The Expeditionary Times

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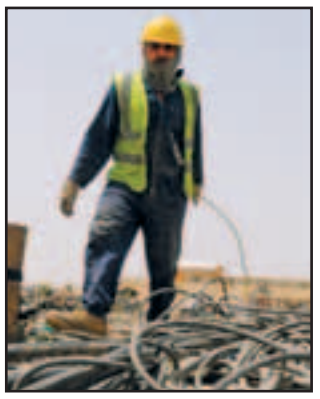
Green



Returning Marez to nature, reseeding Iraq

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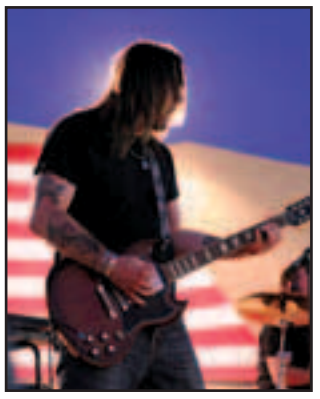
Live Music



Uncle Kracker tours Kuwait, Iraq

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Climbing

Wall at VBC offers Soldiers fun fitness

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Citizenship

U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Russell Lee Klika

More than 150 Soldiers participated in the United States Forces–Iraq naturalization ceremony July 4 at Camp Victory, Iraq. Gen. Raymond T. Odierno, commander of USF-I and Vice President Joe Biden were in attendance.

Story by
Staff Sgt. Thomas Greene
278th Armored Cavalry Regiment

CAMP VICTORY, Iraq— A Soldier with 2nd Squadron, 278th Cavalry Regiment, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) became a U.S. citizen with 155 other service members July 4 during an immigration and naturalization ceremony in the rotunda of the Al Faw Palace at Camp Victory, Iraq.

"The United States has been my home far more than Germany," said Sgt. Danny H. Metzger, a heavy equipment mechanic for E Troop, 2nd Sqdn., 278th ACR and a Dyer, Tenn., native. "I've always been proud to serve in the Army of the country I call home."

Metzger, who was born in Germany, said he has lived in the U.S. since 1981 and joined the Tennessee Army National Guard in 2005.

"I will never forget being one of 156 Soldiers becoming a citizen here today and having the vice president and the theater commander on that stage and shaking my hand; it just leaves me speechless."

Gen. Raymond T. Odierno, commander of United States Forces – Iraq, opened the ceremony speaking of contributions immigrants have made to America, including the Soldiers in the ceremony at Camp Victory, some he acknowledged have deployed multiple times.

Vice President Joe Biden, accompanied by his wife, Jill, followed Odierno, praising the Soldiers for their service, dedication and for becoming citizens.

Ms. Lori Pietropaoli, deputy district director of the U.S. citizenship immigration service in Rome, presented the citizen candidates.

The ceremony concluded with a video of congratulations from President Barack Obama and the 1st Armored Division Band playing the "Armed Forces Medley."

Metzger is serving on his third deployment. He served in Kuwait with the 1099th Transportation Company in 2002 and again in Kuwait and Iraq in 2004 with the 73rd Trans. Company.

"What better way to reach out and show the world's concern than through helping serve the medical needs of Iraqi children?"

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Balad Blotter

SEXUAL ASSAULT:

A victim entered the law enforcement desk to report a sexual assault had occurred at 9:50 a.m. June 30 at the KBR, Inc. camp. The victim stated via AF IMT 1168, Statement of Complainant, she was at her room cleaning and had her door propped open with a broom. She looked back and noticed suspect standing in doorway. The suspect grabbed the victim on her left buttocks. She screamed at him to get out of her room and suspect started to turn around to leave, but then turned back around and touched victim on her left breast, saying: "Nice, show me, show me." The victim screamed at him to get out and he did. She shut the door and then reported the incident to KBR, Inc. security. KBR, Inc. security said they searched the area for the suspect and found three personnel that could have matched the description of the individual. The case was handed over to Security Forces Investigations for further investigation.

LARCENY OF PRIVATE PROPERTY:

A complainant entered the law enforcement desk and reported a a guitar had been stolen at 9 p.m. July 1 at the USO building. The complainant stated via AF IMT 1168, Statement of Complainant, he saw the subject, at location at above time/date, grab the property and leave the location. Complainant stated he believed the subject was going to use property on the patio as is customary for individuals to do so, however the subject never returned. The complainant stated he waited until July 2 to report the incident to allow time for the property to be returned.

MAJOR VEHICLE ACCIDENT:

A complainant telephoned the law enforcement desk and reported a vehicle accident occurred at 12:57 p.m. July 4 at the north entry control point. Security Forces arrived on scene and determined the accident to be a major vehicle accident due to injuries. Medical personnel arrived on scene shortly thereafter. The vehicle operator and passenger were transported to the Air Force Theater Hospital for injuries and evaluation. The passenger stated via AF Form 1168, Statement of Witness, he was riding as the front seat passenger in vehicle which was being driven by operator at location. The operator began to make a right turn, which caused the vehicle to flip completely over once and landed on the passenger side. The passenger estimated their speed to be between 5 and 6 miles per hour. The passenger stated the operator proceeded to seek medical attention while he flipped the vehicle back onto its tires and drove it to a parking spot. At this time, a statement could not be completed with the operator due to him going into surgery for injuries to his left hand. An accident investigation is pending.

There is hope for the separated

CAPT. ROBERT KINNUNE
JOINT BASE BALAD GARRISON CHAPLAIN

You dreamed of a marriage where each made the other supremely happy; now one of you has walked out. Separation is not the time to capitulate.

In a very real sense, separation calls for intensive care, much like that given to one in grave physical danger. The condition of your marriage might be considered "critical." Things can go either way at any moment. What happens will be determined by what you and your spouse say and do in the next few weeks and months.

Marital separation sometimes brings a very temporary sense of "peace." One husband said, "This is the first week of peace I've had for years." Of course he felt peace; he had left the battlefield. However, retreat is not the road to victory! You must come from that retreat with a renewed determination to defeat the enemy that threatens your marriage and call upon God for victory in keeping your covenant. Your dream can live again but not without work ... work that will include real listening, understanding, discipline and change.

I do not wish to minimize the hurt, pain, frustration, anger, resentment, loneliness or disappointment that you are probably feeling. Nor do I take lightly your past efforts at marital adjustment. But this is a brand new day and it calls for strong new choices and one of the monumental choices you must make … is to forgive.

When marriages fall apart, where do we go for help? We can always turn to God because we know that he truly cares for each of us and our relationships. God calls us to repentance and reconciliation. Notice I did not just say reconciliation. There can be no healthy reconciliation without true repentance. In marriage, this calls for mutual repentance, for almost always the failure has involved both parties.

If you are separated, use this time to examine the life-giving principles for building a marriage. Discover where you went wrong and how to correct it. Deal with your own failures and ask God to lead you to do something positive and kind today. Gary Chapman wrote a book called "Hope for the Separated" to help you be more able to do this, and I highly encourage you to get a copy and apply it to your marriage.

Sometimes things have to get worse before they get better. I know that you cannot make your spouse reconcile. But you can reach out for help at this crucial moment. Call a chaplain, a pastor, a counselor or a friend and ask for help in the middle of the separation. Working on yourself and your own issues, with help, can make you stronger and ready to grow in the marriage as a loving partner.

Separation does not equate to divorce and is not necessarily the end. It may be the beginning of rediscovering the dream you shared when you were first married. Discover your options and don't forget that God is the God of miracles. There is strong hope for the separated.

EXPEDITIONARY TIMES

103rd ESC Commanding General, Brig. Gen. Mark W. Corson

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Mission Statement: *The Expeditionary Times Staff publishes a weekly newspaper with the primary mission of providing command information to all service members, partners, and Families of the 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) team and a secondary mission of providing a means for units on Joint Base Balad to disseminate command information to their audiences.*

The Weekly Standard: Family support responsibility

MAJ. ERIK H. VERHOEF
103RD ESC DEPUTY INSPECTOR GENERAL

Inspector general offices all over the world help service members, Family members and civilians. While Soldiers are deployed, IG offices at home often receive phone calls about the entitlements a spouse should receive when separated from a Soldier. This command issue continues to be a frequent request for IG assistance.

All commanders, including rear detachment commanders, must be engaged in this matter. The amount of financial support a dependent may receive depends on the situation. Army Regulation 608-99, "Family Support, Child Custody and Paternity," sets the Army's policy on responsibilities and procedures for financial support in the absence of a court order. This regulation also includes regulatory standards relating to child custody, visitation matters, paternity cases and compliance with court orders, as required by law, to Family members of Soldiers.

For example, if a Soldier is separated from his spouse, the full amount of Basic Allowance for Housing, Type II would be paid to the spouse and children. It is important to note that BAH II is a universal rate, not the local rate. Commanders must consult with their servicing staff judge advocate or inspector general for assistance with specific situations.

The Army recognizes the transient nature of military duty. However, AR 608-99 prohibits the use of a Soldier's military status or assignment as reason or cause to deny financial support to Family members. Soldiers must continue to support Family members as long as there is a legal obligation by marriage or custody and until there is a valid court order, written agreement or proper relief from the chain of command as outlined in AR 608-99.

Let's look at a hypothetical scenario; Staff Sgt. John Doe and his wife, Jane, were separated in October 2009. On Feb. 5, 2010, Mrs. Doe calls the IG office and requests assistance, reporting that Staff Sgt. Doe is not providing any financial support to his Family. The IG will then notify the Soldier's commander to ensure AR 608-99 is properly applied. In this simple case, Staff Sgt. Doe pays the required BAH II rate of $894 until a divorce decree terminating the marriage is provided through the civil court system. The Soldier is required to provide continuous financial support to his dependents, in accordance with AR 608-99, until a judgment is made by the court; at which time the court order replaces the AR guidance.

When a Soldier and former spouse have a court-ordered divorce decree from any state, the Soldier is obligated to pay according to the court order. If the court orders the Soldier to pay $450 per month, the Soldier is only required to pay that amount, regardless of the BAH II rates.

While the Soldier's Family members are residing in government Family housing, the Soldier is not required to provide additional financial support. However, when the supported Family members move out of government Family housing, the Soldier will provide BAH II. The bottom-line is commanders must determine all the facts and consult with their staff judge advocate when determining the solution.

Spouses who are not receiving their lawful support from their Soldier may contact unit commanders. Commanders must then initiate immediate action to ensure the Soldier is in compliance with AR 608-99 and inform the spouse of the corrective actions taken within 14 days. Commanders should inform Soldiers that fail to provide financial support is a violation of AR 608-99, and such violations may be punishable under the Uniform Code of Military Justice.

For more information on Soldier Family support obligations, contact your local servicing legal assistance office or inspector general office.

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Managing reunion with Family upon redeployment

CAPT. WILLIAM G. THOMPSON
1908TH MEDICAL DETACHMENT

In his column about redeployment, Capt. Mike Knight mentioned talking to your Family about changes on both sides of the water and being prepared for the children to be somewhat apprehensive in regards to the reunion.

I want to talk about the extended Family: mom, dad, brothers, sisters, aunts, uncles and cousins you didn't even know about. If you have any kind of relationship with your Family at all, everyone is going to want to see you when you return. You will need to remember your spouse may not have as much free time as you if they are employed. You have the earned deployment leave but they don't.

One suggestion is, if your spouse is comfortable with the idea, consider visiting your Family who live out of town on your own. If you or your spouse do not consider this to be an option, remember you do have the right to set healthy boundaries. This means that you could always request the Family come to see you (especially since you have traveled more than 14 hours to get home) or tell them that you will visit them later once you have settled in and your spouse has time to take off from work.

With your spouse in mind, I don't care if you have been married for 100 years, this statement by Dr. Larry Crab is true: "The romance you use to catch your spouse should only be the foreplay to the romance used to keep your spouse."

We get into routines, and if this is your third or fourth deployment you may even have a routine about redeployment. I would encourage you to "date" your spouse like when you first met. Take the time to get to know your spouse again. Even if you have been entertaining great communications while deployed, face-to-face interaction is always going to be different. Take time to show true genuine interest in your spouse as a friend, lover, mate and parents if applicable.

Now let's talk about the children. If your children are young, plan some Family time with the spouse present. This will give the children the security of the parent who has been there during the deployment. The idea is to make an emotionally safe environment for the children. Do not try to force them to be alone and interact with you. Give them time to adjust to you and you to them. As a matter of fact, you may even want to learn to play with them. By that I mean if they are coloring on the floor, see if they welcome you to join them.

Last, let's briefly talk about self-reunion. Once you are on block leave (and if you have the luxury), take some time for yourself to get used to being home again and in your home environment.

Supply Support Activity provides mission critical supplies

STORY BY
SGT. KIMBERLY JOHNSON
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE ADDER, Iraq— The Supply Support Activity warehouse at Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq, serves as the authorized request and turn-in facility for deployed customers assigned to the United States Division – South area of operation.

Soldiers with the 40th Quartermaster Company, 110th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 224th Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) operate the warehouse, the second largest supply facility in theater, furnishing all classes of supply to more than 1,200 customers, said Warrant Officer Sorepa Thomas, the SSA accountability officer with the 40th Quartermaster Co. and a Vailoatai, American Samoa, native.

"The volume of the workload is pretty high," Thomas said. "We receive at least 50 containers full of supplies, twice a week. That is not counting the air pallets arriving from the airfield and the convoy loads coming from Balad (Iraq) and Kuwait."

The SSA provides units in the USD-S region with office supplies, packaged military vehicle oils, maintenance products and lubricants, lumber and aviation repair parts.

"Everything in the military supply class system has to come through the SSA," Thomas said. "That is the standard Army retail supply system."

On a daily average, the SSA receives 1,800 requests and manually processes and ships 382 orders, according to Sgt. Donachiko Faison, stock control section noncommissioned officer-in-charge with the 40th Quartermsater Co. and a Fayetteville N.C., native.

"When a unit submits a supply request to the SSA, there is a 24-hour turnaround period for the processing of the item," Faison said. "The team processes the request, pulls the items off the shelves and ships to whomever the system tells us needs the parts. If the item is not in stock, the team has to order the item from another SSA or, in some cases, from the United States."

Thomas said there are more than 13,000 pieces of stock currently in the SSA warehouse at COB Adder.

"That's more than $65 million worth of stock I'm financially responsible for," he said. "If a bolt worth $1.23 comes up missing, that could mean jail time if I could not recover the item."

There are six sections comprising the SSA that provide checks and balances for the warehouse, Thomas said.

The administration section handles all the paperwork associated with the supply request. There are the receiving and turn-in sections which deal directly with items coming into the SSA and the processing of the items going out to the customers. The shipping section works directly with other bases to ensure everyone receives what they need from the SSA. The issue section deals directly with the customers based on COB Adder. Last, the stock control section is where the main server is housed and where the progress of all sections is monitored.

The Soldiers at the SSA provide 24-hour operations to supply their comrades with anything they need to stay mission-ready.

"It might just be one bolt to us, but that is the bolt that could be keeping somebody else alive," Faison said.

"The SSA is there to support the battlefield," Thomas said. "We are responsible for somebody else's life. We could avoid one death each day by making sure they get the equipment they need to go out there and do their mission."

Mishal Zahi, an employee of the Iraqi company F-JAN and a Mosul, Iraq, resident, maneuvers an air conditioner June 23 in the scrap yard at Contingency Operating Base Marez, Iraq. Regimental Fires Squadron, 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) has made progress toward clearing what used to be a landfill and reseeding the area.

Scrap yard, former landfill to go green

STORY AND PHOTOS BY
SGT. CHAD MENEGAY
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE MAREZ, Iraq—The Regimental Fires Squadron, 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) has nearly managed to clear what used to be a landfill at Contingency Operating Base Marez, Iraq.

"When we first got here, that landfill was one of the areas we saw that was going to be a big challenge," said Lt. Col. Warner Holt, commander of RFS and an Estill Springs, Tenn., native. "It was a large pit used to dump metal. It was like a mountain of steel just (mixed) with lots of dirt and just a big mess. One of our goals on this deployment was to have that area returned to nature."

Holt said the RFS is getting very near to "returning the area to nature," at which point COB Marez can go into a green status. He plans to reseed the area.

"There is a fragmentary order that came from Baghdad to clean up all scrap metal throughout Iraq," said 1st Sgt. Raymond Sands, first sergeant for Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, RFS and a Chapel Hill, Tenn., native.

One purpose of the cleanup is to cut down on the availability of explosively formed projectile-making materials, mainly copper, he said.

"We make sure all the copper is pulled out that could be used to make EFPs," Sands said. "We ensure there is no brass in it, or any military supplies or equipment that needs to go through a demilitarization process. We make sure that when the local national trucks come onto the COB, they don't get loaded up with any scrap metal that could be used against us."

Sgt. Dyson Matherne, noncommissioned officer-in-charge of the COB Marez scrap yard for HHT, RFS and a Houma, La., native, credits a contracted Iraqi company, F-JAN, with making progress on the scrap yard.

"They have done a really good job of taking all this stuff out of here," Matherne said. "It was a joint effort. Last year the landfill was really bad. It's taken F-JAN and a lot of time to get it down to where it is now. Before, it was just a big trash dump. It's more organized now and looking a lot better."

Other recycling plans are in the works.

"We have started the process of getting bids from vendors to come in and recycle plastic and Styrofoam," Holt said. "Since we've been here, we recycle all the cans. It's a lot better than having that pile up over time."

The U.S. government bought a number of incinerators capable of processing 36-tons of refuse per day. KBR, Inc. will operate one such incinerator located at COB Marez that began operations July 1.

"It will take care of about 90 to 95 percent of the trash we have here on base," Holt said. "It's been tested and it's ready to go. The intent is to leave a means for the Iraqis to handle refuse in an environmentally safe manner. We want to leave this place better than what we found it."

Ahmad Jiyad (left), Ghanim Muhammad (center), and Bashur Jiyad, all of Mosul, Iraq and F-JAN company workers, haul a large plastic tube of wires June 23 at the Contingency Operating Base Marez, Iraq scrap yard. Regimental Fires Squadron, 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) has made progress toward clearing what used to be a landfill and reseeding the area.

298th SMC allied trades fabricates reality

STORY AND PHOTOS BY
PFC. DAVID T. CHRISTIAN
13TH COMBAT SUSTAINMENT SUPPORT BATTALION

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq—Soldiers with the allied trades section of the 298th Support Maintenance Company, 13th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 3rd Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) commonly display the ingenuity of the modern Soldier.

The projects completed by the allied trades Soldiers are planned and built by Soldiers in both the metal and wood shops.

"Everything we do is completely new and different," said Spc. Duane Bair, a metal fabrication specialist with the 298th SMC and a Saxton, Pa., native. "Everything is completely custom, from completely fabricating storage containers for the new military all-terrain vehicles, to building canopies for the gunners in the turrets on (Mine-Resistant Ambush-Protected vehicles), to rebuilding the mountings for … antennas."

They created a lot of custom tools for the 298th SMC Heavy Equipment Transporter repair shop. Some of the hammers and wrenches used in the HET repair shop were specifically designed to make the jobs of the mechanics safer and easier, said Sgt. Rex A. Wertz, a metal fabrication specialist with the 298th SMC and a Bedford, Penn., native.

Some of the Soldiers in the welding shop are not actually welders, coming from different military occupational specialties and backgrounds.

"We work very well together," Wertz said. "If one Soldier doesn't know how to do a specific job, we work together to get the job done, ensuring that it is done right, and that the Soldier gains the knowledge necessary for future, similar jobs."

Staff Sgt. Robin T. McGill, noncommissioned officer-in-charge of the allied trades weld shop with the 298th SMC and a Lewisburg, Penn., native, has been working in the metal fabrication industry for more than 20 years, and has personally trained most of the Soldiers under his supervision.

"If it is made of metal, it falls under our scope of operations," McGill said. "If it is metal and it is broken, cracked or bent, we can fix it."

The other half of the allied trades operation is the 298th Support Maintenance wood shop, a diverse group of Soldiers who design and build almost anything requested.

Spc. Bryan N. Davis, an apprentice in the wood shop with the 298th SMC and a North Beach, Md., native, said this is his first time working with wood, but he is learning quickly and enjoys it.

"Everything I do here is going to be different, no matter what I make," he said. "The skills I am learning here will be great for future jobs and hobbies, and it's always a new challenge for me, because I'm just starting to learn."

Davis began learning by cutting shelves and picture frames, and then moving on to benches and award plaques, eventually to helping build the chain of command board for the 13th CSSB.

Sgt. 1st Class David Sunderland, noncommissioned officer-in-charge of Bellwood, Penn., native, said his job is to supervise all work being done in the shop, tracking all the orders and assigning a priority to each one.

"I call myself a working supervisor," he said. "Sometimes we have more work than the Soldiers alone can do, and sometimes I can show them how to do something they haven't seen before. I also check each and every individual piece we work on before it ever leaves the shop."

The Soldiers of the wood shop have worked on building a Pavilion for the 3rd Sustainment Brigade and many little odds and ends, such as flag cases for Soldiers. Sunderland said that the fact the flag cases are built by Soldiers for Soldiers makes them some of the most important items that they work on.

"We are here to help Soldiers," Sunderland said. "If they need shade, we give them that. If a Soldier needs storage space, we give them that. We don't work on frivolous items."

Spc. Jonathan Novak, a wood fabrication specialist with the 298th Support Maintenance Company, 13th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 3rd Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and an Altoona, Pa., native, applies wood stain to a series of picture frames June 3 in the wood shop at Joint Base Balad, Iraq.

"The skills I am learning here will be great for future jobs and hobbies, and it's always a new challenge for me, because I'm just starting to learn"

— Spc. Bryan N. Davis

Sgt. Justin Pecht, a metal fabrication specialist with the 298th Support Maintenance Company, 13th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 3rd Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and an Altoona, Pa., native, grinds a customized cutting tool June 3 in the metal shop at Joint Base Balad. Iraq.

Sgt. Jon Simes, a metal fabrication specialist with the 298th Support Maintenance Company, 13th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 3rd Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and an Altoona, Pa., native, finishes a series of spacing plates in the metal shop at Joint Base Balad, Iraq.

Micro-grants improve local economy

STORY AND PHOTO BY
SGT. GAELEN LOWERS
3RD SUSTAINMENT BRIGADE

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq— The U.S. Army is taking steps to improve the economy of Iraq and the lives of the people there by issuing micro-grants to help local Iraqi businesses.

"The micro-grant program is designed to stimulate local economies," said 1st Lt. Alexander Kim, officer-in-charge of economic development with C Battery, 1st Battalion, 37th Field Artillery, 3rd Striker Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division and a Seoul, Korea, native. "We try to stimulate the local market places to get the cash flowing."

Micro-grants issued by the U.S. Army in Iraq are just one part of a larger initiative, the Commander's Emergency Response Program, intended to provide commanders with the means to assist the local population with humanitarian relief and reconstruction projects within the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility.

Kim said to date, his unit has issued 228 checks, amounting to almost $500,000. By the end of their tour they expect to make about 500 payments.

The checks are printed by the 82nd Finance Company, 3rd Special Troops Battalion, 3rd Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), he said.

"It's money that the government gives to them to better their business," said Capt. David Dinklocker, disbursing officer with the 82nd Fin. Co. and a Charleston, W.Va., native.

The grants are not handouts, however, and business owners are expected to have a plan for the money.

Kim said his unit works in conjunction with Red Crescent, part of the International Red Cross, which conducts surveys of all the shops and shopkeepers.

"They generate applications, send them to us and we double-check them," he said. "The applications then go through many more steps until (they reach) division and then (make their) way back down the chain. We then work with finance to get checks printed off."

The maximum amount disbursed is $5,000, paid out in two increments, but the amount depends upon the survey taken prior to the application process.

Once improvements are made from the initial payment, Red Crescent will analyze the progress. Red Crescent will then schedule delivery of the second half of the payment, Kim said.

Dinklocker said giving the merchants checks is a two-fold way of increasing the overall economy.

"By using the checks, we obligate the merchants to utilize the Iraqi banking system," he said. "By obligating them to use the bank as an asset, we not only are able to pay out the money in a safer way, but it builds their banking infrastructure by getting them to use checks, as well as getting cash off the battlefield."

"By increasing the number of patrons to a marketplace, we are improving the local economy," he said.

They accomplish this by providing the funds to improve the shopkeepers' stores in terms of goods available, improving the structure of the building, and improving the general quality of the marketplace, Kim said.

"They can buy supplies or make repairs to the shop, which will make it a more hospitable place and attract more customers," he said.

The micro-grants provide a more optimistic outlook on small business ownership, and give Iraqi citizens more of a reason to pursue legitimate employment, instead of potentially pursuing illegal activities, to generate income for their families, Kim said.

"Right now we are focusing on paying out all of the first half-payments and dealing with the second half-payments later," he said. "By doing this, we are able to affect more people, enriching more people's lives."

1st Lt. Alexander Kim, officer-in-charge of economic development, C Battery, 1st Battalion, 37th Field Artillery, 3rd Striker Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division and a Seoul, Korea, native reviews micro-grant checks for discrepancies July 27 at Joint Base Balad, Iraq. The checks will go to local shop owners for improvements to their businesses in an effort to strengthen the Iraqi economy.

Battlefield promotion program can advance Soldiers quicker

Maj. Ben Dennis (from left), chief of personnel accountability, strength reporting, personnel readiness management and personnel information management with the 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and a Beverly Hills, Calif., native; Staff Sgt. Michael Kellaris, strength management noncommissioned officer-in-charge with the 103rd ESC and a Des Moines, Iowa, native; Sgt. 1st Class Terry Reeves, NCOIC of the personnel strength and personnel services sections with the 103rd ESC and a Beaver Dam, Wis., native; and Master Sgt. Bobby Hall, personnel services NCOIC 103rd ESC and a Shreveport, La., native, are all part of the team that helps process nominations under the battlefield promotion program. The purpose of the program is to accelerate the promotion process for exceptionally responsible and courageous junior enlisted Soldiers.

STORY AND PHOTO BY
PFC. EMILY WALTER
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq— Commonly, Soldiers must wait to be promoted until time-in-service or time-in-grade requirements are met, or a position with an accompanying higher rank becomes available. What some don't know, however, is that getting promoted as a junior enlisted Soldier, in any component of the Army, can happen much quicker when deployed through the battlefield promotion program.

"The purpose of the enlisted battlefield promotion program is to accelerate and expeditiously promote courageous and extraordinary Soldiers who willingly accept, and flawlessly perform at, levels of increased responsibility on the battlefield," said Sgt. 1st Class Terry Reeves, noncommissioned officer-in-charge of the personnel strength and personnel services sections with the 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and a Beaver Dam, Wis., native.

The program is meant to acknowledge Soldiers who go above and beyond by performing tasks usually reserved for individuals in a higher pay grade, Reeves said.

"Battlefield promotion is an excellent program to reward Soldiers for their hard work," said Staff Sgt. Michael Kellaris, strength management NCOIC with the 103rd ESC and a Des Moines, Iowa, native.

Both Reeves and Kellaris are part of the team from the 103rd ESC personnel and administration staff that helps process Soldiers' promotion packets and battlefield promotion nominations.

Junior enlisted Soldiers can be nominated for the battlefield promotion program by their section NCOIC, who is responsible for sending the nomination to the unit's first sergeant. The program is reserved for enlisted Soldiers in the rank of sergeant and below who are deployed to Iraq or Afghanistan.

"The battlefield promotion program is a great program to advance our stellar and most deserving junior leaders in a wartime environment," said Maj. Ben Dennis, chief of personnel accountability, strength reporting, personnel readiness management and personnel information management with the 103rd ESC, and a Beverly Hills, Calif., native.

With the battlefield promotion program, Soldiers can bypass the regular promotion slotting system, regardless of vacancies in their units or placement on the permanent promotion recommendation list, which dictates the number of slots available for each rank.

"Some people are recommended for promotion for a whole year because too many people are in the slots," Reeves said. "(The program) is a great opportunity to get promoted without having to go through the regular promotion system. It doesn't matter if there are no slots. If you go above and beyond, you'll get promoted."

There are a few stipulations with the battlefield promotion program. First, a Soldier cannot be nominated for promotion if he or she is "flagged" for failing the Army Physical Fitness Test, not qualifying on their required weapon or misconduct. Soldiers must show exceptional behavior and responsibility to be nominated.

In addition, Soldiers can be promoted only one NCO grade with the program. For example, if a specialist gets promoted to sergeant, the Soldier cannot use the battlefield promotion program to get promoted to staff sergeant. Also, if a sergeant gets promoted to staff sergeant while deployed, the Soldier must complete Warrior Leader Course within 270 days after redeployment in order to maintain that rank.

It is possible for a Soldier to be promoted twice under the battlefield promotion program. Since the process is conducted quarterly, a Soldier can be nominated in more than one quarter.

"The battlefield promotion program is a great tool the Army came up with," said Master Sgt. Bobby Hall, personnel services NCOIC with the 103rd ESC and a Shreveport, La., native. "It provides recognition to all Soldiers who go above and beyond."

Deployed Soldiers receive first aid training

STORY AND PHOTO BY
CAPT. ORLANDO GUZMAN
141ST INFANTRY REGIMENT

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE ADDER, Iraq— Soldiers with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 3rd Battalion, 141st Infantry Regiment, 224th Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) recertified their combat lifesaver qualifications June 27 here.

The training—extending the Soldiers' certifications and renewing confidence in their skills—is being conducted on Saturdays and Sundays through mid-July at the 28th Combat Support Hospital at COB Adder.

Staff Sgt. Napoleon Solis, senior medic with HHC, 3rd. Bn., 141st Inf. Regt. and a Pharr, Texas, native, said the one thing he wanted all his students to take away from the class was the knowledge of how to save another person's life.

"Medical information and techniques for treatment are constantly being improved and changed and every Soldier must be frequently refreshed and re-taught to keep up with the latest trends," he said. "Just like anything else, (medical) skills are perishable and must be maintained."

Solis instructs his classes by reading various scenarios from handouts, doing hands-on practical exercises and then having his classes take a group examination.

Spc. Gilberto San Pedro, a supply specialist from HHC, 3rd., Bn., 141st Inf. Regt. and a San Benito, Texas, native, said he enjoyed the class because the instructor was realistic, basing the training off of combat scenarios that actually occurred.

San Pedro also said it is good to stay proficient in medical training because anything can happen at any time.

The 10 specific lessons that are covered in the class for the Soldiers to stay recertified include how to request a medevac, apply a combat application tourniquet to an extremity, treat an open chest wound and perform a needle chest decompression.

"The training is vital, imperative and important enough that everyone on COB Adder should attend, because someday somebody might have to save your life," said Sgt. Salvador Mendez, administrative noncommissioned officer with HHC, 3rd., Bn., 141st Inf. Regt. and a San Juan, Texas, native.

At the end of the classroom instruction and examination, each Soldier walks away with his or her certificate of training and is a certified combat lifesaver for another year.

Staff Sgt. Napoleon Solis (left), senior medic with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 3rd Battalion, 141st Infantry Regiment, 224th Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and a Pharr, Texas, native, demonstrates locating the insertion site for needle chest decompression to fellow Soldiers June 27 during a combat lifesaver recertification at Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq.

Quartermaster Co. maintains IED Awareness

STORY AND PHOTO BY
SGT. GAELEN LOWERS
3RD SUSTAINMENT BRIGADE

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq— Twenty-five Soldiers with the personal security detachment of the 512th Quartermaster Company, 13th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 3rd Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) attended level two counter-improvised explosive device training June 24 at Joint Base Balad, Iraq.

"We're making them aware of what kind of IEDs we have here in Iraq," said Sgt. 1st Class Jennifer Atherton, noncommissioned officer-in-charge of force protection with the 3rd Sustainment Bde. and a native of The Villages, Fla. "We want to make them more aware of the clues that indicate the presence of an IED."

The Soldiers walked through two training lanes. One lane gave Soldiers 10 minutes to stand at a point and search for possible IEDs. In the second lane, Soldiers tried to spot IEDs while on the move in their Mine-Resistant Ambush-Protected vehicles.

Pfc. Michael Williams, a driver with the 512th Quartermaster Co., and a West Memphis, Ark., native, said he hopes this training will help him better identify possible IEDs and keep the lives of his crew safe while on the road.

"If they can identify the hazard before they reach it, they can effectively save lives," Williams said. "By not taking things seriously out here, it could cost (you) or your battle buddy's life."

Level one training is required of all Soldiers coming into theater. It is more of a simple orientation class about IEDs. The level two training is required of all Soldiers who have a regular mission outside of the wire. It teaches more in-depth concepts than basic counter-IED training—why they are placed, where they are, types of triggers and the times of year IED attacks are more likely to occur.

The 25-member team learned what indicators exist based on the most up-to-date information, said 2nd Lt. Blair Miller, platoon leader of the PSD with the 512th Quartermaster Co. and a Seaside Park, N.J., native.

"Now we are more aware of what the threats are and all the different indicators out there," she said. "Now we're not just out there stomping around and waiting to get hit."

Atherton said she was glad to be able to give something to the Soldiers so they were safer on roads.

"Because I am not able to go off the base with these Soldiers, it makes me feel good that I am able to give them more tools in their tool bag to make it through the mission and make it home safe," she said.

Miller said she thought the training was important for not only her team, but any Soldier in Iraq.

"Any Soldier who is going to be out on the road needs to know the most up-to-date threats," she said. "If you don't know what's out there, then you have no business on the roads at all."

Sgt. Robert Higgins (kneeling), a squad leader for the personal security detachment with Special Troops Battalion, 3rd Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and an Andalusia, Ala., native shows how an improvised explosive device may be detonated to Soldiers during level two counter-IED training at Joint Base Balad, Iraq.

Mobile weapons team keep Soldiers firing

ABOVE PHOTOGRAPHS: Cpl. Brandon Hocking, a small arms and artillery repair specialist with the 632nd Maintenance Company, 110th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 224th Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and a Seattle native, cleans the bolt of a chain-fed 25 mm M242 Bushmaster autocannon in the weapons repair shop June 24 at Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq.

STORY AND PHOTOS BY
SGT. KIMBERLY JOHNSON
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE ADDER, Iraq— The armament repair shop at Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq, supports all units here requiring maintenance and repair of weapons systems.

Soon, there will be a mobile repair team to perform maintenance on crew-served weapons at unit locations. Currently, the shop at COB Adder is too small to service several weapons systems at once.

"We are putting together a mobile team," said Cpl. Brandon Hocking, a small arms and artillery repairer with the 632nd Maintenance Company, 110th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 224th Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and a Seattle native.

"Three Soldiers will carry a toolbox to the outlying units and fix the weapons on site, because we are not physically capable of storing weapons in the shop," Hocking said.

The operation should run smoothly; it is not a foreign concept to the team. When the 632nd Maint. Co. is in the United States, mobile teams go to the different units to fix their weapons, said Warrant Officer Larry Cunningham, an armament technician with the 632nd Maint. Co. and a Columbia, S.C., native.

The reason it is important to utilize a mobile team is because it is easier for armament Soldiers to take their gauges and tools with them to do inspections than it is for units to bring hundreds of weapons to them, he said.

"We are here to fix all the weapons that are brought in to us," Hocking said. "We are open for business to anyone with a Unit Identification Code. We fix anything and ensure all weapons are mission capable."

Some of the most common weapons serviced are the M2 .50-caliber Browning machine gun and the M249 squad automatic weapon, he said.

"Most of the fixes on the '.50-cal.' are from normal wear and tear from the weapons being transferred on and off the trucks, in addition to the heat during (convoy) missions," Cunningham said.

Hocking said currently, the armament repair team is preparing to conduct annual gauging of weapons and the present facility cannot support the amount of weapons that will be brought in for servicing.

"We have to test the weapon for different specifications and see (that they are properly calibrated)," Hocking said. "It's very time-consuming; we do hundreds of weapons a day and we do not have the capacity here for that."

The repair shop is open seven days a week to serve the needs of the surrounding units. The Soldiers on the repair crew are there because they want to be, Cunningham said.

"My favorite part about this job is learning different weapons systems," Hocking said. There's always something new to learn so I can be better at my job."

Cunningham said he appreciated the work of the Soldiers that work with him.

"The caliber of Soldiers is outstanding because we have a quick turnover … getting weapons in, technically inspected and back out so they can get right back into the fight," he said. "The Soldiers pride themselves in fast turnaround times for weapons maintenance."

If they go out on a mission and they need to use the weapon and it malfunctions because it was not properly taken care of, then it puts Soldiers at risk. Without a functioning weapon, Soldiers can lose their lives, Cunningham said.

ABOVE: Pfc. Brandonn Johnson, an armament repair specialist with the 632nd Maintenance Company, 110th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 224th Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and a Sumter, S.C., native, cleans a piece of a chain-fed 25 mm M242 Bushmaster autocannon in the weapons repair shop June 24 at Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq.

Use of blimp helps with base defense

STORY AND PHOTOS BY
CPL. RICH BARKEMEYER
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE TAJI, Iraq— While Soldiers go about their daily lives on Contingency Operating Base Taji, Iraq, something is watching over them. An Aerostat blimp, operated by Soldiers from B Troop, Regimental Troop Squadron, 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), has cameras trained on the action below.

The Aerostat blimp plays an important role in base defense, said Sgt. 1st Class Richard Thornsberry, noncommissioned officer-in-charge of the Aerostat system with the 278th ACR and a Nashville, Tenn., native.

"We actively … provide overwatch for units that are outside the wire," Thornsberry said.

"This has been one of the more interesting things I've done, because it gives you a chance to be a little more proactive," said Spc. Mark McCann, an Aerostat operator with the 278th ACR, and a Milton, Fla., native. "We can scan ahead of convoys and see what's going on ahead of them, and we can talk to them and warn them of what's out there."

Before the blimp can be operated, the crew runs through an extensive preflight checklist, similar to a regular aircraft, Thornsberry said.

When the blimp is released from its docking station, the Aerostat crew members all work specific roles, keeping the blimp level in the air.

"It's very time consuming, and everything moves very fast," Thornsberry said. "You have to know what everyone is doing. It's like an orchestra, where the conductor is up there directing the music. It's the same thing getting this piece of equipment off the ground."

After the blimp reaches its flying height, crew members can operate the system's various cameras, scanning the area around COB Taji.

"There's no such thing as a typical day here," McCann said. "Mostly though, we watch out for the troops, and keep an eye on the bad guys."

Thornsberry said being a member of the Aerostat team means spending long hours watching the camera monitors, but the group functions well.

"Most of us have been together for several years, and some got added during the deployment," he said. "We work (long) shifts, so we've all gotten to know each other pretty well."

Added McCann: "We're all older guys. We're all National Guard, and we all have civilian jobs. We just have a lot of experience. We mesh really well as a team. It's a lot of fun."

Despite the long hours, the members of the 278th ACR's Aerostat team enjoy their work, knowing they are playing an important part in helping protect COB Taji.

"This (job) is the best-kept secret," Thornsberry said. "We're supporting the troops, and we're supporting base operations. People can sleep better at night knowing that we have an overwatch, and we're keeping an eye out for their safety. It's the best job I've had."

"We actively ... provide overwatch for units that are outside the wire."

— Sgt. 1st Class Richard Thornsberry

Sgt. Carlos Wills, assistant flight director for the Aerostat team with B Troop, Regimental Troop Squadron, 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and a Clarksville, Tenn., native, performs a preflight inspection on the Aerostat blimp June 28 before launching it from Contingency Operating Base Taji, Iraq.

Sgt. Kenneth Arnold, an Aerostat blimp operator with B Troop, Regimental Troop Squadron, 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), and Pinson, Tenn., native, helps launch the blimp June 28 at Contingency Operating Base Taji, Iraq.

ABOVE: Kevin Wilson, lead guitarist for Uncle Kracker, plays for service members during a concert July 3 at Joint Base Balad, Iraq. Uncle Kracker toured Iraq and Kuwait in celebration of the July 4th weekend, playing two shows in Kuwait and three in Iraq.

LEFT: Uncle Kracker, also known as Matt Shafer, sings for service members during a concert July 3 at Joint Base Balad, Iraq. Uncle Kracker toured Iraq and Kuwait in celebration of the July 4th weekend, playing two shows in Kuwait and three in Iraq.

ABOVE: Uncle Kracker performs for service members during a concert July 3 at Joint Base Balad, Iraq. Uncle Kracker toured Iraq and Kuwait in celebration of the July 4th weekend, playing two shows in Kuwait and three in Iraq.

"I thought about what I wanted to say when I got over here for a while, and then I thought, 'hey, you idiot, just say thanks.' "

— Uncle Kracker

Uncle Kracker tours Kuwait, Iraq

STORY AND PHOTOS BY
SGT. CHAD MENEGAY
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq— Like most service members here in Iraq, Uncle Kracker spent the July 4th holiday weekend at work—thousands of miles from fireworks and family barbecues.

Lead singer and front man Uncle Kracker, also known as Matthew Shafer, said he told his wife that coming to Iraq is the least he can do to show support for deployed service members.

"But, I've gotta be honest, when we decided to come over here, some of us were a little scared, some of us were (expletive) our pants," Shafer said.

The band, which flew July 3 from Victory Base Complex, Iraq to Joint Base Balad, Iraq, began a three-month tour of the United States July 9 at the county fair in Jefferson, Wis., in support of Uncle Kracker's recent country music EP "Happy Hour: The South River Road Session." The album, released June 22, features country remakes from the 2009 release, "Happy Hour," and a new collaborative single, "Good to Be Me," with Uncle Kracker's friend, Kid Rock.

"I think it's good for any artist to try to get into different music," said Spc. Wayne Lovin, a combat medic with H Troop, 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and a Rogersville, Tenn., native. "It's always good to try and do a change, and that's with anything in life. Uncle Kracker is getting older, and it's good to gain more popularity with different age groups and ethnicities."

Uncle Kracker has experienced relative success on the pop charts over the last decade with hit singles "Smile," "Follow Me," "Drift Away" and "When the Sun Goes Down." He has displayed some diversity. He began his career as a disc jockey for Kid Rock, rapped on his own first album "Double Wide" in 2000, co-wrote Kid Rock's No. 1 hit "All Summer Long" and hits "Bawitdaba," "Cowboy," "Forever," and "Only God Knows Why." Now he's singing country.

"I like his music a lot," said Pfc. Richard Meacham, a signal support systems specialist for the 540th Quartermaster Company, 13th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 3rd Sustainment Brigade, 103rd ESC and a Newman, Ga., native. "I like that he does all types of music. He's very versatile."

Uncle Kracker said all of the service members he met so far on his Middle East tour were courteous and professional.

"My band and I have been having a ball," he said.

"I hope more celebrities come out to bring the morale of the troops up," Meacham said. "It's good to be able to have a break."

Lovin said it is good to get away from all the pressures of the job, just to enjoy the music, camaraderie and have fun. "We just came here to play music," Uncle Kracker said. "I thought about what I wanted to say when I got over here for a while, and then I thought, 'hey, you idiot, just say thanks.'"

VP attends naturalization ceremony

U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Russell Lee Klika

Gen. Raymond T. Ordierno, commander of United States Forces – Iraq, Vice President Joe Biden and Biden's wife, Jill, show appreciation to the Soldiers receiving U.S. citizenship July 4 during an immigration and naturalization ceremony held in the rotunda of the Al Faw Palace at Camp Victory, Iraq. For more, see front page.

MAKE THE STADIUM YOURS

Would you like to be the center of attraction at your favorite team's home stadium? The Jacksonville Jaguars, Atlanta Falcons and Miami Dolphins want you on their jumbotrons. The 196th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment will be recording shout-outs from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. July 21 at the Public Affairs Office at Joint Base Balad, Building 7508, to be aired at each home game of one of these three NFL teams.

If you're from the Jacksonville, Atlanta or Miami areas, or if you have friends or family in one of the areas, and are interested in recording a shout out, contact 1st Lt. David Spangler at one of the contact methods listed below.

escpao@iraq.centcom.mil
david.r.spangler@iraq.cenctom.mil

DSN 318-483-2156
VoIP: 483-4601

Smile Train Italia return

STORY AND PHOTOS BY
1ST LT. PATRICK WILSON
116TH INFANTRY REGIMENT

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE ADDER, Iraq— A groggy little boy looks up from his mother's lap. The presence of American Soldiers in his room is certainly not expected. His face brightens a bit after he and his mother reach out to collect small bags of treats presented by the Americans.

His recovery room is actually part of an elaborate mobile hospital run by the provincial reconstruction team for the province of Dhi Qar and led by representatives of the Italian government.

This compound at Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq, is also home to numerous training and outreach programs. It houses a new improvised field hospital that provides care for Iraqi citizens unable to get treatment elsewhere.

Soldiers with 1st Battalion, 116th Infantry Regiment, 224th Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) visited this facility June 26 to learn more about their programs and to bring gifts sent to Iraqi children from Families in the National Guard unit's home state of Virginia.

The visit by the infantry Soldiers was the result of an invitation from Steve Burton, a civilian police adviser-trainer and a Martinsville, Va., native, who wanted his fellow Virginians to learn more about the programs being run.

In addition to childhood and family education programs, Iraqi Highway Patrol professional training, horticulture classes and English language classes, the PRT is also partnering with an international charity which has a mission to provide corrective surgery for children born with a cleft lip or pallet.

The 1st Bn., 116th Inf. Regt. Soldiers walked through waiting areas distributing toys, clothes and snacks to the children and their anxious parents.

"Taking the gifts to these little children at the hospital today was one of the highlights of my deployment so far," said Capt. Page Brooks, chaplain with 1st Bn., 141st Field Artillery Regt., 224th Sust. Bde. and a New Orleans native.

Brooks joined Capt. Seung Lee, chaplain with 1st Bn., 116th Inf. Regt. and a Charlottesville, Va., native, to deliver the items.

Brooks said she was reminded about the change in the U.S. mission here and the transition to advising and assisting the Iraqi people.

"As U.S. forces in Iraq (transition) into (Operation) New Dawn … it becomes all the more important for us to win the hearts and minds of the people," he said. "What better way to reach out and show the world's concern than through helping serve the medical needs of Iraqi children?"

Brooks said he and Lee hope to secure more donations to deliver in the coming weeks.

"The more goods we have donated for the children here, the more we can help improve their lives," he said.

Smile Train Italia is an all-volunteer charity that brings trained surgeons to developing countries for several weeks to provide free surgery to children. The PRT at COB Adder is conducting dozens of these procedures here this week on children who have traveled from all over Southern Iraq.

This is the third delegation of doctors here since the mobile surgical unit and Ppost-operative ward were donated in April 2009 by the Italian government. On this trip, 18 Italian medical volunteers gave up their vacation time to come to Iraq. The team includes three surgeons, three anesthesiologists and several medical technicians and nurses. It is estimated the Smile Train Italia team will treat nearly 120 children over 10 days, said Paola Palma, team medical director.

The mobile surgical unit consists of a motorized expandable trailer divided into an operating room, pre- and post-operative recovery areas, sterile room, changing room and storage area. The unit has all of the equipment and systems needed to perform surgeries with a high standard of safety and efficiency.

Many of the parents and children arrived on buses arranged by the principal hospital in Nasiriyah, Iraq, which cooperated with Smile Train Italia by helping the organization find those needing care and allowing all children to undergo the tests and pre-operative clinical examinations. Nearly 250 children and their families showed up on the first day for medical screening.

While the chaplains and their chaplain assistants concentrated on handing out toys and encouragement to families, Capt. Lisa Foster, a physician assistant with 1st Bn., 116th Inf. Regt. and a Charlottesville, Va., native, spent time meeting with the surgeons and the medical staff to learn how they run the system and to learn what assistance the brigade clinic at COB Adder might provide in the future.

"I was so impressed by their operation," Foster said. "It's truly amazing how they can get each child in and out so quickly and achieve such amazing results. The doctors are experts in this field and they know that the mothers and their children have come great distances to receive this treatment. I am so impressed by the sensitivity and caring that this team shows to each family."

Smile Train Italia is an all-volunteer charity that brings trained surgeons to developing countries for several weeks to provide free surgery to children.

Soldiers with 1st Bn., 116th Inf. Regt. said they plan to make more visits to the PRT to assist with the many programs currently under way.

Lee said he is hopeful that more donations can be obtained from churches and Families in Virginia communities.

ns to treat Iraqi children

"The doctors are experts in this field and they know that the mothers and their children have come great distances to receive this treatment. I am so impressed by the sensitivity and caring that this team shows to each family."

— Capt. Lisa Foster

ABOVE: A mother and her 5-year-old daughter wait to receive treatment by volunteer doctors from Smile Train Italia June 26 outside a mobile medical treatment facility run by a provincial reconstruction team at Camp Mittica near Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq. The family received a visit and small gifts from Soldiers with the 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary).

FAR LEFT: Capt. Page Brooks (from left), chaplain, 1st Battalion, 141st Field Artillery, 224th Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and a New Orleans native; Capt. Seung Lee, chaplain with 1st Battalion, 116th Infantry Regiment, 224th Sust. Bde. and a Charlottesville, Va., native; Sgt. B.J. Henderson, a chaplain assistant with 1st. Bn., 116th Inf. Regt. and a Lynchburg, Va., native; and Capt. Lisa Foster (far right), physician assistant with 1st Bn., 116th inf. Regt. and a Charlottesville, Va., native, meet with leaders and volunteers with the Children's Health Initiative June 26 near Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq.

LEFT: A mother and her 4-year-old son rest together in the recovery room June 26 just after surgery to repair the boy's cleft pallet. The surgery was performed at a mobile medical treatment facility run by volunteer doctors from Smile Train Italia. The family received a visit and small gifts from Soldiers with the 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary).

Climbing wall

Soldiers at Victory Base Complex maintain fitness and morale

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Sgt. Jeffery Kennedy, a pre-warrior leader course instructor with 1st Maintenance Company, 373rd Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 3rd Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and a Winchester, Tenn., native, plans his next hand hold as he scales a climbing wall June 26 at Victory Base Complex, Iraq.

Maintenance Co. climbs high for PT

Cpl. Kyle Logan, noncommissioned officer-in-charge of escorting third country nationals for the 373rd Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 3rd Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and a Fort Wayne, Ind., native, pulls himself up a climbing wall June 26 at Victory Base Complex, Iraq. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Michael Carden)

STORY AND PHOTOS BY
SGT. MICHAEL CARDEN
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF

VICTORY BASE COMPLEX, Iraq—

The Army requires Soldiers to maintain a standard level of physical fitness to stay ready to complete their assigned missions. Soldiers with the 1st Maintenance Company, 373rd Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 3rd Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) have adopted a way to stay in shape and have fun while doing it.

"Climbing is an awesome sport," said Sgt. Jeffery Kennedy, a pre-warrior leader course instructor with the 1st Maint. Co. and a Winchester, Tenn., native. "It's a full body workout you really can't get anywhere else."

The 12-foot high climbing wall was originally built by the Soldiers with the 41st Special Troops Battalion before they redeployed in February. Climbing enthusiasts in the 1st Maint. Co. volunteered to take up stewardship of the wall, rather than see it destroyed, Kennedy said.

Kennedy, an avid climber for the past four years, said he coordinated the relocation of the wall from its old home across the base to its current location near the company headquarters. It took six Soldiers more than five hours to disassemble, move and reassemble the 800-pound wall.

To ensure a safe climbing experience, a maximum wall height was mandated, mitigating the risk of possible falls. Soldiers also act as spotters, offering advice and encouragement, but also to catch a climber if someone should fall, he said.

More than 30 climbers currently use the wall every week for recreation and exercise, with many units incorporating the wall into their unit physical fitness program, Kennedy said.

"It's a great team builder," he said. "You have to trust (whomever is) on the ground to catch you if you fall."

There has not been a serious incident or injury on the wall since the Soldiers with the 1st Maint. Co. have taken possession of the wall, Kennedy said.

Cpl. Kyle Logan, noncommissioned officer-in-charge of escorting third country nationals with the 373rd CSSB and a Ft Wayne, Ind., native, said the wall is available for climbing daily, with fellow enthusiasts available to provide advice or spotting to anyone who asks.

"At first it can be a little bit intimidating, but after a few practice sessions, it gets easier." Kennedy said. "It's a good confidence booster, a good physical fitness booster; overall it's good for our morale."

Logan said he was first skeptical of the enjoyment and value in the climbing wall.

"They drug me out one time and got me climbing, and I was surprised at the workout," he said. "I was sore the next day."

Soldiers enjoy both the physical challenges as well as the mental challenges posed by choosing a route up the overhanging wall, Logan said.

"You're always trying new things," he said. "We switched up the holds recently, because we started to almost master it, so now we're back to square one."

With the company scheduled to redeploy soon, the fate of the wall is uncertain.

Kennedy said he hopes that someone will take possession of the wall, keeping it available for Soldiers to use it, rather than see the wall being dismantled.

278th ACR holds end of mission ceremony

STORY BY
CPL. RICH BARKEMEYER
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF

U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Russell Lee Klika

Col. Jeffrey Holmes (left), commander of the 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and a Murfreesboro, Tenn., native, and Command Sgt. Maj. Daniel Jennings, command sergeant major of the 278th ACR and a Martinez, Calif., native, case the unit's colors during an end of mission ceremony June 27 at Contingency Operating Base Taji, Iraq.

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE TAJI, Iraq—

Soldiers with the 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) cased the regimental colors in a ceremony June 27 at Contingency Operating Base Taji, Iraq, officially signifying the end of their mission in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Since beginning their mission in February, Soldiers with the 278th ACR, headquartered in Knoxville, Tenn., primarily provided security for convoys moving throughout Iraq.

The 278th ACR was under the 13th ESC until a July 1 transfer of authority to the 103rd ESC.

"Today we celebrate an amazing end to a whirlwind tour of duty for a great team of cavalrymen, who approached the mission of securing convoys with the same veracity as moving to contact," said Brig. Gen. Paul L. Wentz, commanding general of the 13th ESC, and a Mansfield, Ohio, native. "The 'Sabers' from the great state of Tennessee have written another pivotal chapter in the history of operations in Iraq, especially during these tumultuous times of the responsible drawdown. Today's end of mission ceremony marks another important moment in our Global War on Terrorism, and our goal to bring stability to the Iraqi people."

Soldiers with the 278th ACR completed more than 1,800 convoy escort missions, driving nearly 200,000 miles. During these missions, they encountered 26 roadside bombs and 34 incidents of direct fire, but suffered only minimal injuries and lost no lives inside the Iraqi theater, Wentz said.

"Each day the troopers in the regiment meticulously maintained vehicles and weapon systems," he said. "Each night, those same troopers drove thousands of miles to protect convoys delivering food, water, equipment, repair parts, mail, ammo and fuel throughout Iraq."

In addition to its mission providing convoy security, the 278th ACR was also assigned to provide base defense at COB Taji, and provided security at the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad. During the Iraqi parliamentary elections, 278th ACR Soldiers escorted embassy workers to polling sites to conduct inspections, Wentz said.

Col. Jeffrey Holmes, commander of the 278th ACR and a Murfreesboro, Tenn., native, thanked his troops for their hard work and professionalism during the deployment.

"I don't know that there's ever been a time in our country's history when we've placed such a burden on the lower-ranking Soldiers, who make split-second decisions with strategic consequences," he said. "We've asked a whole lot of our younger Soldiers, and they've responded masterfully."

Holmes also spoke about the 278th ACR's mission being cut short due to the responsible drawdown of troops and a equipment from Iraq.

"We weren't over here for our entire time we were planning on, but that's OK," Holmes said. "You kind of get your mind set to stay over here a certain length of time, and when the departure date comes early, we can work ourselves into being happy about that. It's a good feeling, and we need to reflect on what we're doing in turning the country over to the Iraqis. It's a success all the way around."

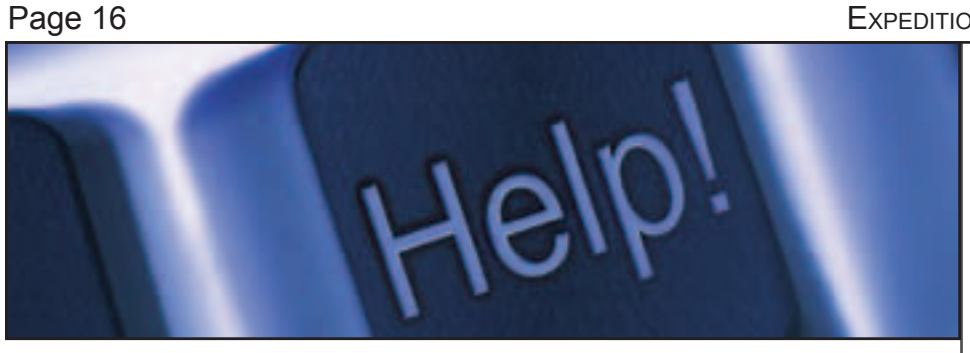
JBB LIGER 5/6

Making a difference & strengthening the bond

COME OUT AND SUPPORT YOU

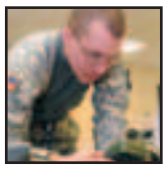
Liger 5/6 meetings are held every
Thursday at 5 p.m. in the H6 MWR Rec. Center
Come out and join us

All E-5 (Selects),E-5 and E-6's (Air Force, Army, Navy, Marines)



Staying Connected:
face-to-face from far away

SGT. MICHAEL CARDEN
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF



Communicating with Family and friends during a deployment can be difficult. Technology and the Internet can make keeping in touch, despite being halfway around the globe, a little bit easier. Programs like Skype, Microsoft Live Messenger, Google Talk and America Online Instant Messenger can provide text, voice and video chatting over the World Wide Web.

Microsoft Live Messenger, www.explore.live.com, is a program that provides users both voice and video communication capabilities. The program is free to use and a relatively easy download; installing in under five minutes. Signing up for a username and password is simple. Microsoft Hotmail or Xbox Live users can sign in with their existing accounts. The program's layout is the familiar Windows design, not surprising from a Microsoft branded product. Voice and video clarity are decent, though both depend on the individual web camera and microphone rather than any specific program.

Google Talk, www.google.com, can be used as either a web-based application, running through an internet browser (available when logged in to Gmail), or as a stand alone application. The web-based application is a rarity among video chat programs, it is a valuable addition to Google's current focus on online-based computing. Both the browser based and the stand alone application offer voice and video capabilities, using a contact list from your Gmail address book.

American Online's Instant Messenger, www.aim.com, is one of the oldest chat programs on the Internet. Originally only a text-based program, AIM added both voice and then video communication to its downloadable chat service. With current partnerships, Facebook friend statuses and Twitter feeds can be streamed directly into the application.

Skype, www.skype.com, is a stand alone application that offers the traditional text, voice and video services. Skype also offers a variety of paid services, such as the ability to call telephone numbers using Voice over Internet Protocol, or even purchase a phone number allowing people to call your computer. Service plans work on an a la carte basis. Video and voice communication to other computers remains free.

Today's technology offers many ways to keep in touch with loved ones while you're deployed. An Internet connection and a webcam are one way to stay involved with Family and friends, but it is up to the individual to keep the lines of communication open. It's not important how you stay in touch, what is important is that you do.

Word on the street

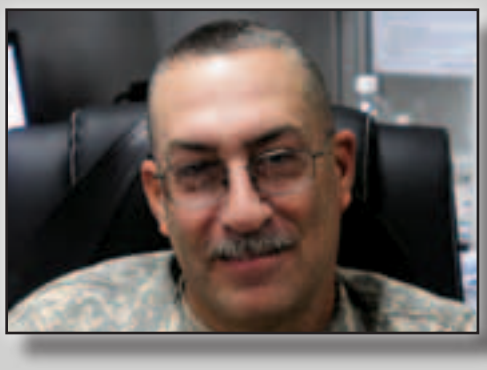
If you could have lunch with a famous person, who would you choose?

"Batman; he's awesome."

Spc. John Wallace, retrograde operations specialist with the 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and a Des Moines, Iowa, native.

"A.J. Pierzynski ... He's an awesome catcher and that's the position I played."

Capt. Lynnea Cameron, administrative executive officer with the 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and a Montgomery, Ill., native.



"Colin Powell because I'd like to sit down and talk to him about his life, what he did, how he did it."

Chief Warrant Officer 3 Arthur Dixon, ground fleets officer-in-charge with the 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and an Ames, Iowa, native.

Transportation office assists in drawdown

STORY BY
SPC. BLAKE PITTMAN
110TH COMBAT SUSTAINMENT SUPPORT BATTALION

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE ADDER, Iraq—The Support Operations Transportation Office of the 110th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 224th Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) has been responsible for moving equipment since the beginning of its deployment in January.

"We coordinate the transportation assets that move cargo throughout United States Division-South to and from Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq," said 1st Lt. Lyle Brackin, support operations transportation officer-in-charge with the 110th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion and a Chatsworth, Ga., native.

Spc. Justin Popilowski, a transportation coordination manager with the 110th CSSB and a Palm Harbor, Fla. native, said there is a specific process for transporting commodities in theater.

Popilowski said movement control teams control the ground movement within a given area of operation. When an MCT receives a transportation movement release from a customer, it is assigned to a brigade element, which in turn delegates responsibility for the movement to a battalion. When a battalion such as the 110th CSSB receives a TMR, the Joint Distribution Center informs the SPO transportation section which TMRs will go on a given mission and when.

"When a TMR comes down to the battalion, transportation management coordinators are responsible for the mission support order," he said. "Creating the MSO is a lengthy process that provides necessary information. The information is then sent to the subordinate company that has been tasked for the mission."

Company assignments come from the SPO transportation OIC and noncommissioned officer-in-charge. They decide which company is to carry out the mission, based on companies' capabilities and their available equipment. Also, there are movements that must be conducted locally on COB Adder.

Spc. Ronneil Brown, a transportation management coordinator with the 110th CSSB and an Atlanta native, handles the MSO whenever movement occurs on COB Adder. TMRs from customers on COB Adder who haul missions locally come to Brown, who, in turn, provides them with assets to haul their commodities and determines when the equipment can be provided.

"Nothing happens until something moves," Popilowski said.

THEATER PERSPECTIVES

"We're moving from a military lead to a civilian lead. As we draw down the military force, we're ramping up our diplomatic, political and economic engagement. And we're working hard to bring to life the strategic framework agreement signed between our governments."

A senior White House official on the shifting U.S. role in Iraq

"The National Alliance wants to be a part of the solution not a part of the problem, it was (Ammar) al-Hakim's idea for Allawi and al-Maliki to meet."

National Alliance member Layla al-Khafaji on cooperative talks between the representatives from the Iraqi Party and SoL

"I'm walking to Imam Kadhim to show my loyalty as a Shiite and in this occasion I also ask God to enlighten the politicians' minds to end our suffering and form the government."

Kadhim Chillab, a Shiite pilgrim, on the political stalemate in attempts to form the Iraqi government

"When the new government is formed, it will mark something absolutely extraordinary: a peaceful transition of power encompassing all the people of Iraq, maybe for the first time in their history."

Vice President Joe Biden on the formation of the next Iraqi government

"The best way to deal with Iran and contain any threat to Iraqi national security coming from Iran is to totally tie Iran's economic interests to Iraq."

National Alliance Party member Muwaffaq Al-Rubaie on Iraq's relations with Iran

FOURTH STAR

Gen. Lloyd J. Austin, currently the director of the joint staff for the joint chiefs of staff, was confirmed by the senate June 30 to be promoted to four-star general and is scheduled to take command of United States Forces – Iraq later this year. Austin said U.S. forces in Iraq are successfully facilitating the planned responsible drawdown and that once the drawdown is complete, he expects Iraq will maintain a "healthy, long-term relationship" with the United States.

NOTABLE COMMANDS AND MILITARY EDUCATION:

- Graduated from U.S. Military Academy in 1975
- Commander of 2nd Battalion, 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division
- 82nd Airborne Division operations officer
- Commander of 3rd Brigade, 82nd Airborne Division
- Chief of Joint Operations Division at the Pentagon
- Assistant Division Commander, 3rd Infantry Division
- Commanding General, 10th Mountain Division
- Commander, Combined Joint Task Force 180, Operation Enduring Freedom
- Chief of Staff, U.S. Central Command
- Commander, XVIII Airborne Corps
- Graduate of the U.S. Army War College

NOTABLE AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

- Defense Distinguished Service Medal (Oak Leaf Cluster)
- Distinguished Service Medal
- Silver Star
- Ranger Tab
- Master Parachutist Badge
- Expert Infantryman's Badge

FITNESS CORNER

Abdominal Week

Oblique Rotation (cable)

Start by adjusting the cable attachment to shoulder height. Take a couple steps away from the machine and stand with your feet slightly wider than shoulder width apart. Hold the cable attachment in your hands with your arms extended to the left of your body. Keeping your hips forward, rotate your arms to the right of your body. Then slowly rotate back to the starting position. Ensure your arms are extended throughout the rotation and do not let your hips rotate. After completing 15 repetitions, turn your body to face the opposite direction and perform the same movement. Switch between sides, performing a total of three sets on each side. (Focus: both external and internal oblique)

Wood Chop (cable)

Start by adjusting the cable attachment to the bottom most setting. Take a couple steps away from the machine and stand with your feet slightly wider than shoulder width apart. Hold the cable attachment in your hands bend at your waist, with your arms extended to the left of your body. Make a diagonal movement with the cable. Start at your left ankle moving upward across your body past your right shoulder, keeping your arms extended throughout the movement. Slowly return the cable back to the starting position. Perform 15 repetitions. Switch to the other side, and perform 15 repetitions. Perform a total of three sets on each side. (Focus: both external and internal oblique)

Double Crunch (floor)

Lie supine on the ground and place your hands interlocked behind your head. Bend your knees, creating a 90 degree angle with your legs; your thighs should be perpendicular to the ground. Simultaneously perform a crunch while lifting your hips off the ground bringing your knees into your chest. Slowly lower down and repeat. Try to keep your elbows in line with your head. Perform three sets of 20 repetitions. (Focus: rectus and transverse abdominis)

Abdominal Muscles

It seems everyone is looking for the ABS-olutely best exercise routine for developing flat, tight abdominal muscles. Every year there are dozens of new exercises, products, gadgets or routines claiming to sculpt and strengthen the abdominal muscles like none other. And while some of these may offer a new approach to working your abs, many are ineffective and may even increase your risk of injury.

To avoid falling victim to unproven and misleading abdominal exercise claims, it's important to have an understanding about the function of your abs, including where they are, what they do and how they can be exercised.

Let's take a brief look at the anatomy overview of the abdominal muscles. The abdominal muscles are comprised of four primary muscles: rectus abdominis, transverse abdominis, external oblique and internal oblique.

Rectus Abdominis: The most prominent abdominal muscle is the rectus abdominis. It is a long, flat band of muscle fibers that extend vertically from your eighth rib to your pubis. The primary function of the muscle is to flex your spinal column and bring your rib cage and pelvis toward each other. A strong tendinous sheath called the linea alba divides the rectus abdominis down the middle and three more horizontal tendinous sheaths give the muscle its familiar "washboard" look in very fit athletes. Exercises to work your rectus abdominis include any type of crunch and reverse crunch.

Transverse Abdominis: The deepest layer of the abdominal muscles is the transverse abdominis. It provides support and stability and plays a critical role in exhaustion. Exercises to work your transverse abdominis are the same as rectus abdominis exercises; any type of crunch and reverse crunch.

External Oblique: The external oblique is located on either side of the rectus abdominis. The fibers run diagonal, forming a "V" shape, similar to putting your hands in your pockets. These muscles are often referred to as the "opposite-side" rotators, when your body twists to the left, your right external oblique help the movement. Conversely, when you rotate to the right, your left external oblique facilitates the movement. Exercises to work your external oblique include rotating or twisting movements such as side bends and side extensions.

Internal Oblique: The opposite of the external oblique is the internal oblique, the internal oblique is the "same-side" rotators. If you rotate to the left, the left internal oblique facilitates the movement. The fibers of the muscle extend around your sides to the lower back, much like a fitting of a corset. Exercises to work your internal oblique include bicycle crunches and oblique crunches.

It is important to work all of the muscles of the abdominal muscles. Sit-ups, alone, are not the answer. The core muscles of the abdominals strengthen the torso, improve posture, decrease lower back pain and reduce risk of injury. Abdominal training can also improve other areas of fitness. If you're a golfer or tennis player, working with a stronger core is going to give you more power behind your stroke or serve. A stronger torso, for example, will put less strain on your knees while running. It is important to stay consistent and be patient with your abdominal routine.

Capt. Sarah Baumgardner is a graduate of Ohio University in Athens, Ohio, where she majored in exercise physiology. She is certified by the American College of Sports Medicine (ACSM) as a Health Fitness Specialist (HFS). She has worked as a personal trainer and nutritional consultant, training a wide range of demographics. She brings enthusiasm and motivation to inspiring, coaching and increasing Soldiers' fitness levels.

Sudoku

The objective is to fill the 9×9 grid so each column, each row and each of the nine 3×3 boxes contains the digits from 1 to 9 only one time each.

Level: Hard

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

Last week's answers

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

TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

1. What was Carol Burnett's 1990s comedy series called?
2. What was the most-watched TV show in history when it was screened in 1993?
3. How many friends are there in "Friends"?
4. What was the name of the father in "All In The Family"?
5. In which show did Laverne and Shirley first appear?
6. In "Cheers," Sam was a former pitcher for which team?

1. "Carol and Company" 2. Final episode of "Cheers" 3. Six 4. Archie Bunker 5. "Happy Days" 6. Boston Red Sox

JBB Worship Services

CONTEMPORARY
Sunday 10:30 a.m. Gilbert Memorial Chapel (H-6)
7 p.m. Freedom Chapel (West side)
Wednesday 8 p.m. Gilbert Memorial Chapel (H-6)

GENERAL
Sunday 9 a.m. Freedom Chapel
9 a.m. Provider Chapel

GOSPEL
Sunday 11 a.m. MWR East Building
12 p.m. Freedom Chapel (West side)
12:30 p.m. Gilbert Memorial Chapel (H-6)
7 p.m. Provider Chapel

LITURGICAL (Lutheran Setting)
Sunday 5 p.m. Provider Chapel

TRADITIONAL
Sunday 10:30 a.m. Freedom Chapel (West side)
2 p.m. Air Force Hospital Chapel

SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST
Saturday 10 a.m. Provider Chapel

LATTER DAY SAINTS
Sunday 1 p.m. Provider Chapel
3:30 p.m. Freedom Chapel (West side)
7 p.m. Gilbert Memorial Chapel (H-6)

Current as of July 14, 2010

CHURCH OF CHRIST
Sunday 3:30 p.m. Castle Heights (Bldg 4155)

ROMAN CATHOLIC MASS
Sunday 8:30 a.m. Gilbert Memorial Chapel (H-6)
11 a.m. Provider Chapel
12:30 pm. Air Force Provider Chapel
Saturday 8 p.m. Freedom Chapel (West side)

Confessions: Saturday 4-4:45 p.m. Gilbert Memorial Chapel (H-6) or by appointment

JEWISH SHABBAT SERVICES
Friday 6 p.m. Gilbert Memorial Chapel (H-6)

PAGAN/WICCAN FELLOWSHIP
Thursday 7 p.m. Provider Annex
Saturday 7 p.m. The Shack (Bldg 7556)

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CALL:

Gilbert Chapel 443-7703

Provider Chapel 483-4107/4115

Freedom Chapel 443-6303

JB BALAD ACTIVITIES

INDOOR POOL
Swim Lessons: *Mon., Wed., 6 p.m. Tue., Thu., Sat., 6:30 p.m.*
AquaTraining: *Tue.,Thu., 7:30 p.m., 8:30 p.m.*

EAST FITNESS CENTER
Open Court Volleyball: *Sunday 6 p.m.*
Aerobics: *Mon., Wed., Fri., 5:30-6:30 a.m.*
Yoga Class: *Mon., Friday, 6-7 a.m.*
Step Aerobics: *Mon., Wed., Fri., 5:30 p.m.*
Conditioning Training Class: *Mon., Wed., Fri., 7:15-8 p.m.*
Brazilian Jui-Jitsu: *Mon., Wed., Fri., 8-9 p.m.*
Abs-Aerobics: *Tue., Thu., 6-7 a.m., 5-6 p.m*
Edge Weapons & Stick Fighting Combative Training: *Tue., Thur., Sat., 8-10 p.m.*

EAST RECREATION CENTER
4-ball tourney: *Sunday 8 p.m*
8-ball tourney: *Monday 8 p.m*
Karaoke: Monday 8 p.m.
Swing Class: *Tuesday 8 p.m.*
Table Tennis: *Tuesday 8 p.m.*
Plastic Models Club: Wednesday 7 p.m.
9-ball tourney: *Wednesday 8 p.m.*
Dungeons & Dragons: *Thursday 7:30 p.m.*
Poetry Night: *Thursday 8 p.m.*
6-ball tourney: *Thursday 8 p.m.*
Caribbean Night: *Friday 8 p.m.*
Chess & Dominoes Tourney: *Friday 8 p.m.*
Salsa Class: *Saturday 8:30 p.m.*
Poker: *Saturday 7:30 p.m.*

H6 FITNESS CENTER
Spin: *Sunday 9 a.m. Mon., Wed., Fri., 2 a.m., 8 a.m. 2 p.m., 7 p.m., 9 p.m. Tue., Thu., 5:45 a.m., 9 a.m., 8:30 p.m. Saturday 9 a.m., 7 p.m.*
Boxing: *Sunday 4 p.m. Tue., Thu., 2 p.m.*
Boot Camp: *Sunday 8:45 a.m Tue.,Thu., 7 p.m.*
Power Abs: *Mon., Tue., Thu., 8 p.m. Friday 9 p.m.*
CC Cross Fit: *Mon, Satuday 10:30 p.m*
Cross Fit: *Mon., Wed., Fri., 5:45 a.m., 7 a.m., 3 p.m., 6 p.m. Tue., Thu., 7 a.m., 3 p.m. Sunday 5:45 a.m., 7 a.m., 3 p.m.*
P90x: *Mon., Sat. 4:30 a.m., 4 p.m., 10 p.m. Midnight*
Soccer: *Tue., Thu., 8 p.m.*
Yoga: *Wednesday 8 p.m.*
MACP Level 1: *Friday 8 p.m.*
5 on 5 Basketball: *Saturday 8 p.m.*

H6 RECREATION CENTER
Bingo: *Sunday 8 p.m.*
Texas Hold'em: *Mon., Fri., 2 p.m., 8:30 p.m.*
8-ball tourney: *Tuesday 2 a.m., 8:30 p.m.*
Ping-pong tourney: *Tuesday 8:30 p.m.*
Spades: *Wednesday 2 a.m., 8:30 p.m.*
Salsa: *Wednesday 8:30 p.m.*
9-ball: *Thursday 2 a.m., 8:30 p.m.*
Karaoke: *Thursday 8:30 p.m.*
Dominos: *Saturday 8:30 p.m.*
Darts: *Saturday 8:30 p.m.*

WEST RECREATION CENTER
Green Bean Karaoke: *Sun., Wed., 7:30pm*
9-ball tourney: *Monday 8 p.m.*
Ping-pong tourney: *Tuesday 8 p.m.*
Foosball tourney: *Tuesday 8 p.m.*
Jam Session: *Tuesday 7:30 p.m*
8-ball tourney: *Wednesday 8 p.m*
Guitar Lessons: *Thursday 7:30 p.m*
Game tourney: *Thursday 1 p.m, 8 p.m.*
Enlisted Poker: *Friday 1 p.m., 8 p.m.*
Officer Poker: *Saturday 1 p.m., 8 p.m.*
Squat Competition: *Saturday 8 p.m.*

WEST FITNESS CENTER
3 on 3 basketball tourney: *Saturday 7:30 p.m.*
6 on 6 volleyball tourney: *Friday 7 p.m.*
Aerobics: *Mon., Wed., Friday 7 p.m.*
Body by Midgett Toning Class: *Tue., Thu., 7 p.m.*
Dodge ball Game: *Tuesday 7:30 p.m.*
Furman's Martial Arts: *Mon., Wed., Sun., 1 p.m.*
Gaston's Self-Defense Class: *Fri., Sat. 7 p.m.*
Open court basketball: *Thursday 7 p.m.*
Open court soccer: *Mon., Wed., 7 p.m.*
Zingano Brazilian Jui Jitsu: *Tue., Thu., 8:30 p.m.*

CIRCUIT GYM
Floor hockey: Mon., Wed., Fri., 8-10 p.m

UPCOMING SPORTS ON AFN

Wednesday 07/14/10

WNBA: Los Angeles Sparks, Live 2 a.m. AFN Xtra
MLB: The All-Star Game, Live 6:30 a.m. AFN Sports
Tour De France: Stage 9, Morzine-Avoriaz to Saint-Jean-de-Maurienne Delayed 10 a.m. AFN Sports

Thursday 07/15/10

Tour De France: Stage 10, Chambery to Gap, Delayed 10 a.m. AFN Sports
North American Poker Tour: Venetian $25,000 High-Roller Bounty Shootout, Delayed 7 a.m. AFN Xtra

Friday 07/16/10

MLB: Milwaukee Brewers @ Atlanta Braves, Live 2 a.m. AFN Sports
MLB: Seattle Mariners @ Los Angeles Angels, Live 5 a.m. AFN Xtra
Tour De France: Stage 11, Sisteron to Bourg-les-Valence, Delayed 10 a.m. AFN Sports

Saturday 07/17/10

MLB: Arizona Diamondbacks @ San Diego Padres, Live 5 a.m. AFN Xtra
MLB: Seattle Mariners @ Los Angeles Angels, Live 9 a.m. AFN Prime Freedom
MLB: Philadelphia Phillies @ Chicago Cubs, Live 8 p.m. AFN Prime Atlantic
MLB: Los Angeles Dodgers @ St. Louis Cardinals, Live 11 p.m. AFN Prime Atlantic

Sunday 07/18/10

MLB: Chicago White Sox @ Minnesota Twins, Live 2 a.m. AFN Sports
NASCAR: Nationwide Series, Missouri-Illinois Dodge Dealers 250, Live 3 a.m. AFN Xtra
Tour De France: Stage 13, Rodez to Revel, Live 10 a.m. AFN Xtra
NASCAR: 2010 IZOD IndyCar Series, Streets of Toronto , Live 7:30 a.m. AFN Xtra
MLB: Washington Nationals @ Florida Marlins, Live 8 p.m. AFN Prime Atlantic
MLB: Tampa Bay Rays @ New York Yankees, Live 11 p.m. AFN Prime Atlantic

Monday 07/19/10

MLB: Colorado Rockies @ Cincinnati Reds, Delayed 7 a.m. AFN Xtra
MLB: Tampa Bay Rays @ New York Yankees, Delayed 5 p.m. AFN Xtra

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

'KNIGHT and DAY' puts new spin on espionage

BY STAFF SGT. RANDALL P. CAREY
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF

For a long time, spy movies have been predictable, almost invariably involving Russia in some way and lacked unique elements. The "Bourne" films began to break that trend. Director James Mangold ("Walk the Line") followed suit in "Knight and Day," adding some very creative touches to the genre.

The movie begins with June Havens (Cameron Diaz, "There's Something About Mary") bumping into Roy Miller (Tom Cruise, "Jerry Maguire") at an airport. After what appears to be a scheduling mishap, June makes it on to the near-empty flight with Roy. What she doesn't know is the plane ticket includes an entertaining escapade involving gunplay, drugging and a thrilling crash.

After the crash, and another ethically questionable round of Roy drugging June (a possible alternate title), June wakes up at home, welcomed by notes and the homemaking efforts of Roy—although he is nowhere to be seen. While at a dress fitting for her sister's wedding, June is confronted by federal agents who are, and are doing, exactly what Roy warned her of after the plane crash. As suspense and suspicion build, Roy comes blazing onto the screen in a hail of gunfire and rescues June from the agents. But should she actually be rescued? At this point in the film it's hard to tell. I chalk the plot up as a success.

From June's rescue on, the action rarely stops, following the dynamic duo from the United States to the tropics to Germany, in pursuit of an energetic little bit of advanced technology. Car chases, hand-to-hand combat, firefights, missile strikes and entertaining espionage keep your attention through the unpredictable path leading to a predictable end.

However, the film's real strength is its creativity, primarily its creative cinematography. I have yet to see such a unique and clever way of portraying lapsed consciousness or the exploits of a spy on the run—especially combining them into one jaw dropping and well-merged sequence putting both stories together. Have you ever seen a fight inside a plane … from outside the plane? The perspectives Mangold offers viewers add even more interest to an already entertaining film.

"Knight and Day" is not without flaws. Some of June's behavior and quirks, while meant to be cute and endearing, actually come off as rather annoying. A lot of the action is very unrealistic. The computer-generated imagery fails at times (bug CGI usually does). However, these flaws are minimal elements of the movie as a whole.

I really enjoyed "Knight and Day."—even in the face June's antics and my deep ideological dislike for Tom Cruise. If you enjoyed "Mr. & Mrs. Smith" you'll probably enjoy this film too. My verdict: A-

'Tony Hawk's Proving Ground:' mindless fun

BY CPL. RICH BARKEMEYER
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES STAFF

The Tony Hawk video game series will always hold a special place in my heart. Every time I play one of the games, I think back to my senior year in high school, playing the first installment with my friends on lazy afternoons when school was out. So I had high hopes for the latest game, "Tony Hawk's Proving Ground," which I got in the mail last week.

Anytime you play a new Tony Hawk game, you pretty much know what you're in for. The graphics have improved over the years, but the developers have kept the same basic formula: lots of high-flying action and stunts. Realism? Not in this series.

"Tony Hawk's Proving Ground" follows a simple storyline. You create a skater then try to make him famous by competing in contests and completing little tasks along the way. You have lots of options when designing your character, so it's possible to end up with a pretty near likeness of yourself, if that's what you're after. My character ("Beelzebubba") is shirtless, heavily tattooed, and sporting a long ponytail and aviator sunglasses, so he looks more like a biker or a meth dealer than an athlete. But then again, appearance doesn't affect game play.

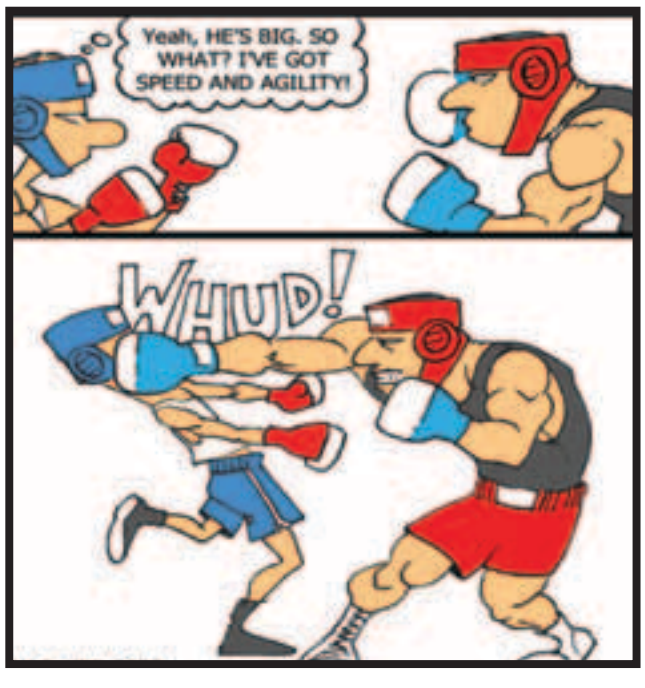
Speaking of game play, if you've played any previous game in the series, you've pretty much played this one. The controls are basically the same, but the game does have a few new features, like Nail the Trick mode. Pressing L3 and R3 simultaneously while in the air will send you into Nail the Trick mode, changing the camera angle to a slow-motion, "Matrix"-esque view, and giving you more control over your skater's movements. It's one of those features that's both useless and essential; useless in that by slowing the action down so drastically, it completely throws me out of my rhythm, typically causing me to crash. But it's also essential in that if you want to score big points and complete challenges, you have to use it.

The challenges in the game are, to say the least, numerous. So numerous that sometimes Beelzebubba will just be skating around town without a care in the world, and out of nowhere, the word "FAILED," in big red letters, will flash on the screen. It doesn't cause any serious issues, but it's obnoxious, especially when you aren't even aware you've entered a challenge.

I would enjoy the game much more if I could toggle off these omnipresent challenges, because the game is fun enough just roaming around Philadelphia, Baltimore and Washington, hitting the kinds of tricks that no one in their right mind would attempt in real life. Plus, the soundtrack is mostly top-notch. As an avid fan of punk rock, I love hearing Gorilla Biscuits, Snapcase, Dag Nasty and Bad Brains, but I could really do without the Rolling Stones tune (no offense to the Stones, of course; it just doesn't fit in).

Overall, "Tony Hawk's Proving Ground" is worthwhile, which is about the highest praise I can give it. It's enjoyable enough to play, but the story seems like an afterthought, and the side challenges constantly get in the way. While it doesn't quite take me back to the lazy afternoons of my teenage years, it's mindless, time-killing fun, and I give it 5/10.

PVT MURPHY'S LAW



Reel Movie Times

Wednesday July 14
6 p.m. Sex And The City 2 (R)
9 p.m. The Twilight Saga: Eclipse (PG-13)

Thursday July 15
6 p.m. The Last Airbender (NR)
9 p.m. The Twilight Saga: Eclipse (PG-13)

Friday July 16
6 p.m. Despicable Me (PG) (1st Run)
9 p.m. Predators (NR) (1st Run)

Saturday July 17
2 p.m. Despicable Me (PG)
5 p.m. Predators (NR)
8 p.m. Prince Of Persia: The Sands Of Time (PG-13)
Midnight Predators (NR)

Movie times are subject to change. Verify showings at http://www.aafes.com/ems/euro/balad.htm

Sunday July 18
2 p.m. Predators (NR)
5 p.m. Marmaduke (PG)
8 p.m. Get Him to Greek (R)

Monday July 19
6 p.m. Predators (NR)
9 p.m. Prince Of Persia: The Sands Of Time (PG-13)

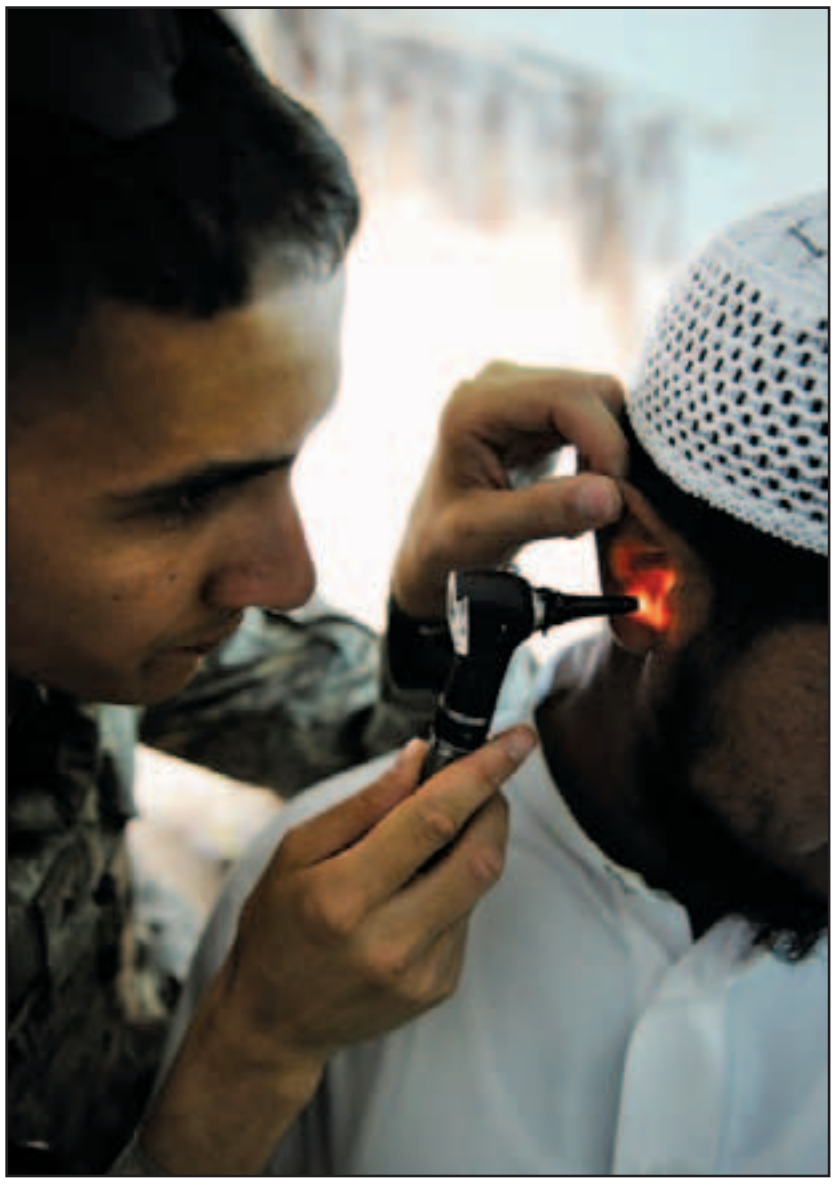
Tuesday July 20
6 p.m. Despicable Me (PG)
9 p.m. Get Him to Greek (R)

PHOTOS AROUND IRAQ

U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Lynn Friant

ABOVE: U.S. Army Spc. Ricardo Mireles (left) of the 3-41 Psychological Operation Task Force, attached to 3-29th Bravo Battery, 3rd Brigade, 4th Infantry Division, Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT) gives out "Lets come together" bracelets to Iraqis June 29 in Dhi Qar Province, Iraq.

U.S. Army photo by Spc. Joshua E. Powell



ABOVE: U.S. Army Capt. Kenneth Brodie (left), 3rd Brigade, 19th Battalion Field Artillery, 1st Brigade Combat Team(BCT), 82nd Airborne Divison Advise and Assist examines the ears of the village's Sheik June 6 during a Civil Military Exercise in Reyanah, Iraq.

U.S. Army photo by Spc. Joshua E. Powell

ABOVE: U.S. Army Cpl. Anthony Hayner (right), a medic, with 3rd platoon, Bravo Company, 214th Infantry, 10th Mountain Division, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, and a Tampa, Fla., native, provides medical care June 29 while visiting a clinic in Baghdad, Iraq.

U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Ted Green

LEFT: U.S. Army Sgt. Robert Logue (left) of Bravo Company, 5th Battalion, 20th Infantry, 2nd Infantry Division demonstrates the kneeling firing position to an Iraqi soldier, Command Battalion, 18th Brigade counterpart before a squad live fire exercise June 27 at Kirkush Military Training Base, Diyala province, Iraq.

NEWS AROUND

First class of Iraqi Federal Police graduates COIN 'Train the Trainer'

BAGHDAD— The first class of Iraqi Federal Police officers to graduate from the counterinsurgency trainer course in Camp Taji received their diplomas June 30.

The graduation represents a significant initial step toward preparing police forces to take on full responsibility for the internal security of Iraq. This will ultimately allow Iraqi military forces to focus more fully on developing conventional defensive capabilities.

Classes during the four-week course covered the fundamentals, root causes and strategies of insurgencies and counterinsurgencies. Graduates will go on to train fellow Iraqi Federal Police, creating an enduring legacy of instruction in the Iraqi Security Forces.

Joint Training Center Commandant Brig. Gen. Ahmed Saleem said during the graduation ceremony that "this accomplishment will help people understand that the Iraqi Federal Police are not the enemy; rather, we are doing good things for Iraq."

One of the highlights of the course was the use of the MILSIM, or military simulator. According to Army Lt. Col. Jeffrey Shapiro, JTC advisory team chief, the mission simulator is an invaluable tool that effectively prepares commanders and their staffs for this type of fight.

Iraqi Federal Police student Maj. Tari Hassan Hagel Al-Asadi agreed, saying the MILSIM taught him how to distribute units on the map and how to employ his officers for the best possible outcome. During the MILSIM training, Al-Asadi was able to "put into effect the counterinsurgency and counter-terrorism plans," he said.

ISF arrest suspected Al-Qaeda in Iraq vehicle-borne IED facilitator

BAGHDAD— Iraqi Security Forces arrested a suspected Al-Qaeda in Iraq (AQI) member during a joint security operation July 1 about 48 kilometers, southwest of Kirkuk.

ISF and U.S. advisers searched a building for the suspected AQI member believed to be in charge of facilitating the movement, procurement, and construction of vehicles for use as AQI vehicle-borne improvised explosive devices.

Information and evidence gathered at the scene led Iraqi forces to identify and arrest the warranted individual.

All joint operations are conducted pursuant to a warrant issued by an Iraqi judge.

Iraqi and U.S. forces conduct joint operations in accordance with the Security Agreement and in coordination with the Iraqi government to target terrorists seeking to disrupt the security and stability of Iraq.

ISF kill suspected AQI financier during operation in northern Iraq

BAGHDAD— Iraqi Security Forces killed a suspected Al-Qaeda in Iraq member during a joint security operation July 1 in eastern Mosul.

ISF and U.S. advisers conducted a vehicle stop to apprehend a suspected AQI financier believed to be responsible for the movement of foreign fighters into Iraq, who also had allegedly assisted in vehicle-borne improvised explosive device attacks.

During the operation, the targeted individual exhibited hostile intent towards ISF who, after following proper escalation of force procedures, had no other recourse than to engage the assailant with deadly force, killing him and a criminal associate.

Information and evidence gathered at the scene led Iraqi forces to identify and arrest an additional suspected criminal associate of the warranted individual.

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Iraqi and U.S. forces conduct joint operations in accordance with the Security Agreement and in coordination with the Iraqi government to target terrorists seeking to disrupt the security and stability of Iraq.

JISF arrest 2 suspected AQI criminal associates in Jalula

BAGHDAD— Iraqi Security Forces arrested two suspected Al-Qaeda in Iraq criminal associates during a joint security operation July 2 in Jalula, about 117 kilometers northeast of Baghdad.

ISF and U.S. advisers searched several buildings for a suspected AQI member allegedly responsible for conducting attacks on ISF and U.S. Forces.

Information and evidence gathered at the scene led Iraqi forces to identify and arrest two suspected criminal associates of the warranted individual.

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Iraqi and U.S. forces conduct joint operations in accordance with the Security Agreement and in coordination with the Iraqi government to target terrorists seeking to disrupt the security and stability of Iraq.

ISF arrest suspected AQI member during vehicle stop

BAGHDAD— Iraqi Security Forces arrested one suspected Al-Qaeda in Iraq member during a joint security operation vehicle stop July 2 near Kirkuk .

ISF and U.S. advisers conducted the vehicle stop to apprehend a suspected AQI member allegedly involved in facilitating the movement, procurement and construction of vehicles for use as AQI vehicle-borne improvised explosive devices.

Information and evidence gathered at the scene led Iraqi forces to identify and arrest the warranted individual.

All joint operations are conducted pursuant to a warrant issued by an Iraqi judge.

Iraqi and U.S. forces conduct joint operations in accordance with the Security Agreement and in coordination with the Iraqi government to target terrorists seeking to disrupt the security and stability of Iraq.

MoD hosts 2nd National Conference of Information Technology

BAGHDAD— The Iraqi Ministry of Defense hosted the second National Information Technology Conference June 28, which was themed "Institutional Modernization and Challenges of Cyberterrorism."

MoD Chief Information Officer, Dr. Ali Taresh, opened the conference by explaining the increasing issues Iraq faces with cyberterrorism. "Everyone here should strive to elevate Iraq's use of technology for collaboration and efficiency and this can be done only in a trusted and secure environment," he said.

During the conference, attendees learned about common hacking techniques and how to use tools and security checks to avoid electronic compromises.

The CIO team provided several network security demonstrations during the conference. They stressed that to protect the networks, information technology professionals must recognize the security threats. They must also use proper network design, secure information technology equipment, and software to provide a secure environment for processing sensitive information.

Ali said the new Human Resources Management System and Payroll System are two MoD successes in which personnel information is captured and MoD payroll is processed in a secure environment.

Other technological advances being explored within MoD include smart cards, Symantec Endpoint software protection and the use of digital signatures for providing authenticity for higher-level government documents.

James Matney, Iraq Training and Advising Mission advisor to Taresh, attended the conference. "It was a tremendous success," Matney said. "MoD planned and executed this entire conference and attendees from across the ministries gained a heightened level of understanding and appreciation for the importance of information security."

Among the attendees were: Minister of Defense Abdul Qader Mohammed Jasim, Iraqi Army Chief of Staff Gen. Babakir Zebari, Baghdad Governor Dr. Salah Abdul Razzaq, Baghdad Operations Commander and MoD Media Advisor Iraqi Maj. Gen. Mohammed Al Askari, as well as a group of information technology specialists from the Ministry of the Interior, Ministry of Science and Technology, and the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research.

ISF arrest 5 suspected Jaysh al-Mahdi criminal associates

BAGHDAD— Iraqi Security Forces arrested five suspected Jaysh al-Mahdi (JAM) criminal associates during a joint security operation July 3 in northwest Baghdad.

ISF and U.S. advisers searched several buildings for a suspected JAM member who is allegedly involved in sniper attacks, indirect fire operations and improvised explosive device attacks against ISF and U.S. Forces.

Information and evidence gathered at the scene led Iraqi forces to identify and arrest five JAM criminal associates.

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Iraqi and U.S. forces conduct joint operations in accordance with the Security Agreement and in coordination with the Iraqi government to target terrorists seeking to disrupt the security and stability of Iraq.

Ministry of Interior recognizes 39 certified human resources professionals

BAGHDAD— Thirty-nine senior and mid-level Iraqi managers were recognized as certified human resources professionals during a June 29 International Public Management Association certification award ceremony at the Ministry of Interior.

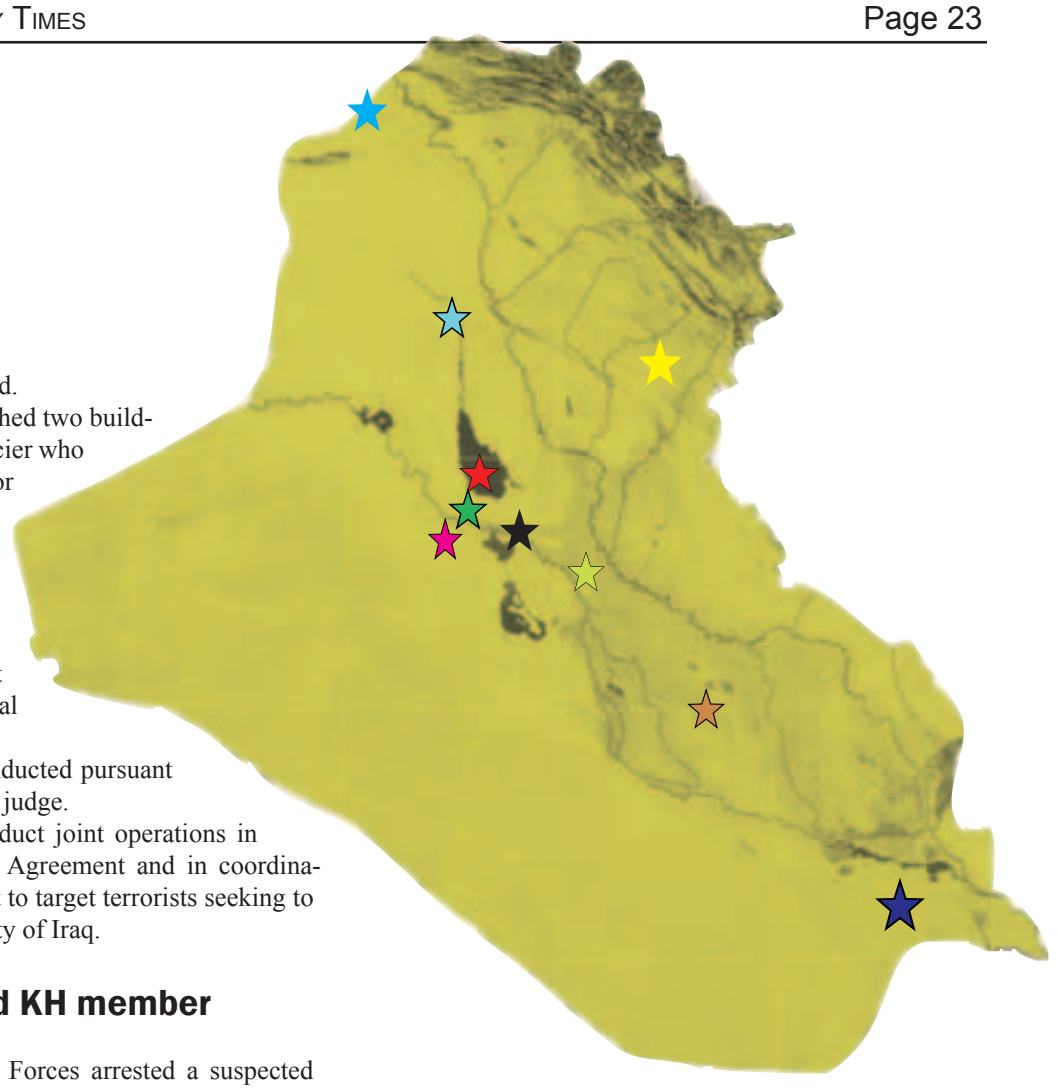
The awardees attended human resource training classes in Alexandria, Va., and Cairo, Egypt between March and May as part of a U.S. and Iraq joint partnership to enhance human resources management in the interior ministry.

This training is part of a long-term enduring program to provide Iraq defense professionals with the tools and expertise necessary to better manage Iraqi Security Forces. "This certification gives each recipient enhanced human resources skills and affords them advancement opportunities in the future," said Iraqi Brig Gen. Khalaf Nemah Zaboon, MoI authorizations general manager.

Iraqi Training and Advising MoI advisers spent nine months planning and coordinating the training within Iraq, Egypt and the United states. Prior to the courses, ITAM advisers "conducted review sessions to ensure course material was tailored to MoI HR business practices and created scenarios allowing for extensive dialogue and strategic thinking," said Army Lt. Col. Antonio McKoy, ITAM MoI Human Resources director.

USF-I donated $150,000 toward the comprehensive human resources training conducted by the International Public Management Association. The training was conducted

IRAQ



over a three-week period with one week in the U.S. and two weeks in Cairo, Egypt.

"ITAM MoI pledges to continue investing in building sustainment training initiatives to enhance capability for MoI staff and new recruits. With training and recurring training efforts, the MoI will continue building ministerial capacity through professional development," said MoI Deputy Director David Butzer.

Advisers synchronize a 2-day logistics conference to assist Iraqis

BAGHDAD— More than 125 advisers attended a two-day USF-I advisor synchronization conference at Forward Operating Base Union III to discuss advising and training measures that will allow Iraqi Security Forces to achieve minimum essential capability by December 2011.

The U.S. advisers came from all over Iraq June 27-29 and linked all levels of logistics, from the ground level to the ministry level, giving participants an accurate picture of current logistics capabilities and strategic thoughts in one forum.

"Sustainment is becoming our primary focus as we progress to Operation New Dawn," said George Werner, ISF Strategic Logistics associate director. "The conference brought us together to discuss how we can assist the security ministries strategically manage their limited resources."

Army Lt. Col. Robert Rooker, an advisor at the 6th Iraqi Army Division in Abu Ghraib, said the biggest takeaway he got from the conference was USF-I's emphasis on logistics at the strategic and operational level. "We spent the past six years generating one of the largest armies in the world; now we need to move from a force generation posture to sustainment."

Rooker said the Iraqi Army's biggest challenge is repairing and maintaining equipment used during the past six years of combat. This is no easy task and it calls for "an accurate, transparent and effective logistics system," Rooker said. "We haven't experienced a logistics challenge of this magnitude before and we are relying on our organizational skills and teamwork with our partners to see this through."

ISF arrest suspected AQI foreign fighter facilitator in Abu Ghraib

BAGHDAD— Iraqi Security Forces arrested a suspected Al-Qaeda in Iraq (AQI) member during a joint security operation July 3 about 8 kilometers west of Baghdad, in Abu Ghraib.

ISF and U.S. advisers searched a building for the suspected AQI member allegedly involved in foreign fighter facilitation.

Information and evidence gathered at the scene led Iraqi forces to identify and arrest the warranted individual.

All joint operations are conducted pursuant to a warrant issued by an Iraqi judge.

Iraqi and U.S. advisers conduct joint operations in accordance with the Security Agreement and in coordination with the Iraqi government to target terrorists seeking to disrupt the security and stability of Iraq.

Iraqi Forces arrest 2 AQI criminal suspects for IED emplacement

BAGHDAD— Iraqi Security Forces arrested two suspected Al-Qaeda in Iraq (AQI) criminal associates early July 5 during a joint security operation in Tarmiyah, about 26 kilometers north of Baghdad.

ISF and U.S. advisers searched two buildings for a suspected AQI financier who is allegedly responsible for emplacing improvised explosive devices targeting ISF and coalition forces.

Information and evidence gathered at the scene led Iraqi forces to identify and arrest two suspected AQI criminal associates.

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ISF and U.S. advisers conduct joint operations in accordance with the Security Agreement and in coordination with the Iraqi government to target terrorists seeking to disrupt the security and stability of Iraq.

ISF arrest suspected KH member

BAGHDAD— Iraqi Security Forces arrested a suspected Kata'ib Hizballah (KH) member during a joint security operation July 6 in western Baghdad.

ISF and U.S. advisers searched a building for the suspected KH member who is allegedly involved in improvised explosives device and rocket attacks. He also is believed to have ties to KH leaders.

Information and evidence gathered at the scene led Iraqi forces to identify and arrest the warranted KH member.

All joint operations are conducted pursuant to a warrant issued by an Iraqi judge.

ISF and U.S. advisers conduct joint operations in accordance with the Security Agreement and in coordination with the Iraqi government to target terrorists seeking to disrupt the security and stability of Iraq.

Joint western Mosul operation nets alleged AQI member, associate

BAGHDAD— Iraqi Security Forces arrested one alleged Al-Qaeda in Iraq (AQI) member and one suspected criminal associate during a joint security operation July 7 in western Mosul.

ISF and U.S. advisers searched several buildings for the suspected AQI member who is allegedly involved in the production and placement of vehicle-borne improvised explosive devices for the terrorist organization.

Information and evidence gathered at the scene led Iraqi forces to identify and arrest the warranted individual and one suspected AQI criminal associate.

All joint operations are conducted pursuant to a warrant issued by an Iraqi judge.

ISF and U.S. advisers conduct joint operations in accordance with the Security Agreement and in coordination with the Iraqi government to target terrorists seeking to disrupt the security and stability of Iraq.

Iraqi Security Forces arrest suspected criminal associate in Mansour

BAGHDAD— Iraqi Security Forces arrested one suspected Al-Qaeda in Iraq (AQI) criminal associate July 7 during a joint security operation in Mansour.

ISF and U.S. advisers searched a building for a suspected AQI member who is allegedly involved in the facilitation of improvised explosive devices.

Information and evidence gathered at the scene led Iraqi forces to identify and arrest one suspected AQI criminal associate.

All joint operations are conducted pursuant to a warrant issued by an Iraqi judge.

ISF and U.S. advisers conduct joint operations in accordance with the Security Agreement and in coordination with the Iraqi government to target terrorists seeking to disrupt the security and stability of Iraq.

Do you have a story idea?

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escpao@iraq.centcom.mil

We Succeed

U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Russell Lee Klika

ABOVE: Sgt. Danny H. Metzger (center), a heavy equipment mechanic with E Troop, 2nd Squadron, 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and a Dyer, Tenn., native, became a U.S. citizen July 4 during an immigration and naturalization ceremony held in the rotunda of the Al Faw Palace at Camp Victory, Iraq.

U.S. Army photo by Pfc. Emily Walter

U.S. Army photo by Pfc. Emily Walter

ABOVE: Brig. Gen. Mark Corson, commanding general of the 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and a Maryville, Mo., native, and Command Sgt. Maj. LeRoy Haugland, command sergeant major of the 103rd ESC and a Cresco, Iowa, native, prepare to place the identification tags of Pfc. Bryant Jamal "B.J." Haynes, a Soldier from Bravo Company, 199th Brigade Support Battalion, attached to 2nd Squadron, 108th Cavalry Regiment, 224th Sustainment Brigade, 103rd ESC onto a memorial sculpture during Haynes' memorial ceremony July 5 at the command headquarters at Joint Base Balad, Iraq. Haynes was killed in a vehicle rollover accident June 26 while on a convoy escort mission in Diwaniyah, Iraq.

LEFT: Maj. Peter Schmidt, deputy information management and plans officer with the 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and an Ankeny, Iowa, native, plays the bagpipes during a memorial ceremony for Pfc. Bryant Jamal "B.J." Haynes, a Soldier from Bravo Company, 199th Brigade Support Battalion, attached to 2nd Squadron, 108th Cavalry Regiment, 224th Sustainment Brigade, 103rd ESC July 5 at the command headquarters. Haynes was killed June 26 in a vehicle rollover accident.