

Engineers celebrate with Chief of Chaplains

By Staff Sgt. April Mota
16th Eng. Bde. UPAR

BAGHDAD – Chaplains and chaplain assistants from all over Victory Base Complex gathered together, Nov. 25, at the Joint Visitor Bureau Hotel, here, to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the chaplain assistant.

The official military occupation specialty of chaplain assistant was established under General Order 253 on Dec. 28, 1909, and read “One enlisted man will be detailed on special duty, by the commanding officer of any organization to which a chaplain is assigned for duty, for the purpose of assisting the chaplain in the performance of his official duties.”

The event guest list included Sgt. Maj. Tommy Marreo, Chief of Chaplains and Regimental Sergeant Major, and Maj. Gen. Douglas Carver, Army Chief of Chaplains. As the event’s guest speaker, Marreo spoke about the history of the position and his career as a chaplain assistant, beginning in 1984, emphasizing that the Unit Ministry Teams are an integral part to the Army.

“We are proud to serve the Soldiers,” said Marreo, “but in order to be an effective chaplain assistant you must be an effective Soldier first.”

Spc. Lisa Prochnow, of Hubbardston, Mass., and Sgt. Jeff Smithisler, of Cleveland, Ohio, both from the 16th Engineer Brigade, were two of

many chaplain assistants who attended the celebration. Prochnow has been serving as a chaplain assistant for eight years.

“With this job I’ve seen Soldiers come in completely broken only to see them walk out with a renewed hope. Just being able to have someone to talk to who will listen and sympathize and be able to see their circumstance through a different lens is a big relief to Soldiers,” said Prochnow.

Smithisler, who is on his first deployment, has been a chaplain assistant since 2004. He was inspired by his brother, who is also a chaplain assistant. He and his brother attended basic training together in 2004. His favorite part of the job is getting to care for

other Soldiers.

“I am thankful I am able to be there for Soldiers during their hardest times,” said Smithisler.

The role of the chaplain assistant is demanding but very rewarding. They must be trained in religious support for multiple faiths, help prepare services, provide security to the UMT, aid in crisis intervention, and display high moral character at all times.

Soldiers like Prochnow and Smithisler continue to travel around the world, lifting Soldiers’ morale by providing support to the Soldiers and their friends and family. We celebrate you, the chaplain assistant for 100 years of faithful service.



Photo by Staff Sgt. April Mota

While attending the 100 year celebration dinner for the chaplain assistants, Sgt. Jeff Smithisler, fills his plate at the buffet. Smithisler, a chaplain assistant to the 16th Engineer Brigade Chaplain, attended the celebration on Victory Base Complex, Nov. 25.



Photo by Staff Sgt. April Mota

Members of the Unit Ministry Team for the 16th Engineer Brigade and the 101st Eng. Battalion celebrate the 100 year anniversary of the chaplain assistant at the JVB Hotel on Victory Base Complex on Nov. 25. From left to right, Chaplain (Maj.) Ted McGovern, from Anchorage, Alaska, 16th Eng. Bde., Sgt. Jeff Smithisler, of Cleveland, Oh., 16th Eng. Bde., and Spc. Lisa Prochnow, of Hubbardston, Mass., 101st Eng. Bn.

Raider's celebrate Thanksgiving

Photos by Spc. Luisito Brooks

4th SBCT PAO, 2nd Inf. Div.



After nearly a week of getting his hands sticky and standing in a sub-zero freezer, Spc. Christian Colon, a Killeen, Texas native, puts on the finishing touches on a six foot tall Raider statue made of butter, Nov. 26, for display during the Thanksgiving Day meal at the Raider Inn dining facility on Camp Liberty.



Using a toothpick and a steady hand, Staff Sgt. Angelene Davis, a Kailua, Hawaii native, makes the feathers for a chocolate turkey, Nov. 26, for the Thanksgiving Day meal.

1st ACB Native American holds tradition dear

By Sgt. Alun Thomas
1st ACB, 1st Cav. Div.

CAMP TAJI, Iraq – The role of Native Americans in the annals of Army history is one characterized by courage and unwavering bravery in the face of conflict.

These attributes are recognized every November with the staging of Native American Heritage Month, which displays the spirit of the culture and their achievements.

This spirit also carries over to the 1st Air Cavalry Brigade in the form of Sgt. Amber Red Bear, a Native American who has lived and practiced the culture her whole life, both in and out of the Army.

From a young age, Red Bear, from Pine Ridge, S.D., said she was taught traditional Native American values by her father.

“My father instilled [the traditions] in me and each day he taught me something different, from cooking and sewing to music and dancing,” Red Bear, 29, said. “There was always a meaning behind everything he taught

me because it was a life lesson learned.”

Red Bear grew up on the Pine Ridge reservation as part of the Lakota Tribe and said her father encouraged her to participate in various Native American activities on their land.

“My dad would have me go to pow-wows and perform,” Red Bear said. “Sometimes I didn’t want to go ... I wanted to play with my friends instead.”

But her father insisted she attend, Red Bear said, attending her first pow-wow at the age of seven.

“At first I didn’t know what I was doing. You just get out there and do it,” Red Bear said. “It’s been 10 years since I did it and I miss it.”

As she got older Red Bear began to understand why her father wanted her to learn about their heritage, teaching her everything he knew about the Lakota Indians.

“It was all about instilling it in me. I learned from it and I’m still learning from it,” Red Bear said.

“I wish I was more fluent with [my native] language because it’s fading away and the new generation isn’t willing to learn.”

With the knowledge of her culture ingrained in her, Red Bear joined the Army, which she said she had always wanted to do.

“I knew I didn’t want to keep going to school, I wanted to do something else,” Red Bear said. “When I was 15, I knew I was going to join the military because I’m a competitive person and it was the right thing for me to do.”

Red Bear said being a full-blooded Native American has given her a unique position in the Army, something she relishes.

“You don’t see a lot of Native American’s in the military, so every day I’ll get the question, ‘Is that your real name?’ plus a lot of other simple questions,” she said. “I enjoy it because I stand out a lot and the attention is positive.”

“My father used to say, ‘your pride is what keeps you going, so don’t forget who you are,’” Red Bear added. “It makes me who I am.”

Red Bear said being inactive with her culture sometimes bothers her, due to the demands of the Army.

“I have a son and he always asks me questions and if I don’t have the answer I’ll ask my dad,” Red Bear explained. “He is at that age now where it’s all up to me to teach him what I was taught. But right now my father is giving him his training.”

Red Bear is on her fourth deployment, which makes the distance between herself and her eight-year-old son Adrian more difficult.

“I’ve spent 34 months in Iraq, so it is hard. I left my son when he was three and now he’s going to be nine,” Red Bear said. “I call him and let him know that I can’t guarantee if I’m going to come home or not, but I’m still here for him regardless.”

While in Iraq, Red Bear uses Native American Heritage Month as an opportunity chance to teach other Soldiers about her culture.

“In the military a lot of people have never seen a Native American ... so it’s good to feel pride talking about who you are,” she said. “Just the expression on people’s faces makes it worthwhile.”

“I get excited because I have that attention on me. I’m teaching people and I like it,” Red Bear said.

As for her distinctive name, Red Bear said it has no real meaning, despite being colorful and unique.

“My father told me that back in the day our name was totally different,” she said.

“It was a long name and somehow they shortened it down to Red Bear. Everyone sees the color in it, but mainly it’s self-explanatory.”

So was there ever a red bear in Native American mythology?

“Unfortunately not,” Red Bear said with a grin.



Photo by Sgt Alun Thomas

Sgt. Amber Red Bear, from Pine Ridge, S.D., a chemical equipment repairer in Company E, 1st Battalion, 227th Aviation Regiment, 1st Air Cavalry Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, speaks about her tribe, the Lakota Indians, at a Native American Heritage Month event, Nov. 27, at the Taji Ministry Center, here.

On This Day In History

November 28, 1994

Jeffrey Dahmer murdered in prison

Serial killer Jeffrey Dahmer, serving 15 consecutive life sentences for the brutal murders of 15 men, is beaten to death by a fellow inmate while performing cleaning duty in a bathroom at the Columbia Correctional Institute gymnasium in Portage, Wisconsin.

During a 13-year period, Dahmer, who lived primarily in the Midwest, murdered at least 17 men. Most of these men were young, gay African Americans who Dahmer lured back to his home, promising to pay them money to pose nude for photographs. Dahmer would then drug and strangle them to death, generally mutilating, and occasionally cannibalizing, their bodies. Dahmer was finally arrested on July 22, 1991, and entered a plea of guilty but insane in 15 of the 17 murders he confessed to committing. In February 1992, the jury found him sane in each murder, and he was sentenced to 15 consecutive life sentences.

Two years later, Dahmer was killed at the age of 34 by fellow inmate Christopher Scarver, who also fatally beat the third man on their work detail, inmate Jesse Anderson. Scarver's motive in killing the two men is not entirely clear; however, in his subsequent criminal trial he maintained that God told him to kill Dahmer and the other inmate. Scarver, already serving a life term for murder, was sentenced to additional life terms and transferred to a federal prison.

MND-B Pic of the day!

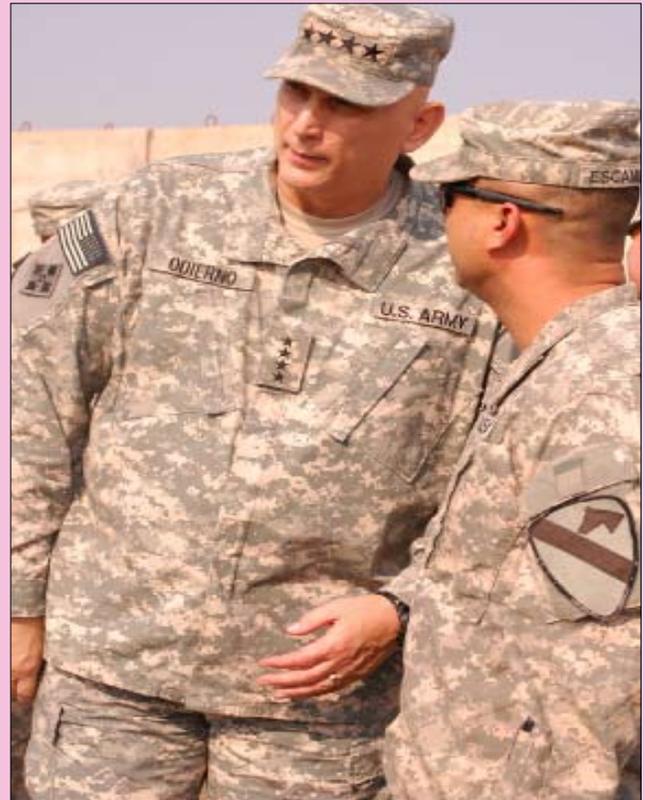


Photo by Pfc. Adam Halleck, 1BCT PAO, 1st Cav. Div.

TAJI, Iraq – Corpus Christi, Texas native, 1st Sgt. Johnny Escamilla, assigned to 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, speaks to Multi-National Force-Iraq commander, Gen. Ray Odierno, during a visit to Joint Security Station Sheik Amir, Nov. 26. Odierno visited the small JSS to see how the Soldiers were doing on Thanksgiving Day.

FAMOUS FEATS OF CHUCK NORRIS



DID YOU KNOW?

Chuck Norris originally appeared in the "Street Fighter II" video game, but was removed by Beta Testers

Quote For Today

“Failure is the opportunity to begin again more intelligently.”

— Henry Ford —

Iraq 3-Day Weather Report



Today
60° F | 44° F



Tomorrow
66° F | 42° F



Monday
64° F | 42° F

TRIVIA TIME!!

Who said: “Baseball is 90% mental. The other half is physical”?

Last Issue’s Answer: NOVEMBER

Cav Round-Up radio newscast available

MND-B PAO

BAGHDAD — The Cav Round-Up is a three-minute radio newscast from Baghdad covering military units and events across Multi-National Division — Baghdad.

Today’s Cav Round-Up # 208 was produced by SGT Ashley Anderson, MND-B Public Affairs Office.

This newscast includes the fol-

lowing stories:

1. The Army Chief of Chaplains made a stop to Baghdad. Interview with Chaplain (Maj. Gen.) Douglas Carver.

Chaplain (Maj. Gen.) Douglas Carver made an appearance as a special guest of the 100th anniversary of the chaplain’s assistant.

2. Iraqi Army Soldiers are making strides in setting off on their

own. Interview with 1st Lt. Austin Huckabee, 1st Air Cavalry Brigade.

The 34th IA Bigade conducted a simulated air strike mission, during a joint training exercise.

NIPR LINK: Cav Round-Up

SIPR LINK: Cav Round-Up

Check out more news at the 1st Cavalry Division’s homepage:

www.hood.army.mil/1stcavdiv/

Trigger’s Teasers

		8		3		5	4	
3			4		7	9		
4	1				8			2
	4	3	5		2		6	
5								8
	6		3		9	4	1	
1			8				2	7
		5	6		3			4
	2	9		7		8		

The objective of the game is to fill all the blank squares in a game with the correct numbers. There are three very simple constraints to follow: **Every row of 9 numbers must include all digits 1 through 9 in any order. Every column of 9 numbers must include all digits 1 through 9 in any order. Every 3 by 3 subsection of the 9 by 9 square must include all digits 1 through 9.**

Every Sudoku game begins with a number of squares already filled in, and the difficulty of each game is largely a function of how many squares are filled in. The more squares that are known, the easier it is to figure out which numbers go in the open squares. As you fill in squares correctly, options for the remaining squares are narrowed and it becomes easier to fill them in.

Yesterday’s Answers

9	4	7	2	8	1	3	5	6
1	3	2	7	5	6	4	9	8
5	8	6	3	9	4	1	2	7
6	1	4	5	7	2	9	8	3
2	9	8	1	4	3	7	6	5
3	7	5	8	6	9	2	1	4
8	5	1	4	2	7	6	3	9
7	6	3	9	1	8	5	4	2
4	2	9	6	3	5	8	7	1



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