

# Victory Times



*Telling the United States Forces - Iraq story*

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## Service members become U.S. citizens on Veterans Day



50 service members become U.S. citizens during the Naturalization Ceremony, Nov. 11.

*Photo by Staff Sgt. Dan Yarnal*

Story by Sgt. Chris McCann  
USF-I Public Affairs

“I am an American. I would fight and die for this country without question. Gaining my citizenship will just make official what I already know in my heart.”

Spc. Diego Mata, a generator mechanic with the 2nd Battalion, 11th Field Artillery Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, moved from Mexico City, Mexico to California as a child, and later joined the United States Army. He officially became an American citizen at a naturalization ceremony Nov. 11 at Al Faw Palace on Camp

Victory, Iraq, with 49 other service members. His statement was read aloud by Gen. Lloyd J. Austin III, commander of United States Forces-Iraq.

“You appreciate the opportunity that American citizenship provides and you are eager to give back to the country through your service in the Armed Forces,” Austin told the new citizens. “You have been given a gift and you are giving a gift in return.”

Twenty-nine countries were represented at the ceremony

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# Chaplain's Corner

## Stand shoulder-to-shoulder to maintain resiliency

By Chaplain (Maj.) Robert Crowley  
USF-I Operations Chaplain

Every person here in the Iraq Joint Operating Area is now and forever will be a "veteran." I personally want to thank you for your service. You have endured being away from family and friends. You have dealt with weather conditions and dust that you are not accustomed to and you have striven and sweated to complete the mission, regardless of the hours you had to put - in whether in a building or outside the wire.

No matter your rank, branch or position, we could not have gotten this far in Iraq without your participation. And we need you to continue to contribute.

I encourage you, in this newfound status, to share in the activities and pastimes that keep you resilient for the long haul of life.

At the battle of Thermopylae, 300 Spartan warriors kept the entire Persian army of more than a million men at bay for five days. They did it by standing in a narrow mountain pass, shoulder-to-shoulder, forcing the enemy to fight one-on-one, face-to-face, due to the terrain.

Two things stare us in the face when we take apart this battle.

First, the Spartans stood shoulder-to-shoulder.

They maintained close proximity to others, meaning they were connected. We all must need to stay connected to something or someone. I do not just maintain connectedness with my family, but also my faith.

My faith tells me to stay close to God regardless of the circumstances in which I find myself.

Second, these Spartans faced the enemy head-on and did not back up. Sometimes when problems arise we shrink back and just try to handle things. This method of fighting does not fix and finish the problem.

Moving forward through a problem alone or with help from someone else is much better than becoming immobile and letting the problem render you useless.

Keep your head up, face forward and fight through. Remember what you and your brothers and sisters have already accomplished.

You join the proud ranks of those who have gone before you and stoked the fires of freedom.

Finally, we must remember the sacrifices our brave warriors have made throughout the 234 years this country has been in existence.

The sacrifices of our Soldiers, Sailors, Marines, Airmen, Coast Guardsmen and merchant marine are testimony to a resilient and proud country.

## SARC Smarts

### Do you know your reporting options?



An unrestricted report is made when a victim wants to participate in the military justice process, or when the chain of command or law enforcement becomes involved. A victim advocate is assigned, command and law enforcement are notified, and medical care is provided.

Restricted Reports are kept confidential, and command and law enforcement aren't notified. The victim can access care and services without participating in the military justice system.

**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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# Training program helps Iraqi doctors hone skills

Story and photos by  
Staff Sgt. Dan Yarnall  
USF-I Public Affairs

On Nov. 9, Col. Melvyn Harris, the officer-in-charge of the Camp Cropper Emergency Medical Clinic, 322nd Medical Company, 28th Combat Support Hospital, watched as Maj. J. Ivan Lopez, a physician with 322nd, gave a class to both U.S. and Iraqi physicians and medics on screening and treating stroke patients.

That day, Harris witnessed the success of his goal to set up a training program in which U.S. and Iraqi medical personnel learn from each other and share knowledge.

When Harris arrived in Iraq he saw frequent headlines describing terrorist attacks throughout Baghdad in which numerous civilians were killed or injured.

He began to wonder who cared for the injured after these attacks, and what U.S. forces could do to ensure Iraqi healthcare providers are trained to their fullest potential.

“When I heard that Iraqi medical providers were as close as 100 yards from here, I jumped all over that,” Harris said. “Here was the opportunity



*Staff Sgt. Heather Keaveny, a health care specialist with the 322nd Medical Company, 28th Combat Support Hospital, instructs a group of Iraqi medical practitioners on techniques to check a patient for symptoms of a stroke during the partnership medical training Nov. 9, at Camp Cropper. The class was conducted as part of a weekly partnership training between staff members of the Medical Company and Iraqi physicians and medics from the local area.*

to create a kind of program where they learn from us and we learn from them.”

Many people were skeptical of the idea, Harris said, but after pitching it to his chain of command, he was given the thumbs-up.

He began to develop a program that would advance medical knowledge of the Iraqi practitioners on issues they are most likely to see. On Oct. 8, Harris and other staff members with 322nd began conducting the weekly medical classes and are pleased by the results.

“The training has been really productive,” said Lopez.

“The level of knowledge the Iraqi practitioners have is very good, and that is

very encouraging.”

“My staff and I really enjoy the training. We have learned a lot from it,” said Dr. Munaf, a physician at the detainee medical clinic for Karkh prison. “We need it, and I hope this partnership continues.”

Lopez is excited to be a part of the training, but said it did come as something of a surprise since he expected to focus on the medical care for U.S. service members during his time here.

“Not only have I come from far away to take care of troops as part of my mission, but this is something extra that has been very encouraging. I believe that interacting with Iraqi physicians gives a different side to our mission,” said Lopez.

The 322nd plans to continue the training every week. As long as they do, Dr. Munaf said he and his colleagues plan to attend.



*Maj. J. Ivan Lopez, a physician with the 322nd, gives a class to U.S. and Iraqi doctors and medics at the Camp Cropper Emergency Medical Clinic, Nov. 9.*



*Spc. Jehan Custodio Martinez and Pvt. 1st Class Araceli Diaz congratulate each other after becoming U.S. citizens during a naturalization ceremony at Al Faw Palace*

## Ceremony, from page 1

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by the service members pledging allegiance to the United States of America.

Spc. Lennart Magi, a native of Tallinn, Estonia, moved to the United States in 2002 with his father, who went to New York City for college.

“The U.S. is a huge role model for Estonia,” he said.

In June of 2007, Magi enlisted in the Army and serves as a cannon crew member with the 25th Infantry Division. During this deployment, he works on the personal security detachment for the commander of the 2nd Bn., 11th FAR.

Magi said the ceremony will make this, his second deployment, memorable.

“It’s a great day – and to do this in the palace, with all my comrades-in-arms, becoming an American citizen officially ... it’s a day I’ll remember forever,” said Magi.

John Lafferty, district director of United States Citizenship and Immigration Services in Rome, Italy, presented the candidates at the ceremony.

“This is the best part of my job,” he said. “Serving service members while they’re serving our country – this is really an

honor and a privilege,” said Lafferty. “They were serving our country even though they were not citizens. But they were already Americans – we’re just making it official.”

First Sergeant Marc Little of the 110th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion out of Tipton, Ga., had two of his Soldiers in the ceremony; Staff Sgt. Luis Greaves and Spc. Michelle Canas.

“I think it’s awesome,” said Little. “It’s a huge step, and to have it here, and have a four-star general show up – I think it’s a grand welcome to citizenship.”

Sgt. Stanislav Lovtstov, a naturalized U.S. citizen originally from Moscow, Russia, became a citizen at Al Faw Palace in a ceremony in 2008. On Nov. 11, 2010, he played at the ceremony in the 1st Armored Division band as a percussionist.

“I was right there three years ago,” he said, gesturing to the gathered new citizens. “It was my first deployment and I was based in Tikrit. And now I’m here playing for these service members – I’m very proud. (My naturalization) is a memory I will always treasure, and I’m sure they will too.”

During his address to the new citizens, Austin also recalled the remarkable story of Mexican emigrant Alfred V. Rascon,



*Sgt. Stanislav Lovtstov plays the cymbals with the 1st Armored Division Band during the ceremony.*



*Pfc. Leonel Mendoza registers to vote in the ballroom of the Al Faw Palace following the Naturalization Ceremony, Nov 11.*

►Pfc. Yiraldy Aloma, a native of Panama City, Panama, wipes a tear from her eye after becoming a U.S. citizen during the naturalization ceremony.

who served in Vietnam in 1966 and continued to serve, both in the Army and as a civilian, until 2003. He was awarded the Medal of Honor in 2000 for his actions near Long Khanh, Vietnam, in March of 1966.

“Doc said very succinctly about his citizenship, ‘I am Mexican by birth, American by choice’,” Austin said. “Like each of you, he also loved serving our country.”

As the new U.S. citizens walked to the front of the palace rotunda to receive their certificates of citizenship and a U.S flag, the emotion of the day was written on each face.

“I have always felt American,” said Pfc. Yiraldy Aloma, a native of Panama City, Panama, whose family immigrated to Miami, Fla., eight years ago. “But now I have the paper, and I can call myself American. And it’s an honor to serve, especially to serve the country that opened its arms for me.”





*Command Sgt. Maj. Arthur L. Coleman Jr., senior enlisted advisor for the United States Forces-Iraq deputy commanding general of operations (center) and Command Sgt. Maj. Earl L. Rice, XVIII Airborne Corps command sergeant major (left), meet with Sgt. Maj. John P. Spivey, USF-I Provost Marshal's office sergeant major (right), and are given a tour of the Camp Cropper Theater Internment Facility.*

# Site survey

## XVIII Airborne Corps command sergeant major visits Iraq

Story and photos by Spc. Joseph Vine  
USF-I Public Affairs

Command Sgt. Maj. Arthur L. Coleman Jr., senior enlisted advisor for United States Forces-Iraq deputy commanding general of operations, welcomed the XVIII Airborne Corps command sergeant major to Iraq Nov. 10, as he and other leaders arrived to conduct their pre-deployment site survey.

Command Sgt. Maj. Earl L. Rice, XVIII Airborne Corps command sergeant major, and the other leaders visited Camp Victory to gain information about USF-I operations that will help prepare them for their upcoming deployment.

During his visit, Rice received briefings on day-to-day operations by the sergeants major from each USF-I staff section and by the command groups from United States Divisions-North, South and Center.

The XVIII Airborne Corps is scheduled to arrive in Iraq in February 2011, when they will replace III Corps on the USF-I team.



▲ *Command Sgt. Maj. Arthur L. Coleman Jr. (right), and Command Sgt. Maj. Earl L. Rice, travel to Sather Airbase, Iraq in a UH-60 Black Hawk.*

◀ *Command Sgt. Major Earl L. Rice, is briefed by the United States Forces-Iraq staff section sergeants major.*

# Unsung Hero



Staff Sgt. Ronald Carnahan is recognized as this week's Unsung Hero and received a Certificate of Achievement from Brig. Gen. Joseph DiSalvo, Deputy Chief of Staff, United States Forces-Iraq, at Al Faw Palace Nov. 12. Carnahan received the certificate for his exemplary performance as the Office of the Staff Judge Advocate senior operations noncommissioned officer.

## VBC Facility Operating Hours

**Sports Oasis DFAC**  
Breakfast 5:00 - 8:30 a.m.  
Lunch 11:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.  
Dinner 5 - 8:30 p.m.  
Midnight chow 11:00 p.m. - 1:00 a.m.  
Sandwich Bar open 24 hours

**Education Center**  
8 a.m. - 8 p.m.

**Camp Liberty Post Exchange**  
8 a.m. - 10 p.m.

**Camp Victory Post Exchange**  
8 a.m. - 10 p.m.

**Paul Smith Gym**  
Open 24 Hours

**Victory Main Post Office**  
Monday - Friday 7:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.  
Saturday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
Sunday 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

**USF-I Unit Mail Room**  
**Customer Services/Mail Call:**  
Daily 3 - 6 p.m.

**Al Faw Palace Post Office**  
Wednesday and Sunday  
12:30 - 5:30 p.m.

**Golby TMC Sick Call**  
Monday - Friday 7:30 - 11:30 a.m.  
Saturday & Sunday 9 - 11:30 a.m.

**Mental Health Clinic**  
Monday - Friday 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.  
Saturday 9 a.m. - noon

**Pharmacy**  
Monday - Friday 7:30 a.m. - noon;  
1 - 4:30 p.m.  
Saturday & Sunday 9 a.m. - noon

## 2010-2011 Flu Vaccine



Protect yourself against influenza A, B, and the H1N1.

Get your flu shot at Golby Troop Medical Clinic.

Mon, Wed, Fri, 0730-1130

Tue, Thurs, 0730-1130  
1230-1530

Groups of 10 or more may make an appointment.



## Websites

Check it out:

**USF-I Web pages**  
[www.usf-iraq.com](http://www.usf-iraq.com)  
[www.flickr.com/photos/mnfiraq](http://www.flickr.com/photos/mnfiraq)  
[www.twitter.com/USF\\_Iraq](http://www.twitter.com/USF_Iraq)

**Facebook -**  
United States Forces-Iraq  
U.S. Army III Corps  
Phantom Battalion  
III Corps Fort Hood



## Check CHUsday

Each Tuesday Check The Following In Your CHU

- Power strips are free of debris and clothing
- Electrical devices not in use are unplugged
- Power strips and outlets are not overloaded
- Smoke detector is operational
- Fire extinguisher is serviceable (in the green)
- Room is neat and orderly

If you experience a fire or shock contact TF SAFE at 318-485-7143 or Your Mayor Cell.

# Finance leaders discuss way ahead during conference

Story and photo by Spc. Britney Bodner  
USF-I Public Affairs

Military and U.S. government finance personnel gathered at Al Faw Palace on Camp Victory Nov. 8 to prepare for the challenges of the next years.

The two-day finance conference, attended by personnel from III Corps, XVIII Airborne Corps, the Department of State, and the DoD discussed expectations in the upcoming year and shared lessons learned from past deployments.

“This conference was held so we can bring everybody who is part of the financial management community and the contracting community working in Iraqi operations together and gain a centralized understanding of what we’re doing through open discussion,” said Col. Paul Chamberlain of Manassas, Va., and the United States Forces-Iraq finance director.

The conference also gave finance personnel the chance to see how their work impacts U.S. forces, said Sgt. 1st Class Jerry Flowers of San Antonio, Texas, and a budget analyst with the USF-I finance.

“Finance ensures that the war fighters get what they need to win the war,” Flowers said.

“Its our responsibility to do everything we can to give them what they need to accomplish the mission and the conference allows us to see the result.”

It was beneficial to look at that overall effect and how to continue to be successful during the upcoming year, said Chamberlain.

Col. Bryan Stewart, the incoming finance director for the XVIII Airborne Corps, also attended to prepare for his upcoming deployment and to connect with the agencies he will work with.

“We’re dealing with a changed environment,” said 1st Sgt. Keith Crabtree from Houston, Texas, a contracting supervisor for the 17th Psychological Operations Task Force stationed



*Lt. Col. Annemarie Delgado, chief of planning and budget for the Iraq security assistance mission, gives a brief about the transfer of the Isam mission to the Office of Security Cooperation, Nov. 9. Personnel from across Iraq and from the United States gathered for the conference to discuss lessons learned and discuss the future of finance in Iraq.*

out of Austin, Texas.

“The financing needed for the war yesterday is not the same as today due to the change in mission.”

“The conference lets the finance community know that we have a plan for the next 12 to 13 months and that we’ve put a lot of time and effort into it,” Chamberlain said.

“We want to them to continue to maintain flexibility to be able to support the commanders and operators of deployed units to ensure that they have what they need.”

**WEAPONS  
SAFETY**

**T**reat every weapon as if it's loaded  
**H**andle every weapon with care  
**I**dentify the target before you fire  
**N**ever point the muzzle at anything you don't intend to shoot  
**K**eep the weapon on safe and your finger off the trigger until you intend to fire

**T.H.I.N.K  
TO SAVE LIVES**