



DANGER FORWARD



December 20, 2010 | Issue 47

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

BASRA, Iraq – Staff Sgt. Jeffery Curtis had been telling the story for years. He was just starting a guard shift on the perimeter of Forward Operating Base Gains Mills in northern Iraq with his Avenger air missile defense team when the net came alive with chatter.

A U.S. vehicle on a counter-ambush patrol had rolled over and fell 30 feet. The crew was trapped and several were severely wounded. Curtis listened to the rescue effort develop on his radio, unable to leave his post to help.

“I was on guard the whole time while it was happening and just listening to it, wishing I could go out there and help them,” said Curtis, a Kansas City, Mo. native, now serving as an air missile defense operations noncommissioned officer. “That’s something that has been vividly in my head since.”

Spc. Carlos Ortiz was one of the infantrymen on that counter-ambush patrol near Kirkuk. A buddy of his had recently been severely wounded in an attack, and he and his fellow Soldiers were out to prevent something similar from happening again.

With the rollover, Ortiz’s mission turned tragic, killing one of his fellow Soldiers assigned to the 1st Battalion, 27th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade, 25th Infantry Division and severely wounding the vehicle’s crew, including Ortiz.

That was Nov. 16, 2004. Now, thanks

Operation PROPER EXIT

Bringing closure for wounded veterans



The service members and workers with Operation Proper Exit pose for a photo at the Shalamcha Point of Entry along the Iraq-Iran border Dec. 7. Proper Exit is an initiative of the Troops First Foundation that was created to help wounded service members achieve peace of mind and closure with their experiences.

Photo by Staff Sgt. Nathaniel Smith

to Operation Proper Exit, Ortiz, a Toms River, N.J., native, has returned to Iraq, and Curtis, deployed to Basra, Iraq, was there to greet him.

Ortiz and six other wounded service members visited United States Division-South Dec. 7, visiting Patrol Base Minden along the Iraq-Iran border and having lunch at an Iraqi Air Force cafeteria near the Basra International Airport.

Proper Exit, an initiative of the Troops First Foundation, was created to help

Soldiers like Ortiz achieve peace of mind and closure with their experiences.

It’s also helped younger Soldiers meet the veterans who served before them, and for Soldiers like Curtis, provided a little closure as well.

Curtis, assigned to the 1st Infantry Division Headquarters, saw the incident report next to Ortiz’ name on the list of incoming Proper Exit veterans and realized

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New vocational center - p. 4



Staying on target - p. 7



Fight! It's what Soldiers do - p. 9

Danger Six sends

The holiday season is a time for giving and sharing. As deployed warriors for our Nation, it is often our lot to be apart from our homes and our families during the special times of the year and often over holiday periods like this one.

My message to you is this – first, thank you for carrying the burden of freedom. No one else in the world can do this like you do and the world would be a different place if you did not do it. Second, the Division's leadership and I thank your Families for their sacrifice in the day to day pressures of loving and caring for a warrior deployed abroad. Take the opportunity during this season to tell them how much you appreciate them. Third, and finally, know that the greatest gift that can be given in a season of giving and sharing is that of self-sacrifice for the benefit of others, and in that regard you are the world's most generous grouping of people of your age, who serve and sacrifice for the benefit of America and for the benefit of Iraq. You give and you share of yourselves.

Thank you for what you do, who you are, and what you mean to so many. Enjoy the season as only a deployed warrior can.

NO MISSION TOO DIFFICULT; NO SACRIFICE TOO GREAT. DUTY FIRST! HAPPY HOLIDAYS.



Vincent K. Brooks
Major General, U.S. Army
Commanding



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ACCIDENT RATE FALLS IN USD-S

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

According to the official Army accident database, the Army closed out Fiscal Year 2010 with 3,911 accidents and 505 fatalities. It was a 50 percent decrease in accidents and two percent decrease in fatalities since FY 2009.

The downward trend in accidents is evident in United States Division-South in southern Iraq. Since spring, the average monthly accident rate in USD-S has dropped by a third from about three per 1,000 service members to just under two.

USD-S Safety Director Paul Inman attributes the decline in accidents to an increased emphasis on safety by leadership.

“A successful safety program is based upon everyone fulfilling his or her responsibilities,” said Paul Inman, United States Division-South safety director. “Safety awareness events and community involvement are all good programs, but command emphasis and leader involvement is the key to a successful safety program within units.”

As today’s Army is challenged by a wide range of threats and operating environments, safety measurements and programs can provide positive protection for Soldiers, civilians and equipment.

There are many resources that provide safety information. The USD-S commanding general’s safety philosophy published in Feb. 2010 sets the tone for coordination and establishment of safety policies, standards and guidance for all USD-S operations and is built around the Composite Risk Management process, which is the Army’s principal risk reduction methodology.

CRM is a five-step process of identifying and assessing hazards, developing and implementing controls, supervising the task and evaluating the effectiveness of the controls.

“If the CRM process is understood and used for all activities, whether in garrison or in a tactical environment, it will help in identifying and assessing hazards to help mitigate and reduce accidents across the Army,” Inman said.

Units are required to conduct command safety councils that meet quarterly to review risk control options, make risk control decisions, and direct the implementation of risk control options, Inman said.

“Reporting helps the commander in developing trends and analysis to understand what types of accidents or hazards are in the workplace,” Inman said.

Commanders sometimes schedule safety stand-downs when a number of accidents occur in a short period, but they can also be

See SAFETY, page 10

THIS WEEK IN ARMY HISTORY...



1st Infantry Division History

December 22, 1987 – Fort Riley and 1st Infantry Division leaders decide to cut services, including ending hunting and fishing on the reservation by the end of the season, to deal with a \$22 million cut to their budget.



Operation Iraqi Freedom History

December 21, 2004 – An attack carried out at a dining tent at Camp Marez killed and injured dozens and was the worst attack on U.S. forces on an installation since the beginning of Operation Iraqi Freedom.



3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment History

December 20, 1967 – The Pentagon announces that they will withdraw the 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment from their current duty station in Germany to reduce the gold-dollar drain from heavy spending overseas by the U.S. government. The unit would return to the U.S. and be based at Fort Lewis, Wash.

Maysan Province receives new vocational training center



Photo by Maj. Alan S. Brown

The Maysan Governor, Muhammed Al Shia'a Al Sudani addresses an audience of over 120 during the opening of the Maysan Center for Training and Development. The center, a gift to the people of Maysan from the U.S. Government, will offer Maysanis classes in computer skills, English, agriculture, veterinary skills, carpentry, and journalism.

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

MAYSAN PROVINCE, Iraq – The Maysan Provincial Reconstruction Team and U.S. forces in southern Iraq continued their commitment to improving the lives of the people of Maysan with the official opening of the Maysan Center for Development and Training during a ribbon cutting ceremony Nov. 28.

The new compound, adjacent to Camp Garry Owen outside of Amarah, the largest city in the province, will host a broad spectrum of educational and training opportunities to assist the provincial government in building infrastructure, essential services and economic development

Addressing a standing-room-only audience of over 120, Anne Callaghan, Team Leader, Maysan PRT, said that the completion of the training center exemplifies a synchronized collaboration between the U.S. Government and the Provincial Government

of Maysan.

“Our work underscores their commitment to training and educational development for the people of Maysan,” said Callaghan.

The construction of the \$500,000 training center employed local contractors who completed the project in six months. The two adjoining buildings house a conference center, an executive conference room, three classrooms with desks and three fully functional computer rooms. The compound is also outfitted with its own power source, water and sewage system.

The Maysan Governor, Muhammed Al Shia'a Al Sudani, enthusiastically cut the ceremonial ribbon, officially opening the center that is poised to benefit his citizens for years to come.

During his remarks, he credited the PRT and the U.S. Government for their commitment to improving the lives of Iraqis in many ways.

“This project is clear evidence of the provincial reconstruction team’s sincere goals, plans, programs and funding for the Maysan government,” he said.

Representing the U.S. Embassy and the U.S. Ambassador to Iraq, the Assistant Chief of Mission for Assistance Transition, Ambassador Peter Bodde said the center was designed from the Maysan government’s vision for “a prosperous Maysan that offers economic and educational opportunities for its youth, attracts foreign investment and provides for the welfare of its residents.”

Bodde said the opening of the Maysan Center for Training and Development is congruent with the U.S. shift in Iraq from reconstruction to development, as the military presence gives way to greater civilian influence.

While the recent ceremony marked the official opening, the center is already up and running, having recently hosted training for Iraqi forces, agricultural classes, micro-grant fairs and several meetings between members of the provincial government.

The calendar of events is quickly filling up with planned training in word processing, water purification, carpentry, auto mechanics, English language skills, green house construction, medical and veterinary skills, and journalism.

“I look forward to welcoming all the people of Maysan, teachers and students both, to this facility which symbolizes our enduring commitment to a strong relationship between the United States and Iraq,” said Callaghan. ■



The Maysan Governor, Muhammed Al Shia'a Al Sudani cuts the ribbon to the newly opened Maysan Center for Training and Development, a \$500,000, U.S.-sponsored project that will be managed by the Maysan Provincial Reconstruction Team.

Photo by Maj. Alan S. Brown



USCG trains Port Security Officers

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

BASRA, Iraq – To assist the Government of Iraq in attaining compliance with international standards, the U.S. Coast Guard’s Port Advisory Coordination Element (PACE) held Iraq’s first ever Port Facility Security Officer Course at the Arabian Gulf Maritime Academy in Basra on Dec. 7.

Twenty students attended the three day class covering a number of security topics culminating with a security exercise.

The Iraqi students learned about International Shipping and Port Facility Security (ISPS) Code requirements with a focus on developing formal security plans.

The ISPS Code was instituted by the United Nations’ International Maritime Organization shortly after the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks and the recognition of the need to improve the security of ships and port facilities around the world.

One of the largest challenges in the implementation of the ISPS Code in Iraq is the lack of a centralized maritime authority with regulatory oversight of the ports, said

Cmdr. Jim Robertson, the PACE officer in charge.

“Our biggest problem is that currently, we have 13 different ministries who have some operational ownership of Iraq’s ports,” Robertson, a Juneau, Alaska resident said. “So we have a lot of competing entities fighting for their piece of the pie.”

Another hurdle in the way is preparing the ports for increased international investment and a greater number of trading partners coming to the table, as well as increased development and upgrades of port facility infrastructure, according to Najm Sager, the ISPS Director at the Umm Qasr Port.

“We have security measures in place, but they are not up to international standards and templates,” Sager said. “And I think once we get our certificate from the government, the world will be more attracted to conducting business in Iraq through the noticeable increases in stability and day to day port operation efficiency as a result of ISPS Code compliance. Iraq is coming into a great deal of commercial opportunities in the future, so if we enhance the security environment in our ports, this will bring



Lt. Cmdr. James Sufferen, an instructor with the Port Advisory Coordination Element, speaks about security during the Port Facility Security Officer’s course on Um Qasr Dec. 7. The PACE mission in Iraq is to make sure the ports meet the United Nations’ International Maritime Organization standards.

Photo by Staff Sgt. Cody Harding

more and more business to the ports.”

It is hoped the Port Facility Security Officers attending the USCG’s course will apply the skills to implement ISPS at their respective ports.

The efforts to bring Iraq up to international shipping standards are worth the investment, according to Robertson.

“I’ve always felt that this is one of the most important missions in theater,” Robertson said. “If this course lights the fire of compliance in a few, they will be the security pathfinders for Iraq’s seaport community. The PACE Team will continue working alongside the Government of Iraq and key stakeholders within the ports as they move forward to build a port security network.”

“Ultimately, the people of Iraq will benefit tremendously from the shared gains of improved port security and greater stability, which will reduce the costs of imported goods and stimulate Iraq’s economy,” Robertson added.

“We have the intention to follow up and to go back to the international community,” Sager said. “This is one of the good steps that we’ve achieved over the three days. This course is the next logical and practical step in meeting the international standards and was very rich with the right information for our future success in the security of our nation’s ports.”

“I am very excited that this will positively affect Iraq’s participation in the international community, and it will continue to bring more business to the Iraqi people.” ■



Najm Sager, left, and other students in the Port Facility Security Officer’s course draw out a mitigation plan for port security as part of an exercise Dec. 7. The PFSOs finished the course and will return to the port to teach others about the International Shipping and Port Facility Security Code, a necessary step in improving Iraq’s future sea trade.

Photo by Staff Sgt. Cody Harding

Big bang for the buck

Joint explosives training a worthy investment in Iraq

By Maj. Jason Billington
3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment PAO

BABIL PROVINCE, Iraq – Sand and smoke filled the air Dec. 5 as explosives specialists from the 8th Iraqi Army conducted a joint demolition with U.S. Soldiers from the 75th Explosive Ordnance Disposal Company to dispose of a stockpile of munitions.

The cache was discovered by the 31st Iraqi Army Brigade in Babil Dec. 4 and included four large barrels containing two dozen 115-millimeter projectiles and 1,100 pounds of Dinitrotoluene, a common precursor in the manufacturing of TNT.

The 8th Iraqi Army used the detonation as a training opportunity between U.S. and Iraqi explosives specialists. Such joint training events have become common as coalition forces seek to protect the citizens of Iraq and thwart insurgent attempts to destabilize the region.

“I am very happy to work in a position that allows me to keep the people of Iraq safe and bring glory to the Iraqi people,” said Capt. Imad Jassim, an explosives expert with the 8th Iraqi Army BDC.

Operation New Dawn, beginning in September, signaled a new role for U.S. forces

“The destruction of dangerous ordnance protects the citizens of Iraq... and provides an opportunity to build our relationship through joint demolition operations.”

- Sgt. 1st Class Eric M. Raska

in Iraq. Units like the 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment, the parent unit of 75th EOD Company, now carry the primary mission of advising, training, and assisting Iraqi Security Forces. Much of this training does not occur in the classroom, but rather through live training opportunities such as these.

Explosives technicians from 75th EOD Company have established a unique working relationship with the 8th Iraqi Army Bomb Disposal Company and the Iraqi police counter explosives teams in the conduct of this dangerous training mission. A typical training day consists of basic demolition techniques, the use of bomb suits, robotics and remote door opening and detonation techniques.

“We are happy to conduct combined demolition operations with our Iraqi brothers,” said Sgt. 1st Class Eric M. Raska, 3rd platoon sergeant of the 75th EOD. “The destruction of dangerous ordnance protects the citizens of Iraq from explosive hazards and provides an opportunity to build our relationship through joint demolition operations.”

A billowing, black smoke cloud in the December sky put the exclamation point on another successful, high-stakes training event for this international group of explosives professionals. ■



Capt. Imad Jassim, of the 8th Iraqi Army Bomb Disposal Company prepares a cache of explosives for detonation at Joint Security Station Hamiyah. Soldiers from the 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment and 75th Explosive Ordnance Disposal Company assist with preparations prior to the live detonation and training event.



AK47
M4

IRAQI ARMY TRANSITIONS TO AMERICAN WEAPONS



By 1st Lt. Jake Mentele
3rd AAB, 4th Inf. Div.

CAMP ADDER, Iraq – A Soldier assigned to Company B, 64th Brigade Support Battalion, 3rd Advise and Assist Brigade, 4th Infantry Division, recently helped train the 10th Iraqi Army at Camp

Ur in support of the Logistics Training and Advisory Team and Operation New Dawn.

Spc. Taylor Bearden, of Clarksville, Tenn., a small arms and artillery repairer, showed a class of approximately 20 Iraqi army soldiers the step-by-step process of conducting a proper functions

check, weapons maintenance, and pre-marksmanship instruction on the U.S. standard issue M4 Carbine assault rifle. The one-week training course occurred at Camp Ur where Bearden is stationed.

The top five performing students of the class will then train the remaining soldiers within their respective companies.

“The weapon requires more detailed maintenance than their familiar AK-47 assault rifle. However, when this weapon is maintained, it is more proficient,” said Bearden to the group of eager trainees.

Training on these weapons signifies the country’s transition from the AK-47 assault rifle to the American M4 and M16 assault rifles. The M4 and the M16 are two pounds lighter than the AK-47 and use 5.56mm rounds instead of 7.62mm rounds, making it easier to maintain ammunition supplies.

“Each time we share our knowledge with our Iraqi partners, it sets the Iraqi Army and Iraq itself up for success in the future,” said Staff Sgt. Bobby Walker, of Odessa, Texas, a wheeled vehicle mechanic, assigned to Company B.

The training Bearden conducted is in addition to his normal day-to-day duties as a vehicle gunner assigned to the security and distribution platoon which escorts logistics convoys across Southern Iraq.

“It was a great experience teaching our Iraqi partners and fun learning more about their culture,” said Bearden. ■



Spc. Taylor Bearden, of Clarksville, Tenn., a small arms and artillery repairer, Company B, 64th BSB, 3rd AAB, 4th Inf. Div., with a translator by his side, teaches the proper breakdown procedures for the M4 Carbine Assault Rifle during a weapons training class for the 10th Iraqi Army soldiers at Camp Ur.

Cav establishes LAN @ Iraqi Training Center

By Sgt. David Dasilma

4th Sqdn., 10th Cav. Reg., 3rd AAB, 4th Inf. Div.

BASRA, Iraq – With help from Soldiers of 4th Sqdn., 10th Cav. Reg., 3rd AAB, 4th Inf. Div., communications section, Shaiba Training Center in the Basra Province received a major upgrade: a local area network.

The network construction, led by 1st. Lt. Aric Asti, a signal officer from Milwaukee, Wis., provided a unique opportunity to use the installation as a training event to teach the center's technical staff how to maintain and add to the LAN in the future.

A local area network is a computer network that connects computers and devices in a limited geographical area such as a home, school, computer lab, or office building. The training center currently maintains 25 computers, and now those computers can communicate and transfer data at rapid rates, increasing staff efficiency and creating a more productive teaching environment.

With the high volume of Iraqi security force training conducted on a daily basis, the center is not your average training facility. Some recent courses held at the center include photography, media interviewing and story writing. The center also conducted a 45-day basic medical training course where the Iraqi Army taught students from the 4th Department of Border Enforcement and certified them as medics.

Although U.S. forces help facilitate training courses, Iraqis routinely conduct training for other Iraqis.

"This training provided a local area network that will allow the electronic transfer of class material between class leadership," said Asti.

During a meeting with Staff Brig. Gen. Talal on Oct. 29, after a physical assessment and a recommendation by Asti, the squadron's Security Transition Team presented a training plan, which encompassed the entire operation. They agreed upon the plan, and within 72 hours the execution of the project was underway. On Nov. 23, the team implemented the final phase and the communication network was up and running.

"The network we've just established has the [same] physical and logical topology as those used by major corporations worldwide," said Asti.

Topology can be considered the virtual shape or structure of a network. Logical topology refers to how the data is actually transferred, whereas physical topology refers to actual location, devices, and equipment such as cables and wires.

A valuable aspect of the physical topology is that the materials were locally procured, and a positive feature of the logical topology is that the network was created in a manner that allows for future enhancement.

"The STC technicians were taught by demonstration, hands-on practice, and actual implementation," said Asti. "We even showed them how fluidity and dynamic critical thinking while erecting a network can bypass most challenges. The current network is scalable and the Iraqi technicians are trained, which means they can continue to improve and expand it long after we leave."

Asti is planning a follow-up visit to the center to gain feedback from the Iraqi technicians and address any concerns they may have regarding their ability to maintain the network without assistance. ■



Spc. Daniel Harvey, an information technology specialist from New Orleans, La., 4th Sqdn., 10th Cav. Reg., 3rd AAB, 4th Inf. Div., explains his network connection plan to Shaiba Training Center technicians during the center's reconstruction where U.S. Soldiers worked alongside Iraqi technicians to manufacture a local area network inside the building.

Photo by 2nd Lt. Andrew Mayer

Pacesetters prevail at Camp Adder Fight Night

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

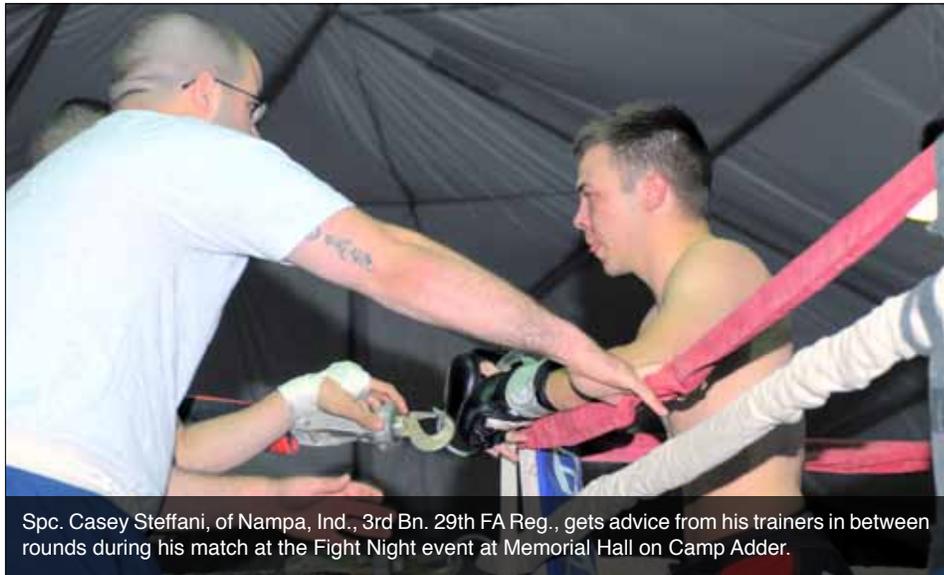
CAMP ADDER, Iraq – Although the skill set of most Pacesetters deals with dropping artillery shells on their enemies on the battlefield, lately the 3rd Battalion, 29th Artillery Regiment, 3rd Advise and Assist Brigade, 4th Infantry Division has become known for dropping opponents in the ring.

Spc. Casey Steffani, of Nampa, Ind., Spc. Jonathan McMullen, of Longview, Texas, and Pfc. Zachariah Scott of Des Moines, Iowa, had their hands raised in victory at Camp Adder's most recent Fight Night Nov. 29.

After Steffani's first match on the Fourth of July, Scott showed an interest at trying his skills in the ring and began training with Steffani and McMullen. Steffani was eager to don his MMA gloves once again after his last victory, while McMullen was ready for his debut match after being unable to compete during the last contest.

Since the Pacesetters have frequent missions, the team had to train whenever they could. They identified their strengths and weaknesses early on and helped each other to become more effective fighters. Steffani and Scott have a wrestling background, while McMullen has more experience in boxing.

"Scott and I helped McMullen with his



Spc. Casey Steffani, of Nampa, Ind., 3rd Bn. 29th FA Reg., gets advice from his trainers in between rounds during his match at the Fight Night event at Memorial Hall on Camp Adder.

Photo by Spc. Khori Johnson

ground game, and he helped us with our stand-up," said Steffani.

When the moment of truth arrived, each fighter clinched victory due to the assistance they gave each other while training.

"I had to thank Steffani for helping me with my take-downs," said McMullen. "That's what helped me get my opponent down on the ground, which led to my win."

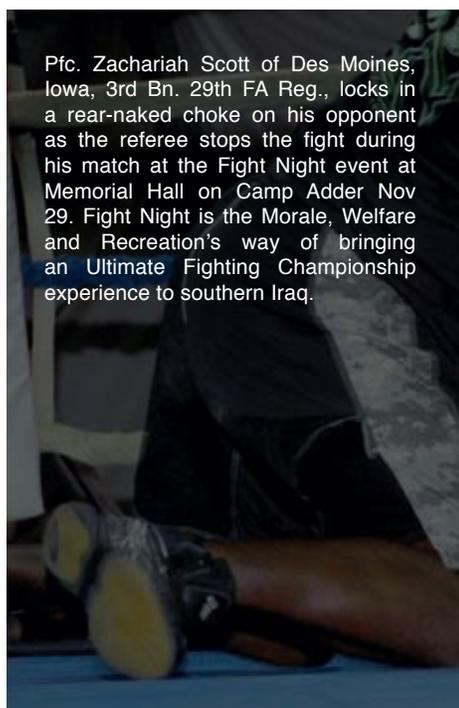
The trio of Pacesetters also attributes its victories to the drive and will they instilled in each other.

"We all helped each other out and we pushed each other," said Steffani, who

received his second Fight Night victory with a knockout. "No one was going to get disowned if they lost or anything, but we all agreed to leave everything on the mat."

Although this group of Pacesetters experienced some close calls and hard punches throughout the night, Scott's favorite moment did not come in the form of a punch or a kick, but when he sat down to dinner with the other victorious Pacesetters after the match.

"The fights were cool and everything, but nothing's better than grabbing some pizza with two of your closest buddies in the unit," he said. ■



Pfc. Zachariah Scott of Des Moines, Iowa, 3rd Bn. 29th FA Reg., locks in a rear-naked choke on his opponent as the referee stops the fight during his match at the Fight Night event at Memorial Hall on Camp Adder Nov 29. Fight Night is the Morale, Welfare and Recreation's way of bringing an Ultimate Fighting Championship experience to southern Iraq.



Photo by Spc. Khori Johnson

EXIT, from front page

he was part of the crew whose incident he remembered so vividly. He immediately volunteered to be Ortiz' escort for his tour of USD-S.

"I'm here to try to help him and help him get on with his life. Maybe it'll bring some closure to some stuff that's going on."

Ortiz said having Curtis there added to the experience.

"It feels good. He was on the same (base), he remembered me when I came off the bird so it definitely feels good because we know the same people and he remembers the whole incident," Ortiz said.

Ortiz said he had heard about the program at a naming ceremony for a Veterans of Foreign Wars facility that was being renamed for one of his fallen comrades. He knew he had to go.

"I heard about this program, and it sounded pretty cool so I decided I wanted to do it," Ortiz said. "Even talking to my friends, (we said), 'Wouldn't it be cool to go



Spc. Carlos Ortiz, left, and Staff Sgt. Jeffery Curtis approach the Shalamcha Point of Entry near Patrol Base Minden along the Iraq-Iran border Dec. 7. Ortiz and Curtis were deployed with the 25th Infantry Division to Forward Operating Base Gains Mills near Kirkuk, Iraq, when Ortiz was wounded in 2004.

Photo by Staff Sgt. Nathaniel Smith

back to Iraq for like a week instead of going back for a year?' So when it came up, I had to say yeah."

While Curtis and Ortiz left Operation Proper Exit gaining some understanding of their shared experiences, Ortiz also shared

some words of wisdom with other Soldiers at Patrol Base Minden.

Ortiz's message for his fellow troops was one of hope.

"Don't quit, don't give up, do your best, and we all care about you." ■

SAFETY, from page 3

scheduled as a precautionary measure to prevent accidents before they happen.

Accidents will happen, Inman said, but they are very much preventable.

"It takes leadership at all levels to enforce the standards and set the example for others to follow," Inman said. ■



Soldiers of the 1st Battalion, 68th Armor Regiment lift a mock casualty into a vehicle during a recent safety stand-down day for training. A casualty's weight, the environment and communication between team members all play a vital role in a successful evacuation.

Photo by Staff Sgt. Chanelcherie DeMello

Fort Riley first installation to get LEED certification

By Shandi Dix
1st Inf. Div. Post

FORT RILEY, Kan. - Fort Riley is the first installation in the Kansas City District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to receive Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design certification under the U.S. Green Building Council's guidelines, said Jonathan Petry, senior architect with the Kansas City District U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

"This is due to rapid pace of construction at the installation over the past few years, which afforded an immense opportunity to deliver sustainable projects," Perry said.

LEED is a third-party green building certification program which encourages and accelerates global adoption of sustainable green building and development practices through a rating system that recognize projects that implement strategies for better environmental and health performance.

There are currently 14 facilities in the Kansas City District to have achieved the LEED silver rating - all of which are at Fort Riley. These facilities include barracks on Custer Hill, Demon's Diner Dining Facility, Combat Aviation Brigade barracks, facilities on Marshall Army Airfield including the CAB's battalion headquarters, hangars, company operations facilities, runway and taxi ways, as well as an access control point.

During the Society of American Military Engineers Greater Kansas City Post Fort Riley Field Chapter meeting Dec. 9 at Riley's Conference Center, Col. John Dvoracek, deputy garrison commander for transformation, received the plaque signifying the certification for the Marshall Army Airfield facilities.

"LEED certification is earned after a project is constructed, so the recent achievements are due to continuous efforts of project team members over the past few years since the projects were originally conceived," Petry said. "The other installations that the Kansas City District covers are expecting to receive notifications of their first LEED silver certifications over the next few months, as formal reviews on recently completed facilities are concluded."

LEED is the nationally accepted benchmark for the design, construction and operation of high-performance green



Jonathan Petry, senior architect, Kansas City District U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, standing, talks to Society of American Military Engineers members about LEED Silver certifications at Fort Riley during the Greater Kansas City Post Fort Riley Field Chapter meeting Dec. 9 at Riley's Conference Center.

buildings giving owners and operators the tools needed to have an immediate and measurable impact on their buildings' performance by promoting the five key areas of human and environmental health: sustainable site development, water savings, energy efficiency, materials selection and indoor environmental quality, according to the U.S. Green Building Council website.

Architects, facility managers, engineers and government officials are just some of the people who use LEED. State and local governments are adopting LEED for public-owned and public-funded buildings.

In January 2006, the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Installations and Environment announced the Army would begin using the LEED rating system effective with the Fiscal Year 2008 Military Construction Program, instead of the Sustainable Project Rating Tool.

"Constructing and operating sustainable, energy efficient, water-conserving, healthy buildings is what is important," Petry said. "LEED is simply a tool that the Army has chosen to enable teams to construct, operate and maintain facilities with those objectives."

Dating back to April 2000, Army policies from the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Installations and Environment have stressed the Army's policy of Sustainable Design and Development, but only in the last few years did it become a requirement to use the LEED rating tool to measure projects, Petry said.

Based on the LEED requirements, Fort

Riley facilities earned the silver rating for various reasons. The Custer Hill barracks received 34 out of 36 possible points because of a 42 percent reduction in water use. Demon's Diner received 33 out of 40 points because 62 percent of construction waste was diverted from landfills and 70 percent of wood materials were harvested from certified forests.

The CAB barracks received 36 out of 37 possible points because 81 percent of the site was restored with native plant material, and 49 percent of the materials were manufactured within 500 miles of Fort Riley. Because 72 percent of the hardscape was paved with highly reflective materials, and more than 98 percent of construction waste was diverted from landfills, the Marshall Army Airfield facilities received all 33 points possible.

A total of 39 points is required for gold certification.

Other facilities in the Kansas City District expected to receive silver ratings include the Demon's Diner Dining Facility and barracks on Custer Hill including Building numbers 7884, 7874, 7882, 7872 and 7886.

Other installations will soon received silver ratings for facilities as well including the Permanent Party barracks, Prime Power School, Mine Detection Training facility and military working dogs kennel at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo.; and the chapel complex at Fort Leavenworth.

For more information on LEED, visit www.usgbc.org. ■



Photo by Spc. Eve Illiau

Looking something like the unblinking Eye of Sauron from the Lord of the Rings books and movies, the setting desert sun hangs low in the sky above southern Iraq during a recent flight to Basra province, Dec. 11.

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:

jason.kaneshiro@iraq.centcom.mil

You could have it featured here.

Does your loved one have questions about REDEPLOYMENT CEREMONIES?

Check out the 11D Facebook page.

got bro?

Big Red One

www.facebook.com/1stInfantryDivision



Basra Betty says...



Dear "Worried,"

I commend you for taking such ownership over your job and your duties. Your letter shows you've dedicated yourself to your work here. And with that, I will say that it's time to let it go.

It sounds as though you've been taking your duties to heart, and that's good. However, those duties will no longer be yours to perform. No matter how much you like the way things were done under your watch, it's time to move on and let the new people assume those duties and perform them to the best of their ability in the way they deem fit.

When we first arrived in Basra about a year ago, we saw how our predecessors operated and we almost immediately started thinking about how we would make changes once they departed. It's no different now that we're the ones on the way out.

In fact, it's no different from any other unit or command in the entire Army.

It's one thing to love your job, but it's best to let it go and move on to the future. We've done the best we could and now it's time to move forward to our next mission.

Yeah, I know you may be a little bent out of shape because the "new guy" is rolling in and messing up your *Jenga*, but really, it's not your problem anymore. All we really need to worry about at this point is staying safe and making sure we're on time at the PAX terminal so we can catch that big bird that'll get us out of here.

And if you're still that hung up on your old job as your flying away from here, then go ahead and feel free to try and write me about it.

Moving on,

-Betty

Dear Betty,

I've met the Soldiers that will be taking my place and it seems as though they intend to change the way I've been doing things as soon as I leave. I like the way things have been done around here. What can I do?

Signed,
Worried

Rock and Roll Trivia

It seems there are already more people walking the halls of USD-S Headquarters wearing the "Texas T" of the 36th Inf. Div. than the "Big Red One." Combined with the 3rd ACR out of Fort Hood, USD-S has definitely taken on a Lone Star feel. Texas is also the home of some legendary rock and roll stars ... see if you can correctly answer these Texas-flavored questions.

1) Born and raised in Lubbock, TX, this early rock and roller was known for his horn-rimmed glasses and his death in an airplane crash that inspired Don McLean's "American Pie." Bonus: What Texas-born country music star gave up his seat on the airplane and rode the bus that night?

2) Janis Joplin was born in Port Arthur, Texas. After a few semesters at UT-Austin, she travelled west and floored the San Francisco hippy crowd with her whisky soaked, Texas-blues voice. What was the name of Joplin's backing band before she went solo?

3) This question isn't designed to throw you a curve, but what alt-rock band broke big out of the Austin music scene in the late 1990s with the hits "The Way," and "Out of my Head"?

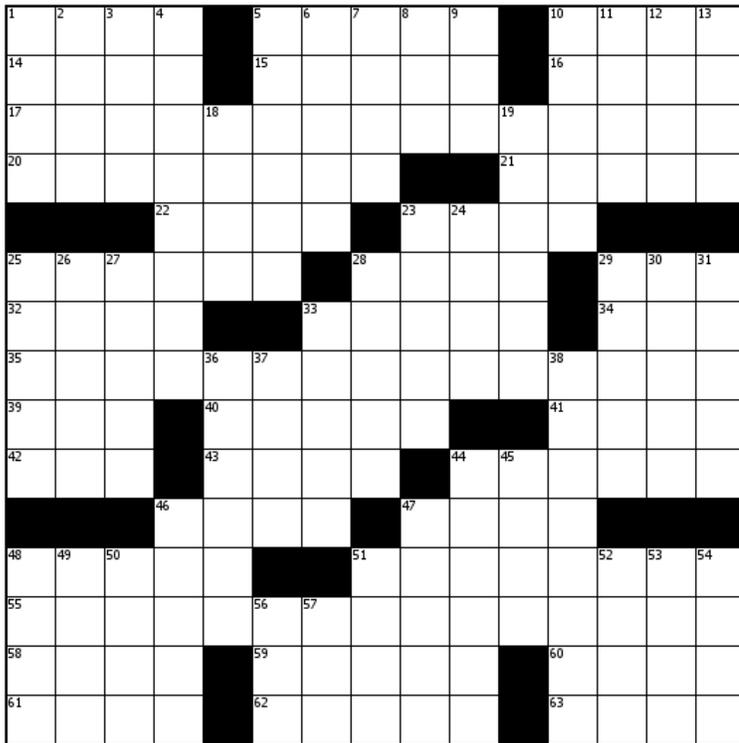
4) Stevie Ray Vaughan remains world famous for his Texas blues guitar, but his older brother Jimmie has been a fixture on the Austin scene for decades and even scored some hits, such as "Tuff Enuff" with what band?

5) Steve Miller was born in Milwaukee, but his family moved to Dallas when he was a little boy. His pathologist father was also a recording engineer whose bluesmen friends inspired Miller to play guitar and become one of the top-selling artists of the 1970s and early 80s. Which of these Steve Miller Band songs did not hit #1 on the US pop charts?

- a) The Joker
- b) Rock 'n Me
- c) Jet Airliner
- d) Abracadabra

Answers to this week's trivia:

(1) Buddy Holly [Bonus - Waylon Jennings] (2) Big Brother and Holding Company (3) Fastball (4) Fabulous Thunderbird (5) "Jet Airliner" only hit #8 in 1977



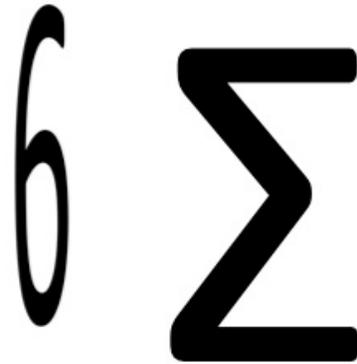
Across

- 1. Exemplar of innocence
- 5. It follows a long March
- 10. Retained possession
- 14. Verbal
- 15. Prejudice partner in literature
- 16. Kind of code or rug
- 17. If a man does this and 35-A on 55-A, he may wind up saying 8
- 20. Waste away
- 21. Auguries
- 22. Go-___ (four-wheeled racer)
- 23. Heroine of an Austen novel
- 25. By a nose
- 28. Hindu garment
- 29. Successor to F.D.R.
- 32. "___ in a Manger"
- 33. Like some cereal
- 34. Mother of one across
- 35. See 17-Across
- 39. Miner's pay dirt
- 40. Ancient
- 41. Some wallet wadding
- 42. Beatty of "Deliverance"
- 43. Lawn tool place
- 44. Abrasion
- 46. Use a swizzle stick
- 47. Domestic squabble
- 48. Positive thinker
- 51. If it's German, it may be a dog
- 55. See 17-Across
- 58. Legal action
- 59. Impressive in scale
- 60. Life of Riley
- 61. Almanac topic
- 62. Billionaire Bill
- 63. Fuse measurements

Down

- 1. Jewelry holder
- 2. Jack-in-the-pulpit
- 3. Author Angelou
- 4. Ring souvenir?
- 5. Home of a busy queen
- 6. Whitney's partner in engine production
- 7. Icy cover
- 8. Words with a ring to them?
- 9. Grid great Dawson
- 10. It was "Instant" to John Lennon
- 11. New York canal
- 12. Sean of "I Am Sam"
- 13. New car necessities
- 18. Bygone telephone device
- 19. Part of A.D.
- 23. ___ the run (dine hastily)
- 24. TV's talking horse
- 25. Conductor's stick
- 26. With eyes wide open
- 27. Did a fall job
- 28. Full and satisfied
- 29. Reddish-orange dye
- 30. Word with chimney or clean
- 31. To the point
- 33. Law's partner
- 36. Inexpensive inn
- 37. PTA milieu
- 38. Waterway between the United Kingdom and Denmark
- 44. Goes for broke?
- 45. Attire for Superman
- 46. Pool table rock
- 47. Shoe finish
- 48. Utterance during a play
- 49. Case for needles and pins
- 50. Enthusiastic
- 51. Rebounds per game, e.g.
- 52. Cheese in a red shell
- 53. Rough file
- 54. Coloring matter
- 56. Bacon contemporary?
- 57. Gun lobby org.

Big Red One Puzzle of the Week



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

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

Sudoku

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

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

www.puzzles.ca/sudoku_puzzles/