



DANGER FORWARD



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By Staff Sgt. Nathaniel Smith
1st Inf. Div., USD-S PAO

BASRA, Iraq – The 36th Infantry Division’s “torch party” recently arrived in Basra, signaling the beginning stages of that unit’s deployment and the beginning of the end of the 1st Infantry Division’s deployment.

A torch party is the initial group of deployers from a unit that arrive early to set conditions for the arrival of the rest of the unit.

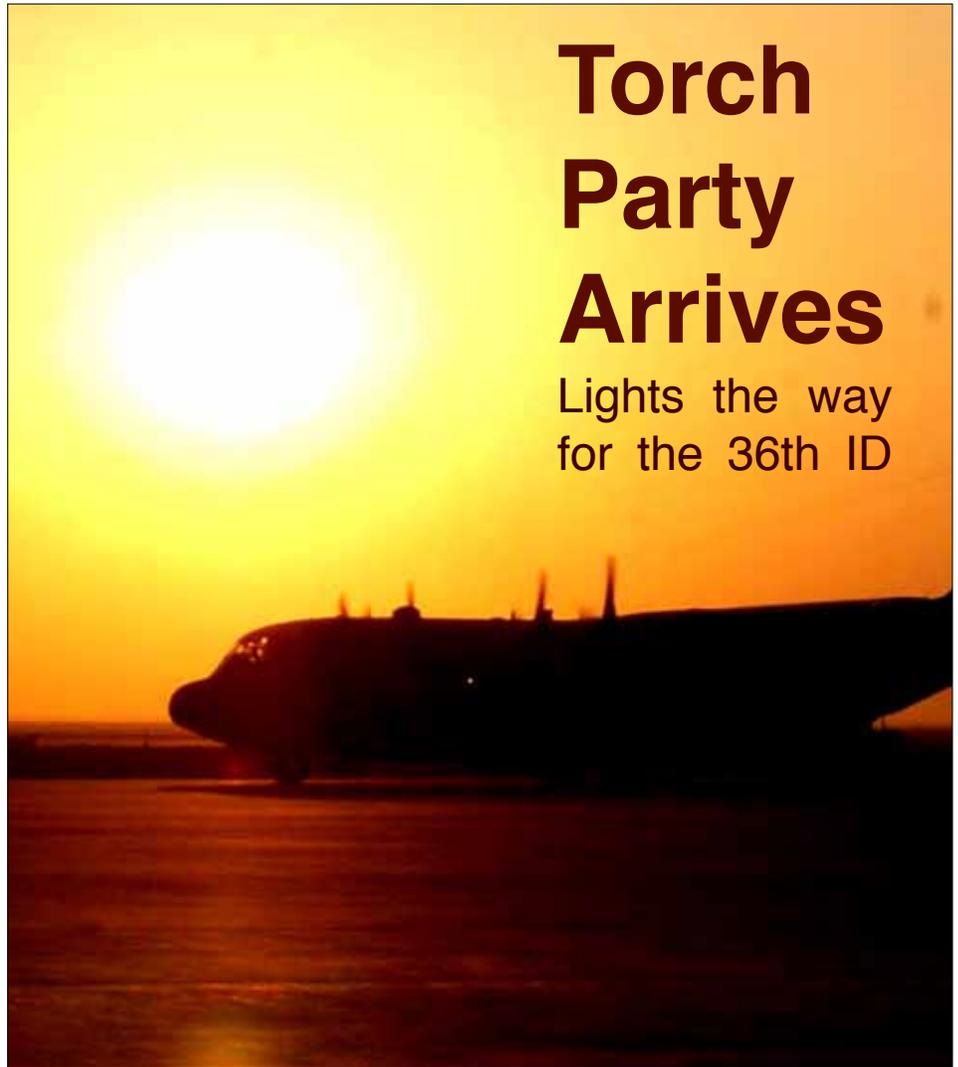
Master Sgt. Sophia Hart, the senior network plans noncommissioned officer for Division Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion, 1st Inf. Div., said she is focused on creating as smooth of a transition as possible for her counterpart.

“Not only will they fall into our battle rhythm, but they’ll also incorporate their own,” the Sacramento, Calif., native said. “We’re making sure they merge the two successfully so it’s seamless to those subordinate units.”

Hart said part of a seamless transition is showing her replacement, Master Sgt. Russell Bunger from Pearland, Texas, where to find relevant historical documents and how to interact with his counterparts at United States Forces-Iraq.

Bunger, who deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2005, said his mindset coming into this deployment is different from before.

See *TORCH*, page 10



Torch Party Arrives

Lights the way for the 36th ID

Photo by Staff Sgt. Nathaniel Smith

A United States Air Force C-130 Hercules taxis down the runway at Basra International Airport Nov. 21. The C-130 was carrying the torch party of the 36th Infantry Division, which is relieving the 1st Infantry Division as the United States Division-South headquarters.



MG Cannon visits Basra - p. 4



Rise of the Machines - p. 6



'Purrfect Angelz' - p. 9

Iraqi Security Forces Enable Progress, General Says

By Jim Garamone

Office of the Secretary of Defense PAO

BAGHDAD - Iraqi security forces are enabling progress in the country, a senior U.S. military officer in Iraq said Dec. 13.

Army Lt. Gen. Robert Cone, deputy commander for operations at U.S. Forces-Iraq, noted that things have changed in 2010.

"In 2009, we had somewhere over 100,000 U.S. forces working shoulder to shoulder to maintain security with the Iraqi security forces," Cone said. "Since the U.S. forces started the drawdown, the Iraqis have [the security lead]."

This year saw a 20 percent reduction in violence from 2009, the general said. The year saw the end of Operation Iraqi Freedom - the U.S. combat operation - and the beginning of Operation New Dawn, the current "advise and assist" operation. About 48,000 American service members remain in Iraq, with the majority involved in training Iraqi forces as the Iraqis themselves are responsible for security.

"This role of advise, train and assist is legitimate," Cone said. "It is really rare, and only in cases of self-defense, that U.S. forces are directly involved in combat operations."

U.S. forces do provide enablers for the Iraqi forces, and American units provide logistics and maintenance, surveillance support, some communications and intelligence support. But even in these areas, Cone said, the Americans are teaching the Iraqis how to develop and sustain the capabilities.

"On a day-to-day basis, it is the Iraqis who maintain the level of security we see today," he said.

The general said today's average of 15 attacks per day across Iraq is comparable

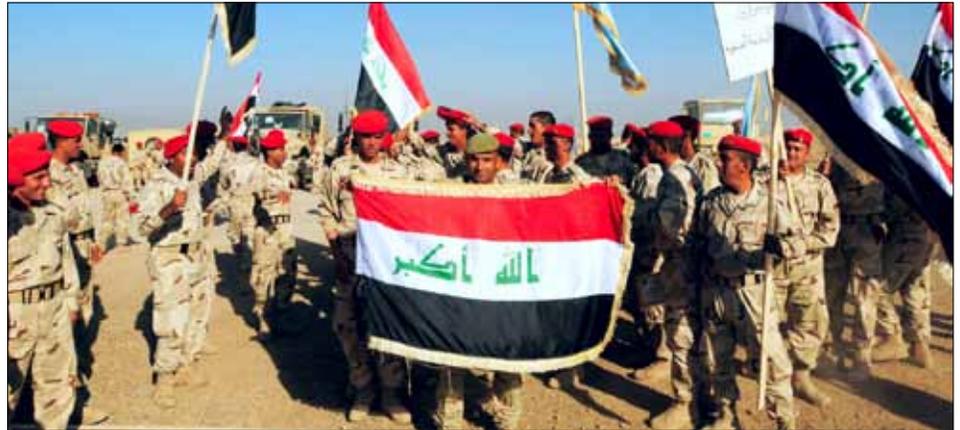


Photo by Sgt. Chad Menegay

Iraqi Army soldiers celebrate after a joint basic combat training graduation ceremony for the Iraq Engineering School, Bomb Disposal School and Field Engineering Regiment at Camp Taji. The Iraqi security forces continue to improve as they prepare to take full responsibility for securing their nation.

to pre-Iraqi Freedom days. "Where the Iraqis are making some headway in the recent months is in their actions to pursue counterterrorism," he said, noting that the Iraqis are stopping attacks before they are launched.

Intelligence reports indicated that terrorist groups wanted to launch as many as 15 car-bomb attacks on Dec. 4, Cone said. Iraqi security forces did some major raids prior to that day and "rolled up a bunch of folks, and what you saw was only three such attacks," he added.

"That's still bad - they still killed people and it is tragic," he said. "But the Iraqis proved they are capable now of really diminishing these attacks in an impressive way."

Al-Qaida in Iraq has been remarkably resilient over time, Cone said. "Any time we do not maintain pressure against them, you will find their capability regenerates," he said.

Recent al-Qaida attacks have been effective, he acknowledged, but less so

than in the past. In addition to having to weather attacks, the group is plagued with financial woes and struggling to get foreign fighters in, Cone said. And they are unable to recruit among Iraqis, he added.

"The number of foreign fighters coming in is less than 10 a month," he said, "but the Iraqis have made some inroads in addressing this flow."

What remains of al-Qaida in Iraq is a loosely coupled network that has sufficient communications to conduct lethal attacks, the general said, "but nowhere near what we've seen in the past."

With all American forces scheduled to be out of Iraq by the end of next year, Cone said, the legacy of American forces for Iraqi security forces is the idea of civilian control of the military.

"Where we are today in Iraq has been paid for in blood and in the riches of the American taxpayer," Cone continued. "Being at the level of violence we are today is an accomplishment that the U.S. and Iraqi forces share." ■

Commanding General



Major General
Vincent K. Brooks

Command Sergeant Major



Command Sergeant Major
Jim Champagne

DANGER FORWARD

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- 3rd AAB, 4th Inf. Div.
- 305th MPAD



WINTER DRIVING

By Joe Zelko
USD-S Safety

The Big Red One is heading back home to Fort Riley and what a great opportunity to get behind the wheel to visit family and friends or drive back to work. Back home, this time of the year means winter is upon us and, depending on your location, you are going to encounter various weather conditions. Soldiers and civilians must be prepared to drive in all types of conditions, including snow, ice or fog. Soldiers and civilians facing these challenges must have the facts and skills necessary to complete their missions safely and successfully.

Snow

Snow forms when water vapor in the air freezes and creates small ice crystals. Some common hazards associated with driving in snow include reduced visibility and traction, reduced directional control and increased braking distance. When snow melts and refreezes, however, drivers encounter even more hazardous road conditions. Intersections, high-traffic area and shady spots exposed to direct sunlight earlier in the day are all prone to ice over from melted snow. During snowy conditions,

drivers must reduce their speed, brake moderately, make turns slowly and increase the following distance between vehicles.

Ice

Another dangerous condition associated with winter weather is windshield icing. Windshields and other glass surfaces can ice over when the temperature is low enough to freeze moisture on ground surfaces. Conditions are ripe for windshield icing any time there's visible ground haze. All ice must be removed from the vehicle's windshield and other windows before operations begin. Preventive Maintenance Checks and Services should be performed on each vehicle to ensure the defroster and heater system are functioning properly. It's a good idea to keep an ice scraper in each vehicle just in case the defroster stops working.

Black ice—a thin sheet of ice on a dark roadway—is extremely dangerous because it's hard for drivers to detect before they're actually on it. Black ice forms when light rain or drizzle falls on a road surface below 32 degrees Fahrenheit or when super-cooled fog droplets accumulate on bridges and overpasses. A roadway covered with black ice appears wet when the ambient

See *WINTER*, page 10

THIS WEEK IN ARMY HISTORY...



1st Infantry Division History

December 13, 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

December 15, 2005 – The world watches anxiously as Iraq holds parliamentary elections to elect their first permanent government since the fall of Saddam Hussein. The largely peaceful event would see the beginning of the formation of Iraq's government.



4th Infantry Division History

December 13, 2003 – At 20:30 hours, local time, Soldiers with the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division found and captured Saddam Hussein, the deposed ruler of Iraq.



Photo by Sgt. Raymond Quintanilla

Soldiers engage with Cannon

Maj. Gen. Cannon visits Basra, recognizes contributions of fellow Soldiers

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

BASRA, Iraq – Despite a full agenda, a senior general from United States Forces-Iraq, took time to recognize fellow National Guard Soldiers during his visit to Basra

Maj. Gen. Nelson J. Cannon, USF-I's Deputy Commanding General of Detainee Operations and 32-year veteran of the Michigan National Guard, presented coins of excellence as tokens of his appreciation to Soldiers from the 1-147th Aviation Helicopter Battalion, a National Guard unit comprised of Soldiers from Michigan and Wisconsin. The battalion is deployed to Basra in support of the 1st Infantry Division and U.S. Division-South.

"It's hard to get around as you well know, to see everybody on a regular basis," said Cannon, "but I did want to make a point to get down here and let you know you have done a great job for us down here. You have done an outstanding job."

1st Sgt. Steward Wenino, from Port Huron, Mich., and the 1-147th AHB, said it boosted the morale of those recognized.

"For our maintenance guys, they don't get to see the higher ranking people,"

Wenino said. "They're the back of the mission nobody sees. It was very beneficial for our Delta Company to be recognized by a major general, to see the support

aspect and receive some recognition."

Staff Sgt. Jay Anderson, a patrol and supply specialist with the 1-147th AHB, said he was surprised and enjoyed the special lunch scheduled in just for them.

"It definitely feels nice to see the general take a little time from his busy schedule," said Anderson, a native of Waukesha, Wisc. "It feels great you are being noticed, that someone is actually paying attention to the hard work everybody puts in."

With the mission still in mind, Cannon expressed the importance of the 1st Infantry Division's continuing support and the challenges the 1-147th AHB faces with the downsizing of troops and new mission of Operation New Dawn.

"It's not a matter of how much time we have left," Cannon said, "but it is each and every day of making every engagement count, (ensuring) every effort serves the purpose we are trying to achieve."

Cannon said with downsizing expected to continue, Soldiers such as the 1st Inf. Div. and 1-147th AHB, are the right troops to get the job done in Iraq.

"You are part of the right 50,000," Cannon said. "The right 'can do' attitude to go out and make things happen, get it done when everybody else thinks this is going to be too hard."

The general said he felt with all the time the U.S. spent in Iraq, preparing the new democratic government for success is the most critical, and those involved are

sharing a common bond in making history.

"To have planted that seed (democracy) in this part of the world is huge and that's the destiny of the United States," Cannon said. "We want to see democracy in the world and democracies aren't easy to manage, but it's the right thing to do."

"And you are all a part of that, you all help make history, especially here as we get to the end. This is where we have to close the deal, finish strong."

This is Cannon's third deployment since the beginning of the Global War on Terror. Previously, he served as the commander of the Joint Detention Operation Group at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, and the Director General of the Civilian Police Assistance Training Team in Iraq. Before his current tour as USF-I's Deputy Commanding General for Detainee Operations, he was commander of the Michigan Army National Guard's 46th Military Police Command.

"I'm very thankful to have had the opportunity to be here and to serve with great people like yourselves," said Cannon. "We don't say it often enough, but thank you for stepping up and answering your nation's call, coming into harm's way, setting your personal, professional, and family lives aside and coming here, doing these great things."

"From the bottom of my heart, I just want to say thank you to each and everyone." ■

Signal Soldiers continue education 7000 miles from home

By 2nd Lt. Jason Floyd
3rd STB, 3rd AAB, 4th Inf. Div.

CAMP ADDER, Iraq – Two Soldiers from Company B, 3rd Special Troops Battalion, 3rd Advise and Assist Brigade, 4th Infantry Division, graduated from a week-long class on how to operate a piece of communications equipment known as the Very Small Aperture Terminal.

The VSAT is widely used in both Iraq and Afghanistan at the battalion level and below to provide communications for units in remote locations where traditional communications systems are less reliable.

Spc. Cyle Fangmeier, of Aurora, Colo., and Pfc. Kenny Stacey, of Jacksonville, N.C., both signal specialists, attended the VSAT class at Baghdad Signal University.

“This type of training ensures our Signal Soldiers remain current with advances in technology, advances them with their military careers, and gives them tools to use once they leave the military,” said Capt. Nicole Mounts, of Midlothian, Texas, commander, Company B.

The VSAT is portable, easy to set-up, and provides sound communications. Having trained Soldiers to operate it is proving to be more essential because the VSAT can be easily transported to remote locations where most communication devices fail.

“The VSAT class at Baghdad Signal University taught me how to set up, operate, and troubleshoot the terminal. I am very grateful that I was able to attend the class to help make me a better Soldier,” said Stacey.

Fangmeier was chosen because he often works outside his military occupation skill and is often the go-to Soldier for challenging tasks.

“Baghdad Signal University was a great opportunity for hands on training for the VSAT. It provided adequate operator-level knowledge to be able to successfully deploy and troubleshoot the

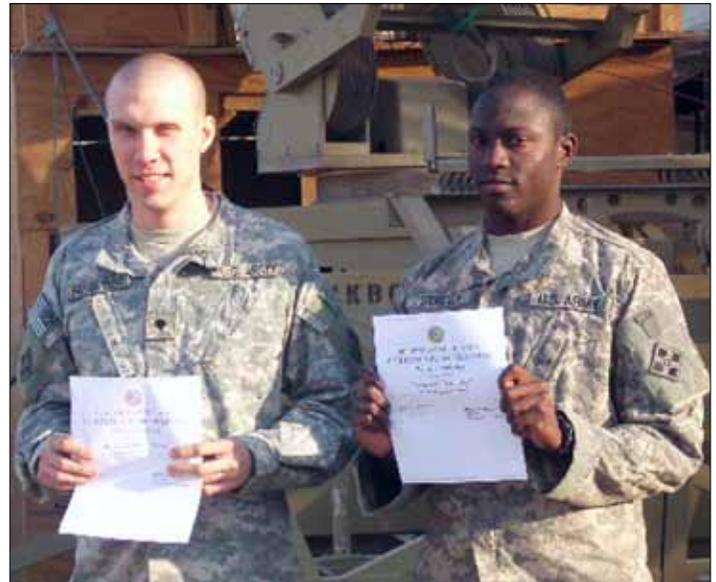


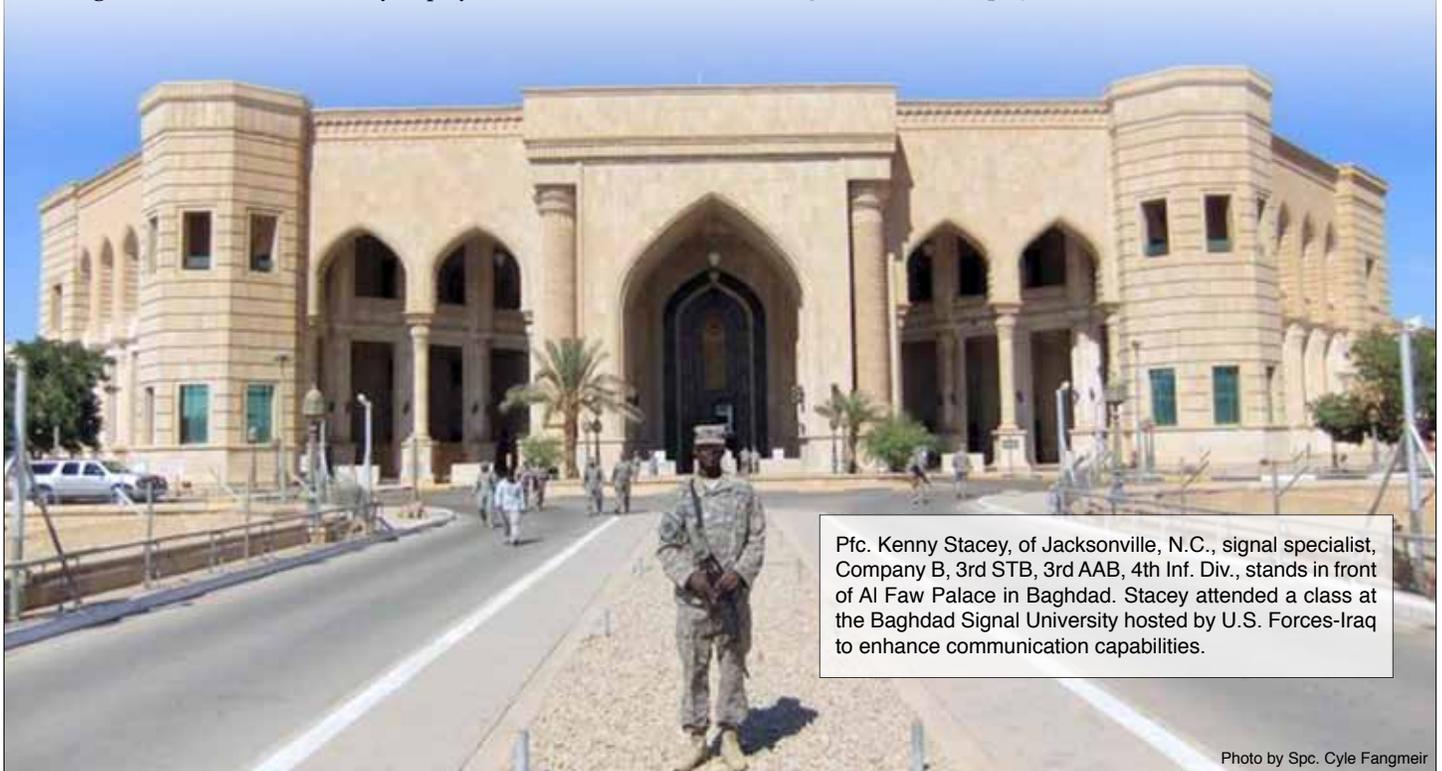
Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Laritza Gardiner

Spc. Cyle Fangmeier, of Aurora, Colo., and Pfc. Class Kenny Stacey, of Jacksonville, N.C., both signal specialists, Company B, 3rd STB, 3rd AAB, 4th Inf. Div., Display their certificates of completion after graduating from Baghdad Signal University upon their return to COB Adder. The Signal University is hosted by U.S. Forces-Iraq to enhance communication capabilities.

terminal,” said Fangmeier.

The Signal University also teaches communications security, basic networking, and advanced networking. These classes are intended to improve the Signal Soldiers’ understanding of Signal theory and enhance the unit’s ability to communicate on the battlefield.

“This is a very unique and beneficial opportunity, and I am very fortunate to be able to send Company B Soldiers to this advanced training while we are deployed,” said Mounts. ■



Pfc. Kenny Stacey, of Jacksonville, N.C., signal specialist, Company B, 3rd STB, 3rd AAB, 4th Inf. Div., stands in front of Al Faw Palace in Baghdad. Stacey attended a class at the Baghdad Signal University hosted by U.S. Forces-Iraq to enhance communication capabilities.

Photo by Spc. Cyle Fangmeier

Rise of the Machines

The hovering, robotic eye unblinkingly surveys everything and goes where its human controllers cannot

By 2nd Lt. Matthew Fumagalli
1st Bn., 68th Armor Reg., 3rd AAB, 4th Inf. Div.

BASRA PROVINCE, Iraq – Thanks to improving technology, the Soldiers of 1st Platoon, Company E, 1st Battalion, 68th Armor Regiment, 3rd Advise and Assist Brigade, 4th Infantry Division, have made improvements in route clearance in Basra.

The Soldiers in 1st Platoon are taking advantage of relatively new technology, such as the RQ-16A Tarantula Hawk unmanned aerial vehicle.

The T-Hawk has the ability to launch remotely from the back of a truck, with Soldiers only having to dismount from their vehicle for a few minutes. The T-Hawk gives the platoon the ability to observe surrounding areas and parallel routes, and provides a bird's-eye-view of the convoy while it's on the move.

“The T-Hawk is very easy to fly and is extremely stable in the air,” said Spc. Nicholas Boxley, combat engineer and T-Hawk pilot from Norfolk, Va.

Unlike some other models of UAVs, the T-Hawk can take off and land vertically, which makes it useful in areas with obstructions like buildings or mountains where other UAVs cannot operate. The ability to land vertically also allows the operators to land the T-Hawk within 15 feet of their location, limiting their exposure while on patrol.

When using the T-Hawk, the platoon is able to see a greater distance in any direction than before. This is a tremendous capability in the marshlands of Basra Province.

During the rainy months of winter, many areas will become impassible to military vehicles. The T-Hawk's ability to fly in nearly any weather will help ensure these areas remain free from insurgent activity.

Although the T-Hawk is relatively new, the engineers of Company E have learned how to put it to good use during their patrols. The T-Hawk allows them to sit far enough away that they can observe the area without being seen.

The buzzing in the sky also serves as a reminder that Company E is always watching. ■



Sgt. Brian Curd, of Woodstock, Ill., and Spc. Nicholas Boxley, of Norfolk, Va., both combat engineers, Company E, 1st Bn., 68th Armor Reg., 3rd AAB, 4th Inf. Div., prepare the RQ-16A Tarantula Hawk unmanned aerial vehicle. Although the T-Hawk requires a great deal of maintenance, the capabilities it provides are well worth the time spent.

S q u a r e d
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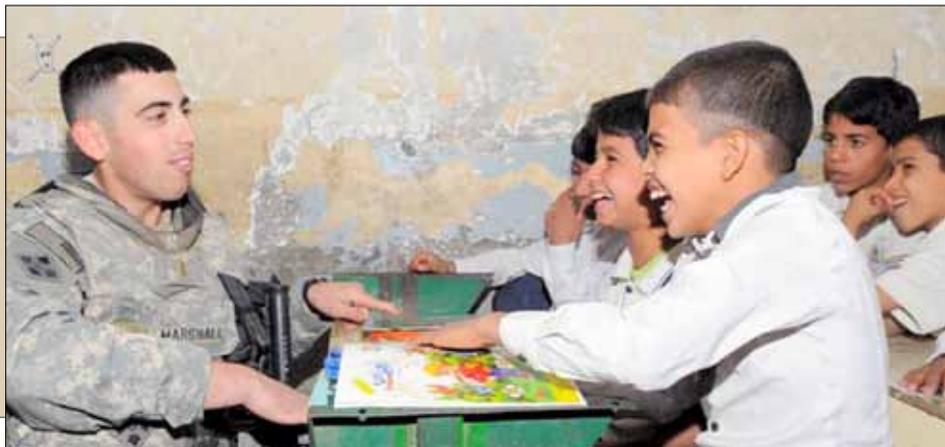


Photo by Sgt. Raymond Quintanilla

2nd Lt. Joseph Marshall, a native of Boyers, Pa. and a platoon leader with 1st Battalion, 68th Armored Regiment, 3rd Brigade, 4th Infantry Division, enjoys a moment of laughter with Iraqi children from Al Fatih Al Mubien Primary School in Al Zharnar District, Basra.

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

BASRA, Iraq – A special visit from the United States and Iraqi armies brought excitement to Iraqi children at one of Basra’s primary schools as part of the Army’s civic action development.

Maj. Kyle Upshaw, a native of Fort Lauderdale and the advisor to the Iraqi Army’s 14th Division, assigned to 1st Battalion, 68th Armored Regiment, 3rd Brigade, 4th Infantry Division, accompanied Iraqi Army Col. Mohammad Tahir, the civil military operations officer with the 14th IA Div., in delivering school supplies to the children of Al Fatih Al Mubien Primary School in Al Zharnar district, Basra.

“It’s a new type of mission,” Upshaw said. “The goal is to do the first two missions with the U.S. alongside the Iraqi army, with the third on their own.”

Upshaw said backpacks filled with school supplies were donated by the IA in an effort to establish rapport between them and the community.

“Our intent is to partner the Iraqi army with their local schools,” Upshaw said. “To place them in a good light, be a positive role model for the local children.

“We need to put a positive spin on the Iraqi army as a future profession,” said 2nd Lt. Joseph Marshall, a native of Boyers, Pa. and Baker Co., 2nd platoon leader.

“More than anything,” Upshaw said, “it’s an opportunity for the children to see their military’s ability to provide security for them, as well as some of their basic needs.”

“These missions demonstrate the new Iraqi army’s willingness and capabilities to assist them through food drops and school supplies,” Marshall said. “It increases

community support that will allow them to prosper in the future.”

Marshall said by delivering the school supplies, the mission also emphasizes the importance of education.

“I believe the mission helps Iraqi children,” Marshall said, “It illustrates the importance of an education and will be a huge piece of laying the foundation for a free Iraq that will last for generations to come.”

As some children lined up for backpacks handed out by Tahir, Iraqi soldiers distributed additional school supplies amongst the children.

For the Iraqi army, although they have done similar missions in the same district such as food drops, Tahir said the school was chosen because of its special conditions, with many of the children coming from low income households.

“We selected this school in the same area to help the children here,” Tahir said. “The school is very old and in need of repairs. Some students sit on the floor, because the lack of desks.”

Teachers attempted to maintain classroom discipline, but the students were overcome by excitement.

Although the mission was spearheaded by the IA, one American Soldier could not help but share a special moment with the anxious children and their new school supplies as he went from room to room.

Al Fatih Al Mubien Primary School currently has approximately 650 students from 6-to-12 years of age.

“These civic act exhibits the coming generation of Iraq,” Marshall said, “a positive memory of their new government and the U.S. forces, strengthening the future of our working relationship.” ■



Photo by Sgt. Raymond Quintanilla

Maj. Kyle Upshaw, a native of Fort Lauderdale and the advisor to the Iraqi army’s 14th Division, assigned to 1st Battalion, 68th Armored Regiment, 3rd Brigade, 4th Infantry Division, looks on as Iraqi army Col. Mohammad Tahir, the civil military operations officer with the 14th IA Div. pulls out school supplies from the backpack for the children of Al Fatih Al Mubien Primary School in Al Zharnar District, Basra Nov. 7. The civic action is a continuing effort in advising and assisting the IA establish community relationships with its people.

50,000

There are 50,000 troops from the U.S. currently deployed to Iraq. They all have a story to tell. This is one of them...



Photo by Sgt. James Kennedy Benjamin

Sgt. Maj. Marvin Parker, the senior noncommissioned officer of the 1st Infantry Division's sustainment section, has served almost three decades in the Army and said he's enjoyed it the whole time.

When Marvin Parker graduated high school in 1982, he wasn't sure what he wanted to do, but he knew he didn't want to go straight into college.

By Staff Sgt. Nathaniel Smith
1st Inf. Div., USD-S PAO

BASRA, Iraq – One day a few weeks after graduation, on a fateful trip through his hometown of Grenada, Miss., he spotted a good friend of his in an Army recruiting station. He went in to talk to his friend, and almost thirty years later, Parker, now a sergeant major, has been enjoying his military career ever since.

"I'm still having fun with it, I love being around Soldiers, just interacting with them, talking to them, laughing and joking with them," Parker said. "When I joined, my intent was to do three years and just to see how the Army was. I guess I was blessed. I went to Fort Hood, everything was clicking for me, and I had an excellent chain of command who took me under their wing. I was a private, and I had sergeants first class and master sergeants mentoring me. I thought, they taught me my job real well, I'm getting promoted; the Army seems like it's pretty easy."

So Parker, who has served as a unit supply specialist in Germany, Korea, Fort Hood and Fort Carson before coming to the 1st Infantry Division at Fort Riley as the sustainment sergeant major in 2008, has made a career for himself in the military.

Now, Parker advises junior Soldiers who are thinking about making the military a career to do what he did – just have fun with it.

"If you like it stay in; the military's not for everybody, but they give you so many opportunities. Enjoy it while you can," he said. "Don't do it for the money; when I was a private, my base pay was about \$500. It isn't the money. Do it because you enjoy it, learn your job to perfection and then just try to go on up the ranks."

After being in the Army for almost three decades, one may think Parker has already achieved everything he wants before retirement, but he's still bettering himself through higher education and is scheduled to graduate with a bachelor's degree in business management and business administration in May; Parker has been advising his Soldiers to further their education also.

"I have an old saying I use that I got from Muhammad Ali: 'Go to college and get the knowledge and stay there 'til you're through. If they can make penicillin out of moldy bread, they sure can make something out of you,'" he said. "I preach that all the time. When I was a first sergeant, at one time, I had everyone in my company enrolled in college courses, 100 percent, for about eight months."

Now, as Parker looks back on his military career and to the future, he finally does retire, it's going to be with a little bit of a heavy heart.

"My time is coming to a close. All that's left now is to mentor my supply personnel about doing the right thing. I'm really still enjoying this," he said. "It's going to be a sad day when I drop my retirement papers and actually take this uniform off for good." ■



Photo by Staff Sgt. Nathaniel Smith

Brig. Gen. Ricky Gibbs, United States Division-South deputy commanding general for maneuver, presents Spc. Jessica Jernigan, Gibbs' administrative assistant and a Hampton, Va., native, with a reenlistment coin after her ceremony on a UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter.

Flying high again: Soldier reenlists on helicopter over southern Iraq

By Staff Sgt. Nathaniel Smith
1st Inf. Div., USD-S PAO

BASRA, Iraq – A common trait among Soldiers is to aim for the sky in everything they do, and Spc. Jessica Jernigan took it to a whole new level recently.

Jernigan, the administrative assistant for Brig. Gen. Ricky Gibbs, United States Division-South's deputy commanding general for maneuver, reenlisted aboard a UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter in flight over southern Iraq Dec. 1.

The Hampton, Va., native, who has already served for three years, reenlisted for five more years and 12 months of stabilization at Fort Riley, Kan., upon redeployment.

Jernigan said her motivation for reenlisting was rooted in her Family. Her father, grandfather, uncle, three aunts, and one cousin all served in the U.S. Army.

"I wanted to continue the Family tradition as far as being in the Army," Jernigan said.

Gibbs, who recited the Oath of Enlistment to Jernigan, said he always relishes the opportunity to reenlist Soldiers.

"I enjoy doing these reenlistments; today's especially good because it's someone from my own team," Gibbs said. "We always say that there are three things that we get to do that are really fun. One of them is promote somebody, the other

one is reenlist somebody, and the third one is give somebody an award. Any time you can do any one of those three things, it's very rewarding."

Gibbs added that reenlistments mean a lot to him because his troops mean a lot to him.

"Our Soldiers are great. We couldn't do what we do without them; I couldn't do my job without them," Gibbs said. "They

do so much that makes me able to do my job without any headaches, especially this team. I've got a good team, I'm really proud of them, and I look forward to seeing them move up higher in the ranks."

After the ceremony, Jernigan expressed gratitude to her boss for inspiring her to continue her military service.

"Thank you, sir, for standing behind me, and molding me into who I want to be." ■



Photo by Staff Sgt. Nathaniel Smith

Spc. Jessica Jernigan, Brig. Gen. Ricky Gibbs' administrative assistant and a Hampton, Va., native, reenlists aboard a UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter in flight above southern Iraq. Jernigan, who has already served for three years, reenlisted for five more years and 12 months of stabilization at Fort Riley, Kan., upon redeployment.

'PURRFECT ANGELZ' VISIT BASRA

By Staff Sgt. Chanelcherie DeMello
305th MPAD, USD-S PAO

BASRA, Iraq – Dressed in tie-front blouses, mini shorts, cowboy hats and boots, five Purrfect Angelz danced their way up on stage while the audience welcomed them with cheers of excitement.

The girls, Amber, Camille, Dakota, Giselle, Lindsay and Paige from the Purrfect Angelz elite dance troupe performed at the U.S. Division-South Resiliency Campus for the Soldiers and civilians of Basra, Iraq.

“This is an amazing experience to be here performing for you,” said Gieselle a local of Orange County, Cali.

At one point during the show, Sgt. 1st Class Julio Torres, 1st Infantry Division, Division Headquarters, Headquarters Battalion was brought up on stage and experienced a one-on-one dance performance by Lindsay as she sang to him “The Way You Make Me Feel” by Michael Jackson.

“The show was awesome,” said Sgt. Stephan Nickell, 1st Inf. Div., DHHB.

Nickell said that he and his battle buddies had been planning for a month, arranging different work schedules to be able to attend the show together.

“They really put on a great show,” Nickell said. “They lifted our morale so much.”

For the Purrfect Angelz it’s an honor to be chosen to come here and provide entertainment for the men and women fighting in Iraq, said Dakota, a native of Bronx, NY.

“I’m so humbled to be here,” said Camille, a local of West Hollywood, Calif. “This Thanksgiving I didn’t hesitate a second to come here, I am so happy.”

“We love you guys,” said Giselle, “You guys are truly my heroes.” ■



Photo by Staff Sgt. Chanelcherie DeMello

Lindsay, a native of Scottsdale, Calif., from the Purrfect Angelz entertainment group performs a one-on-one song and dance for a Soldier at the USD-S Resiliency Campus in Basra, Iraq.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Chanelcherie DeMello

The girls, Amber, Camille, Dakota, Giselle, Lindsay and Paige from the Purrfect Angelz entertainment group salute the troops at the USD-S Resiliency Campus in Basra, Iraq after performing a number to “God Bless the USA.”

TORCH, from front page

“My last deployment, we were fully tactical signal so we were providing (communications) to the warfighters out there, making sure that the battlefield commander, wherever he was, whatever kind of operation, he had communications to where he needed, who he needed and when he needed them,” Bunger said. “Now it’s more of a long-term planning, making sure as time goes on we’re able to draw down successfully, hand everything over successfully, and take everybody home.”

Bunger added that the significance of being a part of Operation New Dawn is not lost on him.

“That’s something that knowing you’re a part of that 20, 30, 40 years from you now, you can say, ‘I was there when we brought the troops home,’” Bunger said. “Being a part of that is something big.”

For Hart, this deployment has had different challenges compared to her previous deployment in the 90’s.

“I was a single Soldier back then, no husband, no kids. This was a difficult deployment for me simply because I’m



Photo by Staff Sgt. Nathaniel Smith

A wooden replica of the 36th Infantry Division patch adorns the wall of a United States Division-South headquarters hallway. The patch is next to the patches of units who previously served as the Multinational Division-South and USD-S headquarters, including the 1st Infantry Division’s.

a mother and a wife, and I had to leave my children for the very first time in their lives,” Hart said. “I’m anxious to get back into Family life; although, I will miss the quietness and the ‘me’ time that I got over here, I’m ready to get back to being the

mother and the wife. I’ve been missing that for the past 12 months.”

The 36th Infantry Division is scheduled to replace the 1st Inf. Div. after its 12-month deployment and return to Fort Riley, Kan., in early 2011. ■

WINTER, from page 2

temperature is below freezing.

Drivers must use extreme caution when driving on black ice. Vehicles that hit black ice have greatly reduced traction, very little braking capability and extremely poor directional control—all problems that heighten the possibility of skidding. Ideally, vehicles should not be driven in black ice conditions. However, if the mission must go on, drivers should reduce their speed, accelerate very slowly, increase the following distance between vehicles, brake very lightly and make all turns gradually and slowly.

Frost heaving, a condition related to icing, is the uneven lifting and distortion of the ground close to the surface. Frost heaving is the result of water within the soil freezing and expanding. This expansion might damage the road surface and loosen tree roots. The biggest danger associated with frost heaving is the possibility of trees falling across roads, but uneven road surfaces are much more common. Such uneven surfaces can interrupt directional control, which is especially problematic in areas such as curves. Drivers should slow down and look for buckled or uneven patches on the road during freezing weather.

Fog

Valley fog forms when cold, dense air drains from areas of higher elevation into low areas or valleys. As the cool air

accumulates in the valley, the ambient temperature sometimes decreases to the dew point temperature and creates dense fog. When driving in fog, drivers should expect reduced visibility and turn on the vehicle’s lights, slow down and increase the following distance between vehicles.

Freezing fog is composed of super-cooled water droplets that form when the temperature falls below 32 degrees Fahrenheit. These droplets freeze and form ice as soon as they contact a cold surface. Freezing fog creates driving problems such as reduced visibility, poor traction and directional control and possible skidding. Drivers should turn on their vehicle’s lights, reduce their speed, accelerate slowly, increase the following distance between vehicles, brake moderately and make turns slowly.

Conclusion

Remember these guidelines when going to work or traveling to visit family and friends this winter and, most importantly, SLOW DOWN! The cold won’t last forever. If you make it through the winter accident-free, you’ll have even more reason to celebrate when spring arrives. ■





'Extreme Makeover: Home Edition' to build wounded warrior new home

By Michael Heckman
Fort Hood Sentinel Staff

FORTHOOD, Texas - Asked how he felt after being told he and his fiancée would be getting a dream home, courtesy of the ABC television show "Extreme Makeover: Home Edition," a Soldier who was severely wounded in the Nov. 5, 2009, shootings at Fort Hood responded:

"Oh wow, wow, my heart's going about 100 mph! I'm glad I'm back healthy again and in good shape."

When show host Ty Pennington followed up, asking Staff Sgt. Patrick Zeigler the significance of the announcement, Zeigler replied, "This is going to change everything."

Everything changed for Zeigler and his fiancée, Jessica Hansen, after Zeigler was shot in the head, left shoulder, forearm and hip at the Soldier Readiness Processing Center, where he was getting final medical checks before leaving for Officer Candidate School in Fort Benning, Ga.

Instead of pursuing his military career, Zeigler spent the next 10 months battling for his life with Hansen by his side.

For nearly two months, Zeigler was treated for his injuries at Scott and White Hospital in Temple. Later he was moved to a rehabilitation clinic in the Austin area where he stayed for about seven months and underwent a series of operations.

The bullet that shattered the right side of his skull sent fragments of metal and bone into Patrick's brain tissue. The pieces were so small doctors couldn't remove them. Instead they removed about 20 percent of his brain. Later, a metal plate was implanted to protect his brain from further injury.

Despite treatment, the left side of his body was paralyzed, and Zeigler had little control of his extremities.

Surprising attending physicians, Zeigler, a cavalry scout who deployed to Iraq twice with Troop A, returned to work with his unit on Sept. 8.

First Lt. Sean Buchanan, Zeigler's platoon leader in Iraq from April to December 2009, served with Patrick in northern Ninewah Province.

"Patrick is a good Soldier," Buchanan said. "He's always dependable. He was an E-5 but he worked real hard and got promoted to staff sergeant just before he



Photo by Michael Heckman

Staff Sgt. Patrick Zeigler and his fiancée, Jessica Hansen, laugh when show host Ty Pennington reveals that the couple will receive a new home courtesy of "Extreme Makeover: Home Edition" and home builders Monday near the 1st Cav. Div. Museum.

came back to Hood."

Buchanan had just returned from a patrol in Iraq when he heard the news of Patrick's injuries. His emotions swung wildly with varying reports of Patrick's condition following the shootings.

But Buchanan was not surprised by Zeigler's recovery.

"Z's a tough guy. He's stubborn; when he puts his mind to something, he's going to make it happen," Buchanan said.

Of the home makeover announcement, he added, "It's great, a good way to help a Soldier. It helps his family and it helps the Army, too."

Another Troop A Soldier, Sgt. Stefan Bowen, served two deployments with Zeigler, the first with the troop surge in 2006 in Diyala Province.

After suffering a knee injury, Bowen returned to Fort Hood, where he learned of Patrick's injuries.

"Honestly, I didn't think he was going to live because I've seen some pretty bad stuff in Iraq, but not as bad as what he went through. But Z is strong and I was thrilled when he did."

Of the announcement, he added, "He (Patrick) was surprised. He was stoked. I'm happy for him because a lot of people would have quit by now. He deserves it."

Pennington and designers Leigh Anne Tuohy, Paul DiMeo and Xzibit, will work with local builder Tilson Home

Corporation, the Texas Association of Builders and Temple-Inland Inc. to build the new home.

Martin said about 1,000 volunteers, including 60 carpenters and 80 sheet rock hangers would finish the home in about 106 hours.

Scott Norman, executive director for the Texas Association of Builders, said: "Just being here today, it's very moving and it's great to be a small part of giving back to some folks who have given so much. We're looking forward to doing this work."

Martin added, "It is incredibly moving and inspiring to see the courage and commitment that this young couple has shown in fighting back from their terrible tragedy.

"My hope is that this new home we are building will provide the Zeiglers with the peace and comfort they deserve and a place where their friends and family can gather to provide them with the love and support they need."

Doyle Simons, chairman and CEO of Temple-Inland Inc., agreed.

"We owe so much to the men and women serving in the armed forces," he said. "While we can never fully repay them for their dedication and sacrifice, we are honored, humbled and excited to be sponsors of this wonderful project, which will give Patrick and Jessica a new home in the heart of Texas." ■



Photo by Sgt. Raymond Quintanilla

Abdul Husain Qasim, the South Refinery Company director general in Basra, gives Brig. Gen. Randal Dragon, 1st Infantry Division Deputy Commanding General for Support, and Barry Kountz, oil adviser with the Basra Provincial Reconstruction Team, a tour of SRC facilities. The refinery recently repaired its industrial wastewater treatment facility, which had been inoperable for 20 years, with no American assistance.

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,

I almost got hit by a car last night after getting off the bus and walking in front of it to cross the street. The car came rolling from behind the bus to overtake it. Shouldn't the car have just stopped and waited?

Signed,
Walker

Dear "Walker,"

I've aired my frustrations about this before and we've talked about the problems with drivers here in previous columns, so my ire with them is nothing new.

In theory, pedestrians have the right of way. But in practice, the vehicle will win every time.

My advice for you is something my father taught me a long time ago that still holds true. He said, "Assume every driver is an idiot."

But let's be fair about this and not place all of our blame on those behind the wheel. As walkers we need to maintain our situational awareness on where all the vehicles are. It'll do us no good to sputter to the first responders that we have the right of way as we're lying on the ground after our face smacked the hood of a pickup like 25 pounds of wet clay.

There's a simple rule for us walkers to keep in mind. Remember to look both ways while crossing the street. And really, when you get off the bus, you're not supposed to walk in front of it to cross the street. For one, the bus driver can't move, and two, drivers that are passing on the left won't be able to see you. Rather than darting out into the street "Frogger"-style, take a moment to wait until the bus leaves or just walk behind it.

For drivers and pedestrians alike, using your head and making those kinds of good decisions will keep everyone safe.

Until next time,

-Betty

Rock and Roll Trivia

This week it dropped down to 3 degrees at Fort Riley, Kansas. Sometimes it's hard to tell over here, but for those returning to the states soon, unpack your cold weather gear. See if you can answer these wintery rock questions.

1) The Bangles remade "Hazy Shade of Winter" for the 1987 movie "Less than Zero." Who originally wrote and recorded that song?

2) What state were the Mamas and Papas dreaming of when they sang "All the leaves are brown, and the sky is gray. I've been for a walk on a winter's day"?

3) What group had a #1 single with the classic rock instrumental "Frankenstein"?

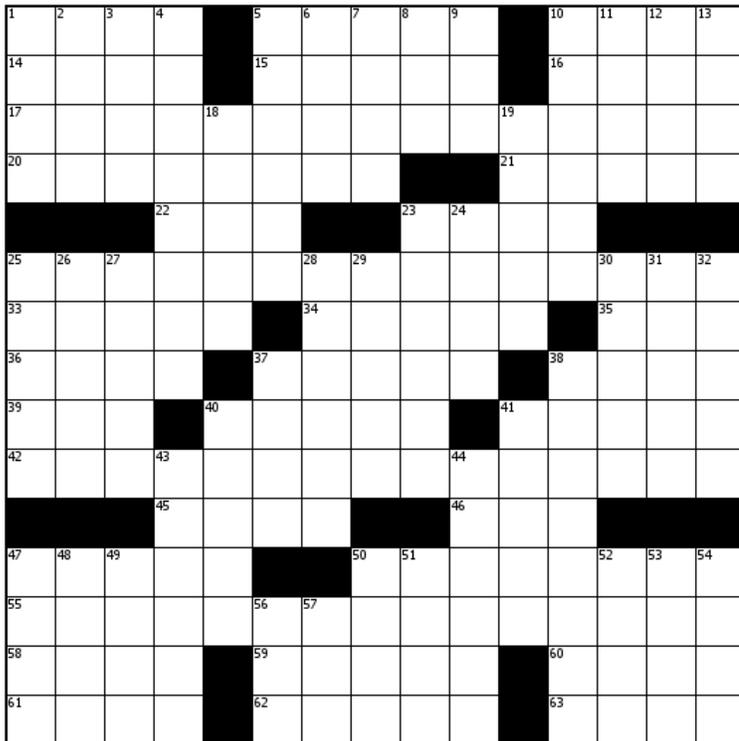
4) "Fill my dreams with flakes of snow" is one of many

lines in Black Sabbath's "Snowblind" which is as much about cocaine as it is about winter. What's the name of the singer who has wrestled with drug and alcohol addiction for much of his adult life?

5) According to Foreigner's 1977 hit, how cold are you?

Answers to this week's trivia:

(1) Simon & Garfunkel (2) California (3) Edgar Winter Group (4) Ozzy Osbourne (5) "Cold As Ice"



Across

- 1. Wild party
- 5. Big brother?
- 10. Ticklish doll
- 14. "Little Caesar" role for Edward G. Robinson
- 15. 1944 Otto Preminger film
- 16. Diamond, Young or Simon
- 17. Huh?
- 20. Valued highly
- 21. Fireplace utensils
- 22. Start for Jose or Diego
- 23. Business association
- 25. Huh?
- 33. Oscar winner Berry
- 34. Post of etiquette fame
- 35. Abbr. on a ticket
- 36. One way to stand by
- 37. Obligations
- 38. Fixed charge
- 39. Muscle car initials
- 40. Frenzied
- 41. What ibn means
- 42. Huh?
- 45. Follow a command
- 46. "___ Poetica" (Horace)
- 47. "Don't ___ me, I voted for ..."
- 50. Absolutely certain
- 55. Huh?
- 58. Source of some lows
- 59. Supplement
- 60. Monopoly payment
- 61. Obedience-school word
- 62. Elementary atomic particle
- 63. Captain Hook's sidekick

Down

- 1. Yuppie cheese
- 2. Helps out
- 3. Sean Connery, by birth
- 4. "To tell the truth ..."
- 5. Homecoming returnees
- 6. Ruinous agent
- 7. Melville's foretopman
- 8. Pitchblende, e.g.
- 9. Smoker's amassment
- 10. Inter
- 11. Mean partner
- 12. Chinese dynasty (1368-1644)
- 13. Contemporary of Ford
- 18. Beleaguer
- 19. Go away from the fold
- 23. Hog side
- 24. Malaises
- 25. Tories' opponents
- 26. "It ___ Be You"
- 27. Concede
- 28. Diminutive
- 29. External boundary
- 30. Yemeni neighbor
- 31. "The Jungle" author Sinclair
- 32. Cause of shrinkage
- 37. Watch feature, perhaps
- 38. Farm alarms
- 40. Lady with a dream in a Louis Armstrong tune
- 41. Bit of parsley
- 43. Grits stuff
- 44. Singer Sheena
- 47. Toddlers' garb
- 48. Exam for a would-be DA
- 49. Gillette product
- 50. Okra units
- 51. Not taken in by
- 52. It's on the agenda
- 53. Liana
- 54. Luncheon conclusion?
- 56. On the ___ (hiding out)
- 57. J.F.K.'s predecessor

Big Red One Puzzle of the Week

ρL



Hint: Chuck Berry or 'Fab Four' rendition?

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

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

Sudoku

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

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

www.puzzles.ca/sudoku_puzzles/