

Victory Times



Telling the United States Forces - Iraq story

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Human Terrain Teams smooth transition in Iraq

Story by Spc. Britney Bodner
USF-I Public Affairs

Iraq is home to myriad cultures, including Shias, Sunnis, Kurds and Chaldeans.

Each differs slightly due to location and worldview, and when commanders who lead units that work with these different cultures every day have questions, they turn to the human terrain teams for help.

“We research cultural and social habits to support the commanders and their objectives,” said Jeff Russell, team leader for Human Terrain Team.

The Human Terrain Teams have a variety of personnel working in them, said Ron Gallimore, another team leader. They consist of people from multiple locations in the Middle East and Americans who are civilian, retired military, or active military members,



Courtesy Photo

Capt. Chris Robinson, a research manager for the Human Terrain System, hands out candy to a group of Iraqi children during a combined medical engagement recently in Latifiyah. Human Terrain Teams work with unit commanders to gather information specific to an area by visiting with locals.

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Conference helps raise awareness, combat sexual assault

Story and photo by
Spc. Charlene Mendiola
USF-I Public Affairs

“No means no, even if it’s just a whisper,” said Sgt. Dennis Alexander, information systems operator with Company A, III Corps Special Troops Battalion.

Finding your voice and making it more than a whisper was the focus of the conference hosted by the Sisterhood Against Sexual Assault at the Liberty

Field House Oct. 19.

“We are working to get more attention and participation from the service members. We are reaching out to help those who are in need and are afraid to come forward,” said Maj. Lisa Belcastro, USF-I Engineer Capacity Development plans and operations officer and SASA program director.

“We want them to know that they are not the victims, nor is it their

fault should they be in a situation. They are not alone, and we are here to help them.”

The program promotes sexual assault awareness, educates people about prevention measures and provides an additional support system to complement the normal chain of command, she said.

“Reliable leadership is an important

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Chaplain's Corner

Move forward one step at a time

By Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Ira Houck
USF-I World Religious Chaplain

It's a good practice to keep your living area tidy and to repair anything broken. With this thought in mind, I acquired a pickup truck full of enough dirt to fill in two large holes created when two old pine tree stumps were pulled out of the yard.

We shoveled dirt out of the pickup truck bed onto the ground about 50 feet away from the holes. What started out as a great idea soon lost its appeal when I realized that this big pile of dirt was not going to move itself and the job seemed beyond my capacity. All I could see, as I stood beside it with my shovel and wheelbarrow, was a large pile of dirt; a mound of earth that looked more like a mini-mountain than a simple Saturday afternoon chore.

"Why on earth did I ever think that this job was something I would be able to tackle?" I thought.

After staring at the mound of dirt for 10 minutes wondering whether I should hire someone to do what I just couldn't see myself doing, a pair of old proverbs came

to mind, "A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step" and "a lazy man does not roast his prey."

The proverbs inspired me to take up the task at hand begin to move the dirt one shovel at a time. The hardest part of any big job is often getting started. I needed to take one shovel at a time until a wheelbarrow was full, and then keep filling one wheelbarrow at a time and dumping it until one hole was full, then simply repeat the process until both holes were filled.

What I had to remind myself was that what might at first appear as an overwhelming task, or something I couldn't see myself doing, would be resolved by simply taking one step at a time, or one action at a time, over and over again.

Problems, big tasks, and difficult duties require the same treatment. Every difficult goal that at first may be viewed as an insurmountable obstacle can be resolved when you implement a strategy that requires only one step at a time.

Each positive step taken moves you forward, continuous progress is seen, and the final goal is closer and closer until it is accomplished.

SARC Smarts

Sexual Assault causes adverse effects:

- Combat readiness suffers
- Destroys unit cohesion and teamwork
- Fear and loss of trust in others
- Loss of trust and confidence in chain of command
- Depression and feelings of helplessness
- Destroys self esteem
- Results in anger and guilt
- Risk of physical injury and disease or infection



Call the USF-I Deployed Sexual Assault Response Coordinator (DSARC) at 485-5085 or 435-2235 for help. Army members should seek assistance with their Unit Victim Advocate (UVA) or DSARC.



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element in today's military. Establishing trust and mentorship is vital to ensuring service members are safe and taken care of," said Command Sgt. Maj. Arthur L. Coleman Jr., senior enlisted advisor for the USF-I deputy commanding general for operations, and III Corps command sergeant major, who spoke at the conference as SASA's guest speaker.

"We all have a role to do, believe it or not. Part of my role is leading by example, leading from the front, and being an example shows we are not only getting involved, but doing something about sexual assault," said Coleman.

His presence at the conference supports USF-I leaders' zero-tolerance approach to sexual assault, said Belcastro.

"The organization is grateful for

the support they receive, as they hope for progress in reaching out to more individuals," Belcastro said.

The organization meets once a month to focus on mentoring female leadership, educating junior enlisted service members and the teaching of basic life skills.

"It is a good cause. It is a great message and I encourage other male service members to come out." Alexander said.

There is a lot of information to gain, at these events -- especially when you hear it from a woman's perspective," he said.



Sisterhood Against Sexual Assault participants pose for a group photo during a conference at the Liberty Field House Oct 19. The SASA organization works to build strong bonds, offer assistance, and reach out to those affected by sexual assault.

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October 4 - December 3

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**"No person was ever honored for what he received.
Honor has been the reward for what he gave"**

- Calvin Coolidge



Staff Sgt. David Schulkens prepares shrimp at the Joint Visitors Bureau on Camp Victory, Oct. 16. The shrimp will be used for Schulken's shrimp remoulade.

Bon Appétit

Guardsmen provide fine dining at JVB Hotel

had civilian experience as chefs with restaurants in Louisiana and a fifth from the 34th Infantry Division, who volunteered to stay in Iraq to work at the JVB.

Staff Sgt. David Schulkens, a field artillery cannon crew member, was one of the Soldiers selected. With civilian

experience in some of Louisiana's finest restaurants like Delmonico, Galatoire, and Restaurant Patois, he helps prepare gourmet meals for distinguished visitors at the JVB.

Artilleryman Staff Sgt. Darren

Chabert was also employed by Delmonico, and Sgt. Chad Rogers, who is deployed as an Army cook, has worked in several hotels and restaurants in Louisiana. These three Soldiers from New Orleans are often the ones who prepare meals from "scratch."

"We make our chicken stock from fresh chicken and vegetables, mixed with different herbs and spices," said Schulkens. "We're chefs, we cook with fresh food. We don't use pre-packed foods and marinades."

For the chefs of the JVB kitchen, sometimes cooking is not the hardest part. They are often faced with challenges in preparing meals with ingredients ordered through the Army supply system.

Sgt. Marcus Stoves, an infantryman by military occupational specialty, is known as the grill master for his ability to turn out perfectly cooked meats and vegetables on a notoriously fickle cooking method. With a family catering business in New Orleans, he brings the family cooking style with him to the team.

"Stoves brings home-style cooking with his barbecue recipes and sauces," said Rogers.

Often, a fine meal is topped off with dessert. For this, they

**Story and photos by Staff Sgt. Edward Daileg
USF-I Public Affairs**

On the battlefield, infantrymen usually hear the term "slice the pie" as they clear corners and intersections.

However, for five Soldiers attached to Company B, 2nd Battalion, 156th Infantry Regiment, it could also mean preparing dessert.

In January, the Louisiana National Guard deployed Co. B to perform personal security details at the Joint Visitor's Bureau Hotel at Camp Victory. Part of that job also meant they had to run the hotel and restaurant operations as well.

The combat-arms Soldiers were challenged to fill in as much-needed cooks, so the company asked the 256th Infantry Brigade Combat Team to help find individuals with culinary experience to fill the positions.

Those who volunteered were interviewed to verify their qualifications. The brigade came up with four Soldiers who



▲Sgt. Chad Rogers makes cheese bread at the Joint Visitor's Bureau Hotel on Camp Victory, Oct. 16.

turn to the team's pastry chef, Staff Sgt. David McDonald, the only member of the team who is not from Louisiana. The Mankato, Minn., native came to the JVB from the 34th Infantry Division.

A trained Army cook, he learned baking and pastry-making through his love of cooking and by collaborating with other service members on new dessert recipes.

"McDonald's baking is what sets us apart from all the dining facilities out there," said Rogers.

McDonald's skill was on display when he prepared the delicate bread for 200 muffaletta sandwiches earlier this year. The New Orleans signature sandwich composed of olive salad, salamis and cheeses, required combining his skills with Rogers to give Soldiers and JVB visitors something different. Vice President Joseph Biden personally thanked Rogers for making the muffaletta during his last stay at the JVB.

The team has also prepared meals like roasted whole pig, chicken pontalba and jambalaya. For dessert, they have made everything from cheese cakes and doughnut-like beignets in the style of New Orleans' Café Du Monde, to biscotti and potica, a sweet nut-filled roll.

In addition to Biden, the group has cooked for other



▲Staff Sgt. David Schulzens cooks lobster tails at the Joint Visitors Bureau on Camp Victory, Oct. 16.

distinguished visitors including Secretary of Defense Robert Gates, Sergeant Major of the Army Kenneth O. Preston and general officers from around Iraq.

As the JVB hosts more events, these chefs are being recognized by service members and civilians for their skills. Recently, Stoves and Rogers were temporarily assigned to Camp Taji and United States Division-Center to cook for special occasions.

Whether it's a single plate for a distinguished visitor or a spread for 300 service members, the chefs take pride in their cooking and strive to meet their goal of boosting morale by offering something different for Soldiers.

"Special meals are something different for Soldiers to look forward to, and its fun to do things that you know boosts their morale," said McDonald.

The JVB kitchen team showcase the capabilities of the National Guard citizen Soldier combining military service and civilian expertise to accomplish the mission at hand.



Father, daughter continue special bond in Iraq

Story and photos by Staff Sgt. Edward Daileg
USF-I Public Affairs

She sat next to her father as tears rolled down her face, then looked over at him and said “I love you, and thank you.”

Private First Class Brooke A. Jackson, a combat medic with Company C, 703rd Brigade Support Battalion, was filled with emotion as she let her dad know how much love and support she has received from him since childhood.

Brooke, from Cleveland, Tenn., and her father, Master Sgt. Lawrence E. Jackson, a native of Oneida, Tenn., have had a particularly close emotional bond for as long as she can remember.

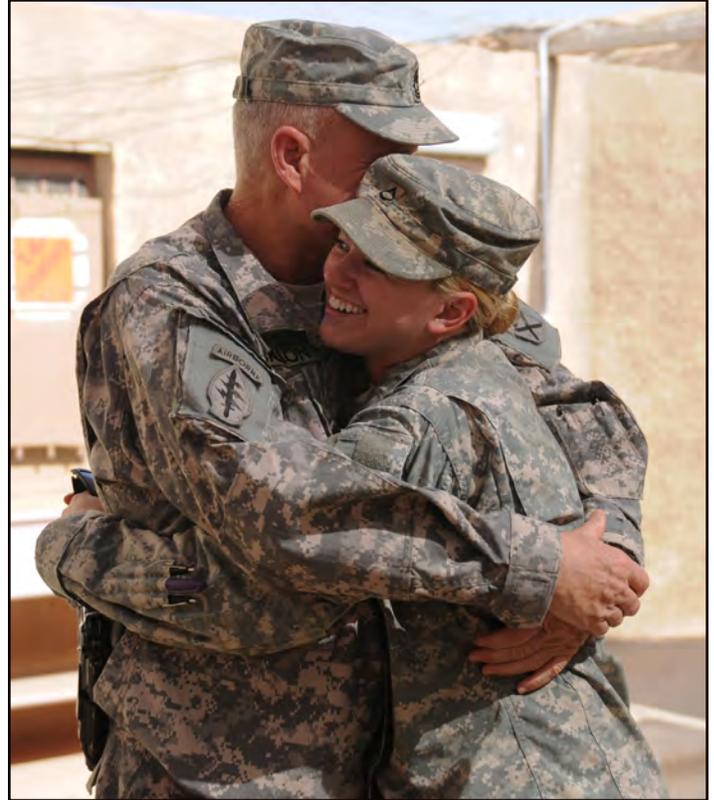
This year Brooke, an active duty Soldier based out of Fort Stewart, Ga., and Lawrence, with the Alabama National Guard, both deployed to Iraq, but haven’t seen each other since January.

Recently Brooke had a mission that brought her to Camp Victory, where her dad works as the communication and information systems noncommissioned officer-in-charge for Task Force Troy.

When Lawrence found out about her mission, he requested to meet his daughter here. The leadership of TF Troy and the 703rd worked together to make the reunion happen.

On Oct. 1, Lawrence went to work and found Brooke waiting in his office. They greeted each other with hugs and smiles, and the special bond between them showed as Lawrence introduced her to the Soldiers he works with.

Lawrence, a combat veteran and a Soldier for more than 24 years, said that leaving his family for long periods of time has been the hardest part of his military career.



Private First Class Brooke A. Jackson hugs her dad, Master Sgt. Lawrence E. Jackson at Camp Victory Oct. 1.

Brooke, however, has always supported her dad in his career. Whether it was listening to her his stories or watching his videos, she was absolutely amazed by his accomplishments as she grew up.

“I would always watch videos of my dad jumping out of planes and fast-roping down towers,” said Brooke. “How cool is that? When you see your dad doing all these things like a super hero?”

After Brooke graduated from Lee University in Cleveland, Tenn., with a degree in biology, she decided to join the Army for experience in the medical field and to serve her country.

Her decision was a complete surprise to Lawrence, who never spoke to Brooke about joining the military until the day she asked him for guidance and information on the benefits of joining the Army.

“Because of her Bachelor’s degree, I wanted her to have a different career path than me. I would like her to become a medical officer one day,” said Lawrence.

Lawrence responded with tears of his own when he thanked Brooke for all the support she has given him and all she has achieved in life. He slowly looked at Brooke and said, “Thank you, I’m proud of you, and I love you.”

Brooke will remain in Iraq until the summer of 2011, while Lawrence is scheduled to redeploy before the end of the year.



Master Sgt. Lawrence Jackson and his daughter Pfc. Brooke Jackson share a laugh at the Alamo Complex on Camp Victory Oct. 1.

BOB ON THE FOB

by A.J. Merrifield



brick - n. (brik)

Soldier highly resistant to all types of corrective actions and training. All Soldiers can be trained, however, the methods of training required to correctly and efficiently train the brick have yet to be developed. The brick is the definitive "Joe" and will consistently find new and interesting ways to get into trouble. To further complicate matters, the brick is of the opinion that he or she is actually a stellar Soldier, one who has been repeatedly passed over for promotion due to the mere fact that others around do not have a full or complete understanding of how good a Soldier they are. *See also "Joe"*.

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USACHPPM

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making the teams very diverse and thorough when gathering information.

"I act as an escort for those out of uniform to ensure they can get to the right place at the right time, meet the right people, and can get to their meetings," said Capt. Chris Robinson, a Human Terrain Team research manager and data collector.

Having mostly civilians on the team works well, Robinson said, because many Iraqi citizens are less intimidated talking to a civilian, as opposed to someone in uniform. Defining the cultural differences to help commanders overcome such barriers is what makes the teams invaluable to military units and the Department of State.

"We try to define the environment for the commander in terms of political activity," said Russell. "Now that we are doing stability operations, we have been researching economics, social

information and infrastructure, and also defining the physical environment.

"Each mission depends on what a commander needs to know," he said.

"Our teams know the fundamentals about Shia and Sunni sects of the Muslim religion, the Kurds, historical precedents, and other aspects of Iraqi culture," said Gallimore.

This is a program that was born in combat.

"When the commander asks us for information, we begin by looking at our data banks and try to see what the units before us have said in the terms of where the tribes and family units are and what the area was like a year or more ago.

"Afterward, we go out and talk one-on-one, or do focus groups where we have specific questions for a group of young women, young men, or a group of city leaders," he said.

The commander is briefed about the team's findings, and team members give recommendations on how to proceed with upcoming missions or engagements with Iraqis, Gallimore said. They can also advise the commander on how to interact with civilians of different cultures.

The products the teams produce are quality information, said Robinson. The reports give military commanders a new perspective on issues affecting local populations. Guidelines for service members are also produced for events like Ramadan, in the form of cultural reports, which help them understand do's and don'ts for these events.

"This is a program that was born in combat," said Gallimore. "The goal is to become a tool for all commanders to use during periods of stability and a tool the Department of State and the embassy will continue to use to make the right decisions."

VICTORY VOICES

Which NFL team will win the Superbowl this year?



Sgt. Willie Dewberry
1st Brigade,
3rd Infantry Division

"My pick is the Saints because no one can stop their offense."



Pfc. Jose Heredia
1st Armored Division

"I would say the Jets, because they showed what they could really do against the Patriots."



Maj. Dan Groeling
USF-I Future Operations

"The Redskins because of loyalty to my friend Donovan McNabb. We've been friends since kindergarten."



Tech Sgt. Tamika Dukes
447th Air
Expeditionary Group

"The Atlanta Falcons, because my son said so."