



DANGER FORWARD



May 17, 2010 | Issue 16

Coastal Guard trains near Iraqi seaport

By Sgt. Cody Harding
1st Infantry Division PAO

UM QASR – The Iraqi Coastal Border Guard, a part of the 4th Region Department of Border Enforcement, is tasked with patrolling the waterways against smugglers and insurgents around the port of Um Qasr. Using tactics and equipment provided by U.S. Forces, the CBG plays a vital role in ensuring security for this necessary trade route and the country.

The CBG conducted an exercise May 11 in the waters off Um Qasr to hone their skills in smuggling interdiction, detaining smugglers and evacuating casualties. The exercise tested skills learned from the U.S. transition teams that work with the Iraqis to test their preparedness and equipment.

Iraqi guards boarded patrol boats from the dock after they received a report of smugglers in the area. After patrolling the waterway, they located the vessel, which fired on the Iraqi boats, injuring a Soldier during the mock scenario. The smugglers were then subdued, detained and their boat was confiscated for a quick return to the base.

The goal of the involved training is to help protect the border of the country and stop terrorists from entering the country, said Brig. Gen. Abdul Hadi, commander of the Coastal Border Guard for the 4th Region DBE.



Photo by Sgt. Cody Harding

A “smuggler” is detained by CBGs after his boat simulated firing upon a CBG ship during a training exercise in the Umm Qasr Port region May 11. Smuggling is an obvious threat to the security of Iraq as foreign influences attempt to bring in weapons and fighters.

“The most important thing today is that the soldiers know their level,” Hadi said. “They know where they are now, they know their preparedness for their missions, and they know what they’ll do if they have any problems.”

Though the Iraqis could always use more training, their performance and ability has improved over the months, said Master Sgt. Randy Sink, a member of the 4th Region DBE Border Transition Team.

“There’s still room for improvement,” said Sink, a resident of Virginia Beach, Va. “But from where they were when we got here today, there’s been a vast improvement.”

The training is another necessary step for the Iraqis to ensure the country’s stability, said Hadi.

“We have a saying in Iraq,” he said. “The training here will reduce the blood on the battlefield. As long as we keep this

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Stopping counterfeiters p. 4



Border guards go green, p. 5



Running for awareness, p. 8

Danger Seven sends

Last week, I had the unique experience of meeting 10 brave, young men who were traveling throughout Iraq to the places where their lives had changed forever.

These Wounded Warriors had stories to share as part of a great program known as Operation Proper Exit. Each story varied, but each was inspiring—not because of the valor displayed in the field, but the determination of these troops to carry on with their lives.

Operation Proper Exit, a United Service Organizations program sponsored by the Army and the Troops First Foundation, allows Soldiers and other service members wounded in combat to return to Iraq. The goal is to provide these individuals an opportunity for closure, and to see firsthand the progress that has been made in securing and stabilizing the areas where they sacrificed so much.

Of those I met, limbs had been taken by IEDs or bodies scarred by EFPs. However, what insurgents failed to do was break the spirit of these Soldiers and Marines. What I realized is that a significant lesson can be gleaned from their example.

One Soldier, Sgt. Chris Burrell, who lost his left leg above the knee from an EFP in Sadr City in 2008, will soon address a medical review so he can return to active duty as a military working dog handler.

Their collective strength of mind and spirit is an example to us all that whatever challenges life throws at us, we can face them with courage and heart that typifies the American Soldier.

As Memorial Day approaches, we are reminded of the sacrifice of those who came before and gave so much. So too is the story of these brave, Wounded Warriors who have sacrificed a lot and continue to contribute — either in the military or in the civilian sector.

Hard work remains as we continue our mission. Leaders, it's important for you to continue to motivate your Soldiers in the coming months. No matter the challenges or obstacles that lie ahead, we — as a team — will persevere. And if in doubt, just ask yourself "What would Sgt. Burrell do?"

Now get after it.



Jim Champagne
Command Sergeant Major
U.S. Army



Major General
Vincent K. Brooks



Command Sergeant Major
Command Sergeant Major
Jim Champagne

DANGER FORWARD

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-  17th FIB
-  4th BCT, 1st Armd. Div.
-  12th CAB
-  3rd HBCT, 3rd Inf. Div.
-  367th MPAD



What is an Army Accident



By Joe Zelko
USD-S Safety Manager

What is an Army Accident? An Army accident is defined as an unplanned event, or series of events, resulting in: injury of occupational illness to Army military or Army civilian personnel, damage to Army property, or or any of the same visited upon civilian personnel or property due to Army operations.

Accidents are caused by adverse interactions of man, machine, and environment. Investigation and assessment of these elements should reveal human, material, or environmental factors - the "root cause" - that contributed to the accident.

The system inadequacies responsible for human error are categorized as leader, standards, training, individual, or support failure. Although an accident investigation occurs after the fact, its primary focus must be on identifying what happened, why it happened, and what to do to prevent it from occurring again.

Army policy is to investigate and report accidents to prevent like occurrences. All Army accidents will be investigated, reported, and analyzed in accordance with the requirements of AR 385-10, DA Pam 385-40, preparation guides, and other Combat Readiness Safety Center tools for accident investigation and reporting.

Safety accident investigation reports are official documents, and will be used solely for accident prevention purposes. Safety accident reports and the privileged documents contained therein may not be used as evidence or to obtain evidence in any disciplinary, administrative, or legal action.

Accident reporting allows the commander to develop trends in his or her unit to determine where accidents are occurring and what the causal factors may be. The Division Safety Office has a database of all accident data, and it is updated daily.

This and other great information to help with risk mitigation can be found at:
<http://1idportal.1id.army.smil.mil/SpecialStaff/DivisionSafety/Shared%20Documents/Forms/AllItems.aspx>
And there is always great information and help for your safety problems at:
<http://bronet/dss/safety/default.aspx>

Do you or a "friend" have a story about how safe habits saved you, or how a lack of them made for a close call? Send it to marc.greene@us.army.mil with your email and snail mail addresses. If your story is picked, we'll send you some cool safety incentives.

Have a suggestion to make *Danger Forward* better? Send a SIPR email to our suggestion box: 1IDPAO SUGGESTIONBOX@1id.army.smil.mil

USD-S re-enlistments, March 19-25

3rd HBCT, 3rd Inf Div

BSTB

SPC ALICIA R. FOY

1st Bn, 15th Inf Regt

SPC DEREK L. COLLINS

SGT CECIL D. RAY

SSG JANIDINE P. FEGUR-GUR

SGT WESLEY D. RASNICK

SSG PHILLIP W. MARSHALL

2nd Bn, 69th AR

SPC JUSTIN M. STARR

SPC SAMUEL MUNOZ

SSG SHAWN W. SCOTT

SGT ARTHUR V. LONG

SGT REGINALD C. JOHNSON

203rd BSB

SGT MICHAEL A. FRANCIS

17th FiB

1st Bn, 377th FAR

BTRY B

SPC BRUN, TRAVIS R.

3rd Bn, 159th ARB

SGT AARON BRANAM

SSG ARNEL PALOMA LIWANAGAN

SGT ROBERT ALAN JR BARGENDER

12th CAB

HHC

SGT NATHAN JOSEPH HOWARD

SGT ALEC IRWIN GILLIS

SGT DAVID BRIAN

BROCKER
SPC BILLY RAY JR ROBINSON

412th ASB

SPC DWAYNE DEWANE HEMINGWAY

SPC ANDREW ALAN MYERS

1st Bn, 214th

SSG ROBERT LESLEY VASQUEZ

3rd BCT, 4th Inf Div

HHT

SSG DUKE, FREDERICK W.

BSTB

CO. B

SGT FOOTE, ELIZABETH N.

This week in Army history

This week in Big Red One history

May 21, 1966: Operation Lexington III begins with 1st Battalion, 18th Infantry Regiment along the Rung Sat zone along the Saigon River, Vietnam.

This week in OIF history

May 22, 2003: United Nations lifts sanctions against Iraq.

This week in 3rd Infantry Division history

May 23, 1944: The 3rd Infantry Division was to encircle Cisterna, a town in Italy. Key to the German's defenses, its approaches were sown with mines and anti-tank ditches, and latticed with trenches and emplacements. During operation to take the city May 23, the division suffered 995 battle casualties. By noon May 25, the city belonged to the 3rd Inf. Div.

Iraqi Police confront counterfeiting

By Pfc. Khori Johnson
3rd BCT, 4th Inf Div PAO

COB ADDER – Armed with new knowledge about the effects of counterfeiting and methods for dealing with it, the Iraqi Police of Dhi Qar Province who attended a class hosted by U.S. Psychological Operations Soldiers in Nasiriyah April 25 will now return to their units and further disseminate that knowledge.

The class – which taught skills essential to maintaining Iraq’s economic stability – was led by the Soldiers of the 3212 Tactical PSYOP Detachment, 318th PSYOP Company, 16th PSYOP Task Force..

During their current deployment, the 3212 TPD, attached to the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, has adjusted the usual PSYOP mission to

adapt to the United States Army’s advise-and assist- mission in Iraq.

“Through development of strong relationships with our Iraqi Security Force partners, the teams have assisted in training information programs designed to help the ISF improve the security and economic situation in Iraq,” said Master Sgt. Carolyn Sherratt, of Hollister, Calif., noncommissioned officer in charge, 3212 TPD.

The 3212 TPD’s anti-counterfeiting campaign is one of the training programs that will help the ISF in improving the security and economy of Iraq, she said.

Some 36 high-ranking IP officers attended the class at Dhi Qar’s Provincial Joint Command Center. The IP officers in attendance were hand-pick by Col. Mur-tatha Al-Shahore, PJCC director of media

relations and legal officer, due to their exceptional service and reputation, said Staff Sgt. Richard Thompson, of Waterford, Wis., team leader, Tactical PSYOP Team D, 3212 TPD.

After Saddam Hussein’s fall and the introduction of the new Dinar, counterfeiting dramatically decreased, but it is still a serious problem in the area, Shahore said.

The overall objective for the anti-counterfeiting campaign was to conduct a series of classes that will enable IP officers to receive the training and relay it to their respective units and the local populace. The 3212 TPB organized the class to cover a series of topics that would assist the IP in their efforts.

The first subject covered the possible effects of counterfeiting.

“Introducing counterfeit money into an economy can be considered to be economic warfare,” said Spc. David LaLonde, of Pinckney, Mich., psychological operations specialist with TPT D, 3212 TPD. “It will destabilize an economy, inflate prices, and reduce the value of the currency.”

In the next portion of the class, LaLonde explained the security features of modern currency, specifically of the Iraqi Dinar, U.S. Dollar, and the Euro.

Modern currency has a variety of security features, such as watermarks, metallic ink and holograms. When used individually, these features are not difficult to recreate, but when used in combination, they make the counterfeiting process nearly impossible, said LaLonde.

Another major security feature is the composition of the paper itself. Most authentic currency is starch-based, while most counterfeit money is wood-based. In order to identify the chemical composition of questionable bills, special markers are used. When an authentic bill is marked,



“The best way to combat counterfeit money is to stop it at its first signs of showing in the country.”

Spc. David LaLonde
PSYOP specialist TPT D, 3212 TPD

Photo by Pfc. Khori Johnson

An Iraqi officer tests the chemical composition of both real and fake currency during an anti-counterfeiting class being taught by the 3212 TPD at the PJCC in Nasiriyah April 25. Most authentic currency is starch-based, while most counterfeit money is wood-based, and special markers can be used to identify this difference.

See **COUNTERFEITING**, page 10

Green power comes to Iraq

By Spc. David Dyer
3rd Sqdn, 1st Cav Regt Public Affairs

COL SHOCKER – A new test project along the Iran-Iraq border could herald the arrival of clean, safe, electric power that is needed at numerous outposts and border forts manned by the Iraqi Department of Border Enforcement.

With the help of the U.S. Army, a single outpost was recently outfitted with a windmill generator and solar panels that will provide all the electrical needs of the Department of Border Enforcement guards manning the post, including pumping water from their well.

The resources are critical to sustain support of DBE security forces, according to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Each design will modify an existing outpost and well, to improve sustainability using off-the-shelf components that have proven to be durable and reliable.

Low-maintenance requirements also make these solutions particularly suited to the needs of the DBE.

Hameed Obid, an Iraqi engineer working for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Wasit Province Office, who is assigned to the project, said this first installation was being used to test the concept.

“The new power system will be field tested for one year and, if successful, will be adopted at locations along the border,” he said. “Each system will come with operations manuals, spare parts, an operator training program, system tests and technical support is available by phone. Each month of the test project, an engineer will visit the site to assess how well the program and equipment are operating.”

Third DBE Region Warrant Officer Muslim Khahidir, commander of the Said Safar outpost, where the project is located, was very pleased that his outpost had been chosen for the project.

Prior to the start of the new energy project, he and his men would only have electricity for four hours a day. They would run a small generator which was kept cobbled together with a variety of parts for two hours during the day and two hours at



Photo by Spc. David Dyer

Members of the 3rd DBE, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Maj. Brian S. Smith, 3rd Sqdn., 1st Cav. Regt., 3rd HBCT, 3rd Inf. Div., pose for a photograph in front of the solar power array at the Said Safar outpost April 26. Solar arrays such as this may soon be powering guard posts all along Iraq’s border with Iran.

night. Those precious hours would be the only time that they had electricity for air conditioning and radios.

The new project has changed all that.

Now they have electricity around the clock. The air conditioning unit can even keep the outpost comfortable all day, and they can power unit-owned radios throughout the night. The project has brought a welcome boost to the morale of the soldiers at Said Safar, and is something Khahidir would like to see happen at other outposts and forts all along the border.



Photo by Spc. David Dyer

An Iraqi DBE agent watches the border with Iran for smugglers from the rooftop of the Said Safar outpost May 6. The new power project at the outpost provides all its electrical needs, and also powers a nearby water pump.

Maj. Brian S. Smith, 3rd Squadron, 1st Cavalry Regt., 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, said that his unit’s advise and assist role has carried-over into this latest project with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

“We are partnered with the 3rd DBE Region and provide an additional communications link between the DBE, the Iraqi contractor and USACE. This project will reduce the outpost’s fuel demand and possibly be the first of many similar projects along the border.” Smith added, “Reliable electrical power is a necessity on the border, for both maintaining communication systems and quality of life demands. This is one of many U.S. Forces initiatives to bolster the Iraqi Security Forces’ capabilities, confidence, and public image.”

Staff Sgt. Bill Morris, B Troop, 3rd Sqdn., 1st Cav. Regt., works with the DBE agents in the area where the project is located.

“It is really great to see this sort of progress,” he said. “This project has done a lot to improve the ability of the DBE to execute their mission and has been a huge boost to the pride and morale of the (DBE) agents at this particular outpost. I really enjoy seeing them succeed.”

For more from 3rd HBCT, visit www.facebook.com/3hbct3id

CIVIL CAPACITY

Danger Forward

May 17, Issue 16

Meteorologists bringing BIA to standard

By Sgt. Francis Horton
367th MPAD, USD-S PAO

COB BASRA – The afternoon sky is filled with a slight haze, and in the distance a dark cloud of dust is kicking up.

Standing on the roof of their office May 7, the workers at the civilian weather station on Contingency Operating Base Basra appeared unconcerned about the dust. One takes a few notes and then goes off to report the current weather situation around the airport.

“In the last two weeks, we have been training the Iraqi weather office on improving their observations as they work to become internationally certified,” said Air Force Cpt. William Ladson, a United States Division-South staff weather officer. The international certification is an important step toward opening the Basra airport to international commercial flights again.

Working on 24-hour shifts, the weather reporters keep a watchful eye on the sky as well as their equipment, the Automated Observing System. These machines have the ability to detect temperatures, wind speeds, air pressure, cloud height and various other meteorological readings.

“It measures all the key elements of weather observation,” said Air Force Master Sgt. John Sievers, a staff weather of-



Photo by Sgt. Francis Horton

Salah Nehdr, a civilian weather reporter at the Iraqi weather station at BIA, prepares to send hourly observations to Baghdad for analysis, May 7. The observations are a mixture of information from the Automated Observing System, naked eye observations and the Internet.

ficer. Sievers has worked with many other Iraqi civilian weather stations, as well as a few Iraqi Air Force stations, he said.

Information isn't just pulled from the sensors though. Every hour, the Iraqi observers head to the roof of their building to do a visual inspection of the skies.

“Nothing compares to the human eye,” Sievers said.

Some of the weather watchers have been doing observations and forecasting for almost two decades in Basra. While civilian flights are limited these days, the eventual hope is that these observers will be paramount for determining the safety of

the air for flights from all over the world.

The Iraqi civilian observers use no military equipment and gather their information from their own eyes and the sensors they have. They also pull weather and satellite data from the Internet, Sievers said.

“This is an international airport, and as U.S. forces continue to drawdown, they are going to have to learn to survive on their own,” Ladson said

Most of the lessons in the last two weeks have been refresher courses, as all of the workers are trained and experienced weather observers or forecasters. Some have even traveled to the U.S. to receive further training.

“They are all very eager to learn,” Sievers said.

The trainers are working to get more precise measurements out with higher frequency, he said.

“It's just a matter of refreshing at this point,” Ladson said

And the refresher courses are proving to be helpful.

“We are learning very much from the experience of the trainers,” said Adil Abrhim, an observer shift leader with eighteen years of experience under his belt.



Photo by Sgt. Francis Horton

A dust storm kicks up in the background of the Basra International Airport May 7. Observers keep a watchful eye on any adverse weather conditions which may threaten incoming civilian aircraft.

For more from USD-S PAO, visit www.facebook.com/1stInfantryDivision

TROOPS IN FOCUS

Danger Forward

May 17, Issue 16

Civilian experience makes better Soldier

By Staff Sgt. Melissa Applebee

1st Inf Div, OSJA

BASRA – The rank of corporal in today’s Army can bring to mind a fresh-faced, wet-behind-the-ears Soldier who is still green, but willing to learn. One conversation with Cpl. Kevin Nation will challenge that impression.

From his time in the Marine Corps, to his retirement as a police chief, to his current assignment with the 1st Infantry Division’s Office of the Staff Judge Advocate, 40-year-old Nation, originally from Sidney, Ohio, has gained a wealth of knowledge and experience and a work ethic commensurate with someone far above his grade.

Nation’s military career began in 1987 when he joined the Marine Corps after graduating from high school in Ohio. He served as a basic rifleman and carried a secondary Military Occupational Specialty of Marine Corps Security Guard. While stationed in Yorktown, Va., he was assigned to the Fleet Anti-Terrorism Security Team (FAST) Company.

Following his two years of service with the Marines, Nation pursued a career in law enforcement.

“My influences came from a program sponsored by the Boy Scouts called Explorers. I joined the Explorer Program in December 1983 through the local sheriff’s office in my hometown...I was hooked.”

For 18 years, Nation made law enforcement a career, retiring as police chief of Westmoreland, Tenn., in 2007.

Still yearning for bigger and better challenges, Nation decided to start a second career in the Army.

Originally entering the Army as a signal systems support specialist, his first assignment was to the newly formed Signal Co., Division Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion, 1st Inf. Div. While assigned to Signal Co., he served as the company executive officer while the company was still forming, and the unit armorer, armor-



Photo by Staff Sgt. Melissa Applebee

er supervisor, and training noncommissioned officer.

Nation holds an associate degree in Paralegal Studies from Ashworth College, and is currently working on a master’s degree in Criminal Justice Administration with an emphasis on Domestic and International Terrorism.

To align his career pursuits with his experience and education, he voluntarily requested to reclassify as a paralegal specialist and was reassigned to the OSJA in October 2009. Nation is scheduled to begin classes April 2011 to become a paralegal specialist, but he is already pursuing on-the-job training.

Since his reassignment to the OSJA, he has served as a battalion and brigade paralegal, preparing Article 15s, administrative reprimands, administrative separations, and a host of other legal actions.

Despite not having attended school, he had no issues integrating with the other Judge Advocate General’s Corps Soldiers.

“Nation’s perception on criminal cases, which from a JAG perspective is usually found in dated military reports, is extremely remarkable coming from a first-responder. A Soldier of his caliber is

commensurate with many senior leaders in the Army,” said Chief Warrant Officer 2 Parry Preuc, Nation’s current supervisor.

Nation’s law enforcement experience has helped him during his time in the Army and as a paralegal Soldier, he said.

“First and foremost, it has helped me to keep a level head and look at things from a different perspective,” he said. “I am able to apply my knowledge and experience to help guide young and upcoming Soldiers.”

“Ninety percent of law enforcement is interacting with people on a day-to-day basis. There is such a vast variety of people in the military and this has allowed me to use my ‘people skills,’ which has earned me the respect of those I work with on a daily basis.”

“As for the Paralegal side, during my time in law enforcement I had the opportunity to serve as the legal administrator for the clerk of courts back in Ohio. This position is similar in nature to the legal administrator’s position in the Army,” Nation said.

After completion of his reclassification training, Nation plans on submitting his warrant officer packet so he can become

See **EXPERIENCE**, page 11

8K run raises assault awareness

By Sgt. Benjamin R. Kibbey
367th MPAD, USD-S PAO

COB BASRA— Service members and civilians from all over Contingency Operating Base Basra turned out for an 8-kilometer run April 17, 2010, to raise awareness of sexual assault prevention.

“I usually do all the runs,” said Sgt. Sue Ellen Herrera, orderly room noncommissioned officer in charge for Signal Company, 1st Infantry Division, the first female to cross the finish line.

Still, the assault prevention message behind this run made it something more significant, the San Angelo, Texas, native said.

“I think it’s something we should all stand up for, not allow it, and let people know that we’re not going to tolerate it,”

Herrera said.

With a final time of 38:27, Herrera said she does not concentrate specifically on running outside of normal physical fitness training sessions. Still, she enjoys running and sees it as a form of stress relief.

“It gets you out of everything that’s going on around you, takes you to a different zone,” she said.

The overall winner, Isiah Mamai, a guard with the security firm Saber International, finished with a time of 27:10. His main goal in running was to see what his time would be, Mamai said, as this was his first 8K.

Mamai is fairly well-known around COB Basra by now for his repeated successes in races, including his winning of the Marathon held in November. Like his past races, there was not another competitor in site behind him when Mamai crossed the 8K finish.

“I had the motivation of winning,” he said with a grin moments after the race.

For others, the race was simply a chance to get out and spend time with their comrades in arms.

Sgt. Shain Matthew Hammons, NCOIC of the COB Basra Education Center and native of Kansas City, Mo., said he was “drug out of bed” by Sgt. Brooke Nichole Schiebel, a medic from Auburn, Calif., Headquarters Support Co., Division Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion, 1st Inf. Div., to run the race.

It had been weeks since Hammons had run at all, Schiebel said. Still, Hammons said he was glad he came out and that the experience will motivate him to run more.

“It was fun. I was dying there for a bit, but I stuck through and finished pretty strong,” he said. “I’m pretty sure I’ll come out for other races; I think she’s got me hooked.”

Some of the division equal opportunity staff members were out running too.

“We want to be out here and be a part of the event to show people that it’s not just about the talk, but that we represent

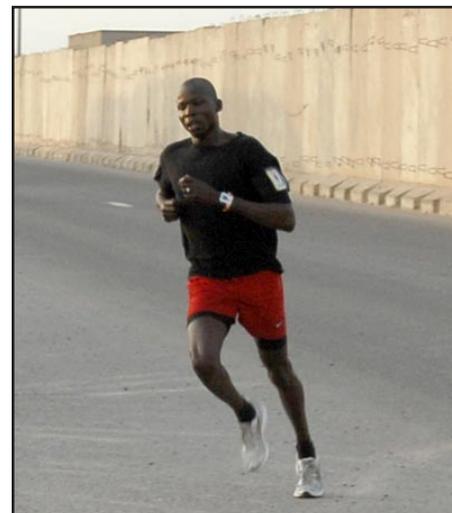


Photo by Sgt. Benjamin R. Kibbey
Isiah Mamai, a guard with security firm Saber International at COB Basra and native of Kenya, rounds the turn into the finish with a time of 27:10 as the overall winner of the Sexual Assault Prevention 8K run held April 17 at COB Basra.



Photo by Sgt. Benjamin R. Kibbey
Sgt. Sue Herrera, orderly room noncommissioned officer in charge for Signal Co., 1st Inf. Div. and a San Angelo, Texas native, the first female to cross the finish line at the Sexual Assault Prevention 8K run held April 17 at COB Basra, poses with Master Sgt. Thomas Miskevish, 1st Inf. Div. sexual assault response coordinator and a native of Charleston, W.Va., after receiving a t-shirt, \$50 gift certificate and certificate of participation commemorating her accomplishment.

everyone, and we’re about the walk,” said Sgt. 1st Class Tracy Jordan, equal opportunity advisor for the 1st Inf. Div. and a St. Louis native.

But it was no walk for Jordan or Maj. Christine Pacheco, Equal Opportunity Program manager for the 1st Inf. Div. and a Manhattan, Kan. resident, who ran the race together.

“As much as possible, we try to make sure that we all participate in every single event that they have here at COB Basra,” Pacheco said of the EO office. “It’s all about support and being there to show our faith and let them know that we are here for them.”

Being visible is important to their job, Jordan said, so that Soldiers and leaders know who to go to and feel comfortable approaching them.

“We are showing them that we are strong as one,” Jordan said. “We are here as one team, one fight, especially when it comes to sexual assault and sexual harassment.”

For more from USD-S PAO, visit www.facebook.com/1stInfantryDivision

Basra ranges set the standard

By Sgt. Neil W. McCabe
367th MPAD, USD-S PAO

COB BASRA – With major changes completed May 1, service members and private security guards on Contingency Operating Base Basra will be honing their marksmanship skills at two improved firing ranges that are expected to serve as the standard for all ranges that fall under United States Division-South.

The project was motivated by safety concerns, said Staff Sgt. Kenneth D. Eades, the operations noncommissioned officer for the 1st Infantry Division's Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion.

The chief safety concern at the ranges was vehicle and foot traffic, as they sit at the intersection of two of the COB's major roads, he said. To protect traffic, groups using the range were required to post road guards and stop firing whenever someone passed by.

"It was frustrating having to stop and start all the time," said Andrew Newcomb, a medic with the Olive Group, a private United Kingdom-based security firm, whose team works for clients in Basra.

Newcomb, who hails from London, said the constant interruptions extended the length of the training and sapped the concentration of the shooters. Newcomb was the stand-by medic for his team's May 8 range-time at one of the ranges.

To mitigate the risk to traffic, Eades extended the side walls with stacks of "Hesco" barriers and shored-up the back of the ranges along the perimeter road with additional sand bags, said the infantryman from Elkheart, Texas.

Hesco is the nickname for commonly-used barriers that resemble large paper bags filled with sand and supported by a metal cage exoskeleton. The barrier's catalog name is "Container," and it is manufac-

tured by the United Kingdom-based firm HESCO Bastion Ltd.

The improvements made to the ranges have garnered the attention of those responsible for enforcing standards throughout the division's area of operations.

"The safety team wants to use them as the standard for all ranges in the AO," Eades said.

"We're changing the names, too, as soon as I can have the signs made up," Eades said.

The range known as "Hesco #1," built by the 10th Mountain Division when it stood up what is now the Army's United States Division-South at COB Basra in early spring 2009, will be re-named "Danger Range," he said.

The range known as "Hesco #2," built by British forces while they were responsible for Basra Province, will be re-named "Victory Range," he said.

Geoff Savage, a team leader with Olive Group, said the ranges are now 100 times better than before, and not only because of the improved safety. Each range now has three portable latrines instead of just one, and more concrete bunkers were added in case of indirect fire or other threats.

Savage, a native of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, England, said the Iraqi Ministry of the Interior requires private security firms to conduct range training every 60 days.

"We are very grateful that the Army allows us to use this facility," he said.

Eades said both military and private security companies are welcome to use the ranges, as long as they have the proper risk assessment paperwork with their request. In addition to the risk assessment, there must be a medic or combat-life-saver-trained Soldier present at all times.

As long as it is part of their safety plan and their request is approved, groups may choose whether to use body armor while firing, he said. Eye and hearing protection is always required though.

During their March concert stop at COB Basra, members of the rock band Bad Company asked to use the range, but Eades said it was already booked during the time the musicians and their roadies had available.

So far, the highest-ranked shooter has been Maj. Gen. Vincent K. Brooks, commanding general of USD-S. Other senior members of the command group have used the range as well, he said.

Sgt. Latasha L. Burnett, a native of Drew, Miss., said she was impressed by the improved range when she and other Soldiers from the DHHB zeroed their weapons May 6 at Hesco #1.

"There were 20 of us out there and it went very well," she said.

Eades said another improvement he made to the range was

See STANDARD, page 11



Photo by Sgt. Neil W. McCabe

Geoff Savage, a team leader with the Olive Group, a United Kingdom-based private security firm operating in Basra Province, fires at a target May 8, at one of the newly-improved ranges at COB Basra. Savage said that the Iraqi government requires private security firms to practice at the range every 60 days, and he is grateful the Army allows his team to use the camp's facilities.



Photo by Sgt. Cody Harding

Soldiers with the Iraqi CBG, 4th Region DBE, listen to a brief during a before-mission inspection at the Um Qasr CBG Station May 11. The Iraqi Soldiers are preparing to conduct a training exercise designed to help them stop smugglers near the Umm Qasr Port.

SEAPORT, from page 1

training up, we'll prevent the casualties and improve the skills for other soldiers."

Sink agreed, saying that repetition allows competence in the Iraqi forces.

Every time the Iraqis do the mission on their own and they are successful, Sink said, it builds confidence in the security forces across Iraq.

"Once you know you can do something, and when you feel confident you can do it, you'll be ready to assume the mission," he said.

As the U.S. drawdown continues and Iraqi Forces assume more control over operations, the CBG continues to train to become a reliable unit in the Iraqi Security Forces

"I wish we can improve the CBG," Hadi said. "And I wish that this unit will represent Iraq and protect the waters of Iraq."

For more from USD-S PAO, visit www.facebook.com/1stInfantryDivision

COUNTERFEITING, from page 4

the line is barely visible. On the other hand, if the bill is a fake, then the line will turn dark. During the class, every officer was able to experiment with this procedure.

The 3212 TPD brought examples of real and counterfeit Dinar, Dollars, and Euros. The bills were passed around the class so every officer could experiment with the counterfeit identification process and take that hands-on experience back to his team home unit.

"We wanted to give them a brief overview on what the security features are so that they can go back and teach their officers, and so that they can speak intelligently about this to the public," said Thompson.

During the final portion of the class, Thompson discussed the importance of the IP enhancing public awareness of counterfeiting. The store owner, the salesman and the everyday customer are on the front lines of this issue, said LaLonde.

"The police can't be everywhere at once," he said. "In the class, we stress that all these security features and markers don't really count for anything unless the public knows about them. The best way to combat counterfeit money is to stop it at its first signs of showing in the country."

In order to paint a more vivid picture of how to raise public awareness, Thompson and a volunteer role-played as an IP officer and a store owner.

Thompson discussed the best ways to approach a store owner. He informed the store owner on the effects that counterfeiting could have on his store, explained some of the security features of the Dinar, and also informed the store owner that the IP are here to help keep his store safe, physically and economically.

The relationship between the IP and the public is crucial to not only the anti-counterfeiting campaign, but for all future endeavors of the IP, Thompson said.

Before the fall of Saddam Hussein, Dhi Qar was overrun with counterfeiting.

Since Iraq is rebuilding its infrastructure, it is important that the economy is not put into a fragile state and that progress can continue.

"Our goal is to do what we can to see that Iraq becomes a successful democracy," said Thompson. "If what we did helps them become a successful democracy, then we have done our job."

For more from 3rd BCT, visit <http://www.facebook.com/3bct4id>



Photo by Pfc. Khori Johnson

Staff Sgt. Richard Thompson, of Waterford, Wis., team leader, TPT D, 3212 TPD, gives a handshake to an Iraqi policeman during the conclusion of an anti-counterfeiting class taught by the 3212 TPD at the PJCC in Nasiriyah April 25.

EXPERIENCE, from page 7

a legal administrator in the JAG Corps. In this competitive field, Nation hopes his experience and education will give him an edge.

If the endorsement of his leaders means anything, he should do fine.

“Corporal Nation is obviously a well-together Soldier and citizen. His approach to every task at hand, his service, and his outstanding administrative support to the OSJA speaks volumes to the fact that he is well in-tune with his prior military service and service to the people where he protected and served,” says Sgt. Maj. David DeFrancisco, the command paralegal NCO for 1st Inf Div and United States Division-South.

When asked about his impression of Nation, Lt. Col. Russell Jackson, the Deputy SJA had high praise.

“I am very impressed with his work ethic. The fact that he is more mature than our average E-4 is really helpful,” he said. “The life experience he brings to the job is also extremely beneficial.”

Nation seems to take all the praise in stride.

“I owe a lot to the people who encouraged me along the way - too many to men-

tion here,” he said.

Nation has interesting historical ties to the 1st Inf. Div. and Fort Riley. On his desk sits a photo of his father at Fort Riley when he shipped out to Vietnam with the 9th Inf. Div.

Nation reenlisted Feb. 6, 2010. On that same date in 1967, his father arrived at Fort Riley before departing for Vietnam in April. Nation decided to reenlist on Feb. 6 to honor his father.

“It is ironic that our first duty station was Fort Riley...he lived in the barracks at Camp Forsyth and that is where I currently reside. His barracks stood where the PX and Commissary are located,” Nation said.

Whenever Nation eventually decides to leave the Army, he hopes to use his degree and experience to instruct at a law enforcement academy or even as a professor at a college or university.

Nation has been married to Diana Nation for six years, and they have four children. In his free time, he enjoys woodworking, barbecuing and motorcycle outings. While serving in Iraq, he can often be found employing his “grillmaster” skills by barbecuing steaks for his fellow Soldiers.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Melissa Applebee
Cpl. Kevin Nation, 1st Inf. Div. OSJA, sits outside at Turtle Pond on COB Basra.

“He is the only guy I know in the Army who has worn five stars on his uniform before putting on two stripes,” Colonel Michael Smidt, the 1st Inf. Div. and USD-S SJA said of Nation. “He is a former Marine, police chief, and one heck of a great NCO.”

**Do you know a servicemember in the grade of E-5 or below serving in USD-S who deserves recognition?
 Email SSG Melissa Applebee:
 melissa.applebee@iraq.centcom.mil.**

STANDARD, from page 9

to upgrade how the targets were mounted.

Using larger sheets of plywood that fit three targets, Eades increased the number of lanes from 12 to 18. Then, by affixing the plywood with 2x4 board legs, Eades made it possible for the targets to be quickly stood up or replaced in the PVC piping he planted in the ground.

“I probably cut up 46 feet of PVC pipe, and we used seven pallets of empty Hesco’s that we had to fill with sand once they got here. We used three truckloads of sandbags for Hesco #2 and three-and-a-half for Hesco #1,” he said.

“The ranges were in pretty bad shape when I took them over,” Eades said.

“I’ve been doing whatever I could to keep the targeting up until, finally, I had assets available to me to put a permanent fix on it—where I didn’t have to jerry-rig the range anymore.”



Photo by Sgt. Neil W. McCabe
Staff Sgt. Kenneth D. Eades, a native of Elkheart, Texas, supervises the firing ranges at COB Basra as the operations NCOIC for HHB, 1st Inf. Div. The camp’s two ranges have been significantly improved with more firing lanes, extended walls to protect passing vehicle and foot traffic, and more portable latrines and concrete bunkers in a project completed May 1, he said.

**For more from USD-S PAO, visit
www.facebook.com/1stInfantryDivision**

ON THE HOMEFRONT

Danger Forward

May 17, Issue 16

Roping fiesta joins rodeo hall of fame

By Perry Curnutt
GO San Angelo

SAN ANGELO, Texas — A collective tip of the hat greeted the San Angelo Roping Fiesta last month as it was inducted before a full house into the Texas Rodeo Cowboy Hall of Fame in Belton.

The annual event was honored in the rodeo event category and joined such rodeo luminaries as roper Roy Cooper and bull rider Tuff Hedeman. Both men were among several Texans inducted for their individual contributions to the sport of rodeo. Betty Dusek of Van Court was also honored for her contributions as a barrel racer.

Former Roping Fiesta chairmen Tony Churchill and Bud Upton represented the San Angelo Stock Show & Rodeo Association at the ceremonies.

The TRCHF is housed in the Bell County Expo Center and recognizes cowboys, cowgirls and events dedicated to the sport of rodeo. It recognizes the role played by Texans in the development of the sport. The hall houses pictures and biographies of famous rodeo Texans and histories of great rodeo events.

The San Angelo Roping Fiesta will celebrate 58 years in 2010. It's held annually during the last weekend of October each fall. The Fiesta started as an economic catalyst for the San Angelo Stock Show & Rodeo Association as a bridge between the spring stock show and rodeo.

About 10,000 to 11,000 roping fans enjoy the world's best ropers each year during three days of competitions.

San Angelo is the hometown of Sgt. Sue Herrera, featured in a story on p.8

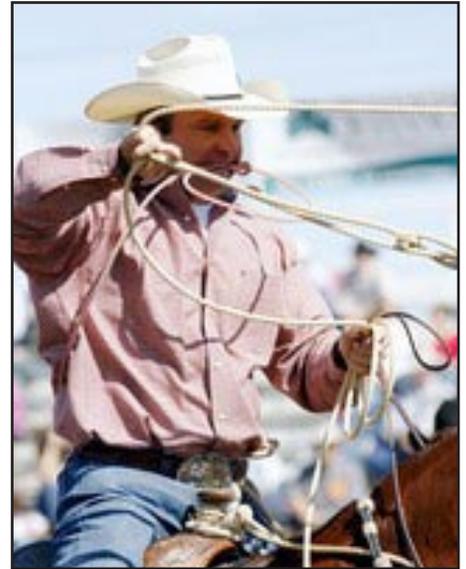


Photo by Cynthia Esparza
Rusty Sewalt of Comstock prepared to rope in the annual Cowboy Roping Fiesta at Fairgrounds Arena in 2009.

Beach bass fisherman on a comeback

By Lee Tolliver
The Virginian-Pilot

VIRGINIA BEACH, Va. — After struggling through the first three events of the Bassmaster Elite Series, Rick Morris has made a comeback.

The Virginia Beach professional bass fisherman failed to earn a paycheck in the first three tournaments and fell into the bottom 15 spots in the overall fishing rankings.

Only the top 37 earn berths in the Bassmaster Classic.

In the fourth event of the season - on Alabama's Pickwick Lake - Morris finished fourth. He earned \$15,000 and leaped nearly 20 spots to 64th overall.

Last weekend on Alabama's Lake Guntersville, Morris advanced to the third day of fishing, ending up in 45th place and pocketing \$10,000.

That put him into a tie for 59th entering this weekend's sixth of eight events.

"It's been a good thing," said Morris, at home regrouping before this weekend's stop at Tennessee's Clark Hill Lake. "I started off bad.

"But my confidence is back high again, and my bank account is patched up a little."

Morris still is holding hopes of qualifying for the Classic.

"I think that if I check (place and earn money) in the last three events that I can make it," he said. "These last three events are going to be a war, and I've been home resting and getting my tackle back together."

BETTER FISH STOCKS

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Fisheries Service last week reported some good news.

For the first time since 1997, the service did not add any species to its list of

overfished species.

Four stocks - including Atlantic swordfish - have been rebuilt to healthy numbers, the service said. Black sea bass also are listed as rebuilt.

The service said 212 of the 250 species examined are free from overfishing.

FAWN TIME

This is the time of year when white-tailed deer have their babies.

Fawns can show up in a variety of places, and humans often mistake them for orphaned.

But through July, mothers purposely leave their fawns to lure away predators. Mothers return to feed their young when they deem it safe.

State wildlife officials urge anyone who finds a fawn to contact them before attempting an ill-advised "rescue."

Virginia Beach is the hometown of Master Sgt. Randy Sink, featured in a story on p.1

AROUND THE COB

Danger Forward

May 17, Issue 16

Legal

(VOIP 858-4098)

Legal Assistance Office

Mon. – Fri.
0800-1800
Sat.
0800-1700

Trial Defense Services

Mon. – Sat.
0900-1130
1300-1700

USO

Every day

Closes 0600
Re-opens 1000

Religious Services

(COB Basra Chapel)

Protestant Sundays

Contemporary Worship

1000

General Protestant

1130

Gospel Worship

1400

Liturgical Protestant

1700

Roman Catholic

Sunday Mass

0830

Saturday Vigil Mass

2000

Mon-Fri Mass

1130

Jewish

Friday
1800

LDS

(COB Basra House of Prayer)

Sundays
1400 - 1500

Chaplain Programs

Bible Studies

Regular

(HHB 17th FiB Conf Rm)
Wednesdays
2000

Gospel of John

(RIVRON MWR - Camp
Alpha)

Wednesdays
1800

New Believers

(COB Basra Chapel)
Thursdays
2000

Fellowship

Men's Fellowship

(HHB 17th FiB Conf Rm)
Mondays
1900

The Truth Project

(308th MWR tent)
Wednesdays
1900

AA

(COB Basra Chapel)
Thursday
2000

Wild at Heart

(HHB 17th FiB Conf Rm)
Fridays
1900

Holy Joe's Coffee

Mon.-Sat.
0600 - 2200

Special Events Coming Up

Karaoke

(USO)
Mon., May 24
2100 - 2300

Special Events This Week

1st ID Band

(Echoes Restaurant)
Every Saturday
1900

Dinner and a Movie

(USO)
Tue., May 18
1900 - 2100

May Day Birthdays' Celebration

(USO)
Thur., May 20
2100

Texas Hold 'em Tournament

(USO)
Sat., May 22
2100

550 Cord Cuff Night

(USO)
Sun., May 23
1600 - 1800

Times & programs

Fire Warden and Fire Extinguisher classes

(Fire Station 1, across
from D-Main)

Wednesday @ 1000

- All unit Fire Wardens

are required to submit the USF-I Task

Force Safe Fire Safety

Checklist to the fire

chief monthly. This

form can be taken to

either fire station or

emailed to Mike White,

mwhite@sallyport-

global.com. For an

electronic copy, email

Mike White.

- Fire extinguisher ex-

change and re-service

program: Expelled

or unserviceable

extinguishers can be

brought to either fire

station for exchange

or reservice. We also

have a limited number

of extinguishers to

hand out.



Until Every One Comes Home.™

The COB Basra USO needs volunteers

Talk to any USO staff member today to find out how you can help to make our COB even better!

Big Red One Puzzle of the Week



1, 2, 3, 4...

Each week, look for a new brain teaser here, with the answer in the following week's Danger Forward.

Solution for last week: Cyclops

Brought to you by the 1st Inf. Div. ORSA Cell

A look around USD-S



Photo by 1st Lt. Josh Woodke, 3rd BCT, 4th Inf Div Lt. Col. Jonathan Howerton, commander, 3rd Battalion, 29th Field Artillery Regiment, and battalion 1st Sgt. Michael Balis uncase their battalion colors during the Transfer of Partnership ceremony on Contingency Operating Base Adder, April 28, 2010.

Have a photo from around USD-S? Email it, along with the photographer's name, rank and unit, the date and place it was taken, and a short description, to benjamin.kibbey@iraq.centcom.mil, and you could have it featured here and receive a coin from DCSM Jim Champagne.

Sudoku

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

For solutions visit: www.puzzles.ca/sudoku_puzzles/sudoku_hard_003.html