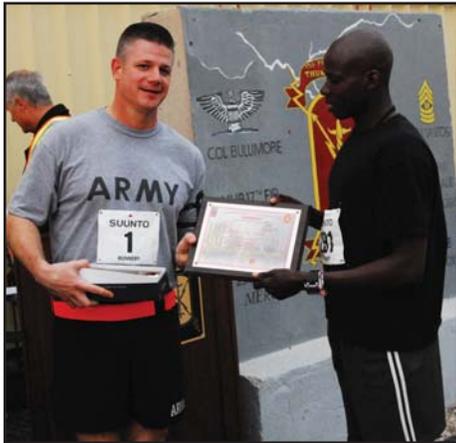




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December 18, 2009



With a lightning-quick time of 16:16, Iseah Mamai (right), a guard with the Saber Contracting Company, took home top honors in COB Basra's St. Barbara's Day Run Dec. 5 and was awarded a plaque by the 17th FB "Thunderbolt's" commander, Col. Steven L. Bullimore.



Photos by Spc. Maurice A. Galloway

On your mark, get set, Go! Primed to erupt off of the starting line, 207 participants showed up to run in the St. Barbara's Day Run hosted by the 17th Fires Brigade Dec. 5 on Contingency Operating Base Basra, Iraq.

## COB Basra's elite compete in St. Barbara's Day run

By Spc. Maurice A. Galloway  
17th Fires Brigade



COB BASRA – Run, run as fast as you can, you can't catch him, he's the ginger bread man. While Iseah Mamai, a guard with the Saber Contracting Company, is no cookie, he did crumble the competition in this year's St. Barbara's Day 5K run, turning in a first place finishing time of 16:16.

The 17th Fires Brigade held a St. Barbara's Day run, in honor of the patron saint of the field artillery, at Contingency Operating Base Basra, Dec. 5, which was open to all personnel from around the base.

Two hundred and seven participants showed up for the run. Some came to compete for top place among the COB's elite runners, while others simply looked at the event as just another morning of physical training.

"Back home in Richlands, North

**"The run opened up the doors for other occupational specialties to be introduced to the history and traditions of the field artillery."**

— Sgt. 1st Class Caleb P. Underwood  
17th FB equal opportunity advisor

Carolina, I try to run about 3 to 4 times a week at a distance of 4 to 6 miles per run," said Air Force 1st Lt. Brandon R. Bryan, 1st Logistics Readiness Squadron out of Langley Air Force Base, Va.. "Normally, for a 5K, I find my time floats around the 17 minute mark, but for the St. Barbara's run I ran a little quicker because of the pace the winner set."

Bryan, a resource manager and logistical planner attached to the 486th Civil Affairs Battalion, finished first

among all military participants and second overall in the St. Barbara's Day run, turning in a final time of 16:44.

Sgt. 1st Class Caleb P. Underwood, 17th FB equal opportunity advisor, was in charge of the coordination of the event.

"I had a lot of help piecing this puzzle together. The staff and Soldiers pitched in and helped me out tremendously," said Underwood.

There wasn't a venue to put on the traditional St. Barbara's Day ball, Underwood said, so 17th FB hosted the run to provide the members of the prestigious club an avenue to celebrate and share their legacy with others.

"The run opened up the doors for other occupational specialties to be introduced to the history and traditions

# Iraqi contractor keeps the lights on for COB Basra

By Sgt. Benjamin R Kibbey  
34th MPAD



COB BASRA – Soldiers who haven't deployed before, or who only recently arrived at Contingency Operating Base Basra, may not give much thought to the constant electricity, hot showers and well-lit avenues. But, that kind of thing doesn't happen easily, and it is thanks in no small part to an Iraqi company, Al Harith, that COB Basra hums along so smoothly.

Al Harith founder and owner Ismael Shaker, a petrochemical engineer by training, has been running Al Harith since he and his partner founded it 18 years ago.

He started the business with his friend of 32 years, back when Iraq was going through a very different rebuilding. Like many Iraqis, he sees opportunity and hope this time around that never existed before.

Looking at the projects he and the engineers and technicians of Al Harith have completed on COB Basra, it's easy to see the promise for the future of the country that they embody.

The power plant that supplies Viking and Sandstorm Living Support Areas on COB Basra was inherited from the British, but is different today.

The eight generators that comprise the plant were at three different locations when the British owned them, including the old British headquarters at the Basrah International Airport Hotel. The British couldn't get them to



Photo by Sgt. Benjamin R. Kibbey

Staff Sgt. Kris Lemm, contracting office representative, Contingency operating Base Basra mayor's cell, from Browerville, Minn., laughs with Ismael Shaker, owner and founder of AlHarith, a contracting company in Basrah Province, Iraq, as the two discuss the immense workload Al Harith is responsible for on the base.

Hotel. The British couldn't get them to work properly due to technical issues. In order to access the computerized system that synchronizes the generators, they needed a password.

When Al Harith first took over the generators at Camp Abunaji, Shaker saw an additional problem. When the Al Harith engineers looked at the system, they realized the generators had no manifolds to prevent air bubbles in the fuel line. So, Shaker had them created in his workshop.

"This {the manifolds} is to eliminate the bubbling in the fuel," he said, "because when the air, from the bubbling, gets to the feed pumps, the generator will fail."

Finally, when it came time to install the generators near LSA Viking, Al Harith contacted the Italian company and found the agreement necessitating the pass-

word had expired.

So, with a little technical know-how from their engineers, they cracked the system and were able to set it up to operate how it was intended.

Al Harith employs electrical and mechanical engineers as well as technicians at the site 24-hours a day, they perform the regular checks and monitor the power output.

With one day off a week and their bunks a few feet from where they work, they have a similar life to the military personnel on the base.

There is a crew of eight to 10 engineers and technicians living at each LSA on COB Basra, Shaker said.

In addition, they have a support crew from the company headquarters for

**CONTRACTORS**

Page 7

## THE RED BULL REPORT

34th Red Bull Infantry Division  
Public Affairs Office



Commanding General  
Maj. Gen. Rick Nash



Command Sergeant Major  
Command Sgt. Maj. Doug Julin

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- 17th Fires Brigade
- 4th BCT, 1st Armored Division
- 28th Combat Aviation Brigade
- 367th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

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# Environmental clean-up big step in base turnover

By Spc. Maurice A. Galloway   
17th Fires Brigade

COB BASRA – The 17th Fires Brigade has begun the environmental evaluation and clean up of bases occupied by U.S. troops in southern Basrah in preparation for the transfer of control to the Iraqi Army slated for January.

Soldiers from the 17th FB and the 203rd Military Police Co. combined their efforts to clean up an oil spill at the Basrah Operations Center (BaOC) that was left by previous tenants from years of careless refueling techniques as well as an ineffective containment system.

“The U.S. Army prides itself on its commitment to using environmentally friendly practices in maintaining all of its bases of operation at home and abroad,” said Maj. Jon K. Dyer, 17th FB, engineer and native of Oklahoma City, Okla. “Our goal is to turn over each of these bases to the Iraqi Army in better condition than how we received them.”

Many of the bases located in southern



Photos by Spc. Maurice A. Galloway

Workers with the Al Harith Co. shovel the contaminated soil into the front end loader during the clean-up process in preparation for base turnover at the BaOC.

## TURNOVER Page 9



Sgt. 1st Class David E. Youngs, 203rd Military Police Co., 17th Fires Brigade sniffs the remains of the excavation site ensuring that no traces of the contaminated soil remain after the clean-up efforts



Workers with Al Haritha Co. watch as the contaminated soil is dumped at the specified disposal location after removing from the area around the generator.

## HOMETOWN HIGHLIGHT

The world’s first installed parking meter was in Oklahoma City, on July 16, 1935. Carl C. Magee, of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, is generally credited with originating the parking meter. He filed for a patent for a “coin controlled parking meter” on May 13, 1935.





# FROM THE RED BULL CHAPEL

Imagine going to a movie with your significant other. Though you're really in the mood for a comedy, you don't share that desire, and somehow you end up sitting through three hours and fifteen minutes of "Schindler's List". Not what you were expecting, not what you were in the mood for, but what you ended up getting by failing to make your true desires known.

So much for movies. What about your homecoming from deployment? How do you want that homecoming to be? What are you hoping for from your family and your friends? Do you want a big party? A lot of parties? A quiet entry back to civilian life with a few chosen loved ones?

## RED BULL CHAPEL

Now is the time to communicate your desires with those who are waiting for you. After all, they have expectations, too. The best way to avoid frustration and misunderstanding is to get all of the expectations out on the table, talk about them, and put together a mutually acceptable plan.

You've been under tremendous operational stress for the past year with lots of choices being made for you. For your homecoming, you owe it to yourself to know what you want and to share your desires with your loved ones. "Ask," says Jesus, "and you will receive."

*God's Peace,  
CH (CPT) Richard Rittmaster  
34 ID Family Life Chaplain*



GOSPEL CHOIR  
EXTRAVAGANZA



COME ONE

COME ALL

DEC. 18

1900-2100



COB  
BASRAH  
CONSOLIDATED  
CHAPEL





# COB BASRA

## 2009 Holiday Service Schedule



18 Dec, 1900, Gospel Choir Concert Extravaganza, **Interim Chapel**

19 Dec, 1600, Hanukkah Candle Lighting Service, **Interim Chapel**

24 Dec, 2200, Christmas Eve Candle Light Service, **NEW Chapel**

24 Dec, 2330, Christmas Eve Mass, **NEW Chapel**

25 Dec, 0900, Christmas Mass, **NEW Chapel**

25 Dec, 1030, COB Basra Christmas Service, **NEW Chapel**



### Crossword

1	2	3	4			5	6	7			8	9	10	11
12					13				14		15			
16					17						18			
19			20							21		22		
			23					24		25				
	26	27				28		29					30	
31				32		33			34					35
36			37		38				39		40			
41				42		43				44		45		
				47			48			49				
		50							51					
52	53			54		55	56	57			58	59	60	
61			62		63						64			
65					66						67			
68						69					70			

### Across

- 1. Awestruck
- 5. Take to court
- 8. Sediment
- 12. Winged
- 13. Leave
- 15. Bend this to propose
- 16. Corn Belt state
- 17. Nigerian monetary unit
- 18. Pimples
- 19. Rescue
- 22. Any doctrine
- 23. Deception
- 24. Ends a prayer
- 26. Hotel
- 29. Pivot
- 31. Twitch
- 32. Depart
- 34. Weary
- 36. All excited
- 38. Pilot a car
- 40. Hobbling
- 41. A type of bear
- 43. Christopher of "Superman"
- 45. 2000 pounds
- 46. A dial on an old phone
- 48. Blush
- 50. Heredity carrier
- 51. Born
- 52. Law enforcement agency
- 54. Defying expression or description
- 61. Apiece
- 63. Poison
- 64. Carnival
- 65. Jacob's brother
- 66. What a bee might do
- 67. Concludes
- 68. Expunge
- 69. French for "Summer"
- 70. Where a bird lives

### Down

- 1. Incursion
- 2. Found in skin lotion
- 3. A hinged catch in a ratchet
- 4. Paths
- 5. Cicatrix
- 6. Murres
- 7. Acquire deservedly
- 8. Music with jazz-like riffs
- 9. Burn to ashes
- 10. Focusing glass
- 11. Move in large numbers
- 13. Smiled contemptuously
- 14. Colorful parrot
- 20. Six-stringed instrument
- 21. Radiate
- 25. Wickedness
- 26. Difficulty
- 27. Pertaining to a branch of biology
- 28. Dawdle
- 29. Cut off
- 30. Tart citrus fruit
- 31. Faucet
- 33. Compete
- 35. Lair
- 37. Box office take
- 39. The early part of night
- 42. Hindu princess
- 44. Biblical garden
- 47. Leases
- 49. Be unbearably loud
- 52. Give food to
- 53. A military installation
- 55. Lavish affection (on)
- 56. Departure
- 57. Monetary penalty
- 58. Curse
- 59. Tops of jars
- 60. Formerly (archaic)
- 62. Color



Photo by Pfc. J. Princeville Lawrence

## Natural gas to burn

An oil refinery in Basrah burns off natural gas. This practice, called "flaring," is a significant source of greenhouse gases. The World Bank estimates that every year refiners waste 100 billion cubic meters of natural gas, an amount worth approximately \$30.6 billion.

### From Page 1

#### ELITE

of the field artillery," Underwood said.

The legend of St. Barbara tells of a beautiful young girl who was trapped in a tower by her jealous father. She began studying Christianity and came to accept those religious preferences against the wishes of her father.

Once her father became aware of this, he was enraged and put her to death by his own hand. Shortly after carrying out the execution, he was struck down by lightning.

Because of the legend, St. Barbara was implored as a guardian against accidental explosions by early artillerymen, and was later adopted as the patroness of the field artillery.

Members of The Order of St. Barbara showed their loyalty by joining in the run in honor of their patroness.

"This is a prestigious club to be a member of and I am proud to show my support," said Sgt. 1st Class Averell V. Thompson, 17th FB, operations battle captain and native of Starkville, Miss. "Now when it comes to running these days, I don't make it there as fast as I used to. But as an artilleryman, I don't need to be the first one there, just as long as I make it with the team."

The women of 34th Infantry Division, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, had a very strong showing at the competition, taking first, second and third place in the women's category.

Sgt. Anna M. Gillen finished just under the 20-minute mark, at a time of 19:58, followed by 2nd Lt. Jennifer A. Carl-

son and Maj. Christine E. Ostendorf who finished at 21:30 and 21:50 respectfully.

"Overall, I think that the run was a success," Underwood said. "It served as a medium to bring people from across the COB together, which is great from an E.O. standpoint."

Those who wanted to have a stronger showing during the run will have a few months to train before the next big race, as the 17th FB will host the Molly Pitcher Run in March.

For more of Spc. Galloway's stories, visit:

[www.TheRedBulls.org/Galloway](http://www.TheRedBulls.org/Galloway)



Photos by Spc. Maurice A. Galloway

Air Force 1st Lt. Brandon R. Bryan, 1st LRS out of Langley AFB, Va., attached to the 486th CA Bn. as a resources and logistics officer, finished first among all military participants and second overall in the St. Barbara's Day run, turning in an impressive time of 16:44.

**From Page 2**  
**CONTRACTORS**

pumping, carpentry and steelwork, Muhammad said.

"I have 30 years experience in power generation in the government and private sector," he said, "so I am familiar with this kind of generator, steam generators, gas turbine: all kinds of power generation types."

Still, operating a computerized station of this size was a new experience for some of the engineers, he said.

"Here [Iraq], we deal with mainly non-computerized power stations," Muhammad said. "Of course, we have individual diesel generators, computerized also, outside the camp."

Most generators Jafar Abdullah, an electrical engineer from Basrah, has worked on, were single generators, though often larger than the eight that comprise the power station here, he said. So, the issue of synchronizing generators was a new one for him.

However, the use of computers to synchronize and monitor the generators actually simplifies the work.

"The design of these generators makes it simpler to get better performance out of them," Abdullah said.

The system is almost maintenance-free, said Muhammad. Still, they have to stay on top of draining water from the system and checking the clarity of the oil.

If the regularly scheduled service is delayed even a little, it can do irreparable damage to the generator, said Staff

Sgt. Kris Lemm, contracting office representative, mayor's cell, from Browerville, Minn. This can literally take years off of the projected lifespan of the equipment.

The computerized system simplifies the maintenance process.

"If we need to make service on one of these generators, we don't have to separate the power," Abdullah said. "It's much simpler."

It doesn't hurt that one of the eight generators by itself can produce more power than is needed for the current load. This means that only two generators are ever required – the second to keep power going while the other is serviced.

With the generators set up and functioning, plans are in place to power additional parts of the COB from the one station, said Muhammad.

Even when they expand the area powered by the generators to include the nearby Post Exchange complex, the one generator still won't pass 40% of its capacity, said Muhammad.

"We now have steady power, and we made the calculations, and I think we will achieve it," he said.

Lemm, who spent 15 of his 22 years (so far) in the military as an instructor at the Regional Training Site for Maintenance at Camp Ripley, Minn., has high praise for the work Al Harith does.

Lemm represents Al Harith through the Joint Contracting Command Iraq.

"Water, power and fuel covers a lot of work all over this COB," he said. "On average, I get a list of about 50 differ-

ent things that they have fixed for Task Force Safe every day."

"I taught small arms, to rebuilding engines, to rebuilding tanks to doing fire control systems repair," Lemm said, "and none of that helped me as much as these guys did on teaching me on what they do."

The difference Shaker has made to Basra is obvious all around, he said.

"This was a very dark COB, now he takes care of putting light everywhere; this was a very unorganized and unsafe COB, and they go every single place and rewire all the unsafe things," he said.

"It's a long list of everything they do," Lemm said. "Where there is no heat, they put heat; where there is no air conditioning, they put air conditioning; where there is need of more fuel tanks because they have added more stuff, he has his welding team making more fuel tanks every day."

With years of experience behind him and years of work ahead of him, Shaker takes all the compliments with an easy smile.

Three years is the time he gives for when he expects things will truly stabilize in Iraq, and his otherwise fatigued but calm eyes light-up when Lemm mentions how many Iraqis Al Harith employs on COB Basra.

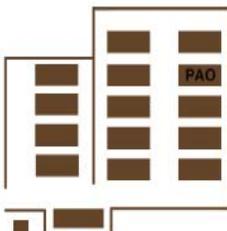
"Over 460 workers are busy all the day," said Shaker with a smile, "and that's good. That's very good."

For more of Sgt. Kibbey's stories, visit: [www.TheRedBulls.org/Kibbey](http://www.TheRedBulls.org/Kibbey)

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**SWEET MARTHA'S COOKIE PACKERS & SKYPE**



Dec. 19, 2100-0000, come to the PAO trailer behind Green Beans Coffee near D-Main to Skype with volunteers packing cookies for you!

Contact 1st Lt. Shamika Hill: [shamika.hill@iraq.centcom.mil](mailto:shamika.hill@iraq.centcom.mil)

Green Beans

**ARABIC WORD OF THE DAY**

**Nahnu - We**



بنا نحن

The First and Only . . .

# Red Bull Flea Market & Charity Collection



## Sunday, January 17, 2010

at the Red Bull USA Volleyball courts from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

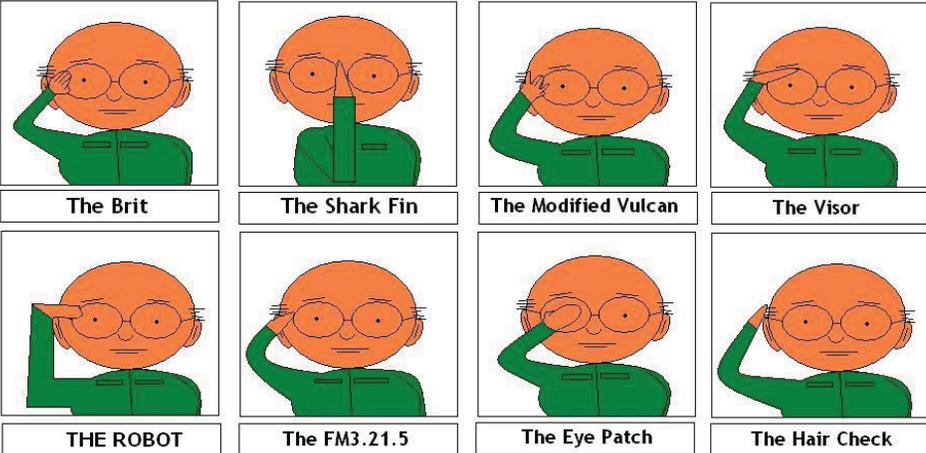
**This is an opportunity to sell your items privately, from service member to service member or to donate items to charity! Provide your own display, and set your own prices. Pick up bags to store donations\* prior to Jan. 17 at the Red Bull MWR tent.**

\*SUGGESTED ITEMS - clean towels and bed linens, useable running shoes, civilian clothes, etc.

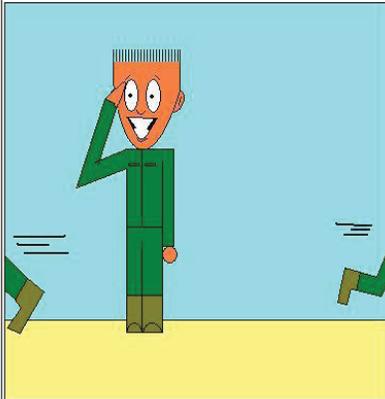
\*PROHIBITED ITEMS - uniform clothing items, undergarments, any military equipment, any item with an NSN, and weapons.

# Corn on the Cob

By Capt. Daniel Cape



- The Brit salutes during deployment: 5,603
  - The Shark Fin salutes during deployment: 6,265
  - The Modified Vulcan salutes during deployment: 7,824
  - The Visor salutes during deployment: 6,273
  - The Hair Check salutes during deployment: 7,245
  - The Robot salutes during deployment: 7,896
  - The FM 3.21.5 salutes: 40 or 50
  - The Eye Patch salutes during deployment: 8,568
- Saluting in a combat zone: PRICELESS**



**From Page 3**  
**TURNOVER**

Basrah are powered by generators. After years of use, without proper maintenance and a faulty environmental hazard control system, the soil around the generator located at the BaOC has become contaminated.

“As the noncommissioned officer in charge of base closure operations for the BaOC, it’s my responsibility to ensure that we follow the proper protocol of disposing all potentially hazardous waste materials and ensure that environmental standards are upheld,” said David E. Youngs, 203rd Military Police Co., 17th FB.

“Upon receiving the completed evaluation of the BaOC by Multi-National Division Iraq-South’s environmental manager, Jon Sojka, I immediately began coordinating the site excavation of the contaminated area with Al Harith Co.”

Youngs said that the entire process of removing all the contaminated soil, transporting it to a proper waste disposal facility and implementing a precautionary spillage management system under the generators cost a mere \$9,800.

The environmental evaluation and clean-up of these bases marks one of the final steps of the preparation process for the 17th’s transfer of control to the Iraqi Army.

“I must commend Sergeant Youngs and Maj. Dyer on the extraordinary job that they have done with preparing this base for turnover,” said Jon Sojka, Multi-National Division South, environmental manager. “They have executed a very well thought-out plan and have complied with all of the policies directed for base closure by MNC-I [Multi-National Corps Iraq].”

For more of Spc. Galloway’s stories, visit: [www.TheRedBulls.org/Galloway](http://www.TheRedBulls.org/Galloway)

**Reminder**  
To Friends and Family

Last day to send mail to redeploying Red Bull Soldiers is Jan. 1, 2010

**Red Bull Radio**  
**PODCAST**  
Riveron  
3 Patrol  
[www.TheRedBulls.org/podcast](http://www.TheRedBulls.org/podcast)



## Around the world in 34 seconds



**MEXICO CITY** - Mexican security forces have killed drug lord Arturo Beltran Leyva, one of the most wanted traffickers in both Mexico and the United States, in a victory for President Felipe Calderon's war on drug cartels. Beltran Leyva, a drug lord dubbed "The Boss of Bosses," was killed on Wednesday by Navy forces in a luxury residential complex in the southern city of Cuernavaca. "We confirm the death of Arturo Beltran Leyva. He was killed in a Navy operation in Cuernavaca," said a Navy captain who declined to be named. Six bodyguards died together with Beltran Leyva, who ran a cartel that carried his family name. He was an ally turned foe of Mexico's No.1 most wanted man, Joaquin "Shorty" Guzman. More than 16,000 people have been killed in drug violence in the last three years as rival gangs have fought each other and security forces.



**LOS ANGELES** - FBI agents on Wednesday arrested a New York man on charges that he uploaded a copy of the movie "X-Men Origins: Wolverine" to the Internet before its May theatrical release, a spokeswoman said. FBI spokeswoman Laura Eimiller said the probe continues into how Gilberto Sanchez, 47, of New York City obtained the copy he posted to Megaupload.com in the spring. When the leaked movie made it to the Web, officials from Twentieth Century Fox, the unit of News Corp that was behind the film, expressed their dismay out of a concern that it would undermine the box office appeal of "Wolverine." Sanchez, who was arrested at his home, was charged with unlawfully uploading a copyright work to the Internet, which carries a maximum penalty of three years in prison and a \$250,000 fine, the FBI said. "X-Men Origins: Wolverine," which starred Hugh Jackman and was the latest in a franchise of films based on the "X-Men" comic books, made \$373 million at worldwide box offices.



**NEW YORK** - Roy Halladay was moved to Philadelphia and Cliff Lee shifted to Seattle in trades of Cy Young winners, while the Toronto Blue Jays netted a trio of prospects in a pair of blockbuster deals finalized Wednesday. The Blue Jays ended weeks of speculation about the dominant right-hander by dealing Halladay to the National League champion Phillies for promising pitcher Kyle Drabek, outfielder Michael Taylor and catcher Travis D'Arnaud. Taylor was immediately sent to the Oakland Athletics for infielder Brett Wallace. Philadelphia replenished their minor league system by shipping left-hander Lee to the Mariners for a replacement crop of prospects in right-handed pitchers Phillippe Aumont and JC Ramirez and outfielder Tyson Gillies.



**PARIS** - Many people love horses and traditionally, many French people have loved them even more with a side of salad. That passion, however, has slowed to a trickle in the last couple of years as crisis-hit French consumers buy less meat and years of campaigning by animal rights groups take effect. Looking to ram home their advantage, campaigners have launched a pre-Christmas blitz in Paris featuring posters of riding school ponies and graceful yearlings aimed at rending the hardest of hearts. "Every year in France, riding school horses like Caramel are sent to the abattoir," says one poster by the Fondation Brigitte Bardot, featuring a photo of a perky grey pony reflected in a knife blade. "It disturbs us that people continue to eat horses at all and we are going to go on campaigning until people stop eating it altogether," said Constance Cluset, a spokeswoman for the animal welfare group created by the former actress. Last year, 15,820 horses were killed for their meat in France, of which over 7,000 were imported from abroad.