the best: Soldier of the Year

By Pfc. Evan Loyd
2nd BCT PAO, 1st Armd. Div., MND-B

BAGHDAD — Spc. Janet McMahon, from Sobus, N.Y., a lab technician in Company C, 47th Forward Support Battalion, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division, Multi-National Division-Baghdad, was recently selected as the 47th FSB Soldier of the Year and will soon compete in the “Iron Brigade’s” Soldier of the Year competition.

McMahon said she studied long and hard to win her company-level competition prior to competing for FSB’s Soldier of the Year.

After months of training, she stood in front of a board comprised of senior non-commissioned officers of the 47th FSB, answering a variety of questions focusing on Soldier skills to include: leadership, tactics, first aid, unit history, military justice, map orientation, physical training, battle focus training, and escalation of force.

“It took lots of studying to get to this level,” said McMahon. “It’s competitive and there is a lot to know.”

McMahon has been in the Army for over five years and assigned to the “Iron Brigade” since July 2007. McMahon joined the military to see the world and has enjoyed being stationed in Europe. She plans on training as a therapist for cancer patients after her Army enlistment ends.

She is currently on her first deployment and despite being trained as a lab technician, McMahon has performed numerous other jobs since she first deployed with the 2nd BCT, 1st Armd. Div. to Iraq in April 2008.

“Since I’ve been here I’ve been the armorer, the commo (radio communications) representative, information management, a supply worker, mail room clerk; I even covered down on the orderly room,” said McMahon. “Actually, lab tech is my smallest area here because we have another lab tech and he does the lab work while I pretty much do everything else needed.”

Despite her hard work and determination, McMahon didn’t expect to beat out three other Soldiers’ and go this far in the Soldier of the Year. Her original intention for attending the Soldier of the Month boards was to practice for promotion boards.

If she wins the “Iron Brigade” Soldier of the Year competition, she’ll continue on the 1st Armored Division Soldier of the Year in Wiesbaden, Germany and then the United States Army Europe competition in Heidelberg, Germany.

“I think it would be awesome if I won,” said McMahon. “I can’t wait to see just how far I can go.”

On This Day In Black History

On this day in 1967, two African-American servicemembers each earned the Medal of Honor for their actions on the battlefield in Vietnam.

Army Sgt. 1st Class Matthew Leonard of Eutaw, Ala., earned the Medal of Honor for leading his men during an ambush from the enemy in Vietnam. Sgt. Leonard formed a defensive perimeter, redistributed ammunition and inspired his comrades through forceful leadership. He dragged a wounded man outside the perimeter to safety, but not before he was shot in the hand by a sniper. Refusing treatment for his wound, Sgt. 1st Class Leonard charged an enemy machine gun nest and destroyed the hostile crew despite being shot several times. He propped himself against a tree and continued to engage the enemy until he died of his wounds.

Marine Corps Pfc. James Anderson Jr., of Los Angeles, was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor for heroism in Vietnam. When his platoon came under a heavy enemy attack, a hand grenade rolled into the midst of several Marines. Without hesitating, Pfc. Anderson threw his body on the grenade. He was mortally wounded, but saved the lives of his comrades.

David Letterman’s Top Ten Things You Don’t Want To Hear At A Hotel

10. “The desk clerk is nuts, so whatever your room, add three.”
9. “I wrote you a note about halfway through your roll of toilet paper.”
8. “Meet me in the whirlpool in 20 minutes.”
7. “If you want a bellhop, press 1. If you want a hooker, press 2.”
6. “Ring this bell again and I’ll burn your luggage.”
5. “Hey, could you go over to the Ramada Inn and swipe us some towels.”
4. “You know, every room has a hair dryer — How’s that for ritzy.”
3. “Are you the one who took my gin out of the minibar?”
2. “Wanna see the pictures I took of you sleeping?”
1. “Do you mind sharing your room with a monkey?”

Iraq 3-Day Weather Report

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SFC Paul R. Smith Memorial Run

Pre-registration for the Sgt. 1st Class Paul R. Smith Memorial Run will be held through March 31. The run will be held on April 5, in remembrance of the sixth anniversary of his Sgt. 1st Class Paul R. Smith’s death. The 11.46 km race will be held at the Paul R. Smith Courtyard. Send names to michael.stinnett@md-b.army.mil.

Sergeant 1st Class Smith won the Medal of Honor for his actions on April 4, 2003.
Pvt. Murphy  by Mark Baker

WELL PRIVATE, AS YOU SAID: THAT IS SIMPLY YOUR HUMBLE OPINION, AND IT IS IN DIRECT CONFLICT WITH MY AUTHORITATIVE ONE.

PEGASUS OASIS DFAC HOURS
BREAKFAST 0530 TO 0830
LUNCH 1130 TO 1330
DINNER 1700 TO 2000
MIDNIGHT CHOW 2300 TO 0100
SUNDAY ONLY
BRUNCH 0730 TO 1330
DINNER 1700 TO 2000
MIDNIGHT CHOW 2300 TO 0100

Trigger’s Teasers
The objective of the game is to fill all the blank squares in a game with the correct numbers. There are three very simple constraints to follow: Every row of 9 numbers must include all digits 1 through 9 in any order. Every column of 9 numbers must include all digits 1 through 9 in any order. Every 3 by 3 subsection of the 9 by 9 square must include all digits 1 through 9.

Every Sudoku game begins with a number of squares already filled in, and the difficulty of each game is largely a function of how many squares are filled in. The more squares that are known, the easier it is to figure out which numbers go in the open squares. As you fill in squares correctly, options for the remaining squares are narrowed and it becomes easier to fill them in.

Yesterday’s Answers

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