



DANGER FORWARD



November 15, 2010 | Issue 42

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

BASRA, Iraq – In a tough economy, a penny saved could mean a dollar earned, even millions when it comes to a large entity such as an Army division.

In an effort to save millions of taxpayer dollars, the 1st Infantry Division initiated Operation Victory Sweep in Basra Nov. 1.

Capt. David Shaffer, the 1st Inf. Div. supply and services officer-in-charge from San Antonio, said the Big Red One is accomplishing this by reevaluating individual unit's excess assets and reducing the number of future supply purchases.

"Victory Sweep is a continuation element of Operation Clean Sweep One," Shaffer said. "It's a theater-wide mission comprised of mobile redistribution teams inspecting and consolidating all excess supplies at individual sites, then reintegrating them for forward movement."

"The excess properties are reentered into the supply system for reutilization," said Capt. Andrea So, the Division Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion, 1st Inf. Div. logistics officer from Vero Beach, Fla. "Therefore, getting the best possible value of every individual item,"

Although the MRT mission is not new, it has evolved in support of Operation Victory Sweep.

"This is very important because as we reduce the footprint of the U.S. military

See **CLEAN**, page 9

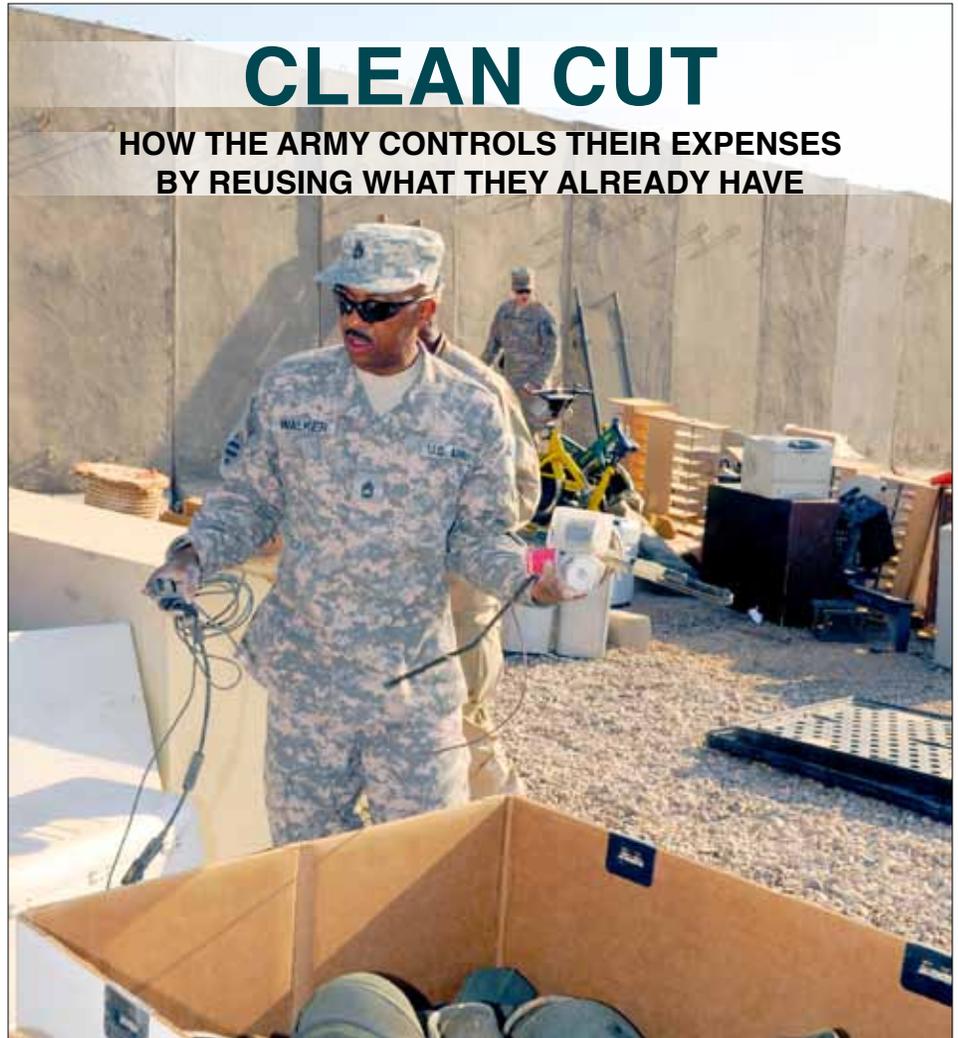


Photo by Sgt. Raymond Quintanilla

Sgt. 1st Class Larry Walker, a native of Palm Harbor, Fla., and the NCOIC of the MRTs for Operation Clean Sweep with 319th Trans. Co., inspects excess supplies from the Navy Riverine Squadron 1 deployed in Basra Nov. 4. The theater-wide operation is an effort to save millions of taxpayer dollars by identifying and properly routing excess equipment.



Youth center reopens - p. 5



Getting the right word out - p. 6



Training maintains edge - p. 7

Top U.S. NCO in Iraq offers advice on mission, troop welfare

By Sgt. 1st Class Roger Dey
Army News Service

CAMP VICTORY, Iraq - Soldiers have high expectations of their noncommissioned officers, said the top NCO in Iraq, a quality that has remained constant throughout his 35 years as a Soldier.

"If you ask any Soldier out there, they'll probably tell you they expect their noncommissioned officers to get them to the right place at the right time, with the right equipment to do whatever mission they're given," said Command Sgt. Maj. Joseph R. Allen, the United States Forces-Iraq command sergeant major.

As the U.S. military mission in Iraq continues to move forward, Allen said his job is to make sure the troops are performing at their best and that the Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, and Marines understand that although the mission has changed, Iraq can still be a dangerous place, and it's imperative that everyone stay committed and focused.

"We still partner with the Iraqi Security Forces, Border Patrols and the Iraqi Police," Allen said. "Yes, we have a new mission set, but the fact of the matter is, any time a Soldier goes outside the gate they're in the same posture that they were at the height of this war."

While the mission may still be challenging, Allen is confident that, thanks to today's leadership culture, Soldiers are up to the task. He now sees junior NCOs entrusted with life-or-death decisions on a daily basis because they understand the commander's intent and the rules of engagement.

"Those young guys and gals out there, give them basic focusing guidance and let them go get at it. We empower them to



Command Sgt. Maj. Joseph R. Allen

use their own decision-making process to execute their mission. I see that a lot now," he said.

According to Allen, a big part of the success in Iraq is due to the dedication and commitment of young servicemembers and junior leaders.

And now, with the Iraqi Security Forces in the lead and U.S. forces advising, assisting and training, he said young leaders are still just as critical to the mission.

He said young troops "expect noncommissioned officers, more than any other leader, to protect them from all the stuff that rolls down hill, to provide them with good leadership, and they expect noncommissioned officers to take care of their families."

Allen has worked hard to live up to those expectations, standing up for his Soldiers when circumstances required him to.

As a brigade command sergeant major, he once appeared before a court-martial as a character witness for a Soldier his leadership had recommended for

punishment. It's Allen's willingness to go out on a limb and fight for Soldiers that has earned him the respect of the troops he's led throughout his career.

"I'll always make sure Soldiers are getting a fair shake and that leaders are looking out for the Soldier," said Allen.

During a recent trip to Joint Security Station Loyalty with Gen. Lloyd J. Austin III, USF-I commanding general, Allen talked to the senior NCOs of the 1st Battalion, 41st Field Artillery, 1st Advise and Assist Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division, and drove home the importance of listening to junior servicemembers.

While Austin later spoke with troops preparing for a mission, Allen pulled the first sergeants aside for a huddle.

He shared with them his certainty that everyone has something significant going on in their lives that might affect their performance and encouraged them to remember that as they deal with their subordinates.

Allen said he recently caught a group of Soldiers off guard by telling them something they weren't used to hearing from such a senior NCO.

"I work for you," he told them. "If there's something I need to do, you need to tell me."

While taking action is a big part of being an NCO, Allen said the simple act of listening is a powerful tool for leaders, and it's a big part of his approach to dealing with servicemembers.

"Sometimes they just need an ear," he said. "They just need somebody to listen to their problems."

And with the stresses of deployment and the military's high operational tempo, servicemembers' problems can't be overlooked by NCOs. ■

 Commanding General Major General Vincent K. Brooks	 Command Sergeant Major Command Sergeant Major Jim Champagne	DANGER FORWARD
PAO 1st Inf. Div. PAO: Lt. Col. Sophie Gainey Command Info OIC: Capt. Brian Melanephy Command Info NCOIC: 1st Sgt. Charles Owens Email: MND-S_PAO@iraq.centcom.mil Phone: (Iraqna) (0790)-194-2865 (770)-263-9379.	Danger Forward Print NCOIC: Staff Sgt. Nathan Smith Editor/Layout: Sgt. Jason Kaneshiro Staff Writers: Staff Sgt. Chanelcherie DeMello, Staff Sgt. Cody Harding, Sgt. Jason Kemp, Sgt. Raymond Quintanilla, Sgt. James Kennedy Benjamin, Spc. Eve Ililau	Contributing Units  3rd ACR  3rd AAB, 4th Inf. Div.  305th MPAD 

MENTORING SOLDIERS

By Joe Zelko
USD-S Safety

It is a leader's responsibility to mentor their Soldiers, including training them to be safe while both on and off duty. The struggle against accidental fatalities, a threat that stalks our Soldiers while deployed and at home station, is a never-ending battle.

So, how do we win? What strategies enable us, as leaders, to reduce losses? The sharing of "Best Practices" can be the best approach.

Best Practices are not new to many of our organizations. This is a countermeasure that is put in place to eliminate or mitigate the risk of an accident. It can be as simple as setting out a "Wet Floor" sign or more complex measures that require special skills or collaboration. Best Practices offer the insight and suggestions of others who are dealing with similar hazards that many of us face. Unfortunately, sometimes they're slow to be disseminated from post-to-post and throughout our Army.

For that reason, if you have Best Practices that work for your organization, send them to the Division Safety Office (DSO). We will post them on our safety web site and disseminate them through safety channels. We hope that through information sharing, we can save lives.

The DSO collects, stores and analyzes accidental loss data on fatalities for our division. We know our accidental losses, but what we can't tell you is how many lives we save. We believe that posting Best Practices will provide us a measure of success in saving Soldiers' lives.

We serve in one of the most noble and respected professions in our Nation. One preventable loss is one is too many. Through the sharing of information and ideas, I'm confident we can defeat the enemy that stole 163 lives from our ranks last fiscal year. Here are some examples of Best Practices:

Unit: 1st Infantry Division

Description: Individuals owning a motorcycle may ride their bikes in lieu of running in the division four-mile run. Participants will lead the run and then, immediately following, participate in a 52-mile motorcycle ride to promote safety and esprit-de-corps. Event will be followed by a barbeque.

Result/Effectiveness: Event fostered an environment to promote motorcycle safety, education and mentorship through engaged leadership. The unit has seen a significant reduction in Class A through C accidents since the event took place. ■

THIS WEEK IN ARMY HISTORY...



1st Infantry Division History

November 16, 1944 – The 1st Infantry Division, as part of VII Corps, participates in the initial attack to clear the Huertgen Forest. The battle against the entrenched German defenders would last until February.



Operation Iraqi Freedom History

November 19, 2004 – CNN releases a report that found 102 Soldiers, 85% of which were serving overseas in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom, had contracted a rare blood infection. The findings, released by the U.S. military, said that investigators found no evidence of biochemical agents associated with the infections.



4th Infantry Division History

November 19, 1917 – As World War I rages in Europe, the 4th Infantry Division begins their story in the U.S. Army when their headquarters company is formed. The first unit that would eventually become the 4th Inf. Div. is constituted in the Regular Army as Headquarters, 4th Division.



Photo by 1st Sgt. Charles Owens

Soldiers and civilians from the United States and the United Kingdom bow their heads as Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Timothy Mallard, 1st Infantry Division Chaplain, leads a service at the U.S. base at Basra International Airport in memory of two civilian contractors who were killed during an attack in 2008. The service was held on Nov. 11, observed as Veterans Day in the U.S. and Remembrance Day in the UK.

US, UK hold service for Veterans Day, Remembrance Day

By 1st Sgt. Charles Owens
305th MPAD, USD-S PAO

BASRA, Iraq – Ninety-two years ago, on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month, the guns on the European western front fell silent. After years of the “war to end all wars,” the belligerents agreed to suspend the fighting to negotiate a peace. It was a day that was known as Armistice Day.

Today, in the United States, the day is observed as Veterans Day, a day to honor all who served in the armed forces. In the Commonwealth nations, it is observed as Remembrance Day and it is a day where those who have fallen in service of their nation are honored.

At the U.S. base at Basra International Airport, civilians and Soldiers gathered, Thursday, to honor the memory of three civilians who were killed in the course of their duties here in 2008.

“In Britain, we honor fallen comrades on this Remembrance Day,” said Harry Pitchforth. Pitchforth, the General Manager in Iraq for the company Kellogg Brown & Root, said that so many lives had been lost in Iraq that it was appropriate to stop and remember both civilian and military members who had perished.

Support for the service came from Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Timothy Mallard, the 1st Infantry Division Chaplain.

“Today is an appropriate culmination of Veterans Day and Remembrance Day,” said Mallard. “It’s a tremendous honor to participate in today’s event, standing side by side with the great people involved in this conflict from Iraq, America, Great Britain, KBR employees and so many other nations as a collective service.”

Timothy Saunders, Security Manager from Plymouth, England for KBR in Basra, said he remembered that day very well when he lost three coworkers.

“Today is not a holiday. It’s a day to cherish and express our

thanks and to honor soldiers that have served and to remember those that have paid the ultimate sacrifice for ones country.” Saunders said.

“Several employees here in KBR in Basra have been here for six or seven years,” said Pitchforth. “They are like family so when you lose someone... it’s like losing a family member.” ■



Photo by 1st Sgt. Charles Owens

Alistair Campbell and Master Sgt. John Taylor, 1st Infantry Division Headquarters Commandant, bow their heads in respect during the memorial service for three employees of a civilian contractor who were killed at the U.S. base at Basra International Airport in 2008. The service was held Thursday, in conjunction with Veterans Day in the U.S. and Remembrance Day in the U.K.

Game On: Children's Youth Center gets upgrade and reopens doors

By Staff Sgt. Garrett Ralston
3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment PAO

HUSAYNIYAH, Iraq - The Karbala Provincial Reconstruction Team, assisted by Troop A, 1st Squadron, 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment, celebrated the completion of a renovation project on the Husayniyah Youth Center Oct. 31.

The Youth Center is one of eleven 'Good Neighbor' projects the PRT has finished in recent months and provides Iraqi children a place to enjoy their favorite sporting activities. Many neighborhood children were present for the ceremony that was held on the basketball court.

"The condition of the center when we first came to look it over was pretty poor," said Lt. Col. Vince Rice, deputy team leader for the PRT. "We came at the request of the mayor to see what could be done to make it better for the kids."

After visiting the center, the PRT walked away with plans for the project that would result in an almost completely restored facility.

The basketball court received a fresh coat of paint and netting for the hoops. The center's boxing ring was replaced and the ceiling above the ring was torn out and rebuilt.

Before the ceremony began, children were finishing a game of soccer on the field, which was also part of the renovation.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Garrett Ralston

Flanked by children and leaders of Husayniyah, Lt. Col. Vince Rice, deputy team leader of the Karbala PRT, cuts a ribbon to mark the official re-opening of the Husayniyah Youth Center Oct. 31. The center's basketball court, boxing ring and soccer field received makeovers.

The upgraded field featured new goals and the once bare concrete is now covered in a bright green artificial turf.

After the ribbon cutting the kids and Soldiers of Troop A moved inside the center where a large donation of shoes was handed out. All the children received shoes and shirts and moved back outside to resume their soccer game while others began a game of basketball.

"We are extremely pleased with all the work that has been done here," said Isam Al Masoudi, the youth center director. "The children are very happy and thankful for all you have done for them."

"The PRT has been proactive in trying to get this project done, and it's gone very smoothly," Rice said. "We do our best to provide these things for the children because, in the end, they are the future of Iraq." ■



Capt. James Reilly of Troop A, 1st Sqdn., 3rd ACR passes out shoes to children after the re-opening of the Husayniyah Youth Center Oct. 31.

Photo by Staff Sgt. Garrett Ralston

Get the message?

Iraqi Army enhances media skills



Photo by Staff Sgt. Cody Harding

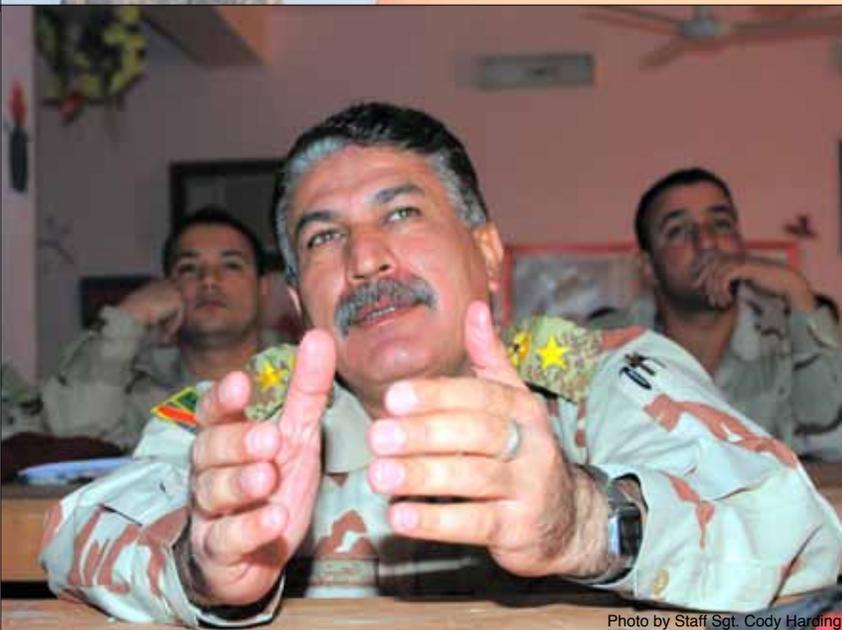


Photo by Staff Sgt. Cody Harding



Photo by Staff Sgt. Cody Harding

By Staff Sgt. Cody Harding
1st Inf. Div., USD-S PAO

DIWANIYAH, Iraq – When ‘training’ and ‘Iraqi Army’ are used together, the image that comes to mind is often one of Soldiers learning to clear rooms and familiarizing themselves with their weapons. The training they receive from advise and assist brigades is oriented for their combat role as the United States forces continue to reduce strength across the country.

The modern battlefield involves forces much more complex than the “beans and bullets” armies of the past. Multi-dimensional fights, such as the ones in Iraq and Afghanistan, require multi-dimensional forces that can shape and influence the information the rest of the world receives about their organizations.

With this in mind, the 1st Infantry Division coordinated with the 8th Iraqi Army Division to train their public information representatives on the basics. Over the course of four days, the Iraqi Army officers, noncommissioned officers and Soldiers from Diwaniyah gathered at the Mid-Euphrates Operations Command to attend classes on the multiple aspects of dealing with and relaying the story to the media.

Lt. Col. Thamer Kadhem, the public affairs director for the 31st IA Brigade, said the training is just one way that they have worked together with the American forces.

“We don’t have this kind of training in the Iraqi Army,” Kadhem said. “We used to just do things our way. By getting this kind of training, we can do our job the right way.”

The first day of training covered the basics of public affairs and writing press releases. The second and third days went into more advanced topics, including communicating during a crisis and interacting with the media. The class ended with lessons in photography and writing captions.

The training was the product of weeks of planning by the Division Tactical Operations Center in Diwaniyah. Lt. Col. Christopher Howard, the MeOC Deputy Team Chief, was one of the officers who assisted in setting the training up.

“I was really happy with the response of [Staff Lt. Gen.] Uthman and his staff to get the battalions to attend,” said Howard, a Charlotte, N.C., native. “There have been issues between the agencies, but it got done.”

“It’s a fledgling section, and they understand the value (public affairs) sections can have on that message,” Howard said. “They are learning that they can influence that message.” ■

(Top) Spc. Mark Cohen, a linguist with the 1st Infantry Division, instructs a class. (Middle) Lt. Col. Thamer Kadhem, the public affairs director for the 31st Iraqi Army Brigade, asks a question about crisis communication. (Bottom) Iraqi public information officers sit in class at the Mid-Euphrates Operations Command in Diwaniyah Nov. 10. The classes were to help the IA relate with the media.

Big guns thunder during Kuwait training

By Spc. Khori D. Johnson
3rd AAB, 4th Inf. Div., PAO

CAMP BUEHRING, Kuwait – The 3rd Advise and Assist Brigade, 4th Infantry Division deployed to southern Iraq, is revisiting its old stomping grounds: the gunnery range near Camp Buehring, Kuwait.

The training enables the brigade to maintain its combat capability on two of their main weapons systems while continuing the advise and assist mission in Iraq, a role that does not allow the brigade's Soldiers to work or train with their large weapons.

During the gunnery rotation, which began in September and will continue until December, Soldiers from all six battalions will cycle through the week-long iterations, which alternate between M-2 Bradley infantry fighting vehicle and M-1 Abrams tank gunnery. Each gunnery rotation begins with re-familiarization,

followed by the two-day gunnery.

“Our main objective was to first get the new crews familiarized with the Bradley gun system,” said Sgt. 1st Class James Glenn, the gunnery range noncommissioned officer-in-charge from Redding, Calif., assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 3rd Special Troops Battalion, 3rd AAB, 4th Inf. Div.

Each three-man Bradley crew or four-man Abrams crew tests its skills in a series of offensive and defensive engagement scenarios a minimum of three times without ammunition before progressing to the live-fire exercises.

The range cadre encourages Soldiers to conduct the training meticulously and efficiently to gain as much knowledge as possible.

“Some Soldiers have had the opportunity to be part of a mechanized unit, so they've been around the Bradley for a good part of their career, but we also have some Soldiers who are coming from

units like the 82nd Airborne or the 101st who have always been on the ground and have never been able to be a part of the Bradley system,” Glenn said.

In addition to Soldiers transferring from non-mechanized units, there were some Soldiers that hadn't received any Bradley or tank training since they left advanced individual training.

“This is my first time driving a Bradley since getting to the unit,” said Pfc. John Biven, a driver and scout with Troop A, 4th Squadron, 10th Cavalry Regiment, 3rd AAB, 4th Inf. Div. from Kansas City, Mo. “I learned a lot about driving a Bradley that I wasn't taught in AIT. It was good training.”

For many of the more experienced Soldiers, this training provides an important refresher.

“With the missions that we had going on for the past seven or so years, we have

See **GUNNERY**, page 10



A Bradley rolls through the range during the 3rd AAB, 4th Inf. Div. gunnery training at Camp Buehring, Kuwait.

Photo by Spc. Khori Johnson

Home-Grown Army Musicians rock the house

By Staff Sgt. Cody Harding
1st Inf. Div., USD-S PAO

BASRA, Iraq – Boudreaux plucks a few strings on an acoustic guitar and the crowd inside Echoes turns silent. He's been at it for over 18 years since he began in Germany, and his experience shows in the notes as they ring around the room.

His partner, the Barn Rat, belts out a tune to match. He's grown up with it, learning from his older brothers and carrying the skill with him throughout his Army career.

Though it may seem like a scene from a southern blues house, the crowd couldn't be any different as Sgt. Maj. Buddy Wells and Chief Warrant Officer Joe Walsh put on a show for the troops in Basra, Nov. 5.

Wells, the Effects Section Sgt. Maj. for the 1st Infantry Division and United States Division – South, and Walsh, a key leader engagement technician with USD-S, have been playing music since the unit deployed to Iraq.

"We've been trying to play two or three nights a week, 10 minutes here, 20 minutes there, since we got here," said Wells, a Tahlequah, Ok. native. "Both of us played, we brought guitars with us, and we enjoy the same kind of music."

The concert was a collaborative effort between the Effects Cell and the 1st Infantry Division Band. Walsh took time to thank the band's executive and equipment managers, Staff Sgt. Mathew Williamson and Pvt. 1st Class Canaan Potter of the Effects Cell.

"I think it's important to support live music within the Big Red One," Walsh said. "Having the Big Red One Band here throughout the deployment has been a big morale booster, for me anyway. It's been enjoyable to see the Big Red One play, not just the orchestral band but also Controlled Detonation and Gunpowder and Lead. It's a great morale booster."

The two had played in venues around Manhattan, Kan. before the Big Red One deployed from Fort Riley. Since they have been in country, the desire to play in front of a crowd didn't stop.

"We were tired of playing for the same four walls," Wells said. "Maybe get a couple of folks to listen to us. Chief Walsh just went down to Echoes and asked them if they'd mind if we played one evening, and that's how it kind of happened."

Even before the show, there was no lack of confidence for the two musicians.

"I was born ready," Walsh said.

"We're gonna be fine," said Wells. "We're gonna have a good time." ■



Photo by Staff Sgt. Cody Harding



Photo by Staff Sgt. Cody Harding

CLEAN, from front page

on Iraq, we want to ensure all government resources in theater are accounted for and redistributed to units needing them or reentered in the supply system to ensure the taxpayer dollars are well-spent.”

The division has a larger footprint in Victory Sweep, but for the mission in November, she estimated about \$300,000 in excess property will be recovered, adding to the millions of dollars already saved during previous operations.

“In April, we drew excess property

from the entire base and processed several containers full to the brim of (vehicle equipment), ranging from nuts and bolts to axles for tactical vehicles, including a few engines,” So said. “It returned more than five million dollars ... to the supply system.”

“Combined with the September mission, we reentered assets valued in the neighborhood of \$7.5 million,” So said.

The impact was almost immediately apparent after Victory Sweep began on Nov. 1.

“In less than a week, the team was able to clear 45 containers and reintegrated nearly

\$200,000 worth of supplies,” Shaffer said.

Items not needed on ground will be shipped to warehouses, which may be used to fill requisitions in other parts of Iraq or Afghanistan.

Items not serviceable will go for repairs or into the Defense Reutilization and Marketing Office (DRMO) to be stripped down to their components in order to get the most value out of them.

Behind the scenes, Victory Sweep requires multiple entities to work together. So said that’s a challenge, but not an insurmountable one.

“It is really labor-intensive, a detailed process; it takes manpower to properly and accurately account for these items,” So said. “It was a very massive effort on the part of the mobile redistribution teams and all the individuals in the battalion who were involved.”

“We came together as a team and just did it.”

The missions are unit driven and each unit needs to evaluate their inventory for the upcoming missions to expedite the process.

Another aspect of Victory Sweep is to prepare all the bases in USD-S for its eventual closure and transfer to the Government of Iraq, which is just as important as collecting excess property.

“We have teams of subject matter experts ... scheduled for site visits,” So said, “so we can responsibly make our exit from this country, absolutely in direct support of Operation New Dawn.” ■



Photo by Sgt. Raymond Quintanilla

Sgt. 1st Class Larry Walker, a native of Palm Harbor, Fla., and the NCOIC of the MRTs for Operation Clean Sweep with 319th Trans. Co., inspects excess supplies with Chief Petty Officer David Rabon, a New York native serving with Riverine Squadron 1 in Basra, Nov. 4.



Photo by Sgt. Raymond Quintanilla

Heavy machinery is used to move the larger pieces of equipment and supplies in Basra, Iraq during Operation Clean Sweep, Nov. 4.



Photo by Spc. Khorri Johnson

Sgt. 1st Class James Glenn, range NCOIC with HHC, 3rd STB, 3rd AAB, 4th Inf. Div. from Redding, Calif., assists Spc. Wannie Olvera, an Austin, Texas, native with Troop D, 1st Bn., 8th Inf. Regt., 3rd AAB, 4th Inf. Div., in properly clearing the ammunition feeder, in a Bradley after Olvera's crew finished their night run of the gunnery training at Camp Buehring, Kuwait, Oct. 20. The 3rd AAB is conducting gunnery training through early December.

GUNNERY, from page 7

guys that don't get to spend that much time on the Bradley," Glenn said. "So those Soldiers are just shaking off the rust."

Even some of the experienced NCOs learned new skills.

"This was more of a refresher for me, but I also got a chance to work with the new computer systems in the Bradleys," said Staff Sgt. Thomas Leyva, a Bradley commander and scout with Troop A, 4th Sqdn., 10th Cav. Regt. from Piscataway, N.J. "The new system is more complex. For instance, while my gunner is engaging a target on his screen, I can be looking at a different target on my screen."

To date, the rotations have gone smoothly due to the range team's emphasis on safety.

"A big thing for us out here is weapons orientation," Glenn said, meaning weapons were always pointed in the proper direction. "Also, we make sure everyone is wearing the proper head gear, and when on top of the vehicles, we make sure that our Soldiers are using three points of contact."

During each iteration, the range team ensures every training task can be completed to standard within the allotted time. This is no small feat in a foreign training area with a mixed group of Soldiers from all six battalions. Still, the master gunners who run the range have cracked the code.

"We've kind of fell into a good rhythm with running the range," Glenn said. "Every person on the range detail has specific things that are their responsibility. That way, we get our ammunition drawn by a certain time, we get our vehicles fueled by a certain time, we have chow at a certain time, and we have everything to a set schedule." ■

Vehicle Armaments

Abrams Main Battle Tank:

- 120-mm main gun
- 7.62 mm M240C machine gun

Bradley Fighting Vehicle:

- 25-mm M242 Bushmaster cannon
- TOW II missile system
- 7.62 mm M240C machine gun

A year later, Army family finds strength in Fort Hood's darkest day

By Heather Graham-Ashley
Fort Hood Sentinel

The darkest day at this Central Texas installation, Nov. 5, 2009, was marked by the deaths of 12 Soldiers and one civilian, but also the heroic efforts of Soldiers, civilians and first responders who rushed in to help the dying and more than 30 wounded.

One year later, 52 of those who fought to save the wounded and stop the gunman were honored during an awards ceremony that included the unveiling of a granite monument in memory of the 13 lost in the shooting.

A year to the day that is "forever etched in the consciousness of Fort Hood and the Army," Fort Hood Senior Commander, Maj. Gen. Will Grimsley focused on the well-trained and disciplined patriots – Soldiers and civilians – and took time to recognize them.

There were the police officers who ran in to stop the gunman and contain the chaos, and firefighters, emergency medical technicians, doctors and nurses who provided aid to the wounded Soldiers and civilians delivered what comfort and treatment they could.

"Their actions inspire awe," Grimsley said.

On that day, active-duty or reserve component, Soldier or civilian, medical professional or not; neither job descriptions nor status mattered. Those inside and around the medical building of the Soldier Readiness Processing Center complex showed the meaning of Army family.

"We gather today as we did then – as a family," Secretary of the Army John McHugh said during his remarks. "We remain today stronger as one. Today is a firm renewal of that bond."

As the awards were announced and delivered, stories of heroism one year ago were fresh in the collective memory of the crowd.

Combat medic Staff Sgt. Zackary Filip was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal for his actions in providing medical aid and treatment to those wounded during the shooting. Filip also was named the Army Times 2010 Soldier of the Year earlier this year for his actions on Nov. 5, 2009.

At the awards ceremony, Filip said it was "awesome" to be recognized, but the most rewarding part was "seeing some of the people I worked on and meeting the families of those I provided aid to."

Filip was at the SRP site one year ago to take care of his overdue post-deployment checks and paperwork. When the gunshots rang out, Filip ran toward the shooting and began treating the injured.

One year removed from the event, Filip said meeting families and talking to those he helped was bigger than any medal that could be pinned on his chest.

"Today was very healing for me, as well," he said. "I cried more today than I have in a year."

At the ceremony, Filip met the family of Capt. John Gaffaney, a member of the 467th Combat Stress Control Detachment, Army Reserve. Gaffaney died from his wounds on Nov. 5, and refused medical treatment when Filip tried to render aid. Gaffaney's wife, Christine hugged and thanked Filip.

Gaffaney was posthumously awarded the Soldier's Medal during the ceremony for his actions that day. The Army Reservist was fatally shot after he threw a chair at the gunman. The award was accepted by his wife.

Gaffaney's was one of 10 Soldier's Medals awarded that day.

Sergeant 1st Class Maria Guerra was another one who was recognized. Guerra, the noncommissioned officer-in-charge of the SRP building at the time, took charge of the situation and barricaded the doors to prevent the gunman from re-entering the building.

"NCO mode kicked in right away," Guerra said. "The first thing I thought about was my Soldiers."

Her training kicked in immediately as Guerra began ordering others to provide aid to the wounded and helping those who could be helped.

"Getting people out was the only thing I was thinking about," she said. "Telling people to move on was hard on me ... it still is."

The two police officers credited with ending the gunfire also were honored that day.

McHugh presented officers Mark Todd and Kimberly Munley the Secretary of the Army Award for Valor.



Photo by Spc. Alisha Hauk

Secretary of the Army, the Honorable John McHugh; Army Chief of Staff, Gen. George W. Casey Jr.; Gen. James Thurman, commanding general, Forces Command and others bow their heads in prayer Nov. 5, during the invocation by Chaplain (Maj. Gen.) Douglas Carver, Army Chief of Chaplains, during an awards ceremony and memorial stone unveiling at Fort Hood. Fifty-two Soldiers and civilians were honored for their efforts to aid the wounded.

Todd said the award and recognition were bittersweet. He said he thinks about the families constantly.

"My life day-to-day is still the same, but the lives of 13 others are not," Todd said. "It feels a little awkward."

Following the award presentations, a granite monument in tribute to the 13 killed Nov. 5, 2009 was unveiled. The monument was donated by the Association of the United States Army Central Texas – Fort Hood Chapter. Marty Smith, Central Texas – Fort Hood AUSA chapter president, joined Grimsley to unveil the granite stone.

"We dedicate this monument to stand forever as a tribute," Smith said. "They will always be in our hearts."

Etched with the inscription, "Death leaves a heartache no one can heal, Love leaves a memory no one can steal," and the 13 names and units of those lost, the granite memorial rests in Memorial Park as a lasting reminder of all their sacrifices that day. ■



Photo by Master Sgt. Matthew Howard

Col. Eric Walsh and Command Sgt. Maj. John Jones of the 1st Advise and Assist Task Force, 1st Infantry Division, uncasing their brigade colors at a transfer of authority ceremony with the 1st Advise and Assist Task Force, 1st Armored Division at Contingency Operating Site Warrior, Nov. 7.

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.

got bro?
Big Red One

<http://www.facebook.com/1stInfantryDivision>



Basra Betty says...



Dear "Fan,"

Dear Betty,

I've enjoyed reading your column in the 'Danger Forward' every week. Now that the Big Red One is getting ready to leave Iraq, are you redeploying with us?

Signed,

Betty Fan

Oh, wouldn't you like to know! I must admit, I have some of the sneakiest fans around, who are always trying find out who I am through the use of interrogative skills worthy of CSI or Sherlock Holmes himself. One of my fans last week even asked me if I was a robot. Now if I answer that, you are all going to know where I go to recharge and see if my plug is 110 or 220v's to figure out another piece to this super secret puzzle!

Honestly though, as much as I'd like to return, Basra Betty must stay in Basra. I mean, I'm not Big Red One Betty after all. I suppose I could be thrown into someone's luggage, but I've seen how baggage is handled en route to the States. I wouldn't like to be tossed around like clothes in a dryer for a week while in transit to the good ol' U-S-of-A.

For those of you who just don't know what you're going to do without Betty, don't fret. There has been mention of trying to recruit a "Riley Rita" or someone of that nature, so who knows? You may have another "interesting" soul to entertain or annoy you, depending on your views, but alas, it will not be me.

Anywho, I must say I am particularly flattered that you enjoy my column.

For those of you desperate to relive the glory days, all the Basra Betty's are floating around on the mysterious interwebs for your perusal, so don't be a stranger!

Until next time,

-Betty

Rock and Roll Trivia

Sure, the stereotypical Native American music involves drums and chanting, but a lot of rock stars are of Native American descent, and a lot of rock songs are dedicated to Native Americans. As we celebrate Native American Heritage Month, see if you can answer these questions .

1) This Canadian guitarist/singer/songwriter was the front-man for The Band and had a solo hit with "Somewhere Down the Crazy River." He is also half Mohawk Indian from his mother's side. Who is he?

2) What ex-wife of Sonny Bono had a solo hit with the song "Half-Breed"? (Although she didn't write the song, she is part Cherokee.)

3) No members of the British metal band Iron Maiden were actually Native Americans, but one of their most well known tunes is what song about the plight of Native Americans during the United States' westward expansion?

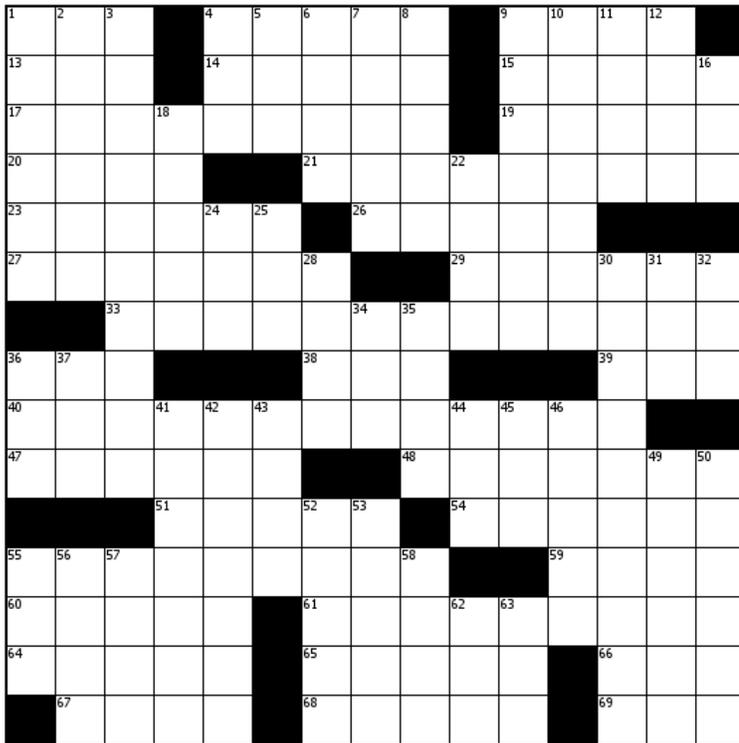
4) Which member of Aerosmith is part Cherokee?

5) The mother of Anna Mae Bullock from Nutbush, Tenn., was of Navajo and Cherokee heritage. Who is Anna Mae Bullock better known as?

Super Difficult Bonus Question) What Kiowa bluesman first received national recognition as Taj Mahal's guitarist and went on to be a highly regarded session musician before his untimely death in 1988.

Answers to this week's trivia:

(1) Robbie Robertson (2) Cher (3) "Run to the Hills" (4) Steven Tyler (5) Tina Turner (SDBQ) Jesse Ed Davis



Across

- 1. What some older golfers use as a scoring goal
- 4. Dessert at the drive-thru
- 9. Do a Chicken Dance move
- 13. "Friends" costar
- 14. Polytheist of sorts
- 15. Got fired up
- 17. Show whose original theme song was done by Bill Haley and His Comets
- 19. Campfire bit
- 20. "___, Sing America" (Langston Hughes poem)
- 21. Cartoon show whose theme song is done by Les Claypool of Primus
- 23. Cell with an axon
- 26. Black Panther Party co-founder Bobby
- 27. Beginnings
- 29. Type of popcorn
- 33. The Presidents of the United States of America sang its theme (with "The")
- 36. News agcy.
- 38. Far less than quadri-
- 39. Linguist's suffix
- 40. Show whose theme was written and performed by Quincy Jones
- 47. "Hey, watch where you're going!" oaf
- 48. Feet-landing-first dives
- 51. Andorra neighbor
- 54. University in Philadelphia
- 55. With 61-across, show whose theme is sung by They Might Be Giants
- 59. End in ___
- 60. Diminutive form of word agricultural; another word for a farmer
- 61. See 55-across
- 64. Have a feeling
- 65. Sheltering sort
- 66. The Matterhorn, e.g.
- 67. Game with a "Livin' Large" expansion, with "The"
- 68. Borden bovine
- 69. Learned and smart, in rebus puzzles

Down

- 1. Like broken hearts
- 2. Popular facial hair
- 3. Bringing forth a statement
- 4. Bond, e.g.
- 5. Conned
- 6. "Jumpin' Jack Flash, it's ___."
- 7. Knocks out cold
- 8. Come after
- 9. KISS member Ace
- 10. Snail relatives
- 11. Jessica of "Fantastic Four"
- 12. Fair jury member
- 16. Dwight Gooden's nickname
- 18. One who reads thoroughly
- 22. Have
- 24. Sugary suffix
- 25. Word in four state names
- 28. Gulf War missile
- 30. Tomorrow
- 31. ___ Lobos
- 32. She puts the "she" in "sheep"
- 34. Santa ___ winds
- 35. It comes in a small box
- 36. Kind of computer port
- 37. With 62-down, long-bearded teacher in "Kill Bill: Vol. 2"
- 41. Extreme form of government
- 42. Takes the anti side
- 43. Flesh and blood
- 44. He gets a holiday in June
- 45. Title for the unknown
- 46. 2,004 years ago
- 49. Actor John C. ___ of "The Aviator"
- 50. Doc's mate
- 52. "___ One That I Want" (Margaret Cho album)
- 53. Nothing, in ancient Rome
- 55. Range components: abbr.
- 56. Bellicose god
- 57. "WKR P" alum Anderson
- 58. Beatty and Flanders, for two
- 62. See 37-down
- 63. Burning anger

Big Red One Puzzle of the Week



Hint: Staying there was once 'torturous'

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

Solution for last week: Fox news

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

Sudoku

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

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

www.puzzles.ca/sudoku_puzzles/