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## IA, U.S. Soldiers on road to brighter future



Photo by 1st Lt. Jason Frisco

Soldiers with 2nd Battalion, 41st Iraqi Army Brigade, and 5th Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division repair Route Phoenix, a damaged roadway traveled by Coalition forces and the local Iraqi populace, recently.

1ST LT. JASON FRISCO  
4TH BCT, 1ST CAV. DIV.



FOB HUNTER – Outfitted with 1,000 sandbags, 4-by-4 pieces of lumber and plywood, a group of motivated Soldiers repaired a section of a main road here recently.

The 41st Iraqi Army Brigade and members of 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division ‘Black Dragons’ refurbished the road, which is referred to

as Route Phoenix.

Route Phoenix is a gateway for units to travel safely. It also has a drain pipe to irrigate crops in the area from a nearby river.

Soldiers have been establishing security check points around the area due to the increased road traffic and bad weather.

“Soldiers just keep working and working,” said Zae’d Shaker, an Iraqi Soldier with the road crew. “At first I didn’t think this would work, but now

that we are finished, I think that the repair will hold up.”

After the roadwork was complete, repairs were inspected to test the road’s ability to withstand traffic from local villagers and Coalition forces.

“We know this is just a temporary fix until a more suitable solution can be found,” said Sgt. Timothy Connolly, a Black Dragon Soldier from Wheaton, Ill.

“But we need to make sure we can get to our areas of operation safely.”



# Long Knives receive Purple Heart in Iraq

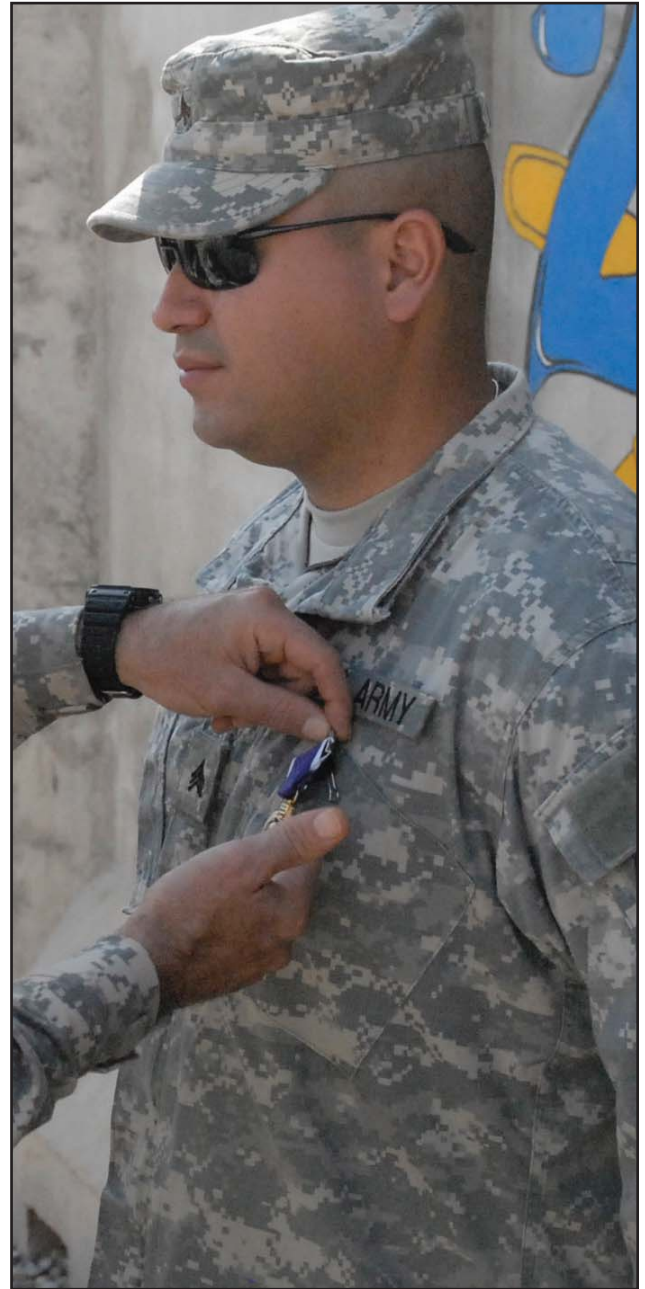


Photo by Spc. Terence Ewings

Col. Philip Battaglia, Commander of the 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, awards the Purple Heart to Pfc. Cowan Bruss (Above), and Sgt. Ramiro McDaniel (Right), Soldiers assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 7th Cavalry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, on Forward Operating Base Garry Owen, Iraq recently.

## THE Mountain View

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Task Force 449



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# And they're off...

SPC. DARRYL MONTGOMERY  
MND-S



COB BASRA – Six camels lined up at the starting block ready for a race organized by British military personnel at Contingency Operating Base Basra recently.

As the derby began, teams cheered and shouted as loud as they could for their camels, trying to urge them on. “Go Chuck, go!” shouted one team, sitting nervously on the edge of their seats.

It was neck and neck for some camels, as others remained in the starting block.

The race dwindled to two teams; one made up of British officers and the other of American enlisted personnel, and was settled by just a few feet. With a last-gasp effort, the American team's camel, Chuck Norris, made a sprint to the finish line to win the race in dramatic fashion.

There was no prize for the winning animal, however, as this “race” didn't involve actual camels.

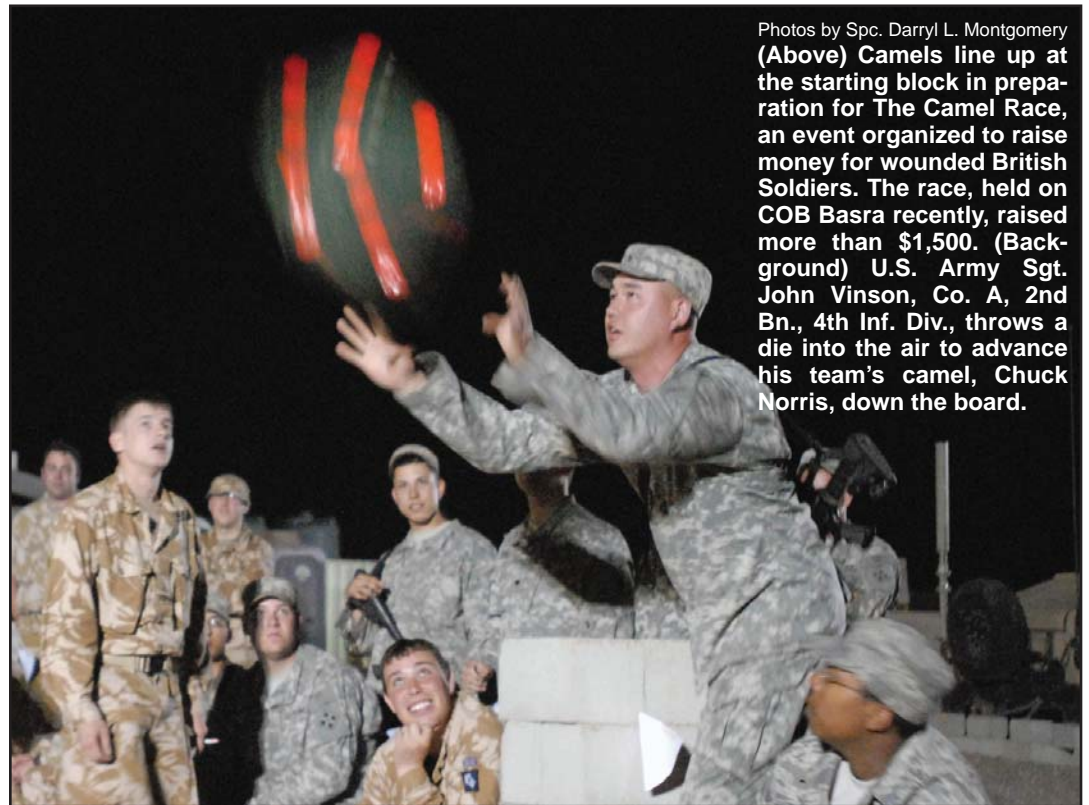
The event, organized by British forces to raise money for wounded British Soldier charities such as the British Royal Legion and Benevolent Funds, took place on a large playing surface resembling a board game. The camel pieces stood knee-high and the die was as big as a basketball. Teams bid to roll a die and move their camels down the board. The first to

the finish line won.

Although many U.S. personnel showed up expecting an actual race, they said they had a good time.

“I was expecting real camels,” said Sgt. John Vinson of A Company, 4th Infantry Division, 2nd Battalion. “But once I thought about it, it made sense why there weren't real animals.”

According to British Cpl. Dean Weatherby, 5th Rifles, Delta Company, Regiment Signals Detachment commander, more than \$1,500 was raised at this event, twice as much as the first race held in February.



Photos by Spc. Darryl L. Montgomery  
(Above) Camels line up at the starting block in preparation for The Camel Race, an event organized to raise money for wounded British Soldiers. The race, held on COB Basra recently, raised more than \$1,500. (Background) U.S. Army Sgt. John Vinson, Co. A, 2nd Bn., 4th Inf. Div., throws a die into the air to advance his team's camel, Chuck Norris, down the board.

***What topics would you like to see the CG post on the blog for discussion?***

To let the CG and others know, go to the Mountain Sound Off Blog at

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# Headline Round-up

## World News:

SAN'A, Yemen - A Yemeni security official said on April 27 that coast guard forces had freed a hijacked Yemeni oil tanker and arrested 11 pirates. The official said on April 27 that the coast guard exchanged gunfire with the pirates and took control of the oil tanker Qana. The vessel was hijacked April 26 while heading between two southern Yemeni ports. The official spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak to the press. Mohammed Abdul-Rahman, the head of the company that owns the ship, says the tanker was among four other vessels being escorted by a Yemeni coast guard boat. The three other vessels escaped the attack.

## U.S. News:

ELDON, Iowa - As of April 27, gay couples will be allowed to marry in places like this small town that once served as the background for Grant Wood's "American Gothic," the painter's famous depiction of stern, traditional Midwesterners. Many people, even some who live here, cannot mesh their plain-Jane image of Iowa, a state that sits so sturdily in the middle, with the front lines of the same-sex marriage debate. "To be honest, I would rather not have it in Iowa," said Shirley Cox, who has spent most of her 84 years in this old railroad town. Ms. Cox said she had always been proud to tell people what state she was from, but now was not so sure.

## Entertainment News:

LOS ANGELES (AP) -- Beatrice Arthur, the tall, deep-voiced actress whose razor-sharp delivery of comedy lines made her a TV star in the hit shows "Maude" and "The Golden Girls" and who won a Tony Award for the musical "Mame," died April 25. She was 86. Arthur died peacefully at her Los Angeles home with her family at her side, family spokesman Dan Watt said. She had cancer, Watt said, declining to give further details. "She was a brilliant and witty woman," said Watt, who was Arthur's personal assistant for six years. "Bea will always have a special place in my heart." Arthur first appeared in the landmark comedy series "All in the Family" as Edith Bunker's loudly outspoken, liberal cousin, Maude Finley. She proved a perfect foil for blue-collar bigot Archie Bunker (Carroll O'Connor), and their blistering exchanges were so entertaining that producer Norman Lear fashioned Arthur's own series.

## Quote of the Day

*"It is not easy to see how the more extreme forms of nationalism can long survive when men have seen the Earth in its true perspective as a single small globe against the stars." – Arthur C. Clarke*

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For the answer to today's puzzle, go to:



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Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saint @ 2 p.m.  
General Protestant @ 6:30 p.m.

### DFAC 3 Worship

Sunday  
Gospel Worship @ 2 p.m.

### DFAC 4 Worship

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Holy communion, Protestant (UK) @ 11:30 a.m.  
Roman Catholic Mass, UK led @ 8:30 p.m.

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