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September 29, 2009

MPs patrol COB Basra to enforce law and order

By Spc. Darryl L. Montgomery
MND-S



COB BASRA – Soldiers of 34th Military Police Company, 34th Red Bull Infantry Division patrol Contingency Operating Base Basra on a daily basis, ensuring the occupants are safe and everything is running normally.

The MPs patrol the base looking for anything suspicious or dangerous, as well as helping residents in need.

“This can range from vehicle accidents, lost identification cards or criminal activities,” said Lt. Col. Dale Slimmer, Multi-National Division – South provost marshal. “From the (base defense operations center), the fire department, ambulance, military police or quick reaction force will be dispatched depending on the emergency.”

“We patrol the streets of COB Basra and make sure no one is committing traffic violations. We also conduct random searches of local nationals to ensure they don’t have anything they aren’t supposed to,” said Spc. Robert McGrane, a patrol officer with 34th MP Co.

“In the searches, we are looking for any kind of contraband they aren’t allowed to have they may have sneaked in.”

Although most of the time these vehicles’ occupants mean no harm, the MPs search them anyway to be sure.

“Sometimes we find cell phones and DVD players they aren’t supposed to have,” McGrane, a Spring Valley, Wis., native said. “Anything that can store media, they aren’t supposed to have it on post.”

Not being allowing to carry these items makes it impossible for the local nationals to take photos or retain documents to take off-post when they return home at night, he added.

If residents of COB Basra see any suspicious activity, they are urged to call it in to the military police help desk by calling 911 on any phone.

The purpose of this mis-

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– Spc. Robert McGrane Davies
Patrol officer, 34th Military Police Company

sion is to provide an additional resource for security and enforcement of rules, regulations and policies, according to Slimmer, a Little Falls, Minn., native. This project will continue to grow even after the 34th Inf. Div. has returned home to Minnesota.

For more of Spc. Montgomery’s stories, visit:
www.TheRedBulls.org/Montgomery



Photo by Spc. Darryl L. Montgomery

During a routine traffic stop, Spc. Robert McGrane, a patrol officer with the 34th MP Company, 34th Infantry Division and native of Spring Valley, Wis., explains the violation to the driver to ensure he doesn’t commit the violation again. The MPs conduct random searches of vehicles on Contingency Operating Base Basra to ensure drivers aren’t hiding contraband.

Home-style grilling, fire safety is no joke

By Sgt. 1st Class Jeff Mullett
MND-S



COB BASRA – “The two biggest problems we have on (Contingency Operating Base) Basra are unattended burn barrels and out-of-control burn barrels,” said Station Captain Charles Olson of the COB Basra Fire Department. Any time Soldiers or other personnel burn anything, they need to apply for a permit through the Basra Fire Dept.

Permits are issued to individuals or units by burn location.

“We are responsible for issuing burn permits for ALL welding, cutting, brazing, open burns, BBQ and burn barrels,” said Gary L. Garrison, chief, Basra Fire Dept. “For burn barrels, we will issue the permit up to six months.”

“If someone wants to set up a grill, they can apply,” said Olson.

“We send someone out to evaluate the location and determine if everything is kosher. We have to make sure there is adequate clearance from structures and there is a functional fire extinguisher handy,” he added. “Then we can award a permit.”

There is a standard operating procedure, dated June 29, 2009, available to help personnel determine requirements for burn pits, burn barrels and grills. It lists instructions on how to build a burn-barrel incinerator, what is prohibited to burn and what should be turned over to HAZMAT for disposal.

Any questions, to report a fire related emergency or to request a burn permit, contact the Basra Fire Department at DSN: 858-4557.



Courtesy photo

Ash from burn barrels can ignite materials nearby if not monitored or placed too close to dwellings. Service members are required to obtain a burn permit from the COB Basra fire department when they burn anything.



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“FOB Hunter is home”

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For more of Sgt. 1st Class Mullett's stories, visit:
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THE RED BULL REPORT

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Once a medic, always a medic

By Sgt. Neil Gussman
28th CAB



COB ADDER – “I am never nervous on the flight out,” said Staff Sgt. Cynthia Dalton, describing her experience as a flight medic in Iraq. “I go over every possible scenario in my mind. But when we touch down, I just go.”

Dalton, who is assigned as a flight medic to the 2nd Battalion, 104th Aviation Brigade, part of Task Force Keystone, said her first rescue mission in Iraq was the hardest. It was a vehicle rollover in bad weather. One Soldier was dead at the scene, two more were badly injured. She and the other medics at the scene treated the Soldiers as much as they could and then loaded them on their Black Hawk helicopters for transport to the nearest emergency medical facility.

“Both Soldiers made it,” she said.

“But after a mission like that I am really hard on myself. I can see why people burn out. I go over everything I could possibly have done differently. We did our jobs, but it always seems like there is something I could have done different or better.”

Dalton, a daughter of military parents who hails from Orwigsburg, Pa., said she knew from an early age she wanted to help Soldiers, but tried various jobs before finding a career path that was right for her.

“I joined the Army at 17 when I was a junior in high school,” she said. “I went to basic training between my junior and senior years and started training to be a medic right after high school.”

While serving in the Army Reserve,

HOMETOWN HIGHLIGHT

Orwigsburg is a borough in Schuylkill County. It was named for its founder, Peter Orwig, from West Brunswick Township in 1823. Orwigsburg was the original county seat of Schuylkill County until the seat was moved to Pottsville in 1851.

she got additional medical training as a civilian and worked for a nursing agency.

She was serving as a reservist in Germany on September 11, 2001. She was activated in Germany in a medical support unit and helped Soldiers prepare for deployment to the Middle East.

“I did literally hundreds of immunizations every day,” Dalton said.

When she returned to the states, she switched to the Pennsylvania Army National Guard to take advantage of the education benefits.

After getting Soldiers ready for deployment at the very beginning of the war in Afghanistan in 2001 and 2002, Dalton spent the three years prior to her current deployment helping Soldiers return to civilian life after deployment.

“I love helping Soldiers,” she said. “Soldiers come back from deployment needing many kinds of help to reintegrate into civilian life. The Guard has the help available. I make sure they can get access to the right resources.”

In preparation for deployment to Iraq, Dalton trained as a flight medic. She has worked with two medical evacuation companies during the deployment, including an Oregon-based unit during training in Oklahoma and Kuwait. She is currently serving with an Alaska-based active Army MEDEVAC unit. Dalton works a 48-hour cycle, sleeping and eating at the hangar waiting for MEDEVAC calls.

When she returns to the United States, she plans to take a full-time job as the medical sergeant for the Pennsylvania National Guard’s 55th Brigade in Scranton. “That will be the end of flying for a while,” she said. “I am sure I will miss it.”



Photo by Sgt. Neil Gussman

Staff Sgt. Cynthia Dalton, a flight medic with 2nd Battalion, 104th Aviation Brigade and resident of Orwigsburg, Pa., prepares a Black Hawk helicopter for a MEDEVAC flight at Contingency Operating Base Adder recently. Dalton has served as a medic since enlisting in the U.S. Army at the age of 17.

For more of Sgt. Gussman’s stories, visit:
www.TheRedBulls.org/Gussman

IHOP opens on COB Basra



Photo by Sgt. Frank Vaughn

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE BASRA, Iraq – Chaplain (Lt. Col.) John Morris, command chaplain for Multi-National Division – South, addresses Soldiers at the opening of the International House of Prayer at Contingency Operating Base Basra Sept. 26.

The IHOP, a trailer located between Echos and Dining Facility 3, is open 24 hours a day for quiet prayer, meditation and reflection, according to Morris, a resident of Afton, Minn. It is available to all military personnel and Department of Defense civilians of any faith.

"When (2nd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division) was here we noticed the COB is very crowded," Morris said. "We don't have a post chapel right now and there was no place to go for sanctuary. This facility will hopefully fulfill that need for a quiet place for prayer."

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THE 34TH RED BULL INFANTRY DIVISION



HOME

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BAH and the PPG

On June 18, 2009, the Department of the Army updated the Personnel Policy Guidance for Contingency Operations in Support of the Global War on Terrorism. The PPG contains guidance on all matters related to mobilized, deployed, redeployed and demobilized personnel in support of contingency operations during the Global War on Terrorism. Of particular interest to many deployed service members is the guidance on compensation and entitlements. More specifically, the PPG addresses Basic Allowance for Housing for National Guard and Reserve Component Soldiers who have been called to duty in support of a contingency operation.

National Guard and Reserve Soldiers who have been called to active duty in support of the GWOT are entitled to BAH based on their primary residence. This entitlement is guaranteed by Chapter 10 of the Joint Federal Travel Regulations. However, according to the PPG, once a National

Guard or Reserve Soldier is mobilized in support of a contingency operation, that service member “will not be authorized to change the BAH from which they were ordered to active duty, regardless of whether or not their principal residence changes.”

What does this mean for you while you are deployed? Once your active duty service has begun, you will not be allowed to change your rate of BAH if you purchase a new home or sign a new residential lease. The BAH you receive while deployed will be based on the home of record you provided at your final service member readiness processing. This does not mean, however, that your address cannot change while deployed or that your family cannot move to a new home. Just be aware that if you sell your home and purchase a new one or start a new lease after you have already been mobilized, you will not be able to get BAH based on the new residence.



If you have questions on this matter, feel free to stop by and visit your Legal Assistance Office. If you began a lease or purchased a new home before the date you entered active duty and you submitted the mortgage or lease agreement at SRP but are still not receiving the correct BAH, you may submit a pay inquiry through your unit.

For more of JAG's comments, visit www.TheRedBulls.org/TheGavel

SUDOKU

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THE BASRA BEAT

Basra 10 Miler
 Oct. 4, 5:30 a.m.
 To register, Email
 joseph.d.corley@iraq.centcom.mil
 * Include name, shirt size & unit.

Halloween Party!
 Who: COB Basra
 When: Oct. 31
 Time: 7 - 10 p.m.
 Where: Red Bull USA

TAEKWONDO
 Classes now offered!
Tuesdays, 8 p.m.
 New Gym, Ab room
 For more information, contact:
 Master Sgt. Adam T.V. Johnson
 Email:
 Adam.Johnson4@Iraq.Centcom.Mil

Did you know ...
 Financial Assistance of up to \$6,000 is available for military spouses who are pursuing degree programs, licenses or credentials leading to employment in portable career fields?
 To Learn more about The Department of Defense's expanded Military Spouse Career Advancement Accounts (MyCAA) program, Click here or visit:
www.TheRedBulls.org/Events

Interested in becoming a Warrant Officer?
 Where: Holy Joes
 When: Oct. 1, 6 p.m.
 Find out what being a Warrant Officer is all about and how you can become one.

The Education Center has NEW HOURS!
 Education Computer Lab:
 Mon-Fri: 9 a.m. - 9 p.m.
 Sat: 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.
 Sun: Noon - 6 p.m.
 Education Center:
 Mon - Sat: 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.
 Sun: Closed

Legal Assistance hours:
 Mon-Fri 8 a.m. - 6 p.m.
 Sat 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
 Sun 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.
 Located in Staff Annex

Hair Cut!
 Barber Shop hours:
 9 a.m. - 8 p.m.
 Beauty Shop hours:
 9 a.m. - 8 p.m.

EVENTS
 What is going on in COB Basra at:
www.TheRedBulls.org/Events

Around the world in 34 seconds



TEHRAN - Iran's Revolutionary Guard test-fired one of the longest-range missiles in Tehran's arsenal, state TV reported Sept. 28. The missile is capable of striking Israel and U.S. Mideast bases and parts of Europe. English-language Press TV said the Guard successfully tested the Shahab-3 missile, which has a range of up to 1,200 miles. State television also said Iran test-fired Shahab-1 and Shahab-2 missiles overnight, following tests of short-range missiles Sept. 27. The Shahab-1 and Shahab-2 have ranges of about 185 miles and 435 miles respectively. "Iran has successfully test-fired medium-range Shahab missiles with multiple warheads," Press TV said, adding the drill was aimed at "boosting the armed forces' deterrent capabilities." Iran claims it conducts war games or tests weapons to show its resolve to counter any attack by foes. "The tests are likely to be seen as an act of defiance by Iran," daily Iran News said.



HONOLULU - The federal government is considering taking the humpback whale off the endangered species list in response to data showing the population of the marine mammal has been steadily growing in recent decades. Humpback whales were nearly hunted to extinction for their oil and meat well through the middle of the 20th century. The species has been bouncing back since an international ban on commercial whaling in 1966. "Humpbacks, by and large, are an example of a species that in most places seems to be doing very well, despite our earlier efforts to exterminate them," said Phillip Clapham, senior whale biologist with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. The National Marine Fisheries Service, a NOAA agency, received results last year from a study showing the North Pacific humpback population has been growing 4 to 7 percent a year in recent decades. Public comment is being accepted until Oct. 13 on the upcoming review. It's the first review for humpbacks since 1999.



DETROIT - Matthew Stafford held his head down on the bench for the final snap. Dominic Raiola couldn't watch, either, fearing a 20th loss in a row and 100th setback of his nine-season career. When Detroit's leaders looked up and saw Washington was out of time, they saw what they were hoping to see Sept. 27. Lions 19, Redskins 14. Believe it. Finally. "We not only got the monkey off our back, we got King Kong off our back," said Lions owner William Clay Ford. "I'm hoping that this gets us over that hump and gives us a winning attitude." Detroit (1-2) hadn't won since Dec. 23, 2007 and its 19-game skid matched the second longest in NFL history. The Lions no longer have to hear about Tampa Bay's record 26-game losing streak. Raiola blew kisses to the crowd of 40,896 that was the smallest at Ford Field in 20 years after time expired with Washington stalled at the Detroit 24. "No team has been in this situation before," Raiola said. "No one has gone 0-16 and then had to try to win a game the next year."



CONCORD, Calif. - Police have arrested a pilot who they say stalked his ex-girlfriend by repeatedly flying his plane low over her house. Police in Concord, in northern California, say Tom Huey made several low passes over a residential neighborhood Sept. 23. Sgt. Tiffany Leftwich told the Contra Costa Times a dozen residents called police to complain. Huey was arrested shortly after landing the Beech single-engine aircraft. Leftwich said police have been investigating reports of a low-flying plane in the area for more than a year. Huey's girlfriend filed for a restraining order last year, but he was not served until Sept. 23. Huey is being held on \$155,000 bail on suspicion of felony stalking and violating a restraining order.