

THE RED BULL REPORT

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November 30, 2009



Capt. Michael Lacertosa, an aircraft mission request officer, 28th CAB, serves Soldiers on Thanksgiving.



Photos by Sgt. 1st Class Erika Nyberg

Sgt. 1st Class Christine Frederick, medical platoon sergeant, 628th Aviation Support Battalion, serves Soldiers on Thanksgiving at COB Adder. Each pulling a half-hour shift, the senior leaders of the 28th CAB stood shoulder-to-shoulder and waited on a crowd that stretched the line out the door.

Giving thanks by giving back

By Sgt. 1st Class Erika Nyberg
28th CAB



COB ADDER, Iraq – Senior leaders from every unit in the 28th Combat Aviation Battalion reported for duty Thanksgiving Day. Each pulling a half-hour shift, they stood shoulder-to-shoulder on the dining facility serving line and waited on a crowd that stretched the line out the door.

“The leaders serving the led” is a military tradition, said 1st Sgt. Donald Bartch, Headquarters Company first sergeant, 28th CAB.

Spc. John Leddy, an avionics mechanic with “D” Company, 2nd Battalion, 104th Aviation Regiment, said he was thankful for the good food at the Contingency Operating Base Adder dining facility, and that it was the best meal he has had in a long time.

Leddy, like most CAB Soldiers, spent the majority of the day on duty. He said that the “mission doesn’t stop,” but that it was “nice to come to the DFAC and take a break.” The Carlisle, Pa. native said he had his family in his thoughts and planned

“A true leader is always happy to show that he is part of this large family; the Army family.”

~1st Sgt. Donald Bartch, Headquarters Company

to make many phone calls home after dinner.

Preparations for the first Thanksgiving meal ever served in the Warrior’s Dining Facility started months ago, said Master Sgt. Patricia Wallace, senior food service operations sergeant for the 28th CAB.

It takes approximately 1,900 pounds of turkey to feed the on-average 4,000 service members and civilians served by the facility, she said. The elaborate decorations and extensive menu came together through the combined efforts of civilian contractors led by Anthony Lugo, Warrior’s Dining Facility manager, and Wallace’s 31 Soldiers from the 28th CAB.

Yet, the special activities for Thanksgiving started well-before the Soldiers reached the dinner table.

For Soldiers like Spc. Ira Hammond,

a force-protection specialist, operational requirements often mean eating on the run. This Thanksgiving, however, leaders from the 28th CAB’s Headquarters also took turns on-duty for Soldiers, letting them enjoy a sit-down meal.

Hammond, of Mount Pleasant, Pa., said he thought the gesture “was really nice, something different” and appreciated the opportunity to relax. When asked what he was thankful for, he replied, “my daughter.”

“A true leader has devoted countless hours in his troops, developing them into Soldiers and watching them grow, praying for them and worrying about their safety,” Bartch said. “A true leader is always happy to show that he is part of this large family; the Army family.”

For more of Sgt. First Class Nyberg’s stories, visit:
www.TheRedBulls.org/Nyberg

T-Wall Safety

By SSG Chris Carney
367th MPAD



COB BASRA - Some Soldiers in Red Bull Living Support Area awoke to changed surroundings Saturday, Nov. 28th, as a few concrete barrier 'T-walls' tipped during the night and came to rest on their CHUs (containerized housing unit).

"Between 2 and 6 a.m., there were three separate occurrences where T-walls fell onto four different housing units in the 34th Inf. Div.'s Soldier living area", said Lt. Col. Steve Hanson, Contingency Operating Base Basra mayor.

"No one was injured," and "the incident is still under investigation," said Hanson.

A common site on COB Basra, T-walls are 17-foot, prefabricated, reinforced concrete barriers that provide protection from indirect fire. Each weighing approximately seven tons, T-walls are a relatively new addition to COB Basra and are an extensive upgrade to force protection made after taking over command of Basra from coalition forces.

The approach of winter brings with it relief from soaring heat as moderate temperatures and often cloudy, rainy skies move in, but that may have contributed to the toppling of the handful of T-walls.



Photo by Spc. Samuel Soza

Spc. Travis Larson, of Richfield, Minn., a military police Soldier, 34th Infantry Division, loads personal items into a van bound for new billeting. Sections of concrete "T-walls" that protect Soldiers from indirect fire tipped, damaging some of the barracks on Contingency Operating Base Basra, Nov. 28.

"Initial indications show that T-walls may have risen due to trenches that were dug recently to bury underground electrical cable," Hanson said. "The ground was softened due to the digging, as well as the soil composition, that was further weakened by the rain."

Once alerted of the incident, the Red Bull LSA camp manager got cranes to the site, removed the T-walls that fell and immediately inspected the rest of the camp. The Soldiers who were affected where moved to the brand-new living areas Viking and Sandstorm.

"Thank goodness nobody was hurt," said Command Sgt. Maj. Douglas Wortham, 34th Infantry Division Special Troops Battalion. "We are moving people as a precaution, for force protection issues and so they will have power while repairs are made."

We are fortunate that the CHUs were well built, he said.

"Camp managers and COB NCOIC's were notified and asked to do a walk-around to verify the placement and condition of the walls in their area," said Wortham. "The key areas to queue-in on are where walls level up next to underground electrical trenches."

Commanders and first sergeants are reviewing T-wall placements around base, and if Soldiers are at risk, they will be moved to the new LSA, said Hanson.

Location, distance from CHU's, soil composition, soil compaction, rain drainage, and additional bracing techniques are being reviewed to develop new courses of action to mitigate instances of T-walls tipping over, Hanson said.

If any Soldier sees a T-wall that is leaning or looks out of place they should report it to their LSA manager so it can be evaluated, he added.

For more of SSG Carney's stories, visit: www.TheRedBulls.org/Carney

THE RED BULL REPORT

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- 28th Combat Aviation Brigade
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Building a Joint Security Station

2nd Lt. Randolph Powell
4th Battalion 6th Infantry Regiment 

JSS MAYSAN – Building a camp from the ground up is an experience most Soldiers won't have to go through during current deployments to Iraq. As efforts are shifting to a smaller and smaller U.S. presence, more things are being disassembled than erected.

Yet, as part of the partnership between U.S. and Iraqi forces, some camps are still being established, although to a very different end and in a very different way from those in the past. These are the Joint Security Stations.

The arduous task of building one such camp, JSS Maysan, fell to the Soldiers from 1st platoon, "A" (Apache) Company, 4th Battalion, 6th Infantry Regiment. Through JSS Maysan, the Soldiers will work in an "advise and assist" role with their counterparts in the 38th Iraqi Army.

When the 1st platoon "Reapers" arrived at the proposed living area, there were only two concrete slabs and blast walls constructed from "HESCO" (Hercules Engineering Solutions Consortium) barriers – essentially very large sand bags.

Still, on receiving the mission to construct JSS Maysan, the Reapers were more than ready.

"I am glad that I am doing this, it's a change of pace and it is something that I have never done before," said Sgt. Christopher Brink, an infantry team leader from Nashville, Tenn.

The Soldiers' days typically start at 6 a.m. and do not end earlier than 11 p.m. An average day consists of ten- to- fourteen hours of physical labor as they establish a security perimeter and improve the quality of life at JSS Maysan.

More than three thousand sand-bags have been filled to secure living areas and provide force protection.

"We have been working hard to en-



Photos by 2nd Lt. Elliott Emerich

When the "Reapers" arrived at the proposed site for JSS Maysan, there were only two concrete slabs and blast walls constructed from "HESCO" barriers – essentially very large sand bags. Though projected to take eight days, more than eighty percent of the work was complete on the second day of construction.



On receiving the mission to construct JSS Maysan, the Reapers were more than ready. "It's good that we are building this JSS, because it shows that we are capable of doing many things," said Pfc. Gerardo G. Galvin, an infantryman from Lexington, Neb.



SECURITY
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Soldiers from the 1st platoon constantly labor to improve JSS Maysan. An average day consists of ten to fourteen hours of physical labor as they establish a security perimeter and improve the quality of life at the JSS, but the Soldiers now have living quarters, a MWR center and a communication system.

From Page 3

SECURITY

sure that we complete JSS Maysan on time and to standard," said Spc. Dallas Redmond, a machine gunner from Alexandria, Minn.

Now, through grueling work and tireless dedication, the Maysan Soldiers have living quarters, a Morale Welfare and Recreation center and an excellent communication system.

"It's good that we are building this JSS, because it shows that we are capable of doing many things," said Pfc. Gerardo G. Galvin, an infantryman from Lexington, Neb.

JSS Maysans' construction was expected to take a minimum of eight days to complete, but the Soldiers of 1st platoon constructed the JSS in two days.

"This shows that there's nothing that the 'Apache' Company Reapers can't accomplish with teamwork and motivation," said Brink. "Now that JSS Maysan is functional, we can resume our role in our assist and advise mission."

For more of 2nd Lt. Powell's stories, visit: www.TheRedBulls.org/Powell

ARABIC WORD OF THE DAY

'Aasif - Sorry



بعد عينا غف لعمرك

HOMETOWN HIGHLIGHT



Home of the Heartland Museum of Military Vehicles. The museum has about 100 vehicles including helicopters, tanks, half-tracks, ambulances, and a jeep from every branch of the service.



Red Bull Radio PODCAST

"Boomerangs Hit Basra"

www.TheRedBulls.org/podcast



Say hello to your family for the Holidays

Nov 30, come by DFAC 2 from 11:30-12:30 and DFAC 3 from 1300-1400 to record a holiday greeting to be sent to your hometown

Word Search: Breakfast

Y O G U R T O M E L E T S E
 O S E G A S U A S Y L L E J
 F A L O N A R G A E T F E R
 C R O I S S A N T S F T O D
 S H U M M L O R T O A L W O
 L A A I U A A I C L L M A U
 E S L S T F U E O S A E F G
 G K E M H C F C R R B G F H
 A D E K S B O I M E A D L N
 B A T I A H R A N H C I E U
 L E B O C C L O O S O R S T
 H R G T A A N N W J N R N S
 A B O G D S E A A N G O E J
 M H U E S Y T M P I S P C E

- | | |
|---------------|-----------|
| BACON | JAM |
| BAGELS | JELLY |
| BISCUITS | MARMALADE |
| BREAD | MILK |
| CEREAL | MUFFINS |
| COFFEE | OATMEAL |
| CROISSANTS | OMELETS |
| DOUGHNUTS | PANCAKES |
| EGGS | PORRIDGE |
| FRUIT | ROLLS |
| GRANOLA | SAUSAGES |
| HAM | TEA |
| HASHBROWNS | TOAST |
| HONEY | WAFFLES |
| HOT CHOCOLATE | YOGURT |

For puzzle solutions, visit: www.TheRedBulls.org/PuzzleSolutions



Can you spare a dollar?

Do you earn \$47,000 or more in a year? As an E-5 or higher on deployment, you do, putting you in the top 1% of income earners in the world. Why not give some of that money to the Combined Federal Campaign- Overseas Organization?

The E-pledge is the fastest, most convenient way to give. All you have to do is go online to www.cfcoverseas.org. Once you are there click on "e-giving". If you already have an account with CFC, just log-in. If not, you need to register.

After you are done registering you can do a charity search to find the right charity for you. The CFC-O has over 2,000 national and international organizations you can donate to such as Books for Africa, Pet life Line or National Inventors Hall of Fame Foundation.

To do a charity search, click on programs and look at the different categories such as Animal related or Youth development. Select one, then hit "GO." When you scroll down the page, you get a list of charities to choose from. After you pick the one you want to support, simply add it to your "Basket". You can designate the amount you want to give, starting out at as low as a one-time donation of \$1.

On the e-pledge you will be asked to provide a Reporting Unit Code. These codes help your section get credit and awards for your donations.

This year's CFC-O Campaign ends on 4 December so sign up to make a difference in someone's life.

3 ways to give:

- **Get a paper pledge card from your CFC-O representative**
- **Go online and print one off**
- **E-pledge online using your credit or debit card**

Reporting Unit Codes

- 34th DSTB, HHC- 8170025
- 34th DSTB, NSC- 8170026
- 34th DSTB, HSC- 8170027
- 34th DSTB, MP's-8170028
- 34th DSTB, Band-8170029
- 3-58 AOB- 8170030
- 305 PSYOP- 8170031
- 343/367 MPAD- 8170032
- 4-5 ADA BTRY- 8170033





Around the world in 34 seconds



DHAKA – A ferry packed with people going home for an Islamic festival capsized as they were disembarking at a terminal in southern Bangladesh, leaving at least 15 dead and scores missing, authorities said Saturday. Some of the missing were feared trapped inside the ferry, local police officer Saiful Islam said. Rescuers pulled 15 bodies, most of them children and women, from the sunken part of the ferry, Islam said. Local residents joined police and fire brigade divers to search for survivors inside the ferry, he said. Rescuers used gas torches to cut open submerged cabins, he said. The triple-deck ferry, M.V. Coco, was traveling late Friday from Dhaka to the coastal town of Bhola and was crowded with people heading home from the Eid-ul-Azha festival. It tipped and its rear portion sank in the Tetulia River as many passengers scrambled to disembark at a terminal near Bhola, 104 kilometers (64 miles) south of Dhaka.



WASHINGTON – A reality TV hopeful and her husband, who crashed a presidential dinner, met President Barack Obama in the receiving line, the White House said Friday, as a “deeply concerned and embarrassed” Secret Service acknowledged its officers failed to check whether the couple was on the guest list. The White House released a photo showing Michaela and Tareq Salahi in the receiving line in the Blue Room with Obama and Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, in whose honor the dinner was held. Obama and Michaela Salahi, a candidate for Bravo’s “The Real Housewives of D.C.,” are smiling as she grasps his right hand with both of hers as her husband looks on.



MIAMI - Tiger Woods, the world’s best golfer and a leading force in sports marketing, was hurt in a car accident in Florida on Friday but was released from a hospital in good condition after treatment. The Florida Highway Patrol said in a statement that Woods was hurt when his Cadillac Escalade hit a fire hydrant and then a tree as he pulled out of the driveway of his house in Windermere, Florida, near Orlando, around 2:25 a.m. A local police chief said Woods’ wife used a golf club to smash a window of his SUV to get him out. Woods, 33, who made a triumphant return to professional golf this year after missing much of last season following reconstructive knee surgery, suffered “serious” injuries, the FHP said. But the golfer’s office called the accident “minor.”



SYDNEY – A flatulent pig sparked a gas emergency in southern Australia when a farmer mistook its odors for a leaking pipe, according to officials. Fifteen firefighters and two trucks were called to a property at Axedale in central Victoria state after reports of a gas leak, the Country Fire Service said. “When we got there, as we drove up the driveway, there was this huge sow, about a 120-odd kilo (265-pound) sow, and it was very obvious where the gas was coming from,” said fire captain Peter Harkins. “We could not only smell it, but we heard it and it was quite funny.”