

in the **ZONE**



Vol. II, Issue 4
September 2009



—Table of Contents—

- 3 **From the Top**
- 5 **Farewell Baghdad E.R.**
Troops render a final salute to Ibn Sina Hospital
- 6 **Opening new doors**
NATO mission has new home
- 7 **Monday Morning Football**
Wisconsin troops cheer for the Packers
- 8 **Baghdad Yacht Club**
Soldiers take remote controlled boats for a spin
- 10 **A learning opportunity**
An Iraqi General shares personal insights with JASG troops
- 11 **A doctor treating different breeds**
Vet clinic keeps working dogs mission-ready
- 13 **The changing face of the IZ**
Turning FOB Blackhawk over to Iraq
- 14 **Chaplain's word**
New strength
- 15 **JAG brief**
Family support
- 16 **Outside the zone: Camp Bucca**
- 18 **Know where to go:**
Life on the FOBs
- 19 **Around the zone**
- 20 **End zone**
The last page



Sgt. Carl Seim retrieves his boat from one of Prosperity's lakes after competing against two other members of Prosperity's Baghdad Yacht Club. Photo by Spc. Tyler Lasure

On the Cover:

Color guard soldiers from the 10th Combat Support Hospital rehearse retreat for a ceremony held Sept. 3 marking the end of U.S. forces providing medical services at Ibn Sina Hospital. Photo by Sgt. Michelle Gonzalez

in the
ZONE



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

JASG-C Commander:

Col. Steven Benseid

JASG-C CSM:

Command Sgt. Maj. Edgar Hansen

JASG-C Public Affairs Officer:

Lt. Col. Tim Donovan

In The Zone editor:

Sgt. Michelle Gonzalez

JASG-C Public Affairs Staff:

Capt. Joy LeMay

Sgt. Frank Merola

Spc. Tyler Lasure

In The Zone is published monthly as an electronic news magazine under provisions of AR 360-1, para 3-6 by the Command Directorate's (JASG-C) Command for all military personnel serving in the Operation Iraqi Freedom International Zone. The views and opinions expressed herein are not necessarily those of the Department of Defense, the U.S. Army, Air Force, Navy or the Marine Corps, or the National Guard Bureau.

From the Top

JASG-C Commander

Over the past few months, I have confirmed that change is constant in the IZ. Each new day brings with it changes and challenges. I expect that trend will continue through my tenure here.

It is crucial that each of us embrace change and support the strategic objectives of our Commander in Chief. We must continue to support efforts working toward a stable and functioning Iraqi government that is able to provide security, economic opportunity and freedom for the people of Iraq.

Our Iraqi partners continue to increase their ownership of the security of Iraq. Timelines are in place to support the transition of U.S. forces and reduce the U.S. footprint.

As easy as that sounds, it is a most difficult task. It takes cooperation and teamwork at every level. It involves give and take between commands and directorates. It takes comprehensive planning, leadership and initiative.

Our part in the transition is to consolidate the U.S. footprint in the IZ. We began this process in earnest on 1 January following the signing of the Security Agreement. Since that date, JASG-C turned over several properties to the Government of Iraq receiver-ship directorate and several

more are scheduled in the coming weeks and months. In order to turn properties over, we must either consolidate or reduce operations.

On Sept. 30, we turned over FOB Blackhawk to the GOI and on Oct. 1 we will turn over Ibn Sina Hospital. The level III hospital that resided at Ibn Sina has relocated to VBC without a reduction in medical support provided. A level II facility is located at FOB Prosperity to handle all immediate medical needs.

FOB Blackhawk operations have also transitioned to other properties. We will maintain the current conference center on Blackhawk until a new facility is prepared sometime in early 2010.

Security continues to be one of the JASG-C's primary missions. 1-7 Field Artillery Battalion recently conducted transfer of authority with the 93rd MP battalion from Fort Bliss, Texas.

I would like to thank Lt. Col. Bailes and the 1-7 FA Battalion for their hard work over the past several months and also welcome Lt. Col. Tom Byrd and the 93rd MP Battalion to the IZ. Conducting the IZ mission with the 93rd are the 551st MP Company, 571st MPs and the 301st Chemical Company.

Our security force soldiers



Col. Steven Bensend
Commander
Joint Area Support Group—Central

are vitally important to security operations. The 93rd MPs will continue to maintain soldiers on each entry control point to aid in issue resolution as convoys and personnel move in and out of the IZ.

The JASG-C Joint Defense Operations Center (JDOC) is the key contact location for any and every incident in the IZ. The JDOC has immediate contact with the 93rd MP Battalion, IZ police, KBR Fire, Embassy RSO, Triple Canopy, and the Iraqi 56th Brigade. In fact, most of these elements have representatives that sit in the operations center.

Please ensure all personnel have the JDOC contact information. The phone number for JASG-C JDOC battle captain is DSN 239-1915 and SVOIP 243-1391.

Thank you for your continued cooperation and effort to keep the IZ secure and take care of each other.

JASG-C Command Sergeant Major

Time continues to move on, the seasons are changing and fall is upon us. On the night of the 19th, we got our first rain since May and the trees on Prosperity and across the IZ are green again. Well, almost—it takes a long time to wash off five months of dust storms.

Another sign of autumn, if you run outside, the flies are enjoying the cooler weather too, along with harassing my morning runs. Flies are a sure sign fall is here. Next thing you know, it will be snowing—wait, not here—that will be back home in Wisconsin! However, it will get cold here and the nights will get below freezing. Do not ship all your cold weather gear home yet, you will need it.

I have been writing these pieces for the last four months and I always end each with “One team, one fight!” For me, these are not just words, but a way to soldier by. Over many years, I have seen the meaning evolve. While the team has become smaller in numbers, it has become more diverse and dynamic. We now use human assets from all services to accomplish the mission, truly, “One team, one fight.”

This has taken on enormous importance during this war and especially now working within a Joint Force here in the IZ. This month I would like to talk about how we got here and why it is a good thing!

In 1969 when I arrived in Vietnam, it was a much different Army than today. It was a newly integrated Army, but a draft Army similar to the one of World War II. There were few female soldiers in the Army or in any of the other services. During 1971 when I was serving in West Germany, Congress voted to end the draft and the Volunteer Army (VOLAR) came into

being a few years later. I received a desk, a lamp and a carpet, but the pay stayed the same. There were beer machines in the day room and four German Marks to the dollar. That was a long time ago.

During the early years of the all-volunteer force there was still limited opportunity for female soldiers. Over the next few years, the Army did a number of RIFs (reductions in force) and in 1976, while I was stationed in Korea, there began a large influx of female soldiers into the support battalions. The same trend continued when I returned to Fort Polk.

I left the active Army in 1980 and joined the Wisconsin National Guard in 1990. One of the first things I noticed after joining the Guard was the number of female officers and mid- to senior-grade NCOs. That trend has continued over the last 19 years. Women now make up 14 percent of the active Army, 19 percent of the National Guard, and about 20 percent across all services. I think those numbers will only rise over the coming years and I think if you look at key staff positions that percentage is much higher.

My point is the makeup of the Army and all services has changed dramatically over the last 40 years and now better reflects our nation; while not perfect, I think we have created opportunity for talented people. However, another essential change has also taken place since the Gulf War and that is joint operations.

While the makeup of the force is important, as important, is how we use it. With a smaller, smarter, better-educated and better-equipped force, it is imperative that we use it effectively, jointly. There is no



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

room for wasted effort. It is crucial that we bring the right people to the right mission, whether they are Army, Air Force, Navy or Marines, whether they are officer or NCO, whether they are men or women.

It is not just limited to our military services; civilians of the Department of State, the Department of Defense all play an integral part in accomplishing our mission. In addition, there are the civilian contractors all providing support.

So here we are in the IZ, the JASG-C consists of National Guard Soldiers, Airmen, Sailors and civilian enablers. We work closely with MNF-I, MNC-I, MNSTC-I, DOS, US Embassy Baghdad, DOD, contractors of all sorts, the list goes on, but the mission is the same, the transfer of the International Zone and all of Iraq back to the GOI. Moreover, the mission is getting done and it is getting done because we all are here with the same basic intent, to serve our nation, to defend it.

In closing, I ask, do not forget why we are here. We are not here to defend our turf, or an acronym that defines it, we are here to serve, to defend the nation as “one team, one fight!”

To all of our partners across the IZ, stay safe!

Farewell Baghdad E.R.

Troops render a final salute to Ibn Sina Hospital

By Sgt. Michelle Gonzalez

The hallways of Ibn Sina—once bustling with patients, doctors and nurses—now buzzed with service members carrying, pushing or pulling equipment carts.

Specialty medical services transitioned to other locations in Iraq over the past three months in preparation for the property's turnover Oct. 1.

The turnover took another step forward when service members from the 10th Combat Support Hospital stood in formation at Ibn Sina Hospital Sept. 3 for a ceremony symbolizing the end of U.S. forces providing medical services at the facility.

The retreat ceremony was the final chapter of the support hospital before transferring to Sather Air Base on Victory Base Complex.

"I have to admit there are a lot of memories here," said Col. Rafael De Jesus, commander for Medical Task Force 10.

The hospital opened its doors in 1964 to provide health care to the Iraqi people, regardless of financial status. When Saddam Hussein seized control of the hospital in 1974, Ibn Sina was transformed from a hospital for all to a medical facility for Saddam's family and Ba'ath party elite—until Coalition Forces took over in April 2003.

Over the course of six years, rotations of nurses and doctors from seven different combat support hospitals returned Ibn Sina to the high-quality medical care it was founded to provide by caring for U.S. and Coalition Forces, civilians, and enemy combatants.

"This place has symbolized hope, symbolized compassion and care by the providers. It's really the first step where our warriors start their healing," said De Jesus.

The facility will be turned over to Iraq's Ministry of Health—starting another chapter in Ibn Sina's history. ■



Soldiers from the 10th Combat Support Hospital render final honors during a retreat ceremony Sept. 3 marking the final chapter for the support hospital before transferring to Sather Air Base on Victory Base Complex. Photo by Sgt. Michelle Gonzalez



Abdul Razak Ra'ad Mutter al Jabouri learns how to walk with a prosthetic leg March 15, 2008. Abdul lost his right arm and leg when an improvised explosive device exploded Nov. 18, 2007. Courtesy photo 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division Public Affairs



Opening new doors

NATO mission has new home

NATO Training Mission—Iraq soldiers stand in formation in preparation for the opening ceremony of NTMI's new headquarters building located on FOB Union III. Photos by Sgt. Michelle Gonzalez

By Spc. Tyler Lasure

A small building in the International Zone has a big impact on NATO Training Mission—Iraq. The 13 country force now has a new home on Forward Operating Base Union III and has returned its former headquarters building to the government of Iraq.

“The significance of this opening is that the Iraqi government asked us to give the cultural center where we were previously located back to the people of Iraq,” said Adm. Mark Fitzgerald, the commander of Allied Joint Forces Command Naples. “We gladly agreed to that request because it showed an improvement in the security situation and another step in the progress of Iraq.”

NTMI is a non-combat force whose mission is to assist the government of Iraq in establishing an effective and enduring security sector. NTMI accomplishes this by training, advising, and mentoring Iraqi security and police forces.

“So you can see, while this building is relatively small, the impact has been rather large,” Fitzgerald said. “Whether it’s training the army, both the cadets and staff courses at Ar Rustamiyah, training the Iraqi National Police Force, and doing command and control training for the government, NATO’s impact and partnership with Iraq has been superb.”

“We are happy to be here.”

NTMI has been assisting the Iraqi government since 2004 and has trained more than 4,500 Iraqi security and police forces personnel.

NTMI opened its new headquarters building at a ceremony Sept. 13. ■



Adm. Mark Fitzgerald, commander of Allied Joint Forces Command Naples, addresses troops assigned to NATO Training Mission—Iraq during an opening ceremony held Sept. 13 at Forward Operating Base Union III. The ceremony marked the opening of NTMI's new headquarters building.



Monday Morning Football

Wisconsin troops cheer for the Packers

By Spc. Tyler Lasure

With 3,200-plus Wisconsin National Guard troops in Iraq, including approximately 140 in the JASG-C, there was a lot of interest here in the Green Bay Packers regular season opener against their rival the Chicago Bears. The trouble is, these cheeseheads are 6,282 miles and eight time zones away from the Frozen Tundra.

But in Baghdad, about 30 troops got up before dawn to watch the game, which was broadcast live on the Armed Forces Network beginning at 3:15 a.m. Baghdad time.

These soldiers tried to recreate the feel of a football Sunday in Wisconsin by having plenty of hot dogs and non-alcoholic beer on hand. Many soldiers also wore jerseys over their PT uniforms to show support for their favorite players. Not one Favre jersey was spotted.

The soldiers watched the game in the Garden State Cinema in Al Salam Palace, but the atmosphere was just as energetic as Lambeau Field in Green Bay.

“For about three hours we were



32nd Brigade soldiers celebrate a Packers touchdown from 6,282 miles away from Wisconsin. The season opener was broadcast Sept. 14 on the Armed Forces Network beginning at 3:15 a.m. Baghdad time. Photos by Spc. Tyler Lasure

somewhere else,” said Sgt. Dwayne Booth, a support operations clerk with the JASG-C.

The Packers defeated the Bears 21-15. Game day activities – not just for NFL games but also the MLB World Series, NCAA football and basketball, and the NFL playoffs – are scheduled for future games and all FOB Prosperity residents are welcome to attend.

If a unit wishes to schedule a specific event they should contact the MWR staff located in the Prosperity Gym to make arrangements. ■



Wisconsin soldiers gather at Prosperity's Garden State Cinema to watch the Green Bay Packers season opener against the Chicago Bears.

Baghdad Yacht Club

Soldiers take remote controlled boats for a spin

By Spc. Tyler Lasure

Boats skipping across the water and boat engines humming are unusual sights and sounds in the middle of a desert. But not at Forward Operating Base Prosperity in Baghdad.

Remote controlled boats can sometimes be seen racing around the pond behind the FOB Prosperity chapel. For three members of the Joint Area Support Group, finding their remote control sealegs is a great way to unwind and find camaraderie.

It all began when Sgt. Carl Seim, a chaplain's assistant with the JASG-C, received a remote controlled boat as a birthday present.

Seim told Lt. Col. Douglas Fleishfresser, Chaplain, JASG-C, about the gift, so the chaplain got one too. "I saw the water and thought it would be a great stress reliever," Fleishfresser said.

Fleishfresser and Seim recruited Chief Warrant Officer Craig Krenz,



Lt. Col. Douglas Fleishfresser (left), Sgt. Carl Seim (center), and Chief Warrant Officer Craig Krenz (right), hold up their remote controlled boats. The group gets together to relax by racing the boats on the pond behind Prosperity's Chapel. *Photos by Spc. Tyler Lasure*

who works in the JASG-C resource management section, into their boating club. The three desert sailors get together about every other week, depending on work schedules, to take their boats for a spin. With the temperatures dropping they may be out on the pond more often.

Seim said he enjoys the novelty of desert boating and the looks people give him when they see the boats on the pond. "You get your boat out there and you will see people on the other side of the pond scratching their heads going 'What the heck are these guys doing? We're out in the middle



Chief Warrant Officer Craig Krenz and Sgt. Carl Seim watch their boats zip along the pond on FOB Prosperity.

of a war zone and they're driving boats around on Saddam's pond!"

While the boating experience is relaxing, there is definitely competition between the mariners.

"My boat is still bigger than Seim's," Fleishfresser boasts.

"It's a fast boat; it might be smaller than Chappy's, but it's faster," Seim counters.

Many of the stories these desert sailors tell involve laughs and crashes. There is a saying among the remote-control captains, "There are two types of boaters: those that have crashed their boats, and those that will."

Fleishfresser, Krenz, and Seim



Chief Warrant Officer Craig Krenz inspects the bow of his boat after crashing against a wall during a race against members of the mini-yacht club.

hope to expand membership in their mini-yacht club. They advise doing research before making a purchase, since there are many types and styles. Boats cost between \$35 and \$400, Seim said.

Still, they hope to see new faces around the pond, and Seim wants a new challenger.

"If anybody thinks that they can beat me in the water, come and try it," Seim dares. ■

A learning opportunity

An Iraqi General shares personal insights with JASG troops

By Spc. Tyler Lasure

Members of the Joint Area Support Group—Central gained cultural insight from Iraqi Army Brig. Gen. Thamer Wazni during a presentation at Forward Operating Base Prosperity's Garden State Cinema Sept. 26.

The presentation, sponsored by the Morale, Welfare and Recreation committee, featured Wazni's personal insights on a wide range of topics including his involvement in Operation Desert Storm, the trade embargo placed on Iraq, what military life was like under Saddam Hussein's regime, and the future of Iraq after coalition forces withdraw.

Wazni was a fighter pilot and flight instructor under Saddam Hussein, and fought in the Iran–Iraq war and Operation Desert Storm. He is currently the director of planning and follow-through for the Iraqi military; his current duties include inspecting units throughout Iraq in support of the Office of General Military Inspection.

The event was coordinated by Master Sgt. Andrew Phelps, the noncommissioned officer in charge of accounting for the JASG-C Resource Management section. Phelps met Wazni by chance and the two began talking about their military experiences. The two were on opposite sides during Operation Desert Storm and found it interesting that they were now working toward a shared goal: a better future for Iraq.



Soldiers from the Joint Area Support Group listen to Brig. Gen. Thamer Wazni as he speaks about his experiences in the Iraqi military and the future of Iraq. Wazni, formerly a flight instructor and fighter pilot for the Iraqi Air Force, is the director of planning and follow-through for the Iraqi military. Photos by Spc. Tyler Lasure

Phelps saw an opportunity for an MWR event that focused on learning, rather than usual lighter fare.

Phelps's aim was to have an experienced and knowledgeable Iraqi speak candidly about current operations.

Phelps believes these discussions can help soldiers better understand the social and cultural climates in Iraq. He also sees this as a great



Brig. Gen. Thamer Wazni speaks about his 30 years in the Iraqi military. Wazni spoke at a presentation held by the Morale, Welfare and Recreation committee at the Garden State Cinema Sept. 26.

opportunity to learn.

"We do ourselves an injustice if we don't try to learn about the place we're at," Phelps said.

Phelps and the MWR committee hope to have more speakers in the future and that more soldiers will benefit from Iraqi viewpoints many soldiers don't understand.

"I want to take more from this deployment than a paycheck, dust, and a thinner hairline," Phelps said. ■

A doctor treating different breeds

Vet clinic keeps working dogs mission-ready

By Spc. Tyler Lasure

Maj. Kathryn Belill inspects the stitches on a patient's stomach, rubbing his belly and reassuring him everything will be okay. She pats the patient on the head and says "Good boy."

It seems like unorthodox bedside manner for a doctor, but for Belill and other soldiers at the International Zone Veterinarian Clinic, it keeps their patients calm and happy.

The IZVC on Forward Operating Base Prosperity provides comprehensive care for approximately 400 working dogs in the IZ and outlying areas.

The clinic performs routine checkups, gives vaccinations, takes X-rays, and provides emergency care. All of these services contribute to the safety of soldiers in the IZ. They keep working dogs that sniff for explosives and other security risks mission-ready.

"Being here in Iraq our goal is to help the people of Iraq and the country," said Belill, the officer in charge of the clinic. "Working with the dogs and having so many in this area and seeing what they do (is satisfying). What the dogs do is



Maj. Kathryn Belill, the officer in charge of the IZ Veterinarian Clinic, inspects the stitches on Bady, a Department of State working dog, while his handler Mark Jones, keeps him calm. The IZVC is responsible for all working dogs on Forward Operating Base Prosperity as well as the outlying areas. *Photos by Spc. Tyler Lasure*



Maj. Kathryn Belill listens to the heartbeat of Kiki, a Department of State working dog, during a visit to the IZ Veterinarian Clinic. Belill and her staff are responsible for the comprehensive care of all U.S. working dogs in the area.

really important, whether their jobs is inspecting cars or sniffing bombs, it's all important."

For one veterinarian technician, it is also good to see the way humans react to their work.

"It's so rewarding seeing handlers when you do your job," said Pvt. Katrina Jenkins.

Belill also enjoys the effects her work has on the human handlers, "That is one thing people tend to forget, all of those animals are attached to a person," she said.

The clinic is not just responsible for the working dogs; soldiers there also inspect food shipments. The clinic's food inspectors ensure that all of the food received meets military standards and that it is stored properly. On average they inspect about \$1 million worth



James West, a dog handler with the Department of State, holds his partner Kiki during a checkup at the IZ Veterinarian Clinic.

of food at a time.

"It's rewarding to know that we are the first people to check the food before it gets on the soldiers' plates," said Spc. Robin Babakhani, a food inspector with the clinic. "If it weren't for us you all would be eating MREs."

No matter what these soldiers are doing they will work their tails off to provide residents of the IZ with two essentials of life, food and security.

"A common question I get from people is 'What would a vet possibly do in Iraq?'" Belill said. "We do a lot and what we do is important. You want to eat when you are on deployment, just supporting the dogs that add to the safety, vet services have an important role in the Army."

The changing face of the IZ

Turning FOB Blackhawk over to Iraq

By Capt. Joy LeMay

The face of the International Zone changed once again, after the U.S. military turned over 17.1 acres of property known as Forward Operating Base Blackhawk to the government of Iraq at a small informal ceremony Sept. 30.

The heart of the property is a six-story, steel and concrete, German-engineered structure, known as Believers Palace. The \$66 million structure was built to conceal Saddam Hussein's bunkers which extend to three-stories below. It was heavily damaged during the opening night of the U.S.-led offensive in March 2003.

Since then, the property housed U.S. military personnel and contractors. At one time, 700 personnel lived on the FOB. Beginning in July, residents transferred to other bases in the IZ in preparation for the Blackhawk turnover.

"This has been one of our most complicated turnovers to date," said Col. Martin Seifer, the JASG's director of installations and head of the IZ transition team. "One part of the FOB has already been turned over to an Iraq construction company, another part is going to be going to the Counter Terrorism Command, and a sliver of it is going to stay until spring."

The U.S. military plans to continue using



Iraqi soldiers witness Col. Martin Seifer, the JASG's director of installations and head of the IZ transition team, return Believer's Palace 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 Sept. 30. *Photos by Spc. Tyler Lasure*

the Blackhawk Conference Center until a new conference center is completed on Union III in early 2010.

Included in the property turnover was equipment valued at \$750,000, including containerized housing units, air conditioners, water pumps, and water tanks.

The FOB Blackhawk turnover to the government of Iraq is the 32nd property that the U.S. military has turned over since the Jan. 1 security agreement took effect. Ten more properties are scheduled to be turned over this year. ■

New strength

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



There are times when I feel like I am completely worn out and absolutely stressed. It's never from a single source or

cause, but rather from all of it!

I have tried things here in Iraq that I probably wouldn't have tried back home to compensate for the "battle rhythm." Last week we received in one of our care packages a bunch of small bottles of "5-hour energy." On the bottle it claimed, "Hours of energy now – No crash later", "Sugar free", "Only 4 calories", "Feel it in minutes" and finally "Lasts for hours". So I tried it.

What I received was not the results I was hoping for. I could barely drink the stuff, it left an awful after taste and the only rush I felt wasn't energy! I know the battle rhythm will slow and rest will come, but what until then? If an energy drink doesn't do it, what will renew my strength; physical, emotional, mental and spiritual?

I got my answer the next day after pushing my body to its limits in a workout. I had done so many push-ups and lifting that I strained my upper back and neck to the point that when I woke up the next day, I couldn't even turn my neck. I

had pushed myself so hard – I broke. I felt foolish because I could barely lift my head enough to see who was walking toward me.

I returned to my CHU that evening (Tuesday), feeling completely drained. And that's when it happened – when I was completely and utterly weakest – I found strength I needed. "But those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint" (Isaiah 40:31). I was so busy doing, I had forgotten the Lord's promise.

He desires to renew our strength and enable us to live the abundant life He provides for us, but we have to be willing to "wait". The problem is . . . we don't enjoy waiting. We are harried by all the commitments we make and the many responsibilities that call out to us. Let's be honest, many in our world, especially on the military side, are judged by what we can accomplish in a day. Who has time to "wait?"

Part of God's restorative process is to slow us down and make us listen to Him. As we wait on Him, God will remind us that we do need Him! We can try and deny it (that works for awhile), we can pretend we are strong on our

own (lasts for a little longer), but eventually we realize that making our lives more and more busy, and relying on oneself, isn't the answer!

When we slow down and seek our Designer's will, He restores our strength and allows us to understand how foolish our attempts at solving difficult problems can be, without His guidance and counsel.

God's promise to Isaiah is a promise to us as well. Waiting for God may mean we have to give up some of the activities we have allowed to overcome our lives. We may need in fact, to actually schedule time with God and just listen to Him speak to us in His Word – waiting in silence.

Waiting on the Lord means He has the opportunity to show us that when He calls us He gives us the tools to carry out our vocational calling as a soldier.

It doesn't matter if our job here in Iraq is: a TIF guard, in security, project management in



the IZ or on the FOB, overseeing movement of vehicles or air assets, overseeing all the soldiers in the brigade, your battalion or those in your section as NCO or OIC leader; making sure the pay is getting into the account, mail is getting through, providing badges or

placards for vehicles, Safety Officer or NCO, food delivery and consumption, or providing Religious Support. God promises He will provide the strength we need to carry out His calling in our life.

Don't forget the wonderful invitation we have been given:

"Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light" (Matthew 11:28-30)."

JAG brief

Family Support

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



The JASG-C Legal Office often receives inquiries about family and child support obligations. The Army's

policy and the responsibilities and procedures related to family and child support are set forth in AR 608-99.

Soldiers are required to provide adequate and continuous support to their family members. For most soldiers, this is not an issue. However, a soldier's support obligation can change and become more complicated in situations such as separation, divorce, or having a child outside of marriage.

In such situations, a state court may determine and order the financial support amount a soldier is required to pay for his/her family. Soldiers are also

required by regulation to pay court-ordered financial support. If no court order exists, the amount may be set in a written support agreement. If neither exists, the support amount is established by regulation.

Without a court order or written support agreement, AR 608-99 requires a soldier to pay support of an amount equal to his/her Basic Allowance for Housing at the non-locality rate (BAH II). This rate may be more or less than the BAH amount the soldier receives. In addition, whether a soldier actually receives BAH does not alter either the support amount or the soldier's support obligation.

Support amounts are subject to modification based on changes in circumstances. However, regulation and state law limit the factors that may be considered and the appropriate authority to modify the support amount a soldier pays.

Failing to financially support family members, to comply with orders for support, and/or falling into arrears subjects soldiers to possible punishment under the UCMJ, adverse administrative action, and/or other adverse action authorized by State and Federal law.

Family and child support matters are complicated and depend on the facts specific to each situation. Soldiers may contact a legal assistance attorney to discuss family support issues.

The Command Judge Advocate Web site contains family support reference materials: <https://mnfi.intranet.iraq.centcom.mil/sites/JASG/Command/CJA/default.aspx>.

JASG Legal office:

Maj. David E. Hickethier
Maj. Christopher Hartley
Capt. David James
Staff Sgt. David Sisco

Camp Bucca

Editor's note

This month, Outside the Zone takes you to Camp Bucca, 340 miles southeast of Baghdad, where Wisconsin Guardsmen transfer detainees from one base to another.

By Spc. Tyler Lasure

Moving several hundred detainees across Iraq is a daunting task, but for two Wisconsin Army National Guard companies it's just another day.

The two companies, Janesville's Company A, 132nd Brigade Support Battalion, and Fond du Lac's Company C, 2nd Battalion, 127th Infantry, stationed at Camp Bucca, in southern Iraq, are responsible for transferring detainees from Bucca to theater internment facilities further north. These movements are part of the consolidation of TIFs and the eventual turnover of operations to the government of Iraq. Once detainees are transferred they either continue serving their sentences or are released.

"It's basically transferring the detainees from one base to another, so it [reduces] the



Sgt. Joseph Vanbuskirk, a guard with Company A, 132nd Brigade Support Battalion, and a native of Glenbeulah, Wis., keeps an eye on detainees while they are prepared for transfer. Photos by Spc. Tyler Lasure

footprint in the southeastern area of Iraq," said Capt. Anthony Klemme, Green Bay, commander of Company C, 2-127 Infantry, and a truck commander on the transfer missions. "The number of detainees in Iraq has dropped from an all-time high in the 20,000 range down to less than 12,000."

The days are long and require a lot of work for both companies. Alpha 132 assists in out-processing detainees and getting them to the transport, while Charlie 127 provides security for convoys.

Starting early in the morning, troops from Alpha Company watch over the

detainees, making sure everything goes smoothly: processing paperwork, feeding detainees, escorting them to latrines, making sure they have plenty of water while they wait in the desert heat, and quelling any problems that may arise.

The soldiers make sure the detainees are under control and that they are treated with respect, said Staff Sgt. Anthony Masseur, Beloit. "They follow the three C's: care, custody, and control."

Charlie Company supports the mission after the detainees are finally loaded onto buses at the end of the day.

The desert sun is already setting when soldiers perform the last



Spc. Andrew Alexander, Fond du Lac, scans the roads from the gunner's turret of a Mine Resistant Ambush Protected vehicle.



Sgt. Brad Smith, Portage, supervises the movement of detainees at the theater internment facility on Camp Bucca. The detainees are transferred to other TIFs in Iraq where they will either continue serving their sentence or be released.

pre-combat checks on their Mine-Resistant Ambush-Protected vehicles. They shovel down a meal, load their weapons and roll out. It is going to be a long night, and everything needs to go right.

Charlie Company provides security for the convoy from Bucca to a military flight line. Attacks on the convoy aren't the only thing these soldiers need to prepare for; should a disturbance occur on a busload of detainees, the soldiers would be required to restore order.

The soldiers pull security until the plane reaches its destination safely. While they wait, soldiers stretch their legs, read, or take in the quiet of the desert night. This is an opportunity to get a little peace and quiet in a hectic environment.

As the sun rises over the desert the next morning, the soldiers return to camp and begin preparing for their next mission.

With the number of detainees held at Bucca dropping and transfers from Bucca happening often, these soldiers are essentially working themselves out of a job. Klemme sees other opportunities for his company after all the detainees are transferred, "I think

once we're done with this mission we will pick up other missions and help out with the other companies."

Handling and guarding detainees is an important mission. "It is a very high profile mission, you get all the glory when good things are said, but when we screw up its coming from high levels too," Klemme said.

As soldiers from these two Wisconsin units drive on with their mission they know they are helping the Iraqi people.

Spc. Andrew Alexander, Fond du Lac, a gunner on one of Charlie Company's MRAPs, is looking beyond his time here. "I find it rewarding that after we leave this country the people will have a sense of freedom." ■



Sgt. 1st Class Jason Janecek (left), Ashland, 1st Lt. Jacob Heinitz, West Allis (center), and Capt. Anthony Klemme (right), Green Bay, prepare for the convoy to the flight line. Company C, 2-127, is responsible for convoy security during the transfer of detainees from Camp Bucca.

Know where to go *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 FOB Prosperity, Monday through Saturday from 0800 to 1700. For questions, call DSN 312-239-1765 or e-mail: jasg-chrm@iraq.cent-com.mil

TMC

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.

Ortiz Consolidated Medical Clinic is located in Bldg. 87, behind the fuel point. Sick-call hours for walk-ins are Monday through Friday from 0800 to 1000 and 1300 to 1500. Medical staff is present 24/7 in case of emergency. The clinic is closed on Saturdays and Sundays. Services now available include primary care, dental, combat stress control, laboratory, radiology and pharmacy.

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.

Audiology services are now located at Phipps TMC in Balad; optometry and dermatology are located at Camp Liberty's Witmer TMC.

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

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.

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



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.

around the zone



Soldiers assigned to the Joint Area Support Group—Central qualify at Prosperity's shooting range during a Soldier of the Month board held Sept. 18. *Photo by Capt. Joy LeMay*



Air Force Maj. Frank Vassar receives an award from Air Force Maj. Gen. Joseph Reynes Jr. Sept. 24. The monthly Air Force award program identifies outstanding airmen and recognizes those who have made a significant impact to their unit of assignment. *Photo by Spc. Tyler Lasure*



Soldiers assigned to the 1-7 Field Artillery Battalion case the colors during a transfer of authority ceremony held Sept. 12. The 93rd MP Battalion from Fort Bliss, Texas replaced the 1-7 FA.



JASG-C soldiers explore Believer's Palace on FOB Blackhawk Sept. 15 before turning the property over to the government of Iraq Sept. 30. *Photo by Spc. Tyler Lasure*

Upcoming event

Oct. 10: Race for the Cure 5k run/walk. Registration begins at 5:30 a.m. in front of FOB Prosperity's Palace and the event begins at 6:00 a.m. The first 150 finishers receive a free T-shirt.



A view of FOB Prosperity at night.
Photo by Sgt. Michelle Gonzalez