



# The Mountain View

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May 11, 2009

## MND-S hosts open house for local VIPs



Maj. Gen. Michael L. Oates, Commanding General, 10th Mtn. Div., talks with local Basrawis during an open house at COB Basra, May 9.

Photo by Pfc. Tyler Maulding

1ST SGT. LARRY MEARS  
PFC. TYLER MAULDING  
MND-S



COB BASRA – Local Basrawi politicians, business and religious leaders, educators and Iraqi military representatives visited the base here May 9 for a luncheon and tour of the new Multi-National Division-South headquarters.

Though the base is undergoing many enhancements, the most notable improvement may be the relationships between the Iraqi citizens and Coalition forces. Before breaking bread together, Basrawi VIPs mingled with the top brass of the outgoing 10th Mountain Division and the incoming 34th Infantry Division.

Since Operation Iraqi Freedom began in 2003, United Kingdom forces have maintained a large presence in the southern province of Basra. Many Iraqis from the south have grown accustomed to UK troops but have had little exposure to the United States military.

This open house allowed U.S. military leaders to introduce themselves to the local Basra community leaders, with whom they hope to develop a partnership.

“I am very optimistic about the U.S. presence here. I look forward to seeing improvements in security,” said Kadhum Anazun, known as Shaykh of the Marshes. “We have seen the U.S. forces make a lot of changes in other areas and we look forward to seeing those changes happen here.”

The focus of the Coalition forces has changed from kinetic operations to a training and advisory partnership with the Iraqi Army. All missions Coalition

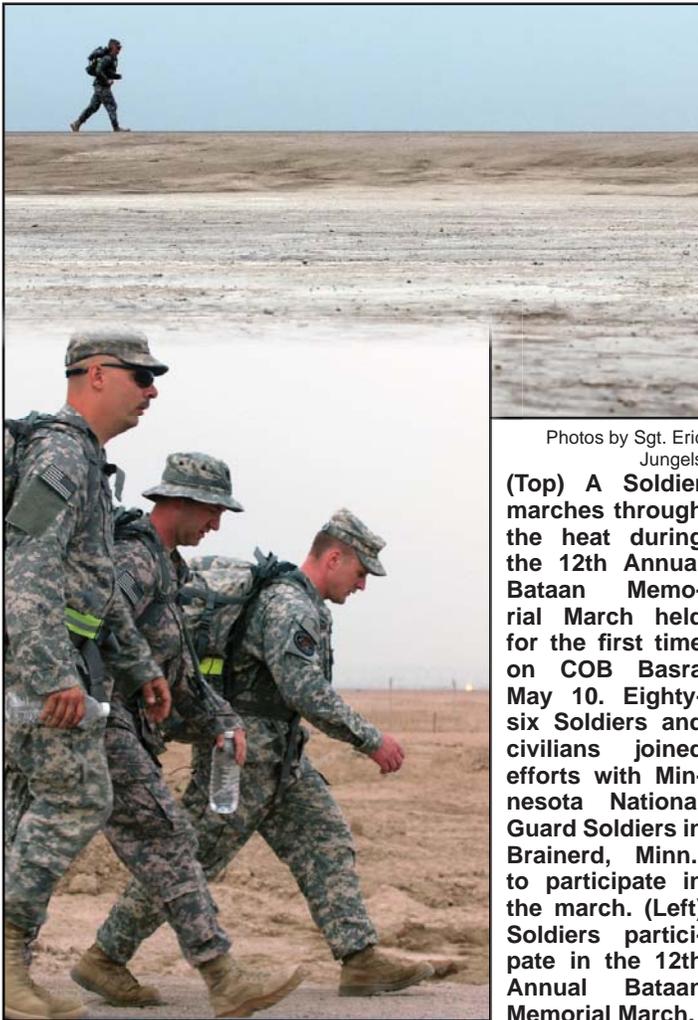
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# Soldiers, Civilians pay tribute to Bataan Death March

SPC. STEPHANIE CASSINOS  
MND-S



COB BASRA – Eighty-six Soldiers and civilians stationed here joined efforts with Minnesota National Guard Soldiers



Photos by Sgt. Eric Jungels  
(Top) A Soldier marches through the heat during the 12th Annual Bataan Memorial March held for the first time on COB Basra May 10. Eighty-six Soldiers and civilians joined efforts with Minnesota National Guard Soldiers in Brainerd, Minn., to participate in the march. (Left) Soldiers participate in the 12th Annual Bataan Memorial March.

in Brainerd, Minn., to participate in the 12th Annual Bataan Memorial March May 10.

The Bataan Memorial March is an annual event to honor veterans who were victims of the original Bataan Death March, a war crime in which 78,000 individuals were forced to march over 55 miles from the Bataan Peninsula to be held as prisoners of war at Camp O'Donnell, following the surrender of Allied Forces in the Philippines in 1942.

Along the harsh journey, troops were beaten at random, denied food and water for days at a time and executed if they became weak and fell out of the march. As a result of the cruel treatment by the Japanese, who had not counted on transporting such a large number of POWs, nearly 20,000 individuals lost their lives.

The proud organizers of the event, the 1st Battalion, 194th Armor Regiment from Brainerd, Minn., hold a deep connection to the veterans of the Bataan Death March.

In 1941, Soldiers from the Brainerd Army National Guard's 194th Tank Battalion deployed to the Philippines and were attacked on the Bataan Peninsula by the Japanese.

Those heroes fought for five months in sustained combat and experienced first-hand the atrocities of the Bataan Death March.

Those who survived then suffered in POW camps for three years.

Soldiers from the 34th Red Bull Infantry Division and 10th Mountain Division stationed in here showed their respect to fallen heroes and surviving veterans of the Death March by competing in 10 and 20-mile races in both light and heavy divisions.

Maj. Thomas Sutton, 10th Mountain Division Soldier and winner of the 20-mile light division race, was one of the more than 80 Soldiers who marched on in the sand and sun to participate in the event.

"This was a great opportunity," said Sutton. "I just wanted to finish! But I went slow and kept a steady pace, and everything worked out."

Winners of the Bataan Memorial March, COB Basra are: Lt. Col. Christopher Tatarka, 20-mile Heavy Division; Maj. Thomas Sutton, 20-mile Light Division; Maj. Gerald Bohl, 10-mile Heavy Division; 1st Lt. Eric Lewanski and 1st Lt. Matthew Rose, 10-mile Light Division.

## THE Mountain View

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### Contributing Units

172nd Infantry Brigade Combat Team  
2nd BCT, 4th Infantry Division  
4th BCT, 1st Cavalry Division  
41st Fires Brigade  
343rd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment  
793rd Military Police Battalion  
Division Special Troops Battalion, 10th Mtn. Div.  
Task Force 449



# VIPs

From page 1

forces are involved in are at the invitation of the IA.

“We have seen a lot of improvement since the U.S. arrived, and we are looking forward to more,” said Dagher Al-Shabib, a local Parliament Counsel member, “The Iraqi Army has been improving step-by-step since 2003, but they still need more good training and equipment.”

In addition to security, infrastructure is a major concern for Basrawis.

“We are hopeful that the U.S. will help us reconstruct our infrastructure,” said Al-Shabib. “We have problems with our water and electricity.”

The 10th Mtn. Div. accepted responsibility for the Basra province following a ceremony held here 1 April when the 20th U.K. Brigade handed control over to division commander Maj. Gen. Michael L. Oates.

The 34th Red Bull Inf. Div. is scheduled to assume responsibility of the nine provinces in MND-S later this month.



Photo by Pfc. Tyler Maulding  
Maj. Gen. Richard C. Nash, Commanding General, 34th ID, talks with a local Basrawi during an open house at COB Basra, May 9. Local Basrawi politicians, business and religious leaders, educators and Iraqi military representatives visited the base here recently for a luncheon and tour of the new Multi-National Division-South headquarters. This open house allowed U.S. military leaders to introduce themselves to the local Basra community leaders, with whom they hope to develop a partnership. Many Iraqis from the south have grown accustomed to UK troops but have had little exposure to the United States military.

# COMING SOON

**THE RED BULL REPORT**  
 THE RED BULLS.ORG MULTI-NATIONAL DIVISION SOUTH  
 MND-SOUTH

**THE RED BULL REPORT**  
 34th Red Bull Infantry Division Public Affairs Office  
 Commanding General: Maj. Gen. Richard C. Nash  
 Command Sergeant Major: Command Sgt. Maj. Doug John

**THE RED BULL REPORT**  
 THE RED BULLS.ORG MULTI-NATIONAL DIVISION SOUTH  
 MND-SOUTH

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE RED BULLS  
 PUBLISHED WEEKDAYS BEGINNING MAY 21, 2009  
 AVAILABLE AT [WWW.THEREDBULLS.ORG](http://WWW.THEREDBULLS.ORG)

# Headline Round-up

## World News:

**CAMP LEATHERNECK, Afghanistan** - There are no plans to deploy U.S. ground troops to Pakistan, U.S. Defense Secretary Robert Gates said May 7, despite concerns over increasing violence between Pakistani troops and Taliban militants. Speaking to about 300 Marines at Camp Leatherneck in southern Afghanistan on May 7, Gates assured them that they wouldn't be fighting in the neighboring sovereign nation. Pakistan's military continued fighting Taliban guerrillas in the Swat Valley on May 7. On May 6, Pakistani President Asif Ali Zardari appealed to President Barack Obama for more help reversing the extension of Taliban-held territory to within 60 miles of the capital, Islamabad.

## Odd News:

**LOS ANGELES** - A man was charged May 5 with smuggling songbirds into the United States by hiding more than a dozen of them in an elaborate, custom-tailored pair of leggings during a flight from Vietnam to Los Angeles. Sony Dong, 46, was arrested at Los Angeles International Airport in March after an inspector spotted bird feathers and droppings on his socks and tail feathers peeking out from under his pants, prosecutors said. "He had fashioned these special cloth devices to hold the birds," said U.S. attorney spokesman Thom Mrozek. "They were secured by cloth wrappings and attached to his calves with buttons." Authorities later linked Dong's scheme to Duc Le, who was arrested after investigators searched his Orange County home and found 51 songbirds in an outdoor aviary. Both are charged with conspiracy in an eight-count federal indictment. The songbirds sell for \$10 to \$30 in Vietnam and are sold to collectors in the United States for about \$400, Mrozek said.

## Word Search

### Spring

- ALLERGIES
- APRIL
- BASEBALL
- BEES
- CROCUSES
- CYCLAMENS
- DAFFODILS
- DANDELIONS
- EASTER
- EQUINOX
- FLOWERS
- FROGS
- GOLF
- GRASS
- GREEN
- GROWTH
- IRISES
- LILIES
- MARCH
- MAY
- NEW LEAVES
- PLANTING
- RAIN
- RENEWAL
- ROBINS
- SEASON
- SNOWMELT
- SOFTBALL

- SPRING BREAK
- SPRING CLEANING
- TULIPS
- WARMER
- WET

T	L	E	M	W	O	N	S	S	S	A	R	G	L	A
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F	M	L	O	A	N	F	E	S	G	M	I	P	W	W
E	N	A	E	E	E	S	F	I	U	L	R	R	A	L
I	O	B	Q	R	A	L	E	O	E	C	S	A	B	E
R	S	T	U	B	E	S	C	D	D	F	O	S	W	A
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R	E	T	S	A	E	P	L	A	N	T	I	N	G	F

## AROUND THE COMMUNITY

### DFAC 1 Worship

Sunday  
 Roman Catholic Mass, UK  
 led @ 9:30 a.m.  
 General Protestant @ 11 a.m.  
 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

Monday - Saturday  
 Daily Mass @ 8 p.m.  
 Sunday  
 Protestant Contemporary  
 Worship @ 10 a.m.  
 Holy communion, Protestant  
 (UK) @ 11:30 a.m.  
 Roman Catholic Mass, UK  
 led @ 8:30 p.m.

### MWR Stage

May 16  
 Basra Idol @ 6 p.m. To  
 audition contact CW2  
 Meeks at 858-4526 or email  
 robert.l.meeks@iraq.centcom.  
 mil

### Barber Shop

Open: 9 a.m. - 8 p.m.

### Finance

Monday - Saturday  
 Open: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
 Sunday  
 Open: 9 a.m. - noon