



Volume II, Issue 1  
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*in the*  
**ZONE**

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3rd Platoon of Alpha Battery, 1st Battalion, 7th Field Artillery on their way to link up with Iraqi Army counterparts within the city of Baghdad. Alpha Battery was attached to 5th Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment until recently. They are currently reassigned to their organic battalion, 1-7 FA. U.S. Army photo by Capt. Mark Peek, 1st Bn., 7th FA Regt., 2nd HBCT, 1st Inf. Div.

## On the Cover:

Staff Sgt. Ben Stine, a range noncommissioned officer in charge for Forward Operating Base Prosperity, and soldiers from the 32nd Infantry Brigade Combat Team stand at ease while Col. Steven Bensend speaks to his troops at a patching ceremony held May 29 in front of FOB Prosperity's Al Salam palace. Photo by Capt. Joy LeMay

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**ZONE**



*Produced by the Joint Area  
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# From the Top

## JASG-C Commander

Soldiers of the JASG:

It's been a long journey, but we are not only finally here in Baghdad, but we've been hard at work in the IZ for more than a month since we parted company with the 50th BCT, which transferred this mission to us May 27.

First, I want to thank Col. Steve Ferrari and the men and women of the 50th BCT for their part in a seamless transition. New Jersey and Wisconsin soldiers worked hand-in-hand during our RIP to make sure no detail was missed, that no questions were unanswered, that this mission would continue without a misstep. That was accomplished with a spirit of cooperation and shared purpose between soldiers who had never worked together before, as they handed off jobs most soldiers had never held before. I hope the 50th BCT's soldiers are enjoying

time with their families and settling back into civilian life. They did a superb job as the JASG and they have my sincere gratitude.

For the 32nd Brigade, this journey began more than 18 months ago—in December 2007—when the brigade was formally alerted for a possible mobilization. There's been a lot of training accomplished between that day and our arrival here in the IZ. Training at armories all across Wisconsin, three weeks at Fort McCoy, three more weeks at Camp Blanding, nine weeks at Camp McGregor and a couple of weeks at Camp Buehring made the 32nd Infantry Brigade Combat Team the best prepared National Guard brigade the National Guard has ever seen. That's not just my opinion, it reflects what I've been hearing since this brigade arrived at Fort Bliss.

So now we put that training



Col. Steven Bensend  
Commander  
Joint Area Support Group—Central

and preparation to work. We are in Baghdad at a moment in time that may well tell Iraq, America and the world whether or not Iraq will be successful as a secure and stable nation poised for a prosperous future. I believe Iraq will be successful, and part of this success will be due to your efforts in the months ahead as we work together—with our Iraqi partners—to ensure a brighter future for this nation and its people.

Let's get to work.

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## JASG-C Command Sergeant Major

So here we are, the 32nd JASG in Baghdad—in the IZ!

This is what we trained hard for and now finally the mission is ours. The RIP/TOA is done and the soldiers of the 50th are home on leave drinking beer and getting ready to celebrate our Nation's birthday on the 4th of July. Next year at this time so will we, but now, it's time to carry on where the 50th left off. It's time to finish what others have started and bring this piece of the war to an end. It's time to return the IZ to the Iraqis. These are momentous times to serve in a place with thousands of years of history. Be aware!

We are now setting our own

“Battle Rhythm” and, as always, I will remind each and every Red Arrow soldier of the 92 years of excellence and mission accomplishment that has come before us. Thousands of Red Arrow soldiers before us have given their lives over the years to bring us to this remarkable crossroads—one more chance to defend our own way of life and to offer a better way of life to an ancient culture. Stay focused!

This is a mission like no other, and it is worth 110 percent of your best effort. Whether this is your first tour or your last, this will be an experience you'll always remember. But never forget that



Command Sgt. Maj. Edgar J. Hansen  
Command Sergeant Major  
Joint Area Support Group—Central

outside these walls there are still those who would harm us. Be safe!

To all of our partners across the IZ, have a good 4th of July!

One team, one fight!

# Same mission, new faces

With the simple passage of unit colors from one officer to another on May 27, responsibility for one of the most complex pieces of real estate in the world was accepted by Col. Steven Bensed and the headquarters of the Wisconsin National Guard's 32nd Infantry Brigade Combat Team. The real estate is the International Zone, described as "a critical swath of urban terrain in the heart of Baghdad."

Bensed, commander of the 32nd "Red Arrow" Brigade, took command of the Joint Area Support Group – Central from the commander of the New Jersey Guard's 50th Brigade Combat Team, which had the mission since September 2008.

The formal transfer of authority ceremony was held in the gym of Building 5, the former Ba'ath Party headquarters on FOB Union III.

Maj. Gen. Guy Swan III, chief of staff for Multinational Force – Iraq, presided over the ceremony. He said the JASG's mission can be summed up in six words: "administer and secure the International Zone." Swan said the mission is "that simple and that difficult."

Swan told the assembled incoming and outgoing JASG troops that to truly appreciate the scope of the mission you need to understand that the IZ is no normal city. "It is a global community with an enormously complex administrative, diplomatic and security arrangement, full of high ranking civilian and military officials from the United States, Iraq and other countries," he said. "And doing it in a combat environment, under constant threat of attack, makes it exponentially even more difficult."

Wisconsin's 3,200 soldiers of the 32nd Brigade Combat Team are assigned to challenging missions throughout Iraq, from Umm Qasr in the far south, at several locations in and around Baghdad, and at other locations a bit north of Iraq's capital.

But it is the brigade's 140-soldier headquarters that drew the high-visibility International Zone mission.

"I have full confidence that the 32nd IBCT and the soldiers of the Red Arrow can accomplish this



mission," Bensed told his troops. "I see confident and mission-focused soldiers who are ready to do — with the spirit of Wisconsin — what they came to do," he said.

Bensed called this an important mission that won't be easy.

"But it will be rewarding," he predicted. "Red Arrow soldiers, you will make a difference."

As the 32nd Brigade stepped up to take over the JASG mission, the 50th Brigade Combat Team was all packed up for the trip back home to New Jersey. The 50th had a successful tour in the IZ, returned a number of significant IZ properties to Iraqi control, and was poised to get all of their soldiers home safely.

The Red Arrow Brigade has the same goals, and the next eight months to achieve them. ■

# Cheerio...



## *British role in IZ ends*



Lt. Gen. Frank Helmick, the commanding general of Multi-National Security Transition Command—Iraq, left, offers Brig. Gen. Mark Lacey, the deputy commander of MNSTC-I, right, an encased British flag as a parting gift at a ceremony held June 12 at Phoenix Base.

*Story and photo by Spc. Michelle Gonzalez  
JASG-C Public Affairs*

Nearly six years after the United Kingdom partnered with the United States to equip Iraq with the tools to establish stability. As the sun set over a courtyard on Phoenix Base, the two friendly nations gathered June 12 to recognize the ending of a chapter in Iraq's history.

At the ceremony — a symbolic farewell between colleagues — 22 key British service members in the Multi-National Security Transition Command—Iraq ended their mission in building Iraq's security forces.

It's a sad thing for the UK contingent to be leaving, said Lt. Gen. Frank Helmick, the commanding general of MNSTC-I. "But it's a good day to remember all the good things the UK contributed to the coalition since the very first day that we've been involved in this," he added.

Contributions to Iraq's increasing stability include training more than 22,000 policemen; helping Iraqis build an army of 14 divisions and training 20,000 Iraqi soldiers since 2004; and establishing a growing Iraqi navy.

Although building Iraq's sovereignty came at a price - 179 personnel lost; 315 wounded in action—the UK remained committed to founding Iraqi stability and military operational independence.

"The coalition's purpose in Iraq, MNSTC-I's whole *raison d'être* within that coalition mission, the UK's role within MNSTC-I, all has been directed to empowering Iraq, the Iraqi government, and the Iraqi people to recover and exercise full sovereignty in peace, stability, and increasing prosperity," said Christopher Prentice, the UK ambassador to Iraq.

The UK was a significant collaborator in the coalition's efforts and the possibility remains the UK will contribute on a smaller scale by training the Iraqi navy. However, now is the right time to move on and perform other missions throughout the world, according to British army Brig. Gen. Mark Lacey, the deputy commander of MNSTC-I.

A new chapter in Iraq's history began as the British flag was cased and the UK's mission ended. As dusk fell, many Iraqis, Helmick predicted, would sleep under a blanket of security and freedom provided in large measure by the best friend the United States has — the United Kingdom. ■



# A piercing patch

Twenty years ago, it was fairly rare to see a unit patch on the right sleeve of a Wisconsin Army National Guard soldier. Some Wisconsin Guard soldiers in those days wore combat patches from their Vietnam service. But they were few, and their ranks were thinning.

Then in 1991, new combat patches began appearing on the right sleeves of about 900 Wisconsin soldiers called up for Desert Storm. In the years following September 11, 2001, Wisconsin Guard troops mobilized to support military operations in Afghanistan and Iraq came home, in large numbers, with patches on their right sleeves.

Now, more than 140 soldiers of the 32nd Infantry Brigade Combat Team headquarters are sporting new combat patches. At a ceremony May 29 in the shadow of As-Salam Palace on FOB Prosperity, Col. Steve Bensend applied the distinctive “Red Arrow” patch of the 32nd Brigade on the right sleeves of 32nd BCT’s soldiers operating in the IZ as the Joint Area Support Group—Central.

Many of the soldiers in formation already wore combat patches: Red Arrows from previous deployments with 32nd Brigade elements, Screaming Eagle patches of the 101st Airborne, the Big Red One, the Rock of the Marne patch of the 3rd Infantry Division, 4th ID’s Ivy patch, the patch of the 10th Mountain Division and 1st AD’s “Old Ironsides,” among others. Both the Red Arrow’s patch—and its history—go back farther than six of these seven other Army divisions and their patches (the 1st Infantry Division is 40 days older than the 32nd).

Although some of these patches may be better known than the Red Arrow, none of them—not one—eclipses the Red Arrow for its history, its wartime accomplishments, or its legacy (see “Red Arrows never glance” on p. 8).

The patch, a vertical red arrow piercing a horizontal red line, was created to

recognize the 32nd Division’s World War I record of piercing every German line it faced. Earned for its combat record, the cost was 13,261 casualties. Two decades later the Red Arrow division fought and won the first U.S. offensive campaign, Buna, in the Southwest Pacific and went on to endure 654 days of World War II combat—more than any U.S. Army division in any war, before or since.

“We wear that same shoulder patch today and we wear it proudly,” Bensend told a statewide television



Photos by Capt. Joy LeMay



**Col. Steven Bensend, the Joint Area Support Group - Central commander, proudly applies a 32nd Red Arrow patch on Sgt. Mark Langner's right sleeve during a patching ceremony held May 29 at Forward Operating Base Prosperity. Langner is a project noncommissioned officer in the JASG-C's department of public works.**

audience at the 32nd Brigade's sendoff from Wisconsin in February.

At the Red Arrow patching ceremony in Baghdad, 32nd Brigade Command Sgt. Maj. Ed Hansen told the assembled JASG troops about the first of several combat patches he was awarded, more than 40 years earlier, when he served with the 101st Airborne Division in Vietnam. That patch came off, replaced at the end of May 2009 with the Red Arrow.

Some JASG soldiers put on the first combat patches in their lengthy military careers, others were early in their first enlistments. A few JASG troops aren't even in the Army, but they are wearing Red Arrow combat patches on uniforms of the U.S. Navy.

"Unlike most division or brigade shoulder patches, which represent the state they're from or represent something from within those geographical areas, ours represents what soldiers before us actually accomplished on the battlefield," Bensend noted during the sendoff.

The soldiers of today's 32nd are now writing the next chapter of that rich history. ■



**Sgt. Norm Walrath, a noncommissioned officer at the helpdesk at Forward Operating Base Prosperity, stands tall as Col. Steven Bensend places a Red Arrow patch on his right sleeve.**

# "Red Arrows never glance..."

## A brief history of the 32nd Infantry Brigade Combat Team

"Look out! Look out! Here comes the Thirty-Second," so begin lyrics penned in 1942 for the 32nd Division March. The words were written before the 32nd's World War II combat began in Buna, so they recount the division's World War I record 25 years earlier.

Look out! Look out!  
They led the way in France  
Red Arrows never glance  
Though hell burn in advance...

Organized in July 1917 from the National Guards of Wisconsin and Michigan, the 32nd Division fought in four World War I campaigns:

Alsace, Aisne-Marne, Oise-Aisne and Meuse-Argonne. The division earned its distinctive unit insignia — a vertical red arrow through a horizontal red bar — by piercing every enemy line it faced; and, from a French general, a *nom de guerre* for the ferocity of Red Arrow soldiers in battle: "*Les Terribles*."



Words to the 32nd Division march dwarf the division commander, Maj. Gen. Edwin Forrest Harding, at Camp Cable, Australia, just before Red Arrow troops went into battle at Buna in 1942.

The 32nd Division was mobilized again in October 1940, more than a year before the U.S. entered World War II. Some elements of the division were shipped



Soldiers from Co. G, 128th Infantry, 32nd Division, fire their rifles into a Japanese dugout on Jan. 3, 1943 near Buna.

to Europe, but most Red Arrow Division soldiers fought their way through the Southwest Pacific from Buna and western New Guinea...through Luzon...to the occupation of the home islands of Japan. Red Arrow soldiers suffered 7,268 casualties while logging 654 days of combat.

In two world wars, the 32nd Division often led the way:

- The first U.S. division on German soil in WWI: The 32nd Division.
- The first division to deploy as an entire unit from the United States in WWII: The 32nd Division.
- The first U.S. division to be shipped as a single convoy overseas in WWII: The 32nd Division.
- The first U.S. division airlifted into combat: The



Soldiers of Co. A, 127th Infantry cross a Japanese-built footbridge on Giruwa Island Jan. 22, 1943.



Thirty-second Division soldiers from a Michigan Regiment, the 125th Infantry, parade through Massevoux, Alsace, July 14, 1918.

32nd Division.

- The first U.S. forces to launch a ground assault on Japanese forces in WWII: The 32nd Division.
- The first U.S. Army occupation troops to land in Japan: The 32nd Division.

In October 1961, President John F. Kennedy needed to quickly expand the active duty U.S. Army during the Berlin Crisis and he called the 32nd Division to federal service. The division served until August 1962 at Fort Lewis, Wash., before returning to Wisconsin.

In 1967, the 32nd Division — by then made up entirely of Wisconsin units — was deactivated and reorganized as the 32nd Separate Infantry Brigade. Other reorganizations



"The orderly room" of Co. B, 107th Field Signal Battalion, near Montfaucon, France, on Oct. 22, 1918.

followed over the next four decades until the 32nd's organization in 2006 as an infantry brigade combat team.

Most units of the 32nd Brigade were called up individually or as battalions for operations in Iraq — and a few for Afghanistan — until the entire 32nd IBCT and all 3,300 of the brigade's soldiers were mobilized in February 2009 for Operation Iraqi Freedom. The brigade arrived in Iraq in May and is operating in seven locations in Iraq with about a half dozen different missions. ■



Life Magazine travelled to Reedsburg, Wis., to cover the 32nd Division's 1961 mobilization for the Berlin Crisis.

# Miles from a milestone

## Guard officer 'attends' daughter's graduation through cyberspace

*By Capt. Joy LeMay  
JASG-C Public Affairs*

Military service in a combat zone 6,294 miles from his home in Seymour, Wis., didn't keep Wisconsin National Guard Col. Martin Seifer from seeing his daughter graduate from her hometown high school June 1.

Thanks to a webcast arranged by Seifer's co-workers at Schneider National Inc., the proud dad watched his daughter, Kalyn, walk across the stage to receive her diploma from Seymour High School.

Throughout the graduation ceremony that began at 2 p.m.

in Wisconsin – but 10 p.m. in Baghdad – Seifer's gaze was fixed on a computer screen as he waited anxiously for his daughter's name to be called.

Finally, shortly after 11 p.m. in Baghdad, Kalyn Seifer's name was announced.

"There she is," Seifer exclaimed as he smiled and pointed at the screen, "There's my Kalyn."

After receiving her diploma, Kalyn made sure to stop and wave her diploma at the webcam, which delighted her father.

"All my girls are special, but she's my oldest, so this is very

special," Seifer said as he watched the ceremony at an Internet café at Forward Operating Base Prosperity in Baghdad.

"Before I left, the guys told me, 'don't worry about your daughter's graduation. We've got that covered for you,'" Seifer said. "We're so lucky to have e-mail, video, Skype... the fact that I can do something like this is pretty awesome."

Seifer is deployed with the 32nd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, where he is serving as director of installations for the Joint Area Support Group – Central in Baghdad's International Zone. ■



**Col. Martin Seifer, the director of installations for the Joint Area Support Group - Central, watches his daughter, Kaylin, walk across the stage to receive her High School diploma. Photo by Capt. Joy LeMay**



**Kalyn Seifer walks across the stage to receive her diploma from Seymore High School and shortly after stops to wave her diploma at a webcam set up for her father to watch the ceremony. Photo provided by Countryside Photographers**

# Military medicine on the move

## Health care changes in the IZ

By Maj. Kelli Metzger  
10th CSH Public Affairs

The location of U.S. military medicine provided by the 10th Combat Support Hospital in Baghdad will change over the next two months in preparation for the return of Ibn Sina Hospital to the Government of Iraq later this year.

Already, the 10th CSH has reduced the number of personnel at Ibn Sina, resulting in fewer specialty services offered. Urology services are no longer provided by the 10th CSH but are available at Joint Base Balad.

The next step in the transition is the closure of the outpatient clinic at Ibn Sina scheduled July 15. Beginning mid-July, outpatient services will be provided at the newly renovated



Maj. Kim Lairet and Maj. Augustus Brown perform surgery on a trauma patient. Photos by Maj. Kelli Metzger



Spc. Dawn Ioanis, a pharmacy technician, ensures the prescription is correct before dispensing medications to a patient.

Level II clinic at forward operating base Prosperity. The clinic, operated by the 421st Multi-Functional Medical Battalion, will provide medical and dental sick call; physical therapy; and limited pharmacy, radiology, and laboratory services.

Additional changes scheduled July 15 include audiology services moving to Phipps Troop Medical Clinic at Balad; optometry services moving to Witmer TMC on Camp Liberty; and dermatology services moving to Golby TMC on Victory Base Complex.

The third step in the transition is the closure of the ER and inpatient services at Ibn Sina scheduled Aug. 15. The 10th CSH will move

to a newly renovated 24-bed facility at Sather Air Base on VBC. The services available as of Aug. 15 at the Sather facility will include trauma, surgical, and inpatient hospitalization, in addition to

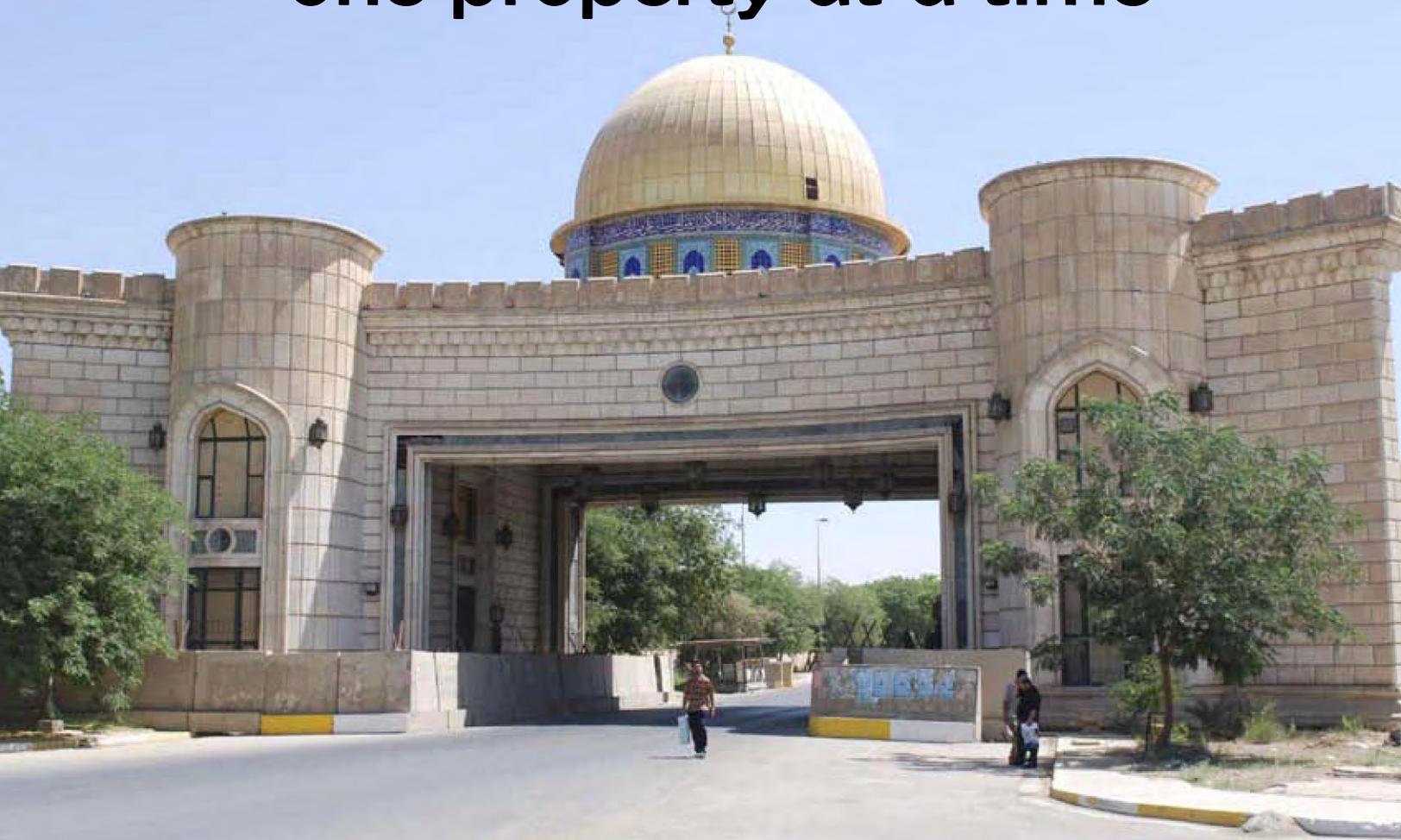
advanced laboratory, radiology, and pharmacy services.

Despite all these changes, the 10th CSH will continue to provide the quality health care that the U.S. and Coalition forces deserve. ■

**15 July-** Outpatient clinic closes at the hospital; FOB Prosperity clinic opens to provide Level II care within the IZ.

**15 August-** Ibn Sina hospital will close its doors in preparation for turn-over to the Government of Iraq. The new hospital is established at Sather air base on Victory Base Complex.

# Turning the IZ over to Iraq.. one property at a time



With little fanfare and barely a hint of pomp or ceremony, a small property in the International Zone was quietly transferred from the U.S. military to the government of Iraq June 1.

The Golden Dome gate and adjacent property, a 12,000 square meter area that had been used by U.S. contractors who provided linguist services from the site, had been under the control of U.S. forces since 2003. On this day, with two signatures affixed to a formal document, Iraq took back the property and the U.S. stepped away.

A small event, but another big milestone in the International Zone's transition — indeed, for the nation of Iraq's transition — to a stable, self-sufficient sovereign state in charge of its own destiny.

The Golden Dome is but one of many properties in the IZ returned to the government of Iraq over the past six months since the IZ was turned over to Iraqis



**Col. Martin Seifer, the JASG's director of installations and head of the IZ transition team, returns the Golden Dome to Mr. Sameer Al-Haddad, the Secretariat of the Committee for Receiving Real Properties and Camps Office of the Prime Minister, at an event held June 1. Photo by Capt. Joy LeMay**



Officers of the medical staff of Ibn Sina Hospital escort representatives of the Iraq Ministry of Health on a preliminary walk-through of the hospital June 9. Ibn Sina is scheduled to be returned to the government of Iraq later this year. Photo by Capt. Joy LeMay

Jan. 1, but many more properties — ranging from some barely a fraction of an acre in size to entire FOBs — will be transferred back before the year is over.

Turning over property isn't just a matter of handing over sets of keys. It's a complicated process involving title searches, property inventories and joint inspections, environmental assessments, finding new locations for the operations that will be displaced, and ensuring that adequate security measures are in place every step of the way.

Decisions must also be made about what goes and what stays.

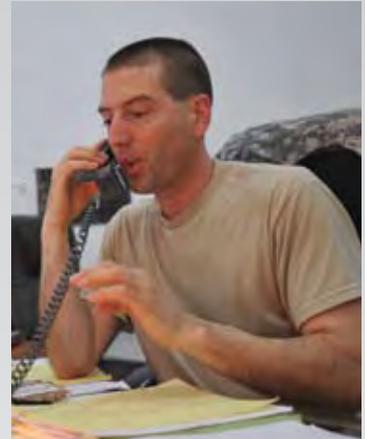
"For the most part, buildings, structures, all stay," said Col. Martin Seifer, the JASG's director of installations and head of the IZ transition team. "What goes is anything not fastened down: T-walls, freestanding generators, light standards for night lighting, stuff of that nature would all come back."

Seifer is a quartermaster officer and, like the rest of his team, didn't come to Iraq with any specific military training in real property management. Instead, he draws on his civilian experience as a project manager.

"I'm able to understand the sequence of events and how things need to happen. And if things don't happen according to the timeline you've laid out, how to adjust and still hit the end date that you want to hit," Seifer said.

He doesn't do this complicated work alone. The team includes Maj. Greg Schlub, officer in charge of real property; Sgt. 1st Class Travis Hayes, environmental NCO; and Sgt. 1st Class Chad Gapinski, in charge of GIS — geographic information systems.

Together they choreograph all the moving parts and pieces — physical security, force protection, moving tenants to other suitable locations, site preparation, coordination with the appropriate Iraqi government ministries



Maj. Greg Schlub

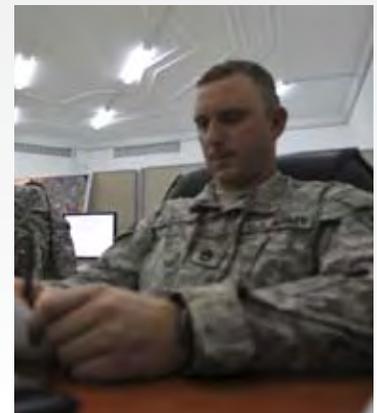
— until the time comes to complete the paperwork and sign the documents turning another property over to the government of Iraq.



Sgt. 1st Class Chad Gapinski

"It's kind of an intricate dance when you're dealing with the language, dealing with the culture," Seifer said.

Every piece of property returned to the Iraq government represents progress in the continued development of Iraq as a stable and self-sufficient sovereign nation. The 32nd Brigade soldiers of the JASG are at the very center of this effort.



Sgt. 1st Class Travis Hayes

"Our predecessors turned over 29 properties and we're going to turn over all the rest," Seifer said. ■

# Sunken Highway

## raises spirits

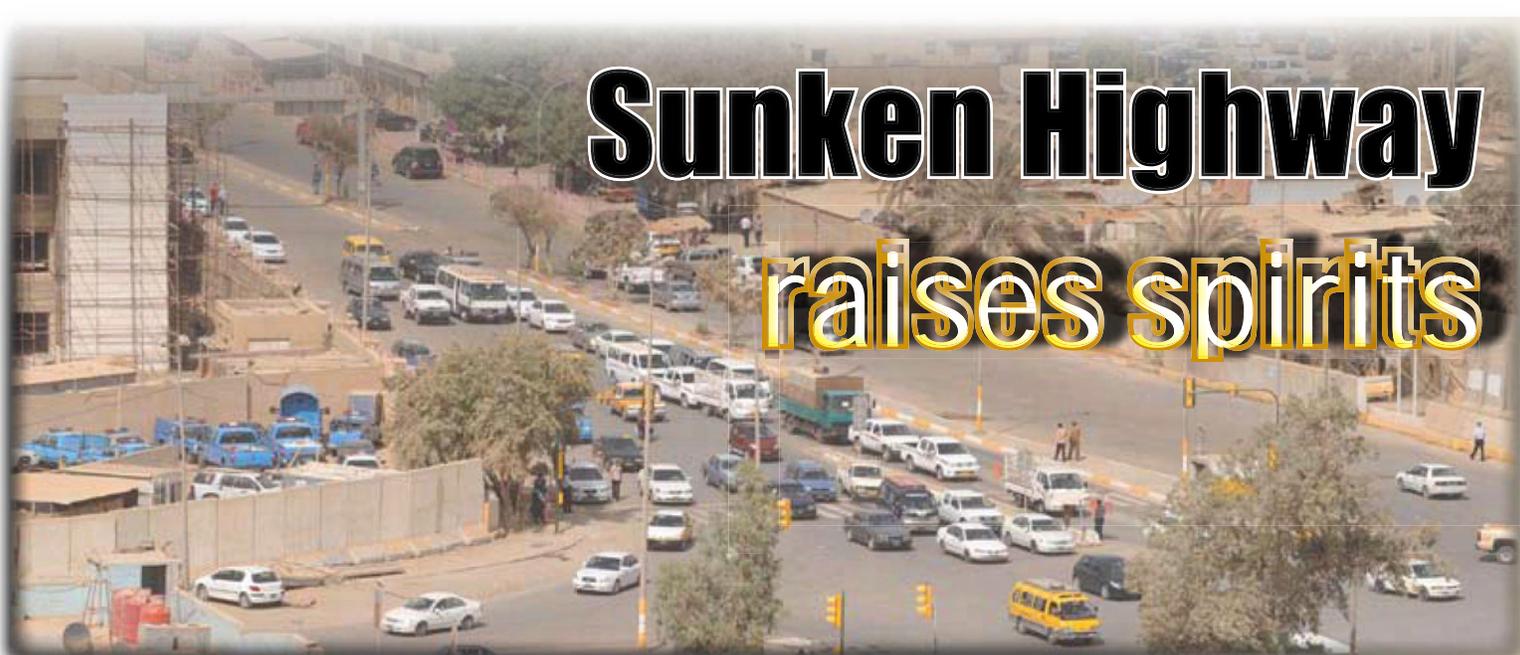


Photo by Spc. Tyler Lasure

By Spc. Tyler Lasure  
JASG-C Public Affairs

Commuting from one part of central Baghdad to the other used to be time consuming and unpleasant, but with the re-opening of Yaffa street, driving has become easier and drivers' spirits have risen.

"Get in your vehicle in the heat, which is 130 – 135 degrees out there, and you are stuck with your family in a car and you cannot run the air conditioning because it's hot and everything is overheated," recalled Jasin Alkrrafy, a Baghdad commuter. "But now it's very smooth and easy. You're just driving!"

Yafa Street, also known as the Sunken Highway, was re-opened to traffic for the first time since 2003 during a ribbon cutting ceremony June 20. A crowd of citizens, reporters, Iraqi Police, and U.S. and Iraqi military officials came to witness Gen. Faruq Muhamad Sadek al -A' Araji of the Iraqi Army cut the ribbon.

The re-opening was celebrated by many Iraqis. "When I found out about it . . . I had to take my family at night to enjoy it at night and calculate the distance and

time it would take us; it was fast and it was nice," said Alkrrafy. "It was one the best things done by coalition forces."

The opening of Yaffa Street is one part of reducing the coalition's footprint in Baghdad, said Maj. Michael Hanson, deputy director of plans, operations and security for the Joint Area Support Group – Central. It is a step in the right direction, according to Hanson.

Initial planning for the project began in 2007. Since then, the project underwent many changes—from a four-phase project scheduled to take several years to a one-phase project that took only three months. These changes made it necessary to have oversight from both Iraqi and coalition forces.

"The project

has had eyes on it from all levels, from both U.S. and Iraq, with superior cooperation," Hanson said.

The opening of this road is part of the ongoing process of returning the IZ to the Iraqi people. Hanson believes that this opening will also show Iraqis the coalition's intentions.

"In the end, Iraq, as a country, will be the winner," Hanson said. ■



Police vehicles drive past spectators and security details June 20 during the opening parade of the Sunken Highway. Photo by Spc. Michelle Gonzalez

# Live from Baghdad

By Sgt. Fernando M. Ochoa  
222nd Broadcast Operations Detachment

They wake us up in the mornings with laughter and trivia questions, they get us through the days with rock and country music, and they help us get through the nights with “G. I. Jordan.” They are members of the 222nd Broadcast Operations Detachment from Bell, Calif.

The 222nd BOD is the new crew at American Forces Network Iraq, which operates “Freedom Radio.” While their mission is to deliver the command message, they also help entertain the troops.

“I love knowing that somewhere a soldier is getting motivated,” said Spc. Karina Kabalan, also known as “Karina the Latina,” part of the morning team “Karina and Tobey” serving her second tour in Iraq. “If I can get their minds away from their hard daily tasks in the field, then I know I’m doing my job.”

Kabalan and Spc. Christopher Tobey start the day at 6 a.m. with “Iraqi Sunrise,” featuring celebrity news, sports updates, and trivia questions about Iraq. During “Iraqi Sunrise” Tobey tries to stump Kabalan and listeners with trivia about Iraq.

“I want to inform service members

about the country they work in, but mostly I want to trick Karina,” said Tobey, who is on his first deployment. “I’m having a blast. It’s great because we get to entertain the troops and have a good time doing it.

Broadcasting six days a week since 2003, AFN Iraq is the largest American radio station and communication medium in Iraq. The seven-soldier radio team operates the radio station from morning to night. Midmorning into the afternoon is a

mix of Top 40 and country with the “Mid-Day Music Maze,” with Sgt. Stan Maszczak. He also has a Christian music show on Sundays.

The daily broadcast ends with

80’s at 8 and Rhythm and Blues until 10 p.m., with “Hot Nights with G. I. Jordan,” hosted by Pfc. Jordan Maltezo.

Freedom Radio brings troops the feel of home.

“We have had good feedback from our audience,” said Staff Sgt. David Baez, noncommissioned officer in charge of broadcast radio. “We want to expand the station by building the listener base.”

This is Baez’s third deployment to



Sgt. Stan Maszczak and Pfc. Jordan Maltezo check e-mailed song requests made by listeners. Photo by Spc. Tyler Lasure

## 93.3/107.3 FM AFN-Iraq Freedom Radio

— Monday-Friday —

**6-10 a.m.**

The Iraqi Sunrise—with Karina the Latina & Tobey

**10-2 p.m.**

Mid-Day Music Maze—with Stan the Man Maszczak

**2-6 p.m.**

Afternoon Mix—with Mike on the Mic

**6-10 p.m.**

Hot Nights—with G.I. Jordan

— Saturday —

**1-4 p.m.**

Totally 80’s—with Crystal Cook

**4-7 p.m.**

Karina the Latina on Shuffle

**7-10 p.m.**

Saturday Night Rock Block—with Mike on the Mic

— Sunday —

**12-3 p.m.**

Getcha Mind Right: Music with a Message—with Stan the Man Maszczak & G.I. Jordan

**3-6 p.m.**

Tobey’s Time Warp—with Tobey

Iraq and he is honored that he was put in charge of the team.

The 222nd BOD is scheduled to be in country until 2010. The men and women of this unit are happy and ready to serve those who serve.

To make song requests send an email to: [freedomradio@iraq.centcom.mil](mailto:freedomradio@iraq.centcom.mil). ■

# Attempting the impossible

Chap. (Lt. Col.) Douglas H. Fleischfresser  
JASG-C Chaplain



As one pages through the Stars & Stripes, or if you happen to catch news being reported on the TV in the DFAC, you may wonder to yourself, “Are we attempting the impossible here in Iraq? Isn’t trying to bring peace to the Middle East like installing screen doors on submarines?” Almost every day rockets are flying or bombs are exploding and blood is being shed. Is there true hope that we can assist Iraq in building a peace between warring factions or come to embrace democracy? Are we attempting the impossible?

When they called on the “Red Arrow” they called on men and women who are proud to serve their country and serve one another. Even though

we may not be serving in our various military specialties, we are National Guard soldiers who can bend without breaking, adjust without compromising quality, and rise to any challenge. We will carry out our mission with the same expertise and passion that we have for one another. We are mentally strong, physically tough, emotionally prepared, and spiritually equipped.

There is history of a man named Daniel in this very land who attempted the impossible. Because he was faithful to his God, this man was trapped in a false accusation and thrown into a lion’s den. To his accusers’ dismay — and the King’s delight (King Darius who served here in Babylon) — Daniel survived the evening in the lion’s den without so much as a scratch. In the end, the King of Babylon praised Daniel’s God

by saying, “For He is the living God and He endures forever; His kingdom will not be destroyed, His dominion will never end. He rescues and He saves; He performs signs and wonders in heavens and on the earth” (Daniel 6:26-27).

For those who feel that we may be “attempting the impossible,” we are in good company — from a human standpoint and a spiritual standpoint. May we receive the strength we need — mentally, physically, spiritually and emotionally — for the tasks ahead and the journey we have undertaken.

We aren’t attempting the impossible, but we are attempting the exceedingly difficult — for the men and women serving in the JASG are more than equal to that daunting challenge.

PRO DEO ET PATRIA  
(For God & Country)

## JAG brief

# A primer on gifts

Maj. David E. Hickethier  
JASG-C Staff Judge Advocate



Public service is a public trust and, therefore, as a Service Member you are not allowed to solicit or accept gifts or other items of monetary value from any “prohibited source.” This includes any person seeking official action from, doing business with, or conducting activities regulated by the Department of Defense, or from anyone whose interests may be substantially affected by the performance or nonperformance of your duties.

The term “gift” includes any gratuity, favor, discount, entertainment, hospitality, loan, forbearance, or other item having monetary value.

There are a variety of exceptions

that may allow you to accept an otherwise prohibited gift, but remember, there is no blanket “deployment exception” to the rules. The most common exception allows you to accept a gift if it is under \$20. However, this limit applies on a per person, per occasion basis. In addition, you may not accept more than \$50 in gifts in any single calendar year from a source.

In certain cases, even if an exception appears to apply, it may be illegal to accept the gift. For example, you can never solicit or accept a gift in exchange for official action. You are also forbidden from accepting gifts from the same or different sources so frequently that a reasonable person would conclude that you are using public office for private gain.

Given the nature of our mission, you may be placed in the position of accepting an improper gift. If offered an improper gift, you should:

1. Decline the gift and diplomatically explain that rules prohibit you from accepting;
2. Return the gift; or
3. Pay the donor the market value of the gift.

There are additional rules about accepting gifts from foreign government officials. If you have any questions about gifts, ask your legal office or other ethics counselor for advice.

JASG Legal office:  
Maj. David Hickethier  
Maj. Christopher Hartley  
Capt. David James

# Camp Taji

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**Editor's note**

The Joint Area Support Group - Central is in the International Zone but 32 BCT troops also live and work outside the IZ. It is our intent to highlight a different camp or Forward Operating Base in each issue. This month we'll feature Camp Taji.

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*By Spc. Tyler Lasure  
JASG-C Public Affairs*

At a desert outpost about 20 miles north of Baghdad, three units of Wisconsin National Guardsmen hope something will grow in the barren environment – Iraq's future.

The units, Company A, 32nd Brigade Special Troops Battalion; the 108th Forward Support Company; and Battery A, 1st Battalion, 121st Field Artillery, assumed responsibility May 12 for several operations at the theater internment facility reconciliation center at Camp Taji.

The soldiers' 12-hour workdays include guarding detainees and making sure each one is treated with dignity and respect.

"If the detainees are happy then they are compliant," said Alpha 121's 1st Lt. Matthew Young, Sturtevant, Wis., a shift officer in charge at Taji. "If they are compliant everyone is safer."

Long workdays make personal time hard to find, but soldiers manage.

Some relax by talking with family and friends over the Internet. Soldiers can get Internet access in their containerized housing units, mobile home-sized structures that house two soldiers in each of the three separate rooms.



**Spc. Mick Jaynes, Company A, 32nd Brigade Special Troops Battalion, washes off an Iraqi tanker helmet he found while digging around one of the many scrapyards located at Camp Taji, Iraq. Photos by Spc. Michelle Gonzalez**



A scarpyard for broken-down howitzers lines a street at Camp Taji, Iraq. Scarpyards are found throughout the camp north of Baghdad.

“It is really nice to use the Internet, if I didn’t have that, it would be a lot tougher here,” said Sgt. Andrea Renkas, Little Chute, Wis., assigned to the guard force that runs day-to-day operations in the facility run by the 32nd BSTB.

Soldiers also use their free time to explore what Camp Taji has to offer, mainly shops run by local and foreign merchants. Camp Taji also has a main Post Exchange that carries everyday items soldiers need. Soldiers also can find time to stay in shape with a workout.

One soldier has a more unusual way of relaxing, digging around scarpyards close to his living area. Spc. Mick Jaynes, Cedarburg, Wis., found souvenirs to bring home – three tanker helmets abandoned in the back of a scrapped amphibious tractor. “When I saw these I was like ‘Oh, yeah!’” said the guard with the 32nd BSTB.

The helmets will be a physical reminder of time spent at Taji, but Jaynes and other soldiers at Taji hope to bring a less tangible souvenir home with them, too: the

knowledge that their mission here has helped Iraq become a better place.

“I think there is always going to be some apprehension in people’s minds about what is going on over here,” said Alpha Battery’s 1st Sgt. Bryan Debaets, McHenry, Ill.

“But they don’t understand the big picture; this is one piece of that big picture and this is part of the process of turning the country back over to the Government of Iraq, to make them a successful

country again.”

“It will let these people live the way they need to live, and not live in fear for their lives every day,” he predicted.

Even in the challenging environment of Camp Taji, hard work and the Wisconsin values these Guardsmen brought with them will help plant the seeds of a better future for Iraq. “It is an honor and a privilege to have such a professional unit,” said Capt. Dale Sack, Clarks Grove, Minn., commanding officer of Battery A. “Everyone is doing a great job.” ■



Soldiers move from surge housing into containerized housing units as they become available. Each CHU houses two soldiers per room.



Students learning how to salsa dance at Forward Operating Base Prosperity execute a basic turn 'by the numbers.' Photos by Spc. Michelle Gonzalez

# Movida Caliente

By Spc. Michelle Gonzalez  
JASG-C Public Affairs

It's 8 p.m. on a Friday at Forward Operating Base Prosperity, and like many people, you're trying to figure out what to do with your night.

You already hit the gym today, you're tired of reading, and you've watched enough movies for one week. So you ask yourself: What else is there to do here?

Like you, many individuals

living at Prosperity are unable to leave the FOB and ask themselves the same question.

Now, you have something to do. After a brief hiatus, salsa dancing returned to Prosperity about a month ago to offer residents an alternative to sitting in their room.

Residents can join a small but growing group learning to salsa dance.

"Salsa dance night gives service-members, civilian contractors and anyone else who has access to the

FOB a break from the monotony of closing yourself in the room after duty hours," said Sgt. 1st Class Carlos Cruz, the team noncommissioned officer in charge and communications chief with the National Police Sustainment Brigade Transition Team.

"The goal is to get people involved and increase the morale of everyone who attends whether you are a soldier, airman, an Iraqi national, a contractor, or a Triple Canopy or Department of Defense employee," Cruz added.

Each class starts with an hour-block of instruction followed by free-style dancing where students can try out their new dance steps or ask the instructor for more help.

"I promise if you're dedicated to coming to class, by the eighth week you'll be able to dance," said Leonard Dodd, the instructor for the class.

Dodd originally taught at FOB Blackhawk and agreed to teach the classes at Prosperity.

"You have to *feel* the music, feel the way your partner moves," Dodd explained to his students.

Salsa dancing — a Morale, Welfare and Recreation sponsored event open to beginner and experienced dancers — is held every Friday in the conference room of the Prosperity dining facility from 2000 to 2300. Salsa dance lessons are also offered at the Liberty pool from 2030 to 2300. ■



Leonard Dodd, the salsa dance instructor, leads a student in a turn while dancing salsa at the conference room in the dining facility of Forward Operating Base Prosperity. Salsa night is open to all levels of dancers and held every Friday from 2000 to 2300.

# Life on the FOBs

## **Common Access Cards**

The IZ Common Access Card (CAC) office is in Room 110 on the first floor of the Palace (Bldg. 100) at forward operating base Prosperity, Monday through Saturday from 0800 to 1700. For questions, call DSN 312-239-1765 or e-mail [jasg-chrn@iraq.centcom.mil](mailto:jasg-chrn@iraq.centcom.mil)

## **Post office**

Free mail, limited to 13 ounces, still exists for the letter home. If you are mailing pictures, a small souvenir in an envelope or packages, then you must go to the post office. Packages will be inspected and limited to three items per visit. A military ID card is required for the transaction. Civilians need two forms of identification to conduct postal transactions.

Items 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.

FOB Prosperity: Located at the west entrance of the Palace. The hours are 0900 to 1700 daily.

FOB Union III: A mailbox is located in front of Bldg. 6. The post office is located in Bldg. 5. The hours are 0800 to 1730 daily.

## **Laundry**

Since dirty laundry is serious business, the FOBs have 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.

FOB Prosperity: 0700 to 2000 daily

FOB Union III: 0700 to 1900 daily

FOB Blackhawk: 0700 to 1800 daily

## **Dining facility**

The Prosperity dining facility across from the Palace (Bldg. 100) offers four meals a day with Grab-n-go options between meal hours. Meal hours are:

Breakfast: 0600 to 0830

Grab-n-go: 0830 to 1100

Lunch: 1130 to 1330

Grab-n-go: 1330 to 1700

Dinner: 1730 to 2000

Grab-n-go: 2000 to 2230

Midnight Meal: 2230 to 0100

Grab-n-go: 0100 to 0530

The Union III 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

## **Medical Treatment**

Those eligible for care at Troop Medical Clinics 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 and immunizations call the TMC to schedule an appointment.

Prosperity's TMC is located in Bldg. 87, behind the fuel point. Tentative sick-call hours for walk-ins are Monday through Friday from 0800 to 1000 and 1300 to 1500, with medical staff present 24/7 in case of emergency. The clinic is closed on Saturdays and Sundays.

The Union III TMC relocated to the west side of Bldg. 5. Sick-call hours for walk-ins are Monday through Friday from 0800 to 1045 and 1300 to 1500, 0800 to 1045 Saturdays.

## **Finance**

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.

Prosperity finance operations are in Room 108 on the first floor of the Palace. Hours are from 0900 to 1600 Saturday through Thursday.

Union III finance operations are in Bldg. 6, A-Wing, room 2A from 0900 to 1600 Saturday through Thursday.

## **Gym/ MWR**

The Prosperity gym is located on the first floor of the Palace and is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

The MWR center, in rooms 122, 125 and 127, are also open 24/7 and offer a large-screen television, DVDs, books, boardgames, and other fun activities.

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

The MWR center, next to the gym, is also open 24/7 and offers a large-screen television, DVDs, books, boardgames, Xbox and other fun activities.

The Blackhawk gym is located in Bldg. 12 and is open 24 hours. Gym equipment will be moved out at the end of July.

Thank you for all  
your hard work. Thank  
you for giving us our  
freedom. I love it.  
Thank you so  
much.  
Julia Harrington

Thank  
you very very  
much!  
  
Maddy B.

Be safe!  
😊  
thank you for  
saveing our  
cuntry. you are  
nice. ~~without you we~~ **with you we**  
~~would lose.~~  
Benny