



DANGER FORWARD



August 23, 2010 | Issue 30

Seeing the future of Babylon

By Sgt. Benjamin Kibbey
367th MPAD, 3HBCT PAO

BABIL PROVINCE – Called the “cradle of civilization,” history going back centuries or even millennia is everywhere in Iraq. Yet, of the 911 World Heritage Sites officially recognized by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, only three are located in Iraq.

According to Diane Siebrandt, the cultural heritage program manager for the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad, this is barely a scratch on the surface. If the many sites around Iraq are preserved and cared for, she said, the country has the potential to stand out more than even Egypt, which currently has seven locations recognized as World Heritage Sites.

“Iraq is essentially one huge archeological site,” the Denver native said.

The criteria to qualify for UNESCO recognition – and the international attention and funds that come with it – require a demonstrated commitment to preservation.

To help move in that direction, the U.S. State Department is sponsoring work at the ruins of Babylon in Babil Province to the tune of \$700,000.

The “Future of Babylon” project, as the U.S.-funded program is called, involves a close partnership between the Iraqi government and an outside nonprofit organization.

“Ultimately, we want to re-involve the Iraqis with these organizations that can assist them, because they haven’t had contact with them in so long,” said the Denver native. “So, we’ve now partnered them with the World Monuments Fund, and we hope to partner them with different universities, different organizations. When that happens, we’ll eventually pull back.”

The World Monuments Fund is a New York-based non-profit organization dedicated to preserving and protecting endangered ancient

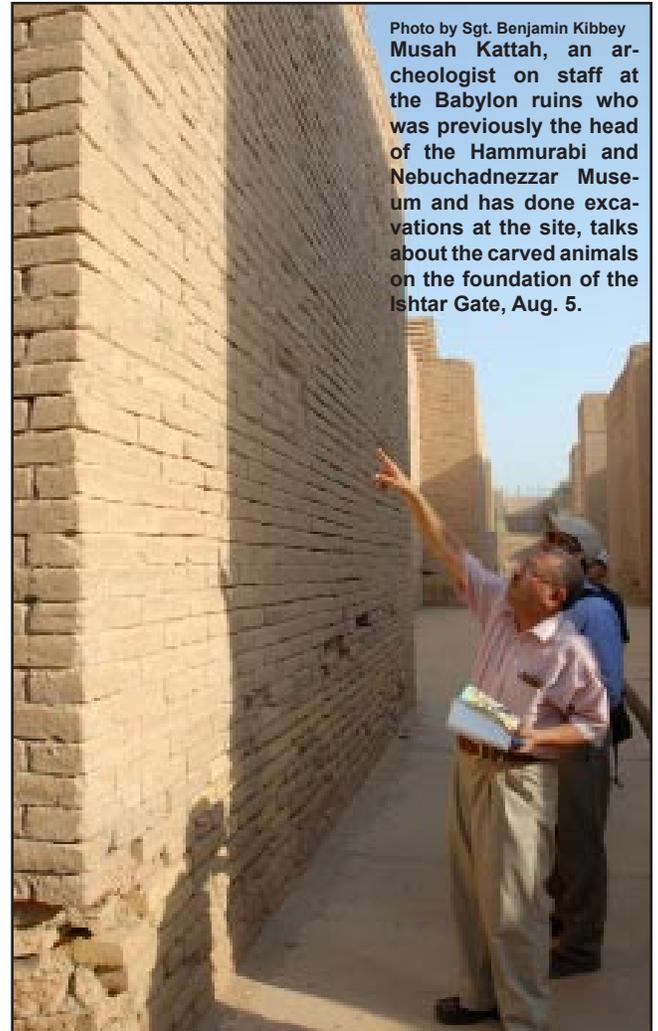


Photo by Sgt. Benjamin Kibbey
Musah Kattah, an archaeologist on staff at the Babylon ruins who was previously the head of the Hammurabi and Nebuchadnezzar Museum and has done excavations at the site, talks about the carved animals on the foundation of the Ishtar Gate, Aug. 5.

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New CSC on COB Basra, p. 8



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Danger Seven sends

As the saying goes, “You don’t know what you have until it’s gone.” Well, leaders, how do you educate and mentor our Soldiers fiscally? Since we are viewed as being more experienced and wise, I believe it is our responsibility to enlighten our Soldiers when it comes to being fiscally responsible. Most of us have made those inexperienced mistakes and now wish we had someone who could have pointed us in the right direction when we were younger. There are too many ways for Soldiers to wisely invest and save money for their future. Let’s take a minute and discuss a few options available to our Soldiers while they are deployed.

The most often overlooked saving plan is the Thrift Savings Plan (TSP). This is a smart savings option that has been streamlined through MyPay where Soldiers can have deposits come straight from their paycheck. TSP accounts are expressed as shares of the TSP funds in which participants invest their money in which the account balance is shown in both shares and dollar amounts. Currently, there is no contribution limit. The funds are separated into six investment funds; G Fund (US Treasury Securities), F Fund- (US Debt Index Fund-Bond Market), C Fund (Stocks), S Fund (US Stocks), I Fund (International Stocks), and L Funds (diversifies between all the Funds G,F,C,S,and I funds). A Soldier can draw on their fund under two circumstances; 1. Aged-based In-Service Withdrawal- one only withdrawal at the age of 59 ½, 2. Financial Hardship In-Service Withdrawal- When a soldier has proof of Negative monthly cash flow, Medical expenses, Personal casualty losses, and legal expenses for separation or divorce.

Another safe investment plan that can pay dividends is the Saving Deposit Program (SDP) while you are deployed. The SDP offers Soldiers serving in designated combat zones an opportunity to build on their financial security with a generous 10 percent interest rate. Soldiers must be receiving Hostile Fire Pay for at least 30 consecutive days or at least one day in each of three consecutive months in order to participate. Note that no interest is earned on amounts exceeding \$10,000, only a maximum of \$1,000 can earned in one year.

Lastly, the most proven low risk saving method is the U.S. Saving Bonds. U.S. Savings Bonds earn competitive interest rates and are safe because the full faith and credit of the United States backs them. The interest earned on bonds is exempt from state or local income taxes, and Federal tax can be deferred until a bond is cashed or reaches the end of its interest bearing life (30 years.) The two most common bonds are EE and I Bonds. Series EE savings Bonds are securities that accrue interest (that is, increase in value) until it is cashed or reaches final maturity (30 years). Series I Bonds are an accrual-type security-meaning that interest is added to the bond monthly and paid when the bond is cashed. I bonds are sold at face value- you pay \$50 for a \$50 bond and they grow in value with inflation-indexed earnings for up to 30 years.

Don’t let the opportunity to wisely invest money saved on a deployment pass you by. Now get after it.



Jim Champagne
Command Sergeant Major
U.S. Army



Commanding General
Major General
Vincent K. Brooks



Command Sergeant Major
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DANGER FORWARD

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- 12th CAB
- 3rd HBCT, 3rd Inf. Div.
- 367th MPAD



Stay committed to treating “Get Home-itis”



By Marc Greene
USD-S Safety

As we watch our fellow Soldiers depart theatre in route to home base, we need to stay focused on the tasks at hand. Complacency, indiscipline and lack of focus are the main items seen on every accident report.

Personal injuries are our number one category of accidents weighing in at a whopping 67 percent of the total accidents. The next in line is negligent discharges at 15 percent.

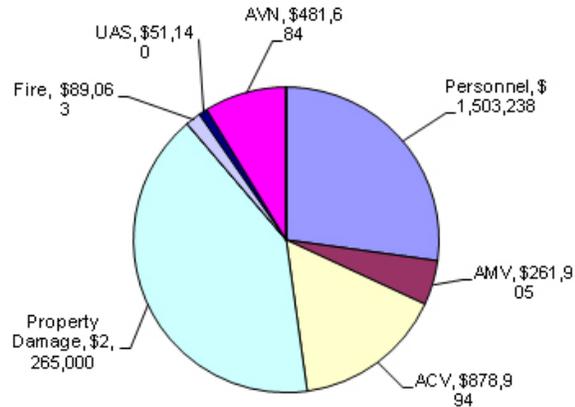
Looking back through all the data we’ve collected since the USD-S TOA of Feb. 2, 2010, all of the accidents occurring under those two headings have a causation factor of at least one of the three before mention items. Everyone has the responsibility to make corrections when corrections must be made. When we walk by and say to ourselves, “It’s not my place. It’s not my job. Someone else will take care of it.”

We are setting a new low-standard for how operations are performed. We should always on watch for situations of complacency, indiscipline and lack of focus. And when observed, make that on-the-spot correction. If the person you are correcting outranks you, then you correct them with respect. When they don’t outrank you, you correct them with respect.

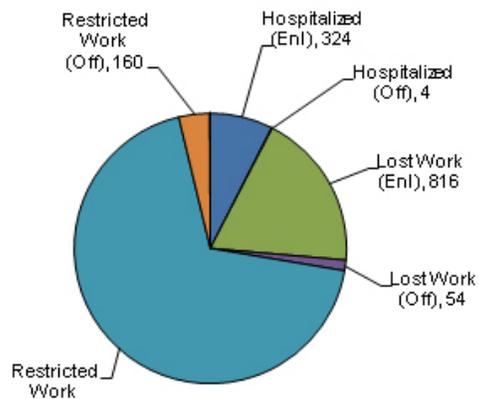
Nothing is learned when someone is telling you that you are the dumbest, most worthless excuse of a Soldier they’ve ever seen. Show the individual what is wrong and the proper way to perform the task.

The following are some statistical numbers put together to show how much complacency, indiscipline and lack of focus has cost us in dollars and days lost not being able to perform our jobs.

USD-S Cost of Accidents since TOA 02 FEB 10



USD-S Days Lost since TOA 02 FEB 10



This week in Army history

This week in Big Red One history

August 24, 1918 – Elements of the 1st Division are attached to the Scottish 15th Division, during the Aisne-Marne Operation fought in the Saizerais sector, August 24-28, 1918.

This week in OIF history

August 28, 2005 – Iraq’s National Assembly signs the text of the proposed Iraqi constitution.

This week in 4th Infantry Division history

Late August 1945 – The 4th Infantry Division arrives in Paris after breaking through the left flank of the German Seventh Army. By the time the division moved northeast toward Belgium, Ernest Hemingway had joined on as a self-appointed “civilian scout” for the 4th Inf. Div.

Path to drawdown takes safer route on Tampa

By Spc. Chastity Boykin
3rd BCT, 4th Inf. Div. PAO

COB ADDER – Spanning the length of Iraq, Main Supply Route Tampa goes through the heart of Iraq toward the Kuwaiti border, serving as the main route to move equipment and personnel in and out of Iraq.

Soldiers of the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, United States Division—South and their Iraqi Security Forces partners came together July 31 for a combined safety conference with the route's safety in mind.

Representatives of the Iraqi Army, Police, Highway Patrol, and Explosive Ordnance Disposal met with U.S. forces on Contingency Operating Base Adder to discuss rules of the road, ways to reduce vehicle accidents, and improvised explosive devices.

The conference opened with an overview of events from the last six months. The most common events were IEDs and traffic accidents. Leaders also discussed the enforcement of proper speed limits and traffic laws, and maintaining a highway free of debris.

Keeping the highways free of

debris helps prevent insurgents from placing IEDs among trash, broken down vehicles, and other objects along the highway.

"Each side was able to express its concerns of current and shared ideas in terms of how to share the road, not only to protect the U.S. forces, but the ISF and the local population as we execute a responsible drawdown out of Iraq," said Maj. Robert

Newbauer, an Allegan, Mich., native serving as plans officer with Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 3rd BCT, 4th Inf. Div.

As the ISF continues to take the lead, the U.S. forces will coordinate closely with ISF operation centers in regards to convoy movements and checkpoints.

"It is important that as we retrograde and draw vehicles responsibly out of Iraq we have the full support of our Iraqi partners as they not only set up checkpoints along the road," Newbauer said. "They continue to build upon the gains that they have made in terms of security and are able to do things themselves."

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

Department grants away farming grants in Maysan Province

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

AMARAH - The Maysan Department of Agriculture, in coordination with the Maysan Provincial Reconstruction Team and 4th Squadron, 10th Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, will provide agricultural micro-grants to 20 farmers in the province.

The Director General of Agriculture selected farmers from various districts and the Farmer's Union to fill out application packets.

"The grants will provide farmers throughout Maysan Province with the opportunity to improve yield of their harvests and will expand the agricultural development of the province," said 2nd Lt. Abe Payne, Maysan provincial project manager with 4th Sqdn., 10th Cav. Regt.

The grants will be used for implementing green houses projects, drip irrigation systems, seeds and pesticides.

Drip irrigation is widely recognized as one of the most efficient uses of water for crops. This system maximizes water usage and conservation by focusing water to exactly where the plants are growing with a series of hoses, valves and pipes.

With these affordable elements in place, farmers can shift from subsistence production to high-value production for commercial sale, in addition to their own personal food supply.

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



Photo by 2nd Lt. Abe Payne

A newly installed drip irrigation system stretches across a field. Drip irrigation is widely recognized as one of the most efficient uses of water for crops, maximizing water usage and conservation by focusing the water exactly where plants are growing with aid of irrigation equipment.

Photo by Staff Sgt. Aaron Thacker
Security and law enforcement officials provide a presence as cars travel Main Supply Route Tampa.



Groups examine healthcare at conference, discuss systemic challenges, way ahead

By Master Sgt. David Bennett

367th MPAD, USD-S PAO

BASRA – Stakeholders met Aug. 13-14 in Basra to discuss the state of healthcare in Iraq, which in the last few years has improved in some geographic areas, but remains a pressing concern, especially in most rural communities.

Representatives of several nongovernmental organizations, including the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI), the Basra Provincial Reconstruction Team and United States Division-South gathered to discuss various healthcare issues at the two-day conference, which concluded with an open forum at Basra International Airport.

Maj. Reginald Hughes, a USD-S public health physician with the 486th Civil Affairs Battalion, said while Iraq has become a more stable and secure nation during the last seven years, the country's healthcare system continues to be a work in progress.

"We believe that healthcare — from a civil capacity perspective — is a way to make the country stable and give the people a better way of life," Hughes said.

According to Dr. Sami Al-Saedi, a development and humanitarian support officer with UNAMI, health threats such as cholera, H1N1, leishmaniasis, malaria and tuberculosis are prevalent in Iraq's southern region.

One action that could reduce high illness rates is growing the number of physicians in urban and rural communities. Part of the answer, officials said, is enabling the local medical industry to produce more qualified doctors — a systemic upgrade that will take time to achieve.

In the short term, the Iraqi Medical Association is aiding the pool of foreign physicians who choose to practice in Iraq's rural areas by streamlining the licensing process for physicians coming from other countries that allows them to treat patients in Iraq.

Alaa Hussein Abed, a medical coordinator with the charitable foundation



Photo by Master Sgt. David Bennett

Alaa Hussein Abed, a medical coordinator with AMAR, provides his view on the state of healthcare in Iraq during a healthcare conference in Basra Aug. 13-14.

“We believe that healthcare...is a way to make the country stable and give the people a better way of life,”

—Maj. Reginald Hughes
USD-S Public Health Physician

Assisting Marsh Arabs and Refugees (AMAR), said among its priorities is the

development of strategies for improving healthcare infrastructure in Iraq, whether it's improving post-operative care or making effective medications more accessible to patients.

The biggest challenge that looms, he said, is garnering more financial support from the Iraqi government to push such initiatives.

"There are few allocations for the rural areas," he said.

AMAR, which operates in the Basra, Dhi Qar and Maysan provinces, has established nearly a dozen health clinics in southern Iraq.

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

Odierno tours Resiliency Campus

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

COB BASRA – The soon-to-open resiliency campus at Contingency Operating Base Basra hosted Gen. Ray Odierno, United States Forces-Iraq commander, during his visit to the base Aug. 18.

The resiliency campus brings all components of resiliency – emotional, spiritual, mental, family support and physical – under one roof in a setting that allows Soldiers to approach things in their own way and at their own pace.

“I think some people get scared away from groups, so they want someone to develop something for them so they can improve, and you can find all of that here,” Odierno said.

To accomplish this, the set of buildings incorporates everything from a gym and nutritional counselors to mental health professionals and computers for making Internet-based video calls to family.

The chaplain’s office also plays a role,

but it is one of open invitation to explore individual faith with an atmosphere allowing Soldiers as much interaction with chaplains and other Soldiers as they wish. This is accomplished with a small library of books covering various religions – from Buddhism to Wiccan – and a room for meditation.

“It is different from a chaplain in the sense that this is an unobtrusive environment,” said Chaplain (Maj.) Gary Fisher, 1st Infantry Division deputy division chaplain from Abilene, Kan. “It’s an opportunity for them to come and do research, to learn, to meditate, to grow, to ask questions, to enter into debate, to be able to just explore their own personal journey, explore their own personal faith and their faith walk.”

The campus allows a ‘whole-person’ approach to the stresses Soldiers face. When someone is suffering in one area, other parts of their life and health can impact their ability to cope. The holistic approach makes it possible, for instance, for

Soldiers struggling with physical fitness to come seeking help with their workout or diet, and find help for other situations they might not have thought were even impacting their physical fitness.

Not surprisingly, physical condition can have dramatic consequences for a person’s ability to deal with other stresses.

“The overall goal is to ensure that Soldiers are not only physically fit, but emotionally and spiritually fit – with family and socially,” said Sgt. Maj. Bryan Barren, 1st Inf. Div. Surgeon Cell, who has overseen the creation of the gym portion of the campus.

“It’s a place for a Soldier to come and feel like any of their needs can be taken care of,” Barren, a Baltimore native, said.

Maj. Gen. Vincent K. Brooks, United States Division-South and 1st Inf. Div. commander, said all of the gym equipment had been re-purposed from facilities closing down as part of the drawdown of forces in Iraq, eliminating the need to purchase new equipment.

He also noted, in response to Odierno’s comment that it was important to carry the resiliency efforts back home with units when they leave theater, the campus here is actually modeled after one being built at Fort Riley, home of the 1st Inf. Div.

Odierno’s overall response to the campus was positive, and he inquired about the different facilities from the officers and noncommissioned officers who provided him the tour, remarking on the parts he was particularly impressed with.

“I’ve always had a lot of respect for the 1st Infantry Division, specifically the current leadership,” Odierno said. “I have a lot of confidence in your abilities, but more importantly, about, not only what you do here, but how you take care of your Soldiers, and it’s been an honor to work with you, all of you.”



Photo by Sgt. Benjamin Kibbey

Gen. Ray Odierno, USF-I commander, examines some of the books available to Soldiers in the spiritual section of the soon-to-open resiliency campus on COB Basra Aug. 18 as Maj. Gen. Vincent K. Brooks, USD-S and 1st Inf. Div. commander, looks on. The spiritual health section at the campus includes a small library of books covering various religions – from Buddhism to Wiccan – and a room for meditation, with an atmosphere designed to encourage open discourse on spiritual subjects.

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Bringing resiliency to the front

'Iron' Bde troopers master resiliency training

By Sgt. David Dasilma

4th Sqdn., 10th Cav. Regt., 3rd BCT, 4th Inf. Div.

COB ADDER – Peering into the Task Force Blackjack conference room on any given Tuesday, one might be surprised at what he or she hears.

On Tuesdays, Staff Sgt. John Meyer, the 4th Squadron, 10th Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division protective services detail platoon sergeant from Longmont, Colo., leads discussions on topics such as detecting “icebergs” and avoiding “thinking traps,” as part of an Army-wide program called Master Resiliency Training.

Master Resiliency Training, a joint initiative between the U.S. Army and the University of Pennsylvania, provides Soldiers an opportunity to improve their well-being and develop their leadership potential.

While the training is a positive tool for helping Soldiers maintain balance and overcome adversity, it is not a special device used to avoid basic soldiering. Attention to detail, discipline, following orders, and performing tasks to standard are still a major part of daily TF Blackjack operations.

“A Soldier who displays substandard performance is still going to be disciplined by [his or her] leader,” Meyer said during a group discussion. “How the leader goes about communicating with the Soldier and how the Soldier responds to the reprimand are the only things being worked on.”

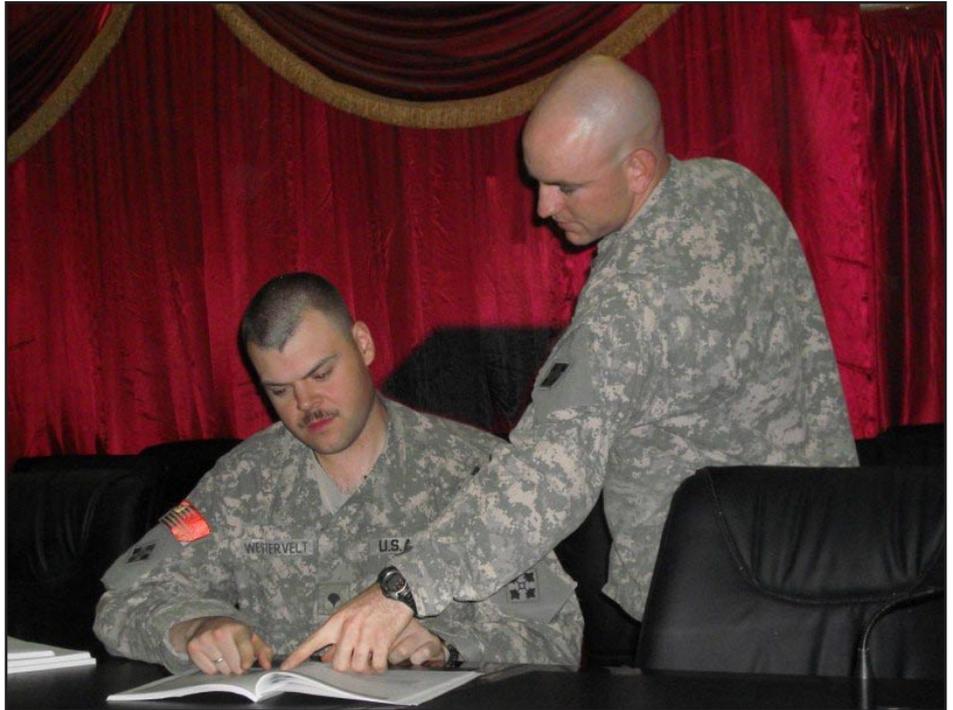


Photo by Sgt. David Dasilma
Staff Sgt. John Meyer, the 4th Sqdn., 10th Cav. Regt., 3rd BCT, 4th Inf. Div. protective services detail platoon sergeant from Longmont, Colo., explains a lesson to New York native Spc. Christian Westervelt, a Soldier with 4th Sqdn., 10th Cav. Regt., 3rd BCT, 4th Inf. Div.

When Meyer first learned he was being sent to University of Pennsylvania for a master resiliency instructor class, he assumed it was some pilot physical training program.

One of the major topics in the MRT program is building mental toughness during difficult situations like a deployment.

“I had better respect for the material after using it to cope with the stress my wife was feeling from my being gone,” Meyer said.

Soldiers learn about “The Velcro / Teflon Effect,” which is the tendency to notice evidence that confirms preexisting thoughts and to miss evidence that contradicts those thoughts. The list of skills learned during resiliency training is vast, and each skill can be applied within TF Blackjack’s current operation.

“They should maybe teach a condensed resiliency training class in basic [training] so that Soldiers have some kind of idea of what they’re getting into and what to expect in the Army,” Meyer said.

Master Resiliency Training is meant to be forward-learning as it works to solve problems long before they ever occur.

“Some of the Soldiers tell me that the modules are helping them deal with stress in their family or this deployment,” said Meyer. “After class, other Soldiers come up to me and ask for further information on how to utilize the materials covered.”

While most Soldiers appreciate the training, Meyer said some seasoned veterans frown upon the “New Army” and teaching them to adjust their thinking patterns can be very challenging.

“The hardest part of the resiliency training is being able to get the guys with the old school mentality to sit down and converse with Soldiers or be open-minded about the class and absorb some of the information to use for their own good,” Meyer said.

For more from 3rd BCT, visit www.facebook.com/3bct4id

Combat Stress Center stresses mental readiness

By Sgt. Samuel Soza
367th MPAD, USD-S PAO

COB BASRA – Kellogg, Brown & Root-United Kingdom began renovation of the Combat Stress Clinic on Contingency Operating Base Basra Aug. 8 in an effort to create a more comfortable environment for Soldiers seeking assistance.

“[The CSC] provides a place for them to come if they are having difficulty,” said Sgt. Sonja Young, behavioral health technician with the 162nd Area Medical Support Company. “Whether it be with the deployment, something with a relationship, whatever the case may be, we offer acute care.”

Some of the services available at the CSC include smoking cessation classes, sleep hygiene, and individual counseling for a variety of subjects.

Before the construction began, the building often became too hot, sending visitors and counselors looking for a more comfortable environment and the facility’s brash yellow walls were too thin for adequate confidentiality.

“Privacy was somewhat of a problem,” said Young, native of Laredo, Texas.

The building was given thicker walls, air conditioning, new flooring, and a fresh coat of paint.

There is also a large room that was once three tiny rooms with no windows or lights. Young said Soldiers often lightheartedly referred to them as the ‘interrogation rooms.’ Young said construction should be complete this week.

Making the CSC available as soon as possible was important after June yielded a record number of suicides, 32, Army-wide. The facility plays an important role in the Army’s mission to train Soldiers in what is called Resiliency Training, Young said.

The training provides techniques for Soldiers to address stress and is built upon the “five pillars of resiliency”: the areas of physical, emotional, spiritual, family, and social.

A project to open a Resiliency Campus on COB Basra is nearing completion.

Young also said Soldiers’ mental well-



Photo by Sgt. Sonja Young

Wall panels from the Basra Combat Stress Center lie in a pile of refuse created from the renovation of the facility Aug. 8. The CSC provides many services to Soldiers, including smoking cessation classes, sleep hygiene, and individual counseling for a variety of subjects.

being is just as important as their physical condition, and the CSC is ready to help service members.

“This is a medical appointment,” she said, “[Soldiers] don’t have to have any fear about coming in here. If they are having difficulty with something, talk to someone.”

The CSC is located across from COB Basra’s primary medical facility and is open from Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. until 5 p.m. and on Saturdays, 8 a.m. to noon. The behavioral health staff is on call 24 hours a day.

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Photo by Sgt. Sonja Young

The hallway in the old Combat Stress Clinic. The walls of the old counseling rooms, jokingly referred to as ‘interrogation rooms,’ did not provide adequate privacy for patients when meeting with counselors.

BABYLON, from front page



Photo by Sgt. Benjamin Kibbey

Musah Kattah, an archeologist on staff at the Babylon ruins who was previously the head of the Hammurabi and Nebuchadnezzar Museum and has done excavations at the site, holds up a piece of mud brick from the site that still has a bit of the naturally occurring tar used as mortar in the buildings attached, Aug. 5.



Photo by Sgt. Benjamin Kibbey

Though visually striking, the rebuilt portions of Babylon that Saddam Hussein ordered constructed over the ruins present a major problem, as their weight damages the fragile mud bricks of the original structures.

and historic sites around the world.

Siebrandt, who has been working for the U.S. embassy in Iraq since 2005, first visited the Babylon ruins in 2007. Since then, she has returned to Babylon every few months to check on ongoing improvement projects, she said.

Though the U.S. embassy provides funding and oversight, primacy in the work at Babylon is already in the hands of international organizations and the Iraqi government.

"The embassy oversees the overall project, but we've granted the funds to World Monuments Fund, which is an international organization that is concerned with preserving cultural heritage throughout the world," Siebrandt said. "We partnered the World Monuments Fund with the Iraqi State Board of Antiquities and Heritage."

The ruins did receive some renewed international interest after the U.S.-led 2003 invasion, but, though the ruins are far older than many on the UNESCO list of World Heritage Sites, instability in the country going back to the 1970s has kept the ruins off the list.

"Really, our main concern is just trying to conserve everything that's here, because it's been neglected for almost 30 years because of the wars and embargos and sanctions and dictatorship," Siebrandt said. "They've lacked maintenance and most of the stuff is between three to five thousand years-old, so it's in bad shape."

The ruins have seen mixtures of inattention and the wrong kinds of attention.

During the reign of Saddam Hussein, Babylon underwent extensive renovations, but

these efforts primarily damaged the ruins as the former dictator attempted to leave his own lasting mark alongside those of ancient Babylonian kings.

Palaces and temples were "rebuilt" by laying new bricks imprinted with words praising Saddam on top of the original mud bricks, and the weight is crushing them, said Musah Kattah, an archeologist on staff at the ruins.

Kattah was previously the head of the Hammurabi and Nebuchadnezzar Museum, and he has conducted excavations at Babylon, he said.

Saddam also had a palace of his own placed on an artificial hill that was erected over the ruins.

Even before Saddam, the ruins had seen much abuse. Abandoned for several centuries, Babylon has been an easy source of bricks for local residents since before the fall of the Roman Empire, Kattah said.

Additionally, international archeologists have removed artifacts from the ruins many times in the past, citing the volatility of the region and the threat of looting. One of the most notable examples, the Ishtar Gate, was taken to Germany just before World War I. Some of the foundation of the gate remains, but the brightly adorned and glazed bricks – mimicked now by a replica at the entrance to the ruins – are gone.

Even nature has done its part, with the Euphrates River changing its course over the centuries and now covering part of the ruins, Kattah said.

The high water table in the area and the salt levels have increased the deterioration of the mud bricks, Siebrandt said.

After the invasion of Iraq

Continued on next page

From previous page

by coalition forces, the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force set up Camp Alpha at the ruins, occupying buildings Saddam had constructed near the site. The camp was established to ensure the ruins were secure and protected from looting, and the Marines consulted with Iraqi archeologists and historians at the site in an attempt to prevent damage to the historical record.

During the summer of 2003, U.S. service members even paid the Iraqi staff who had chosen to stay at the site for tours and bought locally-produced items from the gift shop so archeologists and historians could continue their work.

In the fall of that year, Camp Alpha was handed over to the Polish Army, which was in command of the coalition forces in the south outside of the British-controlled Basrah Province. The camp returned to U.S. control and was renamed Camp Babil, which was handed over to the Iraqi

government in 2010.

What happened while coalition forces occupied the site has been the subject of debate, but the damage incurred is not nearly as extensive as originally believed, Siebrandt said.

The efforts in Babylon are focused on assuring no further harm takes place.

The buildings occupied by U.S. Marines have been turned into a convention center by the provincial government, and the ruins are open for tours.

In order to meet UNESCO's criteria for a world heritage site, much work remains, but the first step is simply identifying what to do.

"They formed a committee, the Babylon Committee, which is made-up entirely of Iraqis, but also has the World Monuments Fund people involved, and they make the decisions on steps forward," Siebrandt said.

"They're devising a site management

plan, and that includes addressing immediate conservation needs, long-term preservation needs, and tourism needs," she said.

This includes posting signs explaining different parts of the ruins and informing visitors of the fragility of the mud-brick structures, some of which has already been done.

"With the tourism needs, it's both how to bring tourists in so that they can safely look at the ruins, but also how to make the ruins safe from tourists," Siebrandt said.

Meeting the UNESCO criteria requires identifying a plan for preservation and what is being preserved. To meet those needs, surveys of the site have been made, as well as laser-point modeling of some structures, and those involved have begun a conservation analysis, Siebrandt said.

Conservation projects are scheduled to begin by the end of the year, she said.

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Photo by Sgt. Benjamin Kibbey
Musah Kattah, an archeologist on staff at the Babylon ruins, gives a short history lesson of the region to a group of visitors Aug. 5.

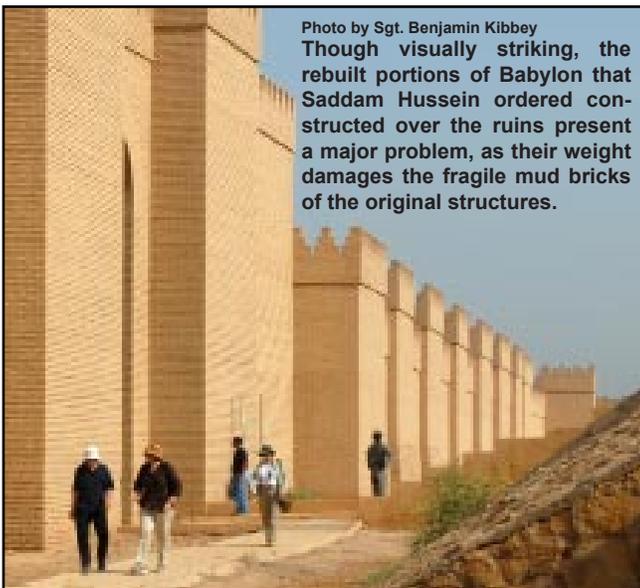


Photo by Sgt. Benjamin Kibbey
Though visually striking, the rebuilt portions of Babylon that Saddam Hussein ordered constructed over the ruins present a major problem, as their weight damages the fragile mud bricks of the original structures.

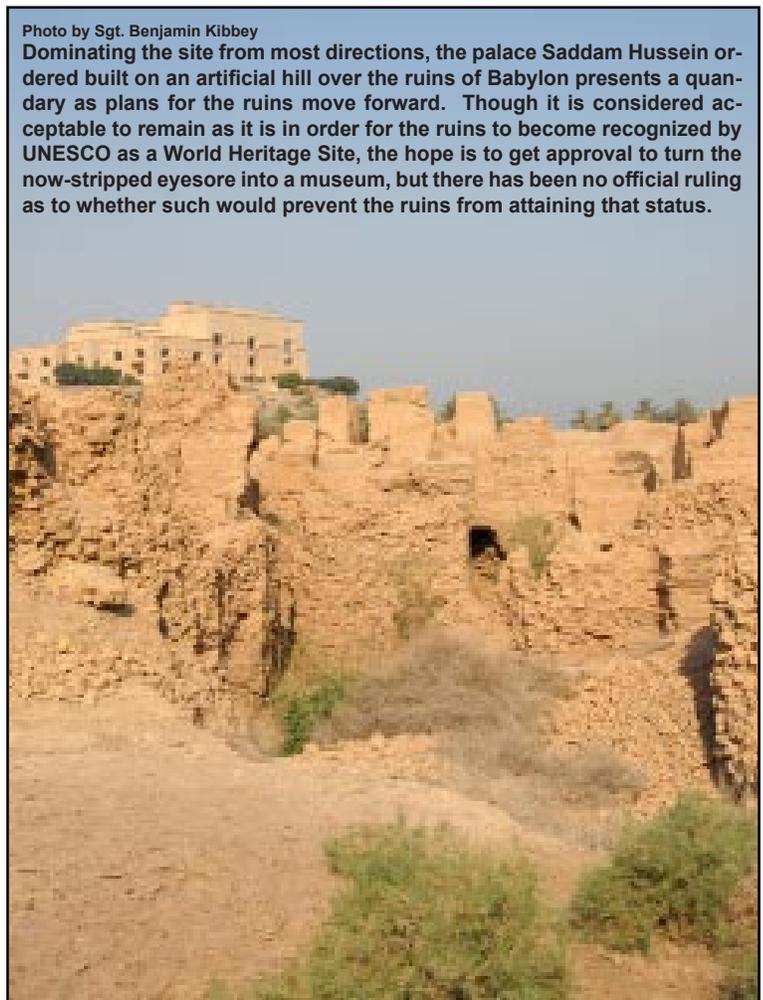


Photo by Sgt. Benjamin Kibbey
Dominating the site from most directions, the palace Saddam Hussein ordered built on an artificial hill over the ruins of Babylon presents a quandary as plans for the ruins move forward. Though it is considered acceptable to remain as it is in order for the ruins to become recognized by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site, the hope is to get approval to turn the now-stripped eyesore into a museum, but there has been no official ruling as to whether such would prevent the ruins from attaining that status.

Hellbenders keep GSAB rolling

Sgt. 1st Class Jeff Troth
PAO CAB, 1st Inf. Div.

CAMP TAJI – Bicycles, ATVs, and forklifts are a strange combination, and these are just a few of the vehicles that have rolled through the gate of a Camp Taji motor pool. The mechanics of Company E, 2nd General Support Aviation Battalion, 1st Aviation Regiment are ready to fix anything that comes through their gate.

“We aren’t trained at AIT (Advanced Individual Training) to work on everything we have had in here,” said Staff Sgt. Taiwan Peterson, the Company E Hellbender’s motor pool platoon sergeant. “I have some great, knowledgeable NCO mechanics that can figure just about anything out.”

Peterson said when the unique jobs come in, some of his junior enlisted Soldiers will ask “what is it?” since they have never seen it before. That is when his NCOs step in. He said they use everything and anything to get the engine running again, from their own knowledge of engines to the internet.

That knowledge came into play when they got an aircraft tug, a vehicle to move aircraft that the Army does not have in its inventory. The Soldiers didn’t know where to start until they looked under the hood and saw an engine that was similar to the engines that the 2-1 GSAB forklifts have.

“Probably the most unique thing that we have seen so far is a 10-k forklift,” said Peterson. “We got it from Liberty and it was a piece of junk. My guys have ordered doors for it and a new wiring harness.”

Once they get this large forklift back together it will give the Combat Aviation Brigade, 1st Infantry Division a forklift capable of lifting over 6,000 pounds. This will be useful as the brigade becomes the Army’s sole aviation asset in Iraq.

Not all of their projects have been quite as large. When the Hellbenders arrived at Camp Taji in March they found a junk yard in the back of their motor pool filled



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Jeff Troth
Staff Sgt. Taiwan Peterson (left) checks on Pfc. Christopher Vibbert’s work at the Company E, 2-1 GSAB motor pool. They are working on an aircraft tug which will be used to move the battalion’s aircraft.

with broken gators and ATVs.

“At AIT we are taught how to work on small cylinder engines, but not specifically gator engines,” said Peterson. “Sgt. (Michael) Bales fixed 30-40 ATVs in the first month that we were here.”

The ATVs are a necessity for 2-1 Soldiers to run company errands and to haul flight gear and equipment to and from their aircraft.

Although no one in Peterson’s platoon works directly on the 2-1 aircraft, they know they are an important part of the battalion; they are responsible for ensuring that the battalion’s fuel trucks are operational.

“We make sure the fuelers are up so that the pilots can fly,” said Peterson. “Without the fuel no mission is going to happen. Without the vehicle that pumps the fuel, nothing can happen.”



Photo by Maj. Enrique Vasquez
In this file photo, Sgt. Joshua Velsor, a crew chief with 2-1 GSAB, checks the forward rotor of a CH-47 Chinook helicopter before a mission. The Co. E, 2-1 GSAB “Hellbenders” are responsible for maintaining a myriad of vehicles for the 1st CAB, such as this Chinook to ATVs and everything in between.

For more from 1st CAB PAO, visit www.facebook.com/demonbrigade

K-State fan appreciation day

By ARNE GREEN
Salina Journal

MANHATTAN -- It was fan appreciation day at Kansas State, but some Wildcat fans were more appreciative than others.

As senior offensive lineman Wade Weibert signed autographs early Saturday evening on the turf at Snyder Family Stadium, his 2 1/2-year old niece Kaylee was not terribly impressed.

Though she sported a tiny No. 74 K-State jersey with Uncle Wade on the back, Kaylee burst into tears when held up to greet Weibert.

"I'm a little embarrassed," said her father, Nick Weibert of Abilene, Wade's older brother. "I think all the pads and stuff got to her."

To be fair, Wade Weibert measures 6-foot-4, 303 pounds when he's not in uniform, and his friendly face is somewhat obscured by a full beard.

"She doesn't always handle crowds too well," Nick said with a smile.

Abilene was well represented at the fan appreciation day, which started with a crowd estimated at 2,000 watching the final hour of practice, followed by remarks from coach Bill Snyder and the team captains and a one-hour autograph session.

In addition to Weibert -- Wade is from Hillsboro -- former Abilene High star Curry Sexton and current Cowboy lineman and K-State recruit Cody Whitehair were on hand.

Sexton, a wide receiver, will be a gray-shirt this season for the Wildcats, which means he is prohibited from taking a full class load or participating in practices. Though he spent the summer in Manhattan for team conditioning, he's taking nine hours this fall at K-State at Salina and possibly some more junior college hours.

"I'm trying to get as many hours as I can while I'm not busy with football," Sexton said. "I've been working out and came up for three or four practices last week, but starting Monday I become a re-



cruit again."

Whitehair, a standout offensive tackle, was the first recruit to commit for the Wildcats' 2011 class when he gave his pledge last November. Nothing has changed as he gets ready to embark on his final high school season.

"I've always been a K-State fan and felt blessed to get an offer," said Whitehair, who also held offers from Oklahoma State and Colorado State, plus still receives interest from Nebraska and Kansas. "I'm not going to change my mind."

The 6-5 Whitehair, who has been listed at over 300 pounds, said he was down to around 295 after his high school team completed two-a-days. With help from Sexton, who signed with the Wildcats in February, he has followed K-State's strength and conditioning program.

There were few revelations during the hour-long public portion of the practice, though there appears to be some movement at the offensive tackle spots.

Though projected starters Zach Kendall at left guard, Weibert at center and Kenneth Mayfield at right guard were intact, junior college transfer Manase Foketi ran with the first team at left tackle and sophomore Ethan Douglas at right tackle.

Foketi only arrived this month after playing two years at Mt. San Antonio College in California, but appears to be ahead of spring first-teamer Zach Hanson.

"It's been crazy," Foketi said. "I wasn't expecting to jump in right away.

"I'm trying to learn the offense real quick. I just came from juco and I have to learn a whole new playbook again."

Foketi is listed at 6-5, 325 pounds, but

said he has recently dropped 30 pounds.

Douglas, from Basehor Linwood High School, played on the right side in place of junior Clyde Aufner, who started every game last year. Aufner appeared to be sidelined, but was on the field in uniform.

"He's had a really solid camp," Weibert said of Douglas, who played in two games last year as a backup.

Troy Butler started 11 games as a hybrid linebacker/safety in the Wildcats' 4-2-5 set last year, but during Saturday's practice he spent most of his time at cornerback opposite returning starter Stephen Harrison.

"They've got me playing both (corner and safety)," said Butler, a 6-foot, 194-pound senior from Waldorf, Md., and Antelope Valley (Calif.) Community College, adding that he enjoyed returning to his roots.

"I was playing corner when I first got here," he said with a smile.

Senior running back William Powell and junior defensive tackle Raphael Guidry were the most notable players missing from practice. Powell is a candidate to back up all-Big 12 back Daniel Thomas, while Guidry is in the mix on the interior line.

Though quarterbacks Carson Coffman, Sammuel Lamur and Collin Klein shared snaps with the first team, senior Coffman seemed to be the sharpest during passing drills, hooking up with redshirt freshman slot receiver Tramaine Thompson for a pair of long touchdowns.

Klein, a redshirt sophomore, was the star of the basket drill, when he landed a 40-yard pass in a ball cart and caught the rim on another.

On offense, redshirt freshman tight end Andre McDonald played with the first team in front of Travis Tannahill.

Fort Riley is the home of the 1st Infantry Division, which is currently deployed to Basra, Iraq, as the USD-S headquarters.

Morale Call



Dear Basra Betty,

Do you know how many days of block leave we will receive when we return to Fort Riley? Rumor has it, we'll get two 14-day periods with a 10 day break. For those of us that would like to visit family after the deployment, that means we will have to spend twice the money and time to travel home to loved ones. It doesn't seem fair to me.

—Signed, Lookin' forward to Leave

Dear Lookin' Forward,,

To be honest, I hadn't heard anything until you submitted your question. I thought block leave was a 30-day period and that was that, but as I've learned from Capt. Shawn Burroughs, the 1st Inf. Div., DHHB human resources officer, that is not accurate at all. On the contrary, the current initiative at Fort Riley and the 1st Infantry Division is to support and reinforce resiliency across the division and is included in the Victory Reintegration Program as approved by the division commander. This initiative follows the following model upon redeployment:

- 96 hour pass
- 2-weeks reintegration (consists of reverse SRPs, Chaplain counseling, redeployment admin requirements, etc)
- 2-weeks initial block leave period
- 3-weeks resiliency training: Family Life Chaplain follow-up sessions, Unit-organized family events, 2-week block leave period

Burroughs said exceptions to this policy would be on a case-by-case basis approved by the Soldier's chain of command.

I understand your concern for having to spend more money, but it's not that the command doesn't care about your money; they just care about your emotional, physical and spiritual well-being more. This program ensures you are looked after during the period of time that has been proven to be considered "high risk" during our reintegration processes. Luckily, we're learning about this with enough time to plan our block leave well in advance and save some extra cash for plane tickets and travel costs. That, along with the skills learned in our resiliency training, should make the time with your loved ones more enjoyable.

Basra Betty

ROCK AND ROLL TRIVIA

THE METAL

This week's trivia is as epic as the genre it's about – Heavy Metal. Some musical styles come and go, but Heavy Metal has had rock fans banging their heads for over 40 years. To earn your M.M. (Master of Metal) you'll need to answer 4 out of 5 correctly in each sub-genre.

Continued from last week...

90S METAL

16) What's the name of the host that replaced Adam Curry in 1991 on MTV's "Headbanger's Ball"? His tattoos and nose ring were symbolic of the show's turning away from hair and pop metal to a dirtier, heavier sound.

17) This "alternative" band was influenced

more by Black Sabbath than R.E.M. when they burst out of the Seattle scene with "Loud Love" and "Hands all Over" in 1989. By 1994, they were superstars.

18) What's the name of the frontman for Black Label Society who first made a name for himself with his ability to make a guitar squeal like a pig while playing for Ozzy Osbourne?

19) You better respect what group of Texas glam rockers turned thrashers whose name translates to Panther?

20) This band already had a diehard Gen X fan base for its dissonant songs like "Chutes and Ladders" before hitting it big with "Got the Life." Can you guess who they are?

MODERN ERA

21) Despite their meek sounding name, what leading band of the 'New Wave of American Heavy Metal' has attained suc-

cess with their ultra-heavy sound, as evidenced by their most recent album, Wrath, debuting at number 2 on the Billboard charts.

22) What song from 'retro metal' Aussie power trio Wolfmother is featured during the chase scene of Shrek 2?

23) In Drowning Pool's "Bodies," singer Dave Williams shouts, "Let the bodies hit the" what?

24) What critically acclaimed metal band named after a prehistoric beast has been a regular fixture on "Best Album" lists over the past few years?

25) Singer-guitarist Josh Homme founded what band that hit it big with the album Songs for the Deaf featuring the hits "No One Knows" and "Go with the Flow"?

Answers to this week's trivia:
(16) Rikkil Rachtman (17) Soundgarden (18) Zakk
Wylde (19) Pantera (20) Korn (21) Lamb of God
(22) "Woman" (23) Floor (24) Mastodon (25) Queens
of the Stone Age

**USD - South
1st Infantry Division
Yearbook Photos**

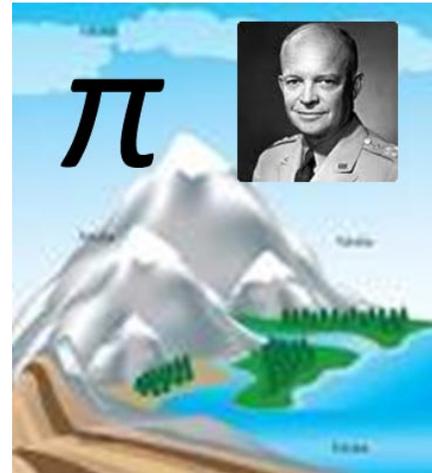
The Yearbook is on its way, and the USD-S PAO is offering you the chance to decide what you want to see.

- *Send in your own photos. Requirements are complete army uniform, no hats/sunglasses.
- *If you don't have a camera, arrange for a photo shoot with Public Affairs. All you need is a time and a place.
- *If you are a DHHB Soldier serving in USD-S, photos are required.

If you have any other questions or comments, e-mail Sgt. Cody Harding on Outlook.

cody.harding@iraq.centcom.mil

Big Red One Puzzle of the Week



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

*Solution for last week: Complimentary Angles
Brought to you by the 1st Inf. Div. ORSA Cell*

A look around USD-S



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Christopher DeHart
1st Sgt. James Aldridge (right), first sergeant for C Co., 3rd Bn, 238th Avn Regt. (MEDEVAC), Task Force 12, and company commander Maj. David Mattimore, case the unit colors during the transfer of authority ceremony between C Co., 3-238th (MEDEVAC) and G Co., 2-135th Avn. Regt. (MEDEVAC) on COB Adder, Iraq, Aug. 4.

Have a photo from around USD-S? Email it, along with the photographer's name, rank and unit, the date and place it was taken, and a short description, to nathaniel.smith5@iraq.centcom.mil, and you could have it featured here and receive a coin from DCSM Jim Champagne.

Sudoku

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

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