



DANGER FORWARD



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How to save a life

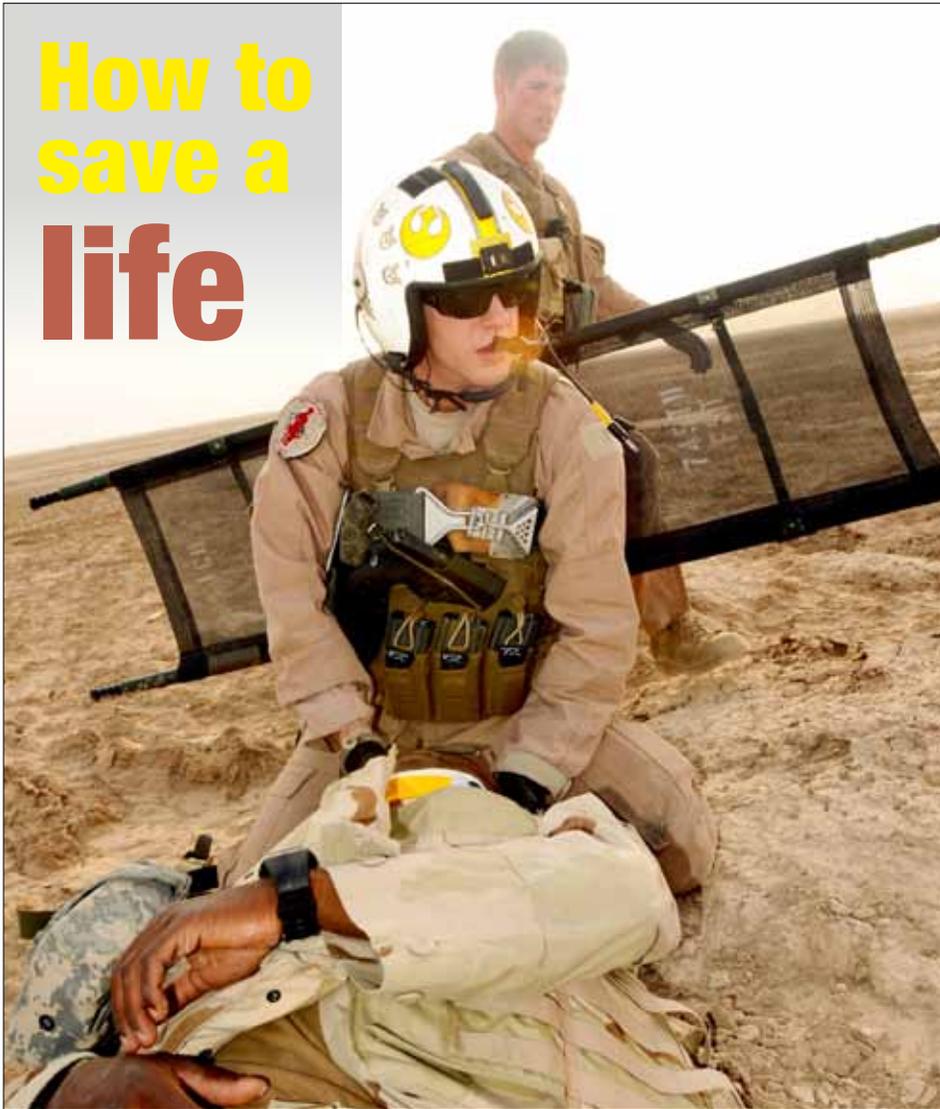


Photo by Spc. Raymond Quintanilla

Corpsmen with the 2515th NAAD treat a mock casualty during a training exercise in Basra Sept. 29.

Spc. Raymond T. Quintanilla
305th MPAD, USD-S PAO

BASRA, Iraq – The mid-afternoon desert heat baked the body armor of a downed Soldier in the middle of nowhere, injured from an improvised explosive device attack when the chopping blades of a helicopter close in, providing a sense of hope.

“This is a drill,” the tactical operations officer on battle watch duty repeated over loudspeakers announcing a simulated nine-line medical evacuation request.

Sailors deployed from Guam and Fallon, Nev., assigned to the 2515th Naval Air Ambulance Detachment-North in southern Iraq provide around-the-clock medical evacuation (MEDEVAC) coverage in southern Iraq and parts of Kuwait.

“As long as we maintain an alert status, it allows for other units to go out,” said Lt. Chris Robinson, a native of Denver serving as the operations officer for 2515th NAAD-North. “If any sort of casualty happens, we’re going to be there to take them to safety.”

“Our primary mission is to save lives,” said Petty Officer 2nd Class Steven Kelly, a native of Salcha, Alaska, serving as a hospital corpsman with the 2515th NAAD-North. “It could be the matter between life or death.”

“If somebody gets an injury here that can’t be treated locally,” Kelly said. “We have to get them where they need to go and

See LIFE, page 9



Desert docs - p. 4



A Safe Haven - p. 6



Crossng the line - p. 8

Witnesses: Hasan spent weeks before Fort Hood shooting at local range

By Jeremy Schwartz
American-Statesman Staff

FORT HOOD — Maj. Nidal Hasan bought a cutting-edge handgun three months before he is accused of opening fire on this crowded Army post, and spent several weeks at a local shooting range honing his skills, witnesses testified Thursday during the last day of prosecution testimony in Hasan's military pretrial hearing.

Fredrick Brannon, a former salesman at the Guns Galore in Killeen, said Hasan had asked for "the most high-tech gun that we had," before buying an FN 5-7 handgun Aug. 1, 2009. Another witness, Spc. William Gilbert, said he was in the store when Hasan inquired about guns and said Hasan also wanted the handgun with the most magazine capacity.

Brannon said that in the weeks that followed, the Army psychiatrist was a frequent visitor to the store, buying large amounts of powerful ammunition and extra magazines for the gun. He testified that when he asked Hasan why he was buying so many magazines, Hasan told him he didn't like spending time loading magazines at the shooting range and preferred to have a large supply.

Prosecutors called the last of their 56 witnesses Thursday in the Article 32 hearing that will determine whether Hasan faces a court-martial and potentially the death penalty in the Nov. 5 shooting that killed 13 people and wounded more than 30. Hasan's attorneys asked for a delay until Nov. 15 to call witnesses, saying they needed to await the results of a psychological assessment of Hasan. After a defense expert evaluates Hasan, a military sanity board is expected to give its own assessment of Hasan's mental state.



During the past week, several witnesses have said the gunman wielded his weapon with grim efficiency, reloading in clean, quick motions.

Investigators have testified that Hasan had 16 magazines and nearly 400 rounds of ammunition during the shooting. After Fort Hood police officers shot and paralyzed Hasan, investigators found 177 unused rounds at the Soldier Readiness Processing Center where the shootings happened, according to testimony.

The prosecution's case, which featured seven days of testimony, ended a week earlier than expected, which Fort Hood officials attributed to quick pace of questioning.

Prosecutors played a cell phone video Thursday they said Hasan took of a Guns Galore manager explaining how to disassemble and operate the gun. Hasan told employees that he wanted to use the video as reference later and can be heard asking, "How do you clean it?"

Gilbert said that based on Hasan's requirements — he wanted something technologically advanced and with a large magazine capacity — he advised Hasan to buy the FN 5-7, which uses magazines that can be extended to hold 30 rounds.

"It's extremely lightweight and very,

very, very accurate," said Gilbert, who testified that he owned the same weapon and is a gun aficionado. "It's easy to fire and has minimal recoil."

The Belgian-made gun is known for firing bullets at high velocity and shoots rifle-type SS192 bullets that have generated concerns about their ability to penetrate body armor, witnesses testified. According to the manufacturer, it stopped importing SS192 cartridges in 2004. Brannon said Hasan was told that the SS192 cartridges were becoming less available and that once the store exhausted its supply, Hasan would have to buy a less penetrating version. It was unclear how many rounds of the more penetrating bullets Hasan bought or if any were used during the Fort Hood shooting.

Brannon also testified that Hasan bought a top-end green laser sight for daytime shooting.

John Choats, the part owner of a nearby shooting range, testified that Hasan took a handgun class on Oct. 10, 2009, then purchased a membership at the range, practicing a couple of times per week. Choats said that Hasan improved his shooting of targets 100 yards away, consistently putting bullets in the chest and head of targets.

Hasan got "pretty good," Choats said.

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UNEXPLODED ORDNANCE

By Joe Zelko
USD-S Safety

To win our nation's battles, Soldiers must train as they fight. Doing so means they must simulate the battlefield environment as closely as possible but also as safely as possible. This necessitates live-fire training at home station and in combat environments. Over the years, the Army has used vast amounts of land for this training. Occasionally, munitions used during live-fires do not work as intended. As a result, unexploded ordnance, sometimes referred to as 'duds,' can remain in the impact area long after the training was completed. Would you know what to do if you came across a UXO?

According to the Defense Environmental Network and Information Exchange, you should follow the 'Three Rs' of explosives safety:

- Recognize you may have encountered a munition.
- Retreat from the munition. Do not touch or disturb it. Move away carefully, walking out the same way you entered the area.
- Report what you saw and where you saw it to the proper authorities. The Army developed the three Rs to be easily understood and remembered.

Time and time again, unexploded ordnance has shown no

prejudice in selecting victims, but with education and training, people can avoid being hurt by UXO. The first thing Soldiers need to understand is that it is against Army regulations and Department of Defense directives to touch a UXO, much less have one in their possession. You have to remember, ordnance and munitions are designed for one thing: to blow up.

Military munitions, including UXO, come in a variety of types, sizes and shapes and may not be easy to recognize. These include small-arms ammunition, projectiles, cartridges, bombs, rockets, pyrotechnics, grenades, blasting caps, fuses, simulators and raw explosives. Military munitions are designed to kill enemy forces or damage enemy equipment. They contain some form of energetic material such as propellants, explosives or pyrotechnic mixes. When military munitions do not function as intended, they become UXO.

Soldiers need to take a common sense approach in dealing with ordnance. Education is the key to understanding the dangers of UXO, and the more educated people are about the dangers UXO present, the more likely they are to leave them to the professionals to handle.

Don't let UXO or souvenir munitions create another casualty. Learn and follow the three Rs of explosives safety. It could save your life. Duty First, Safety Always. ■

THIS WEEK IN ARMY HISTORY...



1st Infantry Division History

October 25, 1917 – The 2nd Battalion, 16th Infantry Regiment suffers the first American casualties of World War I. The "Rangers" would go on to earn the highest French military honor, the Croix de Guerre, twice during the war and would distinguish themselves during the Meuse-Argonne Campaign by being the only American unit to capture its objective.



Operation Iraqi Freedom History

October 29, 2003 – Project on Defense Alternatives, a research institute from Cambridge, Mass., releases a report that as many as 15,000 Iraqis were killed during the initial invasion of Iraq, an estimated 4,300 of those non-combatants. The ratio of civilian to military deaths is almost twice as high as the Gulf War.



3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment History

October 25, 2007 – The 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment begins its third deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. The 1st and 3rd Squadrons deploy to the Ninawa Province and the 2nd Squadron deploys to Diyala before re-joining the regiment in October 2008.

Iraqis develop DBE docs for the desert

By Spc. James Kennedy Benjamin
305th MPAD, USD-S PAO

BASRA, Iraq – After several months of planning and coordination between the Department of Border Enforcement, Iraqi Army, and U.S. Division-South, the Iraqi Security Forces accomplished another milestone in their development when 12 DBE personnel were certified as combat medics by Iraqi Army instructors at Shaiba Training Center Oct. 13.

The DBE workers completed an intense three-week medic course and most are scheduled to continue training through early November for certification as basic medic instructors.

“This is the first time that the DBE and IA have worked together from a medical standpoint,” said Maj. Casey Carver, the medical evacuation and plans officer for the 1st Infantry Division and United States Division-South, and a resident of Manhattan, Kan.

The course, which started shortly after Ramadan, consists of lectures, hands on training, and written examinations at the end of each section. U.S. medical personnel assisted with the planning and logistics for the course, but the instruction was conducted solely by Iraqi medics.

Medical training is particularly important for the Dept. of Border Enforcement. Unlike the Iraqi Army or Police, DBE personnel are stationed away from cities where there are advanced medical care facilities, Carver said.

“The course teaches us skills that will help save lives.”

Master Sgt. Adel Ghedhaieb, an IA instructor, talks his students through a scenario on assessing a casualty at the Shaiba Training Center Oct 13. The 12 DBE students are the first DBE workers to be certified as combat medics by the IA.

“If something happens to them, they can’t get to a hospital or medical facility real quick,” Carver said.

Iraq Army Master Sgt. Adel Ghedhaieb, one of the trainers, said the class will pay dividends down the road.

“They will learn how to teach the course to other students,” Ghedhaieb said. “This way they can teach more people how to save lives.”

Hesham Ahmed, a DBE student, agreed.

“The course teaches us skills that will help save lives,” he said. “We learn things from giving basic aid for cuts and burns to giving IVs and stitching up victims.”

Ahmed said the course also made him and his fellow students look at their health differently by teaching the importance of hygiene and maintaining a clean and sterile working environment.

The joint course at Shaiba is another example of Iraqis taking the lead as U.S. troops have moved into an advise and assist role for Operation New Dawn.

The U.S. provided the training center with some course materials, Carver said, and they will continue to give recommendations on how the DBE can get the basic medic course set up in different regions of Iraq.

“That would be the ultimate goal,” Carver said. “We will leave the DBE with something sustainable that they can continue to build on over the next few years. Getting the basic medic course going in all the regions of Iraq will be one of the lasting impacts that the U.S. will have on the ISF.” ■



Photo by Spc. James Kennedy Benjamin

U.S., Iraqi relationship builds on success

Police in Basra Province becoming the type of law enforcement professionals the Iraqi people deserve

By 1st Lt. Adam Appleberry

1st Bn., 68th Armor Regt., 3rd AAB, 4th Inf. Div.

BASRA, Iraq – Every day, Soldiers from Company C, 1st Battalion, 68th Armor Regiment, 3rd Advise and Assist Brigade, 4th Infantry Division are living, training and the Iraqi Police at the Provincial Joint Coordination Center in Basra to further the Rule of Law in southern Iraq.

The PJCC is the headquarters for all Basra law enforcement. It houses the headquarters for the Basra Provincial Directorate of Police, the crime lab, the Department of Federal Investigation, and an explosive ordnance disposal team. Also inside the complex is a U.S. camp that houses military and civilian law enforcement experts.

The U.S. Soldiers are co-located with the Iraqi Police at the PJCC and have developed a relationship with these policemen for the past several months.

“The Iraqi Police who work at the PJCC and the facility itself have both improved drastically since we arrived this past spring,” said Spc. Marc Lloyd, a member of the company intelligence support team from Chicago. “We have developed a great relationship with our Iraqi counterparts, and this relationship is starting to show results within Basra.”

The Soldiers of Co. C, who fall under the operational control of the 1st Infantry Division and United States Division-South, will spend the next few months building on the relationships they’ve established.

“The joint missions that have been conducted with the Iraqi Police were successful, but there is always room for improvement,” said 1st Lt. Ian Norwalk, a platoon leader from Albuquerque, N.M.

Norwalk’s platoon has also been able to work with the Basra Special Weapons and Tactics team on several occasions. The joint patrols have allowed Norwalk and his platoon to show their Iraqi partners various techniques that allow them to continue improving.

“Construction of the PJCC was challenging, but the effort has been rewarding. Every time we see a suspect arrested for terrorism by Iraqis, tried in a court of law by Iraqis, and put in prison by Iraqis, it is a validation of our work,” said

Capt. Kristofer Thompson, a Colorado Springs, Colo., native serving as the commander of Co. C. “The Police in Basra

Province are becoming the type of law enforcement professionals that the Iraqi people deserve.” ■

“We have developed a great relationship with our Iraqi counterparts, and this relationship is starting to show results within Basra.”

- Spc. Marc Lloyd
Intelligence support team



Photo by 1st Lt. Adam Appleberry

First Lt. Ian Norwalk, a platoon leader with Co. C, 1st Bn., 8th Inf. Regt. from Albuquerque, N. M., and his platoon conduct a joint patrol in the city of Basra. The platoon often conducts patrols with members of Basra’s 10th Emergency Response Battalion.

SAFE HAVEN



Photo by Sgt. Jessica Rohr

The first convoy of the night rolls into Safe Haven as Ugandan security guards patrol the lanes outside a U.S. base near Nasiriyah Sept. 20.



Photo by Sgt. Jessica Rohr

Dan Kazle, a security guard from Uganda who works at the U.S. base near Nasiriyah, checks the undercarriage of a truck during an inspection Sept. 20.

By Sgt. Jessica Rohr
103rd ESC Public Affairs

NASIRIYAH, Iraq — Until recently, trucks stuck in traffic jams outside Contingency Operating Base Adder, a U.S. base near Nasiriyah, were experiencing small arms fire and theft as they waited for their turns to enter the base until Soldiers of the 224th Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) built a safe overflow lot to protect the incoming traffic.

A short time ago, the vehicles were backed up into Main Supply Route Tampa, which runs from Kuwait all the way through Iraq. This made the area a security risk and a road hazard for local citizens sharing the road.

“Prior to building the overflow lot, (the base) saw significant congestion when convoys would arrive and try to get through the vehicle inspection point,” said Lt. Col. Samuel Wallis, operations officer with the 224th Sust. Bde., 103rd ESC. “Convoys were backed up on to MSR Tampa and sometimes several kilometers down the road. It could take four hours

or more for some vehicles to make it off of Tampa and to the inspection lanes. During that time they were vulnerable to possible enemy attack and posed a safety hazard to other vehicles on the MSR.”

Due to the drawdown of U.S. forces, two nearby convoy support bases closed, and the traffic was re-routed to COB Adder, causing a significant increase in truck volume, according to Wallis.

To minimize the threat and gain control of the area, the 224th Sust. Bde. created the Safe Haven, an overflow parking lot with prioritized staging lanes prior to entering the control point. This was done at the request of Brig. Gen. Randal Dragon, the deputy commanding general for support with the 1st Infantry Division and a Harrisonburg, Va., native. Safe Haven gives trucks a secure waiting area off of MSR Tampa, keeping vehicles and the base out of harm’s way.

Many hours of man power were needed for this project to become reality. Prior to the start of the project, nothing but a cluttered lot was next to the security

See HAVEN, page 10

Hundreds reenlist in Iraq at five locations in single day

By Maj. Alan S. Brown
3rd AAB, 4th Inf. Div. PAO

BASRA, Iraq - At the halfway point of their current deployment, 209 Soldiers with the 3rd Advise and Assist Brigade, 4th Infantry Division simultaneously raised their right hands and renewed their oath to serve their country in a time of war during a mass re-enlistment ceremony at five locations across southern Iraq and Kuwait recently.

Maj. Gen. Vincent Brooks, commanding general of United States Division-South; Brig. Gen. Randal Dragon, USD-S deputy commanding general for support; and Brig. Gen. Ricky Gibbs, USD-S deputy commanding general for maneuver each administered the oath of enlistment to 3rd AAB Soldiers in Basra, Nasiriyah and Amarah respectively.

Soldiers came together from 12 different bases across southern Iraq and Kuwait to take part in the ceremonies. Eighty-one Soldiers took the oath in Basra, 64 in Nasiriyah, and 61 in Amarah. In addition, one Soldier took the oath at a smaller base in Amarah and two re-enlisted in Kuwait.

“You have expressed an extension to your commitment to your service to our nation, and not everyone does that in our nation, really, one percent of our fellow citizens. One percent,” Brooks said. “That’s how small of a group you’re in when you say, ‘Yes, I will support and defend. Yes, I’ll do it again.’”

Brooks credited the Soldiers’ chain of command, saying Soldiers will only want to stay in the Army if they have strong leadership and feel they are part of a great organization.

The number 209 is noteworthy as it represents nearly half of the anticipated re-enlistment goal for the upcoming fiscal year. During Fiscal Year 2010, the 3rd AAB’s retention goal was 472

and that goal is expected to stay about the same this year.

To have so many Soldiers re-enlist this early in the fiscal year is a tremendous accomplishment for the brigade, said Sgt. 1st Class Gregory Zielsdorf, the brigade’s career counselor from Conroe, Texas. He also noted the 209 Soldiers volunteered for a cumulative total of 961 years of service.

“It shows how effective and hard the battalion career counselors work to get their Soldiers’ needs, wants and desires met. Not just for the Soldiers, but for their Families as well,” Zielsdorf said.

Command Sgt. Maj. Miles Wilson, 3rd AAB senior noncommissioned officer, said the high number of re-enlistments is a direct reflection of the outstanding quality and dedication of this generation’s Soldiers.

“The average Soldier re-enlisting today is a specialist on his third deployment. They are combat veterans three times over, and they still want to serve their country and remain in an organization that provides for them and for their Families,” he said.

For Sgt. Reginel Tagalicod, a petroleum supply specialist from Waipahu, Hawaii, assigned to Company B, 64th Brigade Support Battalion, 3rd AAB, this ceremony marks his fourth re-enlistment over an 11-year career. He said his motivation to stay Army is attributed to the Soldiers he serves with every day.

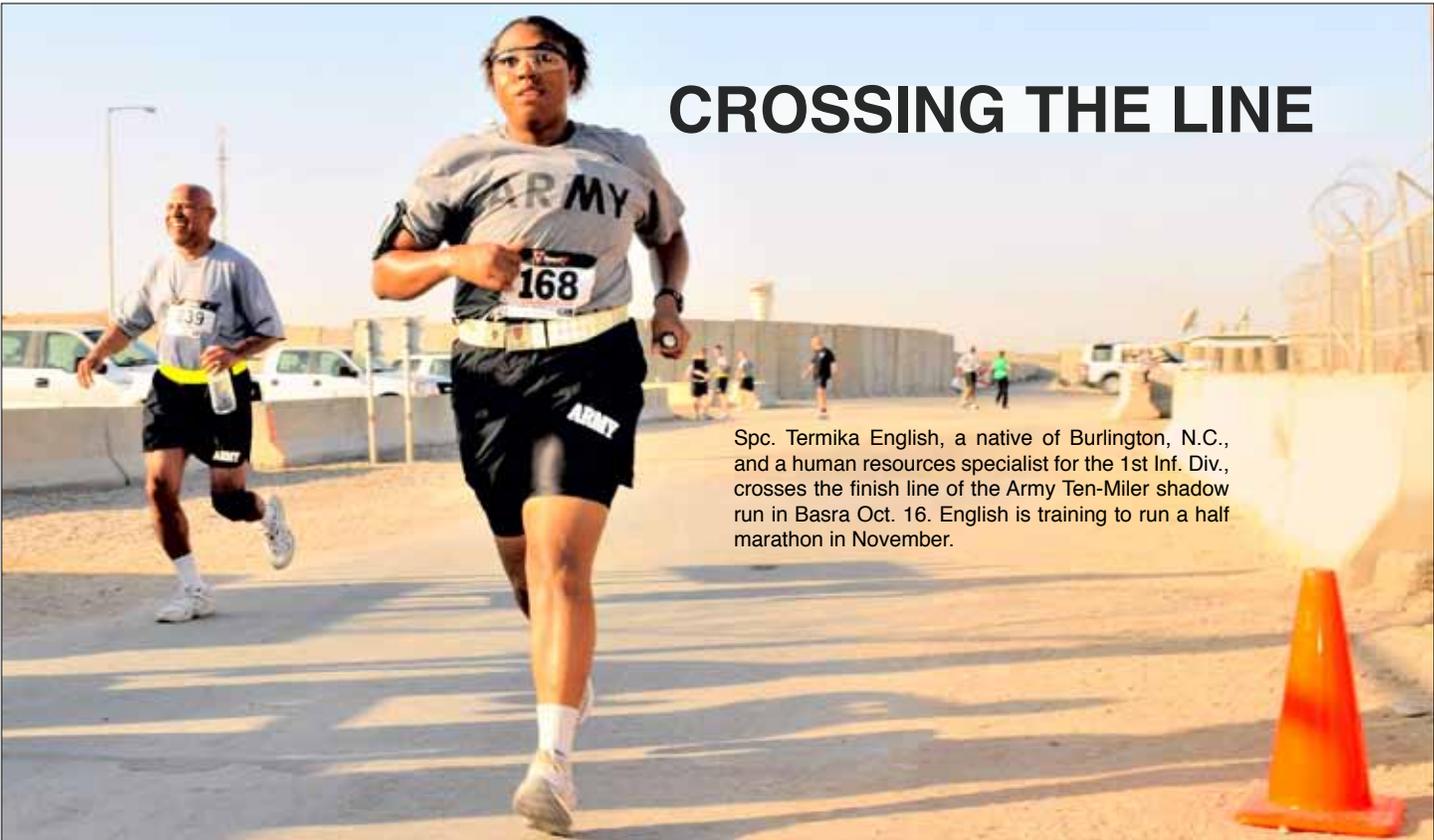
“It’s the brotherhood,” he said. “It’s the people to my left and to my right that keep me going.”

Spc. Jonathan McMullen, a cannon crew member from Lindale, Texas, assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 3rd Battalion, 29th Field Artillery Regiment, 3rd AAB, took the re-enlistment oath for the first time and said he plans to stay in until he can complete his college degree.

“Since the fourth grade, I’ve always wanted to join the military,” McMullen said. “I never had a doubt about re-enlisting.” ■



CROSSING THE LINE



Spc. Termika English, a native of Burlington, N.C., and a human resources specialist for the 1st Inf. Div., crosses the finish line of the Army Ten-Miler shadow run in Basra Oct. 16. English is training to run a half marathon in November.

Photo by Spc. Raymond Quintanilla

By Spc. Raymond Quintanilla
305th MPAD, USD-S PAO

BASRA, Iraq – While 30,000 registrants prepare for Sunday’s Army Ten-Miler in Washington, D.C., the third largest 10-mile race in the world, more than 200 runners crossed the finish line in Basra a week earlier during a 10-Mile shadow run Oct. 16.

Sgt. Maj. Bill Sutton, the 1st Infantry Division protection sergeant major and a native of Hardtner, Kan., organized the race and finished first overall with a time of 1:04:51. He said the story of the run wasn’t who finished first, but who just plain finished.

“There are people I never thought would enter,” Sutton said. “There’s a specialist, not a runner at all, but she started the deployment with the goal of running a half marathon and here she is on track after finishing a 10-miler.”

Sutton was speaking of Spc. Termika English, a native of Burlington, N.C., and a human resources specialist for the 1st Inf. Div. English has had more to battle than just the miles of pavement between her and the finish line.

“I had surgery on my left shoulder and immediately after, I had a severe case of pneumonia,” English said. “It took me down for two years. All I could do was walk for a long time.”

Despite having a portion of her collar bone removed, continuing respiratory problems, and pain she has to live with, English said she wants to do more.

“I feel the pain when I run, but not as much as when I’m doing push-ups,” English said. “We had one (Army Physical Fitness Test) here and I didn’t pass, so I worked on it and worked on it.”

“As I kept doing the run, I started to do better and I passed the next test, and now it’s just a matter of building up and I don’t want to barely pass.”

When English arrived in Basra in January, she signed up for the Basra Running Series, a series of monthly road races that

are getting progressively longer throughout the year, culminating with this month’s 10-miler and a half marathon in November.

Sutton, who organized the series along with the 1st Inf. Div. Equal Opportunity Office, said the races were started to get people to run and occupy their off duty time in a positive manner. Some Soldiers, like English, have surprised him.

“I see her out there when I run about five in the morning, running alone, and she has come a long way,” said Sutton. He added that if he’s helped English and the other Basra Soldiers develop as runners, it’s been through motivation and not formal teaching.

“I am definitely not the ... model of how to train, because running just comes natural to me,” Sutton said. “I don’t know if it’s just genetics or growing up with three older brothers, running for my life from them. I am just using the gift given to me.”

“It’s motivating, showing these younger Soldiers, if I can still get out there and do it, there is no reason they shouldn’t be able to do the same,” Sutton said. “I honestly believe everybody has the potential to run.”

English said her hometown bishop has also helped her along the way.

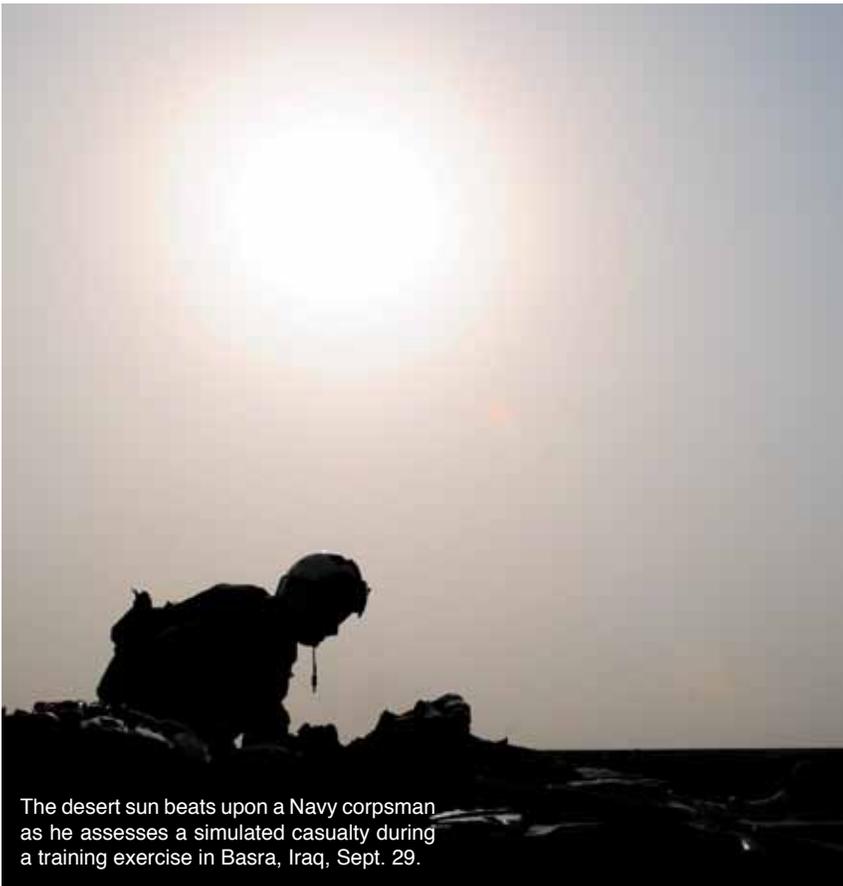
“She always told me I can do anything I set my mind on,” English repeated the bishop’s encouragement, “You’re just as strong as anyone else, and you need to tap into this strength.”

“Whenever I can finish a run, I always think about what she saw in me.”

English said she was overcome with emotion as she neared the finish line.

“When I got to where I could see the finish, oh my God, I wanted to cry,” English said. “I had made the 10 miles. For someone who didn’t think she can run at all, that’s a blessing.”

English said she intends to run the half marathon in November. “For me, it’s never about a time, it’s about the finish.” ■



The desert sun beats upon a Navy corpsman as he assesses a simulated casualty during a training exercise in Basra, Iraq, Sept. 29.

Photo by Spc. Raymond Quintanilla



Photo by Spc. Raymond Quintanilla

A helicopter with the 2515th NAAD approaches a landing zone during a training exercise to recover mock casualties in Basra Sept. 29. The 2515th NAAD serves southern Iraq and Kuwait.

LIFE, from front page

the best route of doing that is through MEDEVAC. That would be the fastest and the most efficient way.”

These sailors appear almost modest to their heroic operations and attribute their confidence to the training and ground support they receive.

“If we have to go into a hot landing zone, we’ll do our best to have ground forces suppress any enemies in the area,” Robinson said. “We do our best to make it a clandestine maneuver into a hot LZ and get out quickly. We feel safe because of our training and the intelligence we receive when we go out.”

“The patient is really the only thing that matters,” Kelly said, “so getting to our patients as fast as we can, getting them off the ground, and to where they need to go is our only concern.”

Kelly said he could not remember ever losing a patient while assigned to the 2515-th NAAD-North, but every patient remains in his thoughts.

“I can’t tell you of any time the 2515th has lost a patient,” Kelly said, “but you never forget any of the patients. Any time you get a call, you are always pumped and you are always heading out the door. Every last one of them sticks with you.”

Although MEDEVAC coverage is their primary mission, the training and experience of these Sailors extend farther and include joint function missions.

“We’re all trained in search and rescue,” Robinson said. “Our sister squadron 2515th NAAD-South in Kuwait does most of the off-shore rescues and MEDEVACs from different ship platforms.”

“Out of the 15,000 corpsmen in the Navy, there are less than a hundred who do this job, flying MEDEVACs and search and rescue,” Kelly said. “We’re augmented by the U.S. Air Force. We integrate very well with their pararescuemen, who are very knowledgeable and have definitely been helpful to the mission.”

“Everyone here is a hero,” Robinson said. “From even the most junior enlisted to our officer in charge, everybody is extremely professional and takes their job very seriously. It’s a very rewarding job being able to pick up someone that has been injured, come back home, get them back on the battlefield, back to work.”

“Most importantly get those folks back to their Family.” ■



Photo by Spc. Raymond Quintanilla

A corpsman inspects the simulated casualty’s litter, ensuring it is secured aboard the helicopter, before lifting off during a training exercise, Sept. 29.

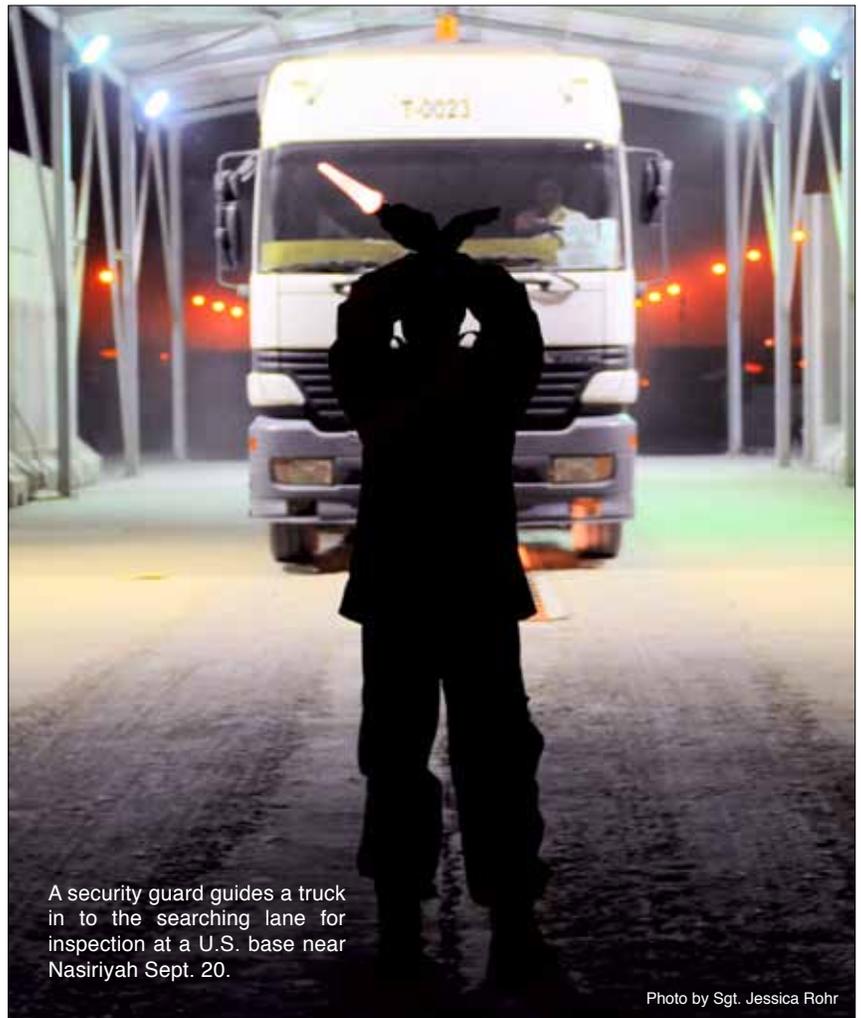
control point. The brigade researched contracting the project to a civilian company, but the cost was going to be over \$450,000. With the lion's share of the work done by 328th Engineer Support Company, 36th Engineer Brigade and the use of reclaimed barriers from the closed bases, the project was completed for a total of \$18,600.

After a thorough survey was completed by the Facility Engineering Detachment, the project was turned over to the engineers, who built the roads, complete with drainage and a retention pond.

The engineers worked 18-hour days, moving approximately 6,380 cubic meters of earth and laying out 700 cubic meters of Getch (a clay-based soil that cements rocks together) and 2,000 cubic meters of gravel to complete the project.

Walls were emplaced to provide protection from small arms fire for the lot, and Safe Haven is now a reality, allowing vehicles off of MSR Tampa as quickly and as safely as possible.

“Safe Haven allows us to bring all the vehicles in and put them in a safe haven instead of having them backed-up on top of each other all the way out to MSR Tampa,” said Staff Sgt. Dwayne Sowell, force protection noncommissioned officer in-charge with the 15th Transportation Company, 224th Sust. Bde., 103rd ESC and a New York native. “Safe Haven, in itself, allows for us to manage inbound traffic a lot better. It gives us a lot of command and control as far as how many vehicles are out there.” ■



A security guard guides a truck in to the searching lane for inspection at a U.S. base near Nasiriyah Sept. 20.

Photo by Sgt. Jessica Rohr

Soldiers with 328th ESC, 36th Eng. Bde. dig a drainage ditch alongside the road using an excavator at what is now an overflow parking lot for entry control point 5 at COB Adder.



Photo courtesy 328th ESC

Big Red One Soldier awarded Silver Star for Afghanistan heroics

By Sgt. John Zumer
3rd BCT, 1st Inf. Div. PAO

FORT KNOX, Ky. - Sgt. Zachary Reese rolled the dice in 2006 as a civilian when mulling a career move. Four years later, his decision to join the U.S. Army paid off in ways he probably couldn't have imagined, with his fellow Soldiers and nation the biggest winners.

Reese received the Silver Star Medal on Monday during a ceremony at Sadowski Field House at Fort Knox, Ky., Brig. Gen. David Petersen, deputy commanding general (rear), 1st Infantry Division, presided over the ceremony.

The Silver Star is the third-highest military decoration that can be awarded to a member of the United States armed forces for valor in the face of the enemy. The required gallantry must have been performed with marked distinction, which was certainly evident in Reese's case, according to Petersen.

During his comments to the audience, Petersen spoke of Reese's actions in April 2009 while assigned to a reconnaissance platoon of the 1st Battalion, 26th Infantry Regiment "Blue Spaders," who are part of the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division. Reese's platoon was operating in the volatile Korengal Valley of Afghanistan as part of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Reese observed a large group of enemy fighters approaching his unit that day and reported the enemy force to his superiors. His unit was then able to take precautions and set up a hasty ambush with just enough time to deal with the threat. Several enemy fighters died where they stood because of Reese's actions, but that didn't end his involvement. After the firefight, he went back and searched the enemy dead. An enemy fighter feigning death lunged at him, but Reese was able to use his knife to dispatch the enemy.

Through it all, Reese still doesn't consider himself a hero. In fact, he's pretty quick to hand off any credit to others that he served with.

"What made it easy was having all these guys next to you," he said.

Many others, including Petersen, felt Reese's actions that day were not only far from ordinary, but represented something even higher.

"Your bravery that day embodies the spirit of the Big Red One," said Petersen.

Reese admits to simply doing his job. He says he was grateful that his buddies were there not only to help each other out when needed on the battlefield, but to also help pass the time with their camaraderie. Most importantly, he said, their bond and unique contributions in Afghanistan bore large amounts of mission fruit.

"We felt we were making a difference," said Reese.

As for the next big step in his life, Reese and his wife Reina are looking forward to

him becoming a civilian again. He will be leaving the Army early next year for a college classroom. Federal service may call again in the future, but Reese is hopeful it will be in the form of working for the U.S. Border Patrol.

He had gone to college previously, before his fateful decision to enlist back in 2006. What eventually prompted him to join, then, four event-filled years ago?

"I decided the military was going to be a good bet for me," he said.

The Army, and a grateful nation, couldn't agree more.



Photo by Sgt. John Zumer

Brig. Gen. David Petersen, Deputy Commanding General 1st Infantry Division presents Sgt. Zachary Reese, 1st Battalion, 26th Infantry Regiment, with the Silver Star, Oct. 18, at Sadowski Field House in Fort Knox, Ky. The Silver Star is the third highest military decoration awarded for valor in the face of the enemy.



Photo by Spc. Roland Hale

Sgt. Richard Mansford, a Soldier serving in Iraq with the Enhanced Combat Aviation Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, carries a fuel hose during a unit competition, Oct. 23. The competition, called the Sustainment Games, pits troops in Army maintenance and support vocations against each other in several timed events ranging from forklift operations to setting up a fueling point for aircraft.

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

You could have it featured here and receive a coin from DCSM Jim Champagne.





Basra Betty says...



Dear Betty,

Why do we have to move into the tents more than a month before we redeploy? The unit we replaced didn't move out of the CHUs for us. I think this is ridiculous. I mean, what am I going to do with my refrigerator and my microwave? There are a lot of things that need to be taken into consideration here!

Signed,
Redeployment Wrongs

Dear "R.W.,"

Seriously, just because the unit before us didn't move out doesn't mean we aren't going to. My mom would be really disappointed in your logic, R.W. However, you aren't the only one asking redeployment questions, so I spoke to Command Sgt. Maj. Kevin Nolan to get the answers. The facts are listed here:

- The moving date is solid and has been published through secure channels;
- EVERYONE will move out of their CHUs;
- Majors and below will move into tents; lieutenant colonels and above will move to Sandstorm with roommates;
- You are welcome to bring your appliances with you to the tents;
- You may list your items for sale in the Basra Bulletin (contact USD-S PAO);

- There will be a DHHB "yard sale" to sell items; time and date has yet to be determined;
- CHUs will be cleaned, inspected and prepared for our replacements;
- Prepare to live in close quarters and respect your neighbor.

So there you have it. As we all know, living in tents can be a challenge. One thing I've learned over the years is to adapt to your environment. Get a sleeping mask and an ipod, my friend, and your trip from CHU to Riley will be a lot smoother. And when you find yourself sitting in that tent with a big ol' frown, just remember one thing: you're going HOME, pouty face! Now suck it up and quit whining already!

Counting the days,

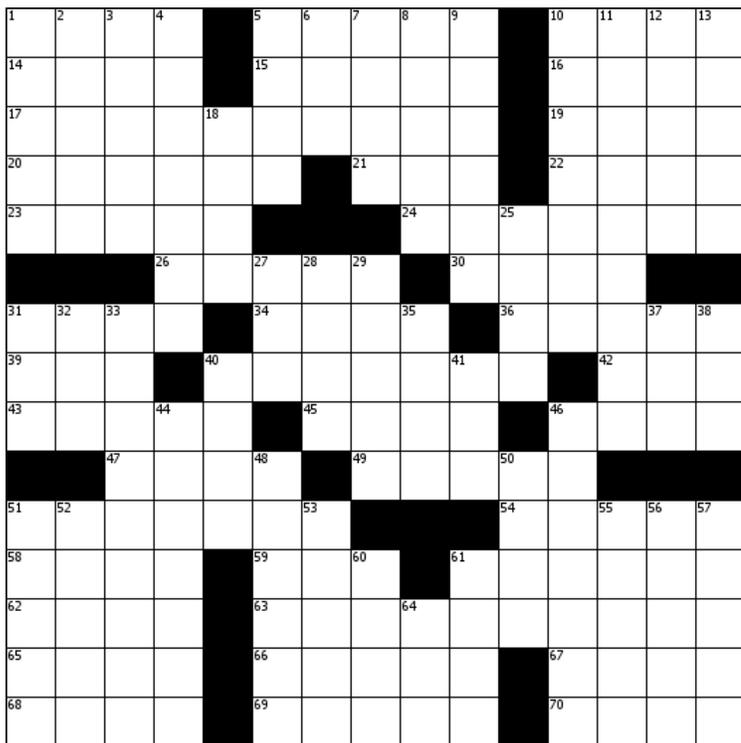
-Betty

Rock and Roll Trivia

Really-not-that-spooky Halloween edition.

- 1) Bobby "Boris" Pickett had a 'graveyard smash' with this novelty hit that went to #1 on Oct. 20, 1962?
- 2) What band with an 'undead' name was frequently on top of the rock charts in the 1990s with songs like "Thunder Kiss '65" and "More Human Than Human"? (Their lead singer went on to be a successful director of low-budget horror movies.)
- 3) "The Time Warp" is one of many sing-along favorites from what cult classic musical?
- 4) This 1984 release by the band Ministry questioned intolerance and acceptance of others.
- 5) Heavy metal band Dokken and rap stars DJ Jazzy Jeff and the Fresh Prince didn't have a lot in common musically, but they both wrote songs either for, or inspired by, what horror movie series?

Answers to this week's trivia:
(1) "Monster Mash" (2) White Zombie (3) Rocky Horror Picture Show (4) "Everyday Is Halloween" (5) Nightmare on Elm Street. Dokken with "Dream Warriors" and DJ Jazzy Jeff and the Fresh Prince with "A Nightmare on my Street"



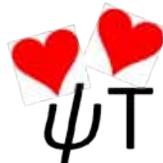
Across

- 1. Merely
- 5. Gas-heat unit
- 10. Eject forcibly
- 14. Borneo's locale
- 15. Cowboy competition
- 16. ___ Alto, CA
- 17. Shot taker
- 19. Lhasa ___ (dog)
- 20. Aromatic fir
- 21. MS. modifiers
- 22. Kite stabilizer
- 23. Winter forecast
- 24. Makes safe
- 26. Burton of "Roots"
- 30. Singer Falana
- 31. Oleo holders
- 34. Tabloids couple
- 36. Informal instrument
- 39. Flat ___ pancake
- 40. Comic-book hero's hideaway
- 42. Chaotic scene
- 43. Shindig
- 45. "Billionth" word form
- 46. Jr.-to-be
- 47. Vets' concerns
- 49. Mischievous sprite
- 51. Red wines
- 54. Not very hot
- 58. Primitive homes
- 59. Resistance unit
- 61. Llama kin
- 62. Field unit
- 63. Shot taker
- 65. Old hands
- 66. Not rented
- 67. Foul mood
- 68. Shipped out
- 69. Hammer parts
- 70. Addition column

Down

- 1. Door frames
- 2. Run-of-the-mill
- 3. Move obliquely
- 4. Fez decorations
- 5. Barbering job
- 6. Sweetums
- 7. Upper hand
- 8. Clarinetist's buy
- 9. Bit of food
- 10. Burger flipper
- 11. Shot taker
- 12. Borden bovine
- 13. 61 Across products
- 18. Still not in
- 25. Mixer with rum
- 27. Routing word
- 28. Envelope abbr.
- 29. Postgame show
- 31. Select, so to speak
- 32. Yank's home
- 33. Shot taker
- 35. "The ___ Love" (Gershwin tune)
- 37. Alley follower
- 38. Impressed one's cry
- 40. Memory unit
- 41. ___ populi
- 44. Least longwinded
- 46. Overlook, as a fault
- 48. Stick a cork in
- 50. "___ never fly!"
- 51. Cowboy's wear
- 52. "Filthy" money
- 53. Was brilliant
- 55. Golfer ___ Stewart
- 56. Strand in winter, perhaps
- 57. Blowgun ammo
- 60. Lawn pest
- 61. Some residences with EIKs
- 64. Novelist Deighton

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: Mekong Delta

Brought to you by the 1st Inf. Div. ORSA Cell

Sudoku

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

For solutions to this week's puzzle and for more sudoku puzzles, visit:

www.puzzles.ca/sudoku_puzzles/