

# IN THE ZONE

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## MAGAZINE

Joint Defense Ops Center puts  
**eyes on the IZ**

Photographs tell story of  
**50th IBCT Soldiers  
serving across Iraq**

Directorate of Public Works unveils

**playground  
for Iraqi kids**

**DEDICATED TO SERVICE** - Capt. Albert Garcia, National Police Training Team, checks out the expanded military merchandise now being offered at FOB Prosperity's AAFES facility. Photo by 1st Sgt. David Moore.



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## ON THE COVER:

Spc. Ron Solimando of the Intel, Security and Recon Platoon, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 113th Infantry Battalion, stands guard during a meeting between Soldiers and Safwan city officials outside FOB Bucca. For more photos of other 50th IBCT Soldiers, see pages 10-11.

*Photo by Staff Sgt. Shawn Morris*

# IN THE ZONE

MAGAZINE

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

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## LEADERS' LOG

# Mitigating risk everyone's responsibility



The JASG-C continues to integrate and synchronize the complex task of Green Zone security and property transition. Primary focus over the next 60 days will be to plan and coordinate the Sunken Highway road opening to the Republican bridge. This will be a significant event for the Government of Iraq and will

be another milestone in this year of transition. The support from all the JASG-C directorates, 1/7th FA Bn and IZ Police play a key role in shaping the future of Iraq. Keep up the great team work!

For the majority of the JASG-C, we are approaching the 60-day mark for redeployment. As we begin to plan for redeployment, we cannot lose focus on the mission at hand. We must continue to execute and support all our customers. Most importantly, we must begin to plan for a smooth and seamless transition with the 32nd IBCT when they arrive to ensure no loss or degradation of services. Build your RIP plans and take the time to think through your approach, think what went right or wrong during your RIP and improve the process.

Lastly, never loose focus on force protection, safety and accountability. The nature of our military profession is a hazardous one. We can make our environment even more dangerous by our actions or inactions. Safety must be in the forefront of everything we do. Competent, credible leaders who genuinely care for the well being of their subordinates must exist at all levels of command. The safety of our Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines, Civilians and equipment is paramount in everything we do and the risk management process will be incorporated into all operations.

Mitigating risk is everybody's responsibility; ensure standards are enforced, and never compromise when lives are at stake. Leaders must never forget that personnel are the military's most valuable resource. Composite Risk Management is one of the most important tools we have. If we discipline ourselves to identify and assess hazards, and establish control measures or stop unsafe acts, we can minimize our exposure to those risks.

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

**Col. Steve Ferrari**  
**Joint Area Support Group – Central**  
**Commanding**

# Still much to do as deployment nears end

With about three months until the end of our deployment, everyone is beginning to see the end of our mission here in the International Zone.

Our mission is not over until we conduct a successful Relief in Place (RIP) and Transfer of Authority (TOA). The fact is the last of our replacements – the 32nd Infantry Brigade Combat Team of the Wisconsin Army National Guard – arrived at Fort Bliss this month.

One important task we all have to do is conduct a successful RIP/TOA, while at the same time staying focused on our fast-paced, changing IZ mission, and looking at standard operating procedures to make sure our replacements have the latest information of our respective operations. You need to get those documents up-to-date so that when the 32nd hits the ground, you and your replacement have a seamless transition.

Much has changed since day one of us getting into Iraq. The military footprint of the IZ is much smaller today than in September of last year, and it will change again before we leave. We all know at the mobilization station, it was extremely hard to get current information for our training. Everyone here is now a subject-matter expert, so think about what you needed and struggled with for information and fill in the blanks for the 32nd.

Another task we need to close out in the next 30 days is any NCOERs left open. We are here together and any NCOER challenges can be fixed here right away since nearly everyone is located in one place. This document

is important to our careers, so let's complete the record and take care of the Soldier.

Pay attention to posted dates for the early movement of equipment and personal items when they are published. You will only get one shot at the pack-out dates. If you miss one then you will be left, for lack of a better term, 'holding the bag' all the way to Fort Dix.

Remember, this mission is far from being over, so do not let complacency creep and set in. There is still a real threat out there just waiting for someone to let their guard down. Keep sharp, constantly be aware of your surroundings, use the buddy system, and keep your PPE close. Each and every Soldier executing the mission has done a superb job to date and there is no doubt in my mind that our Soldiers will continue to do and outstanding job.

Stay the course, stay safe, enforce and maintain the standards of excellence.

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





## New playground offers safe venue for generations of Iraqi children to enjoy

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

An empty dirt lot transformed into a children’s paradise when the Joint Area Support Group- Central’s Directorate of Public Works (DPW) completed a playground at the 215 Apartments in Baghdad’s International Zone.

The new playground, equipped with play sets, swings, monkey bars and even a fountain, filled the need for a safe playing environment for the apartment complexes.

“There are about four-to-five hundred kids that go to the school right down the way,” said Air Force Capt. Michelle Sterling, project manager. “It’s colorful, it’s safe, you’ve got equipment and you just see the kids,

they’re coming against the fence ‘when is it going to be open, when is it going to be ready?’”

Sterling said the combination of construction projects that encompass the apartments and the traffic that passes through them on a daily basis made the area an unsafe place for the children to play after school.

“This was something we were able to do to fill an immediate need in a relatively short period of time,” said Sterling.

But what is the price of building a playground in the developing areas of Baghdad’s “Green Zone?” If you are the American taxpayer, the answer is zilch, nada, nothing.

“The Iraqi government came to us and said, ‘Here’s this money, we need a playground, we’d like you to do this project for us,’” said Sterling.

While this was Sterling’s first project for DPW since arriving in the IZ two months ago, it is hardly her first foray into construction. Sterling is a civil engineer and came to the JASG-C from Lingham Air Force Base, Va., where she oversaw operations in maintenance and repair across about 16 Air Force bases.

“My whole background is being a civil engineer, doing construction projects, so this is right up my alley,” she said.

Sterling also was in Iraq during 2003-2004, where she helped to build the major Air Force bases in the country.

“When we were first coming in, our main push was to build main operating bases,” she said. “That’s not our push anymore, now we’re looking at projects that are going to benefit the Iraqi people. They’re going to be here after we leave; it’s going to help them re-establish their communities.”

But with this extensive background in construction and engineering, Sterling said that this seemingly simple playground project was anything but.

**FOR THE CHILDREN** - Spc. Sanjiv Joshi, Directorate of Public Works contract officer representative, near right, works with Iraqi contractors on the new playground at the 215 Apartments. "We're leaving something behind that generations can enjoy; especially the kids," Joshi said.



"Really this project, for various reasons, mostly to do with supplies and getting the workers badged and into the IZ, it's taken a lot longer than initially anticipated," she said. "It was alternately very satisfying and frustrating, as most construction projects are. It's satisfying in the fact that you're building a playground, you're creating a safe area for the kids to go and to play. Before we went in there and started building the playground, the area was really just a big pile of dirt. We're cleaning it up, creating a sense of community, creating a place for people to gather and watch their kids play, so that part was very satisfying," said Sterling.

"The frustrating part is when parts get delayed in the port, and

you can't get transport and you can't get workers in; when all of the sudden you thought you had permission to tap into a utility and now you don't. But those are things that happen on every construction project," she said.

Overseeing the day-to-day operations fell to Spc. Sanjiv Joshi, DPW's contract officer representative. He is in charge of quality control, and works closely with the contractors hired to complete the job. For Joshi, a business owner from Guttenburg, N.J., getting the most from the contractors is no break from what he did back home.

"I'm a customer; I demand a lot of the contractors. I want them to

paving stones from other demolition projects around the IZ, which provided a significant savings on the project, costing less than one-tenth of the originally quoted price.

Joshi said that he's proud to be working on projects like the playground.

"This is very exciting. We're leaving something behind that generations can enjoy; especially the kids. This is something we can proudly go back and say we built a park, we built a school. This is definitely for Iraqi people. This is for the new generation, the young kids, to enjoy," he said.

Joshi said that one of the most rewarding things about this project is to see the reaction of the Iraqi children to the project.

**"We're looking at projects that are going to benefit the Iraqi people."**

- Air Force Capt. Michelle Sterling, DPW project manager

finish everything on time. I try to save money as much as I can," he said.

One way he saved money was on the sidewalk that surrounds the playground. Joshi suggested using

"When we were bringing the equipment in there were kids waiting for us to put the playground in so that they could use it. So they were very excited and seeing that

*continued on page 14*

# 'Lightning' strikes SECFOR mission

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

While the military has a tradition of casing outgoing military colors and raising new ones to assume a mission, it was the passing of a handmade wooden key containing military crests that upstaged a simple ceremony between outgoing and incoming commanders of 3rd Battalion, 29th Field Artillery Regiment, and 1st Battalion, 7th Field Artillery Regiment.

The passing of the key Feb. 11 from Lt. Col. Kevin Gregory, commander of the 3/29th FA, to Lt. Col. Robert Bailes, commander of the 1/7th FA, became the symbol for 1/7 Soldiers to start force protection and Iraqi military and police training missions on their own after two weeks of training between the two battalions.

"We are ready for the challenge. While this mission has broad diversity and complexity, I have all the confidence in the world we will meet the mission because they have given us the tools," Bailes said during the transfer-of-authority ceremony held at Forward Operating Base Prosperity's Al Salam Palace.

The handmade wooden key containing crests of the military battalions that serve at Prosperity now hangs in the 1/7th's palace conference room.

For Gregory, the mission hand-off became a reflection of a 15-month Operation Iraqi Freedom mission of making the International Zone (IZ) a safe and secure environment for coalition forces and Iraqis.

"There have been a lot of changes here in the IZ since we first got here. In July, there were a lot of attacks. After that, things began settling down and now we are transi-

**JOB WELL DONE** - Lt. Col. Robert Bailes, 1/7th Field Artillery commander, right, presents a Certificate of Appreciation to Lt. Col. Kevin Gregory, 3/29th FA commander, during a transfer-of-authority ceremony at FOB Prosperity.



tioning security to the Iraqi government," he said.

Gregory thanked subordinate units who worked with his team during the tour and said all of them were "good comrades to have around."

**"While this mission has broad diversity and complexity, I have all the confidence in the world we will meet the mission because the 3/29th FA Soldiers have given us the tools. We are ready for the challenge."**

**- Lt. Col. Robert Bailes, 1/7th FA commander**

Col. Steven Ferrari, commander of the Joint Area Support Group-Central (JASG-C) whose Soldiers provide base operations support for the 1/7th FA at Prosperity and other Iraq forward operating bases,

thanked the outgoing commander for his support during his mission and welcomed the new one on board.

"It will be an interesting time each day here in the IZ. It is going to be an interesting ride because you come here at an historic time for Iraq," Ferrari said of operations in the IZ.

The 1/7th FA Soldiers have spent nearly four months in Baghdad at the Victory Base Complex conducting multifaceted force-protection missions, so the new assignment represents somewhat of a change of mission for them. While at Victory, some "First Lightning Battalion" Soldiers spent two weeks becoming recertified on their cannoner skills to prepare for the mission.

As the ceremony drew to a close, Soldiers of the 3/29th's "Task Force Pacesetters" packed trucks with their equipment and belongings and moved to Baghdad International Airport for a flight to their home station at Fort Carson, Colo. 

## CHAPLAIN'S WORD

# Avoid pride's inevitable fall

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

While I was home on leave recently, I found this saying in a fortune cookie (and yes, even fortune cookies get me thinking about sermons!): "If you understand what you're doing, you're not learning anything."

It's a bit silly, because we can both understand something and still learn more, but it speaks to me about attitudes of pride and complacency. The danger is that once we master a task, we think there is nothing more to learn and we lose the humble and teachable attitude that helped us to learn in the first place.

In a similar vein, I read a recent article in Time stating that through a series of psychological tests, re-



searchers proved that the more powerful a person is, the more they tend to overestimate themselves. Hence the mess in the economy right now; powerful and greedy people overestimating their ability to control events. Of course, this is not a new idea — we've all seen it happen and the Bible says how pride often comes before a fall (Proverbs 16:18).

So here's my point - soon we return home, and most of us will quickly make judgment calls about the conduct of others. Maybe we'll be disappointed by how poorly our spouse kept the household, or how dumb our kids were, or how out-of-touch our old boss is. Before jumping to conclusions, think a moment. Almost always, things are more complicated than we think and people generally do the best they can with the resources at their disposal.

Instead of a patronizing attitude of superiority, cultivate a desire to understand. When we make the effort to really listen and care about another person's view, then we show that we truly have learned something and, amazingly enough, they'll be motivated to listen to us in return.

## Chaplain Services

### Sundays

Protestant Service  
0900 in the DFAC

Catholic Mass  
0915 in the FOB Prosperity Chapel

Latter Day Saints Service East  
1300 in the CSH Compound Chapel

Catholic Mass  
1630 at the Bldg 5 Basketball Court

Contemp. Protestant Worship  
1815 at the Bldg. 5 Basketball Court  
Spanish Catholic Mass  
2000 in Bldg. 1 Conference Room

### Tuesdays and Thursdays

Catholic Mass  
1200 in Bldg. 1 Conference Room

### Wednesdays and Fridays

Catholic Mass  
1200 in the CSH Compound Chapel

### Fridays

Eastern Orthodox Service  
0930 every other Friday in Bldg 1  
Conference Room

Juma'a Prayer Service  
1300 in the Embassy Prayer Room

Latter Day Saints Service West  
1500 in Bldg. 1 Conference Room

Jewish Shabbat Service  
1800 in Bldg. 1 Conference Room

### Saturdays

Catholic Mass  
1100 in the CSH Compound Chapel

### Sundays

Church of Christ services  
0900 in Bldg. 1 Conference Room

Denominational Protestant Service  
(Anglican, Episcopal and Lutheran)  
1800 in Bldg. 1 Conference Room

An Easter event will be held at Freedom Rest March 27 from 1100-1500

Directions to the Building 1 Conference Room: Enter Union III, turn left. The first building to your left is Bldg. 1. Enter and ask for the conference room.

Directions to the Union III DFAC: The DFAC is just beyond Bldg. 1 on the opposite side of the street.

Directions to the Bldg. 5 Basketball Court: Enter Union III, Bldg. 5 is to the right and is the largest building on Union III. A large exterior concrete ramp goes to the second floor. Walk up the ramp and, once inside the building entrance, take the lefthand hall. Follow the hall to the stairwell, continue walking forward into what looks like an abandoned corridor. The basketball court is located on the left at the end of the corridor.

# Putting Eyes On the IZ



## Joint Defense Operations Center helps keep International Zone secure

*Story and photo by  
Maj. Jon Powers  
JASG-C Public Affairs*

Behind a heavy steel door on Union III lies the nerve center for the International Zone (IZ). Behind several rows of computers, Soldiers, Airmen and contractors sit, waiting for the next emergency. Behind the calm demeanor in the room lurks the possibility for chaos at any moment.

The Joint Defense Operations Center (JDOC) has been quiet lately, and that is good news for all.

Maj. Robert Bryan is the Joint Area Support Group - Central (JASG-C) chief of operations in the JDOC. "The JDOC serves as the 9-1-1 center of the IZ; anytime anything happens within the IZ,

whether it is IDF (Indirect Fire) or coordinating a Tier One move for the Government of Iraq, that gets coordinated through us," said Bryan. "If there is an incident with IDF or S-vest (Suicide vest) out at one of the ECPs (Entry Control Points) we coordinate the emergency response out to the incident."

"A lot of it is a common sense approach; we rely on the battle drills," said Bryan. "Everybody in here has a very specific position, some days you are busier than others ... you've got to be flexible and expect the unexpected."

The "J" in JDOC is there for good reason, too. "We have liaisons from Sabre, KBR, Triple Canopy and each one of them brings something unique," Bryan said. Several contractors work in the JDOC.

"Triple Canopy handles a lot of the internal checkpoints; KBR handles emergency fire, emergency medical transport, and vehicle recovery. Sabre handles all of the contracted working dogs."

Spc. Wentworth Grayman was originally assigned to the radio dispatch but has changed jobs. As the Command Post of the Future (CPOF) computer operator he brings the more important occurrences to life. Making graphics and chronological charts to show events in the IZ, he provides those with no knowledge of the IZ or the JDOC an easy way to understand what they do.

Grayman explained these reports consisted of "getting the chronological order of who called who, and the who, what, where, why from the eyes on the ground, capturing the

battle damage assessments and response times.” When bombs aren’t landing, Grayman tracks the movements of government officials or supplies through ECPs and the IZ.

“I have to keep my ears open, listen for what is going on,” said Grayman.

“If IDF comes in (Grayman’s) going to spend a good portion of his day preparing a story board which captures the imagery of the point of origin, point of impact and the battle damage assessment and that goes all the way up to MNF-I (Multi-National Forces-Iraq),” commented Bryan.

A few of the JDOC operations are pro-active rather than re-active. The job of the S2 Intelligence officers is to look forward, not back. The S2 officers coordinate the intelligence activities and produce summaries and analysis for use in JDOC operations. The IZ Police work their desk operations from inside to provide a traffic and security viewpoint.

“We have the ability to work with the commander of the IZ Police to deploy them and next door we have the JOC (Joint Operation Center) so whenever we have to coordinate a Tier One move or significant event it has to work through the JOC because the Baghdad Brigade is manning all of the ECPs,” said Bryan.

The JOC is the most recent addition to the JDOC. After the January IZ Transition ceremony, Iraqi Army and Iraqi Police dedicated staff to an office adjoining the JDOC. Sharing space in this office are the liaisons to the 1st Infantry Division who



**WHAT'S UP, JDOC?** - Maj. Robert Bryan, Joint Defense Operation Center (JDOC) chief of operations, far right, and 2nd Lt. Yaser Saad of the Baghdad Brigade discuss issues relating to International Zone security.

represent the Multi-National Division Baghdad (MND-B).

Twenty-four hours a day the JDOC stands ready to react to emergencies and coordinate a response. Eleven JASG-C Soldiers on three rotating shifts ensure an expedient professional response to all of the IZ’s problems, any time day or night. But since arriving, Bryan has noticed a distinct change in the day-to-day business in the IZ.

“When the 45th was here it was a lot more crisis management. There was a lot of IDF and a lot less political stuff that is going on. We have 27 specific battle drills and none of them talk about how to deal with a political incident involving Tier One or Tier Two Government of Iraq officials,” remarked Bryan.

Bryan admits that the most challenging aspect for the JDOC

comes in the form of the competing interest between security and access. “We still have the role that the 45th had, when there is a fire or IDF or medical emergency we are the ones who deploy the assets to put out the fire,” Bryan said. “But we are also involved from a political standpoint; if we jam up a Tier One at an ECP and it is perceived that it was caused by Americans, it could have political ramifications,” he said. “We don’t have a battle drill for that. We have to apply the access control measures in the IZ defense op-order, but at the same time try to please the politicians.”

One of the greatest concerns for the JDOC is protecting the high-ranking government officials who visit the IZ on an almost constant basis. In December 2008, Bryan had to protect the most powerful politician in the world, President George W. Bush. The plans for the president’s visit originated at Multi-National Corps-Iraq but much of the staffing and execution became a JASG responsibility. Operationally controlled by MND-B, the JASG-C had to block the side streets that accessed the main routes and minimize the number of contracted security personnel that were in the IZ.

*continued on page 14*

**Some days you are busier than others ... you’ve got to be flexible and expect the unexpected.”**

**- Maj. Robert Bryan, JDOC chief of operations**

# US, Iraqi medics team for training

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

Medics from Headquarters and Headquarters Battery of the 1st Battalion, 7th Field Artillery provided a half-dozen Soldiers of the Baghdad Brigade lifesaving skills training in the event they suffer casualties on the battlefield or get injured in an accident.

As part of the Feb. 19 training program held at the brigade's headquarters, known as FOB Honor, three U.S. Army medics conducted a train-the-trainer program so the Iraqi Army can conduct its own training in the future.

"What's nice about this training program is that all Soldiers can perform these tasks on the battlefield," Dr. Ali Satter Jabbar, a physician with the Baghdad Brigade, said.

Jabbar, who has only been in the Army about a year, said while the former Iraqi Army did have medics, most Iraqi Army soldiers had no formal training at all. Basically, they had to rely on treating casualties by doing what they thought may be right, he said.

During the classroom portion of training, Jabbar assisted the FOB Prosperity-based Army medics in providing his medical expertise to the class and reinforcing the Army trainers information.

The morning of class was conducted in the Army crawl-walk-run technique of training: First, the classroom, and then a classroom practice session. Finally, a lane area was set up for the run portion of testing what the Iraqi Soldiers would do in a time of crisis.

Cpl. Cedric Orino, the NCOIC for the training, said the doctor offered a greater medical insight into what the future trainers could expect when training or dealing with injuries.

**STICKING TO THE PROGRAM** - Dr. Ali Satter Jabbar, Badhdad Brigade, tests his injection skills during medic training with 1st Battalion, 7th Field Artillery Soldiers Feb. 19. The event is part of a train-the-trainer program held by the U.S. and Iraqi Armies.



"Our goal here is to provide a full training foundation so the Iraqi soldiers can conduct their own training in the future," Orino said.

Orino provided a basic review from the combat lifesaver material a week earlier, and then they moved into intravenous injection training to include using his own arm as an example.

**While the former Iraqi Army did have medics, most Iraqi soldiers had no formal medical training.**

After Orino was stuck with the IV needle and saline solution began flowing, Iraqi soldiers took their turn at completing the task. All were successful.

After the Iraqi medic task completion, Orino stuck up his thumb and said, "You all get a go." Each of the Iraqi Army medics was successful at the first jab of the needle.

The class then moved out for the field experience. As the Iraqi soldiers worked with their American counterparts, someone cried out, "Boom!" and the American Soldiers fell to the ground, suffering simulated severe wounds of various types.

Spc. Gary Combs and Spc. Thomas Pruitt, who were assistant instructors, changed into a different role. They served as simulated patients in the lane during the training "run" phase to let Iraqi medics practice treating patients on a battlefield where there were injuries such as stomach and gunshot wounds, and burns. Combs went down with simulated injuries, began panicking and simulated going into shock to add realism to the training.

Orino and Jabbar observed training and made corrections to insure a life would be saved on a battlefield.

"I wanted to give the Iraqis great training by making it as a realistic as possible," Combs said.

(Sgt. Anthony Franklin, HHB, 1ST Battalion, 7th Field Artillery, contributed to this story.)

## JAG CORNER

# Security Agreement brings change

Col. Daniel G. Giaquinto  
Command Judge Advocate

You have heard of the Security Agreement (SA) and received instruction and training aids to assert your jurisdictional rights under it. You may wonder whether you are now subject to Iraqi prosecution for crimes and offenses, and you may have questions regarding how the SA affects your mission. This article will attempt to answer those questions and give you some perspective and practical advice regarding the present legal dynamics in Iraq.

The official title of the SA is itself revealing: Agreement Between the United States of America and the Republic of Iraq On the Withdrawal of United States Forces from Iraq and the Organization of Their Activities during Their Temporary Presence in Iraq. It is an international agreement between the Government of Iraq (GOI) and the United States, that is, in effect, the legal basis and authority for the presence and military operations of the United States Forces in Iraq. The term of the agreement is three years beginning Jan. 1, 2009, but it may be terminated sooner by either party pursuant to a procedure set forth in the agreement.

Some refer to it as a Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA), as other agreements are called that allow for the presence of U.S. Forces in foreign countries. Although somewhat similar, this agreement differs from SOFAs in several key respects. SOFAs deal with the peacetime presence of U.S. Forces whereas the SA allows for ongoing combat and detention operations by U.S. Forces to be conducted in accordance with the terms of the SA and with respect for Iraqi

law. Also, unlike indefinite periods contained in SOFAs, there is a definite termination date set forth in this agreement.

Prior to Jan. 1, 2009, the legal basis for our presence and operations was the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1790 (UN-SCR). This was a UN Mandate that allowed us to take all reasonable measures to secure and stabilize Iraq. Upon the expiration of UN-SCR and implementation of the SA, we are now guests in the sovereign nation of Iraq, and security and stability are the full responsi-

**Upon the expiration of the United Nations Security Council Resolution and implementation of the Security Agreement, we are now guests in the sovereign nation of Iraq.**

bility of the GOI. Pursuant to the SA our presence, and activities, are at the request and invitation of the GOI. Our mission- to protect and strengthen the sovereignty, security and territorial integrity of Iraq- has not changed, but the way we do business has changed.

So what is different and how does it affect you? The SA covers a lot of ground, in fact it contains thirty separate articles, with many facets and issues that cover the spectrum from missions, to deterrence of security threats, detention, property ownership, taxes, freedom of movement, and to claims; in short, all areas that would impact on the presence and activities of the U.S. Forces in Iraq. However for purposes of this article we

will discuss those items that are most likely to affect members of the JASG-C.

The Law of Armed Conflict principles that we follow and the analyses we employ in use of force situations have not changed. The Rules of Engagement (ROE) have essentially remained the same; you should review and understand the current ROE and remember you always retain the inherent right of self-defense. What are different are detention operations. Before U.S. Forces could detain anyone they thought to be a threat to the security and stability of Iraq. Now a valid arrest warrant issued by an Iraqi investigative judge is required for US Forces to detain someone other than a member of the U.S. Forces or its civilian component. Exceptions to the arrest warrant requirement are provided by other laws, and allow for arrests by U.S. Forces of individuals engaged in combat activities against U.S. Forces, or of individuals who are witnessed committing a crime. Also, a search warrant is required to conduct a search of homes or real estate, except in case of combat operations. In the event of an arrest or detention of someone other than a member of the U.S. Forces or its civilian component, U.S. Forces must hand over that person to Iraqi authorities within 24 hours of the arrest or detention.

Combat operations, that is operations designed to capture or kill the enemy, must be fully coordinated and conducted with the agreement of the GOI. The new mantra, By-With-Through (the Iraqi forces), reminds us that our operations, once unilateral, must be conducted jointly or with the knowledge and agreement of our

*continued on page 18*



A detainee is escorted for transfer from Cropper



Cropper's Theater Internment Facility

70B  
Cropper



Spc. Heather DiNapoli, B/114th, preps for a mission

SOUTHERN NO FLY ZONE

NO DRIVE ZONE



Spc. Mohammed Shonibare, A/102nd, mans the turret

70B  
Bucca

'Ar'ar Border Crossing

Ar ar

An Nabk Abu Qasr



Sgt. Albert Grant, A/102nd, on patrol



Detainees at Bucca's Theater Internment Facility



Soldiers from HHC/113th patrol Safwan Hill



FOB  
Grizzly  
←



U.S. and Iraqi Soldiers work hand-in-hand



Soldiers from B/102nd service an M-2 .50 cal.



Troops conduct base-defense drills at Grizzly



A HHC/113th Soldier visits Safwan's market



Sgt. Ricardo Suarez, HHC/113th, makes friends



# Inside Iraq

with the

# 50th IBCT

# A better tomorrow

*continued from page 5*

makes me very happy for what I'm doing here and what I'm contributing to the Iraqi people."

According to Joshi, this project means something to more than just the inhabitants of the 215 Apartments; it means a lot to his twin nine-year-old daughters as well.

"I send them e-mails, I send them pictures. I say, 'Hey look, I'm building a park,' and they're very excited, they always want to see new pictures they always want to see how the playground is coming along," he said.

Joshi said that the interest in the playground project doesn't stop with his children. In fact, the other students at their school as well as teachers are taking an interest as well.

"They're going back to school, telling their teachers what I'm doing in Iraq. I'm getting positive e-mails from my kids and their classmates saying how wonderful it is to hear that we are building a playground for the Iraqi people."

He also said that it gives him a unique way to bond with his daughters, which can often be a challenge for parents deployed away from home for long periods of time.

"It gives me something to talk about with my girls. To them, building a park is a big deal. They're always asking me questions about the playground. You know, 'Do the kids play like us?' They always want to know," he said.

Now completed, Sterling said it feels good to know that she's doing her part to help move the country in a positive direction.

"It's really good to see all your hard work come to a concrete end point. Yes, I did that; look at that and



**LENDING A HELPING HAND**  
Air Force Capt. Michelle Sterling, Directorate of Public Works project manager, plays with Iraqi children at the new 215 Apartments playground.

that's for the benefit for all these other people. At the end of the day, we're giving something back to the community, we're making that community better and a more vibrant place," she said. 🇮🇶

# Putting eyes on the IZ

*continued from page 9*

"This worked out well because we did not have a lot of the resources needed to action the Corps' plan. We ended up having everyone from the JASG go out and man a certain position inside the IZ, it was a lot of work," explained Bryan. Much of the former President's visit was in and around the IZ; and considering there was not a single hiccup in the security plan, the JDOC proved their competence.

Looking to the future, Bryan sees a whole new set of challenges for his replacements. "There are going to be a lot of changes inside the IZ; our duties aren't going to necessarily change but as the Green Zone continues to transform, they are talking about opening new roads, like the sunken highway to the north. Some huge changes that are going to happen have already pinged the 32nd and let them know some of the changes because they are going

to affect where the ECPS are, and how people move around the IZ," he said.

Even though the JDOC is quiet now, constant reminders of how that could change appear almost daily.

"A lot hasn't happened in the Green Zone but a lot does happen in the red zone, close to the Green Zone - attacks and IDFs. Inside the Green Zone we feel safe, but just outside there is still a lot going on," Grayman concluded. 🇮🇶



Maj. Robert Hughes, WO1 Robert Morgan and Spc. Hyacinthe Luna, from left above, as well as Airman 1st Class Joshua Haley, Air Force Staff Sgt. Bobby Wood and Tech Sgt. Timothy Lawrence, from left below, receive the Joint Service Achievement Medal from Col. Steve Ferrari, Joint Area Support Group-Central (JASG-C) commander, below center, and Command Sgt. Maj. David Kenna, JASG-C CSM, below right, for helping save an Air Force captain who suffered a gunshot wound to the head.





# Comedy show leaves Soldiers in stitches

**THE LAUGH RANGER** - James Gleason, the Cowboy Comedian, kicks up a laugh riot during a comedy show at FOB Prosperity Feb. 12.

## Trio tickles funny bones of FOB Prosperity service members

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

A trio of comedians from Lone Wolf Entertainment and Morale, Welfare and Recreation came out swinging to become the first entertainers to break in a new stage at Forward Operating Base Prosperity that left hundreds laughing Feb. 12.

The show got started when Olivia Allen-Arrington jokingly teased people walking by the stage to attend. As the bleachers filled and ad-

ditional chairs were set up near the soccer field, some personnel were left standing to take in a show where humor poked fun at everything from hometown America to Middle East culture.

The Houston, Texas, native has travelled the globe since 1994 delivering her jokes to thousands of troops. For this show, she also served as the master of ceremonies for two other comedians, Mo Amer and the Cowboy Comedian.

After Arrington's introduction to the show, she moved into her por-

tion of comedy, seamlessly spinning jokes about her flying to Kuwait, drugs in America, and the recession.

The next act was James Gleason, who goes by the handle of Cowboy Comedian. He is doing his second round of shows for troops in the Middle East. Despite suffering from hearing loss on his first tour from a mortar explosion, he displayed no fear galloping across the stage to share his humor on being single, living in a trailer park, as well as being married.

During his opening of the show, he thanked to troops for attending and their service to country. Immediately, he poked fun at the various military battle cries that are more audible sounds than words.

"If the Army has 'Hoahh!' and the Marines have 'Oorah!' then the Air Force must be 'Latte!'" the Florida resident and ranch worker said Mohammed Amer, a Palestinian

**“If the Army has ‘Hoahh!’ and the Marines have ‘Oorah!’ then the Air Force must be ‘Latte!’”**

**- Comedian James Gleason**

# Soldiers set stage for future entertainment

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



## BRINGING FUNNY TO THE FOB

- Olivia Allen-Arrington, left, and Mohammed Amer make up two-thirds of a comedy trio that put on a show a FOB Prosperity Feb. 12. The event, which was sponsored by Lone Wolf Entertainment and Morale, Welfare and Recreation, was the first to be held on the FOB's new outdoor stage.



born in Kuwait who moved to the U.S. during the Persian Gulf War, wrapped up the show delivering wit about the clash between U.S. and Middle East cultures.

Also a Houston resident, Amer joked that names such as Mohammed and Obama alone have a tendency to draw a Texan's attention.

The show wrapped up on the new stage with a meet and greet between Soldiers and entertainers. Those coming to the stage found the entertainers still providing humor to the crowd. And with that, military personnel received autographed pictures with a message of love and "Thanks for all you do!"

The mysterious voice from the heavens in the movie "Field of Dreams" said, "If you build it, they will come," and the saying held up Feb. 12 when three comedians from Lone Wolf Productions stepped on a brand new stage built by Forward Operating Base Prosperity Soldiers.

As a result of the new stage, nearly 300 military personnel took in the evening, which was sponsored by Morale, Welfare and Recreation.

A partnership with the Joint Area Support Group-Central's Mayor's Cell and nine Soldiers of Bravo Troop, 1st Battalion, 303rd Cavalry, Washington Army National Guard, combined talent for a win-win situation to replace a small, dilapidated stage on a volleyball court.

New Jersey Army National Guard 1st Sgt. Edward Santiago of the FOB Prosperity's Mayor's Cell said another Jersey Guard Soldier, Cpt. Juan Abreu of the Mayor's Cell, moved quickly to fund and procure wood for the project.

"All we did was reach out for volunteers to build it. So I made a telephone call to the 303rd since I knew they had a few carpenters. I think it's incredible that one phone call made to a fellow Guardsman, and it got done. That's the Guard - getting it done," Santiago said.

Staff Sgt. Jerry Rodriguez, MWR NCO with the 303rd Cavalry who performs Personnel Security Detachment duties daily in Baghdad, saw this as a way to put his Army-learned carpenter skills to the test.

"Once we had the material and supplies from the Mayor's Cell and got everything in one place with help from KBR contractors, we were



## CENTER STAGE

- Spc. Kyle Lyons and Staff Sgt. Jerry Rodriguez complete the new stage at FOB Prosperity.

ready to go," Rodriguez, a Seattle Light Company employee, said.

"I thought that with this stage we could possibly have the same shows here as what are being held at the bigger FOBs in Iraq," he added.

So after conducting missions, Rodriguez teamed up with Spc. Kyle Lyons and others to work the project. Another seven Soldiers from the cavalry unit also helped move the project along. Soldiers averaged four hours a night on the project. After about 32 hours of construction, a 40 by 20-foot stage was ready with two days to spare for the show.

Lyons, a native of Sammanish, Wash., and a bar tender when not deployed, said the project gave him something else to do besides sitting down and watching a movie.

Rodriguez said the redwood-stained stage near the entrance of the Al Salam Palace is functional for entertainment, but it's not finished. Plans include building a backdrop and a partial roof on the structure.

"You know, I'm thinking I would like it to resemble an Iraqi palace, or better yet, making it look like an Army engineer castle," he said of his dream.

# Security Agreement

*continued from page 11*

hosts. However, it bears repeating that in any situation you always retain the right of individual and unit self-defense.

Of particular importance to the JASG-C is control of our AO, the International Zone (IZ). Referring to the IZ as the Green Zone, Article 28 of the SA makes clear that the GOI “shall have full responsibility for the Green Zone”. It also provides that the GOI may request the support of U.S. Forces in securing the Green Zone. Thus we have continued our mission by working jointly with and at the request of the Iraqi authorities.

Our FOBs and areas that we control are defined in the SA as “agreed facilities and areas”. The SA grants the U.S. Forces access to these areas and the authority to exercise “all rights and powers that may be necessary to establish, use, maintain, and secure such agreed facilities and areas.” Bottom line, we continue to secure our own FOBs and other “agreed facilities and areas” in our AO.

You may have read or heard about the jurisdictional question, that is, whether you are now subject to prosecution by the GOI for crimes or offenses. Previously you were not subject to Iraqi law. But under the SA, Iraqi authorities will have primary jurisdiction over members of U.S. Forces, including civilian employees of the Department of Defense (DOD), for:

- Grave premeditated felonies (still to be specified and enumerated),
- Committed outside agreed facilities and areas, and
- Committed outside duty status (U.S. Forces determine whether an alleged offense arose outside of duty status).

In all other situations the U.S. has the primary right to exercise ju-

risdiction over U.S. Forces and its civilian component. It should also be noted that U.S. contractors and contractor employees, who are not employees of DOD, are now subject to Iraqi jurisdiction for all crimes and offenses at all times. So unless you are outside of duty status, outside your FOB or other U.S. controlled area, and commit a “grave premeditated felony”, you will be subject to the primary jurisdiction of the United States and not of Iraq.

Also keep in mind that even in a case where Iraq does not have primary jurisdiction, it may still request

**Of particular importance to the JASG-C is control of our AO, the International Zone, or Green Zone. The Security Agreement makes clear that the Government of Iraq “shall have full responsibility for the Green Zone.”**

the U.S. to grant it jurisdiction. Iraq must make this request within 21 days of discovery of an alleged offense and notify the U.S. that it is of particular importance that Iraq exercise jurisdiction in the matter. It is within the discretion of the U.S. to grant or deny the request.

A member of the U.S. Forces detained by Iraqi authorities must be handed over to U.S. Forces within 24 hours from the time the detention or arrest began. Even in a case where Iraq has primary jurisdiction, custody of an accused U.S. service member will remain with U.S. Forces, which in turn must make the

accused available for purposes of the Iraqi investigation and/or trial. Where Iraq exercises jurisdiction over a member of the U.S. Forces or its civilian component, the accused shall be entitled to due process standards and protections consistent with U.S. and Iraqi law.

So how do you ensure you will not be investigated or charged by our host authorities? The easy answer is to comply with the UCMJ, General Order Number 1, the ROE and command policies and direction. You should also limit yourself to mission essential traffic outside of your FOB, do not travel alone, and always conduct yourself with respect for Iraqi law. Also, be in an official uniform of your service, carry your ROE and other training aids, and use your emergency chit (contains an Arabic translation) in case you have to assert your jurisdictional rights with Iraqi authorities. Staying within “your lane” and putting mission first is the key.

As in any international agreement there will be situations, glitches, and perhaps even disagreements that need to be addressed, particularly in the initial implementation phase. Indeed, no written document can envision all scenarios involving U.S. Forces in Iraq. Anticipating this, the SA provides for implementation measures, which has led to a series of committees and subcommittees being formed at different levels of the U.S. and Iraqi forces to work out various implementation issues. If you run into an operational or other disagreement with the Iraqi Security Forces, you should seek guidance from your chain of command and try to resolve it with your Iraqi counterpart at the lowest level possible. As always should you have any question about the SA, seek guidance from your chain of command or your servicing Judge Advocate office.

# Getting To Know **FOB UNION III**

## **Mayor's Cell**

MAJ Thomas McGhee  
 FOB Union III mayor  
 DSN 318 239-0232  
 Asia Cell 0770-444-1653

CSM Scott Lewis  
 FOB Union III deputy mayor  
 DSN 318 239-0234  
 Asia Cell 0770-444-1705

## **Dining Facility**

The Union III Dining Facility (DFAC) across from the Bldg. 1 parking lot offers four meals a day. Meal hours are:

Breakfast: 0530 to 0800  
 Lunch: 1130 to 1330  
 Dinner: 1730 to 2000  
 Midnight Meal: 2330 to 0100

## **Post Office**

Free mail, which is limited to 13 ounces, still exists for the letter home and a mailbox is located in front of Bldg. 6. But if you are looking to mail pictures, a small souvenir in an envelope or packages, then you must go to the Post Office located in Bldg. 5.

Your packages will be inspected and limited to three packages or items, such as footlockers, per visit. You are also required to have a military ID card for the transaction. Civilians are required to have two forms of identification to conduct postal transactions.

Items that are forbidden to be shipped include weapons items, drugs, alcohol, and perishable material. For a complete list of items, consult CENTCOM AR 25-200 or HRSC Policy 07-26.

The hours at the Post Office are 0800 to 1730 daily.

## **Finance**

The times and location for Union III finance operations are Bldg. 6, Rooms 1-4A and 1-4B, from 0900 to 1600, Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Finance operations include check cashing, Eagle Cash Card transactions, military pay issues, collection and review of travel vouchers and other military pay-related documents, and more.

Eagle Cash Card (ECC) applications are available. The service member must provide a current bank statement or LES to verify bank routing and account numbers. As a reminder, you can load up to \$350 per day to your card. You can get cash back up to \$200 per month. Checks can also be cashed for up to \$200 per month.

For more information, call Sgt. Genea L. Michael at DSN 318 239-8570/8571 or send e-mail [genea.michael@iraq.centcom.mil](mailto:genea.michael@iraq.centcom.mil)

## **Gym/MWR**

The Union III Gym is located in Bldg. 5 and is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

The MWR facility, adjacent to the gym, offers a large-screen television, DVDs, books, board games, Xbox and other fun activities. The MWR facility is also open 24/7.

The gym/MWR facility host several weekly events, including Karaoke Night Sundays at 1900, Movie Night Saturdays at 2000, ping-pong and pool tournaments Thursdays at 1930, ab workout classes Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 2000 to 2100, and Texas Hold-Em Tuesdays,

Fridays and Saturdays from 2000 to 2300. Times and events are subject to change.

## **Common Access Cards**

The IZ Common Access Card (CAC) office is open in Bldg. 1, Room 107, Monday through Saturday from 0830 to 1800. For questions, call DSN 318 239-0641 or 703 270-0641 or e-mail [jasgchrn@iraq.centcom.mil](mailto:jasgchrn@iraq.centcom.mil)

## **Laundry Service**

Since dirty laundry is serious business, the FOB has a seven-day-a-week laundry service that at a maximum takes three days to complete. Individuals using the service can only have 20 pieces of laundry in each bag. Blankets and comforters must be separated from clothing or uniform items. The hours of operation are 0700 to 2000 daily.

## **Medical Treatment**

The Union III Troop Medical Clinic, located behind the Mayor's Cell in Bldg. 1, is open for routine health care needs. Sick-call hours for walk-ins are Monday through Friday from 0800 to 1100 and 1300 to 1500, and Saturdays from 0800 to 1100. The clinic is closed on Sundays.

Those eligible for care include active-duty U.S. and Coalition Forces, retired U.S. military and Department of Defense federal government employees.

Routine immunizations and Post Deployment Health Assessments are available for individuals during sick call hours. For groups of 10 or more call 239-0680 to schedule.

# DPW DEMOLITION

The Directorate of Public Works supervises demolition of villas along the Tigris River. For more photos and complete story, see next month's *In The Zone*.

