

Victory Times



Telling the United States Forces - Iraq story

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Soldiers learn Iraqi language, culture in course



aHmed Taha, head Iraqi instructor of the Iraqi Language and Culture Course, role plays as a sheik with Spc. Jorge Irizarry, with the 325th Military Intelligence Battalion, during the Iraqi Language and Culture Course at the Stability Academy on Camp Victory, Iraq.

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

One of the biggest challenges service members face when working with their Iraqi counterparts is the language and culture barrier.

To assist them in overcoming this challenge, the Stability Academy on Camp Victory offers the Iraqi Language and Culture Course.

"It's for service members who have the responsibility of communicating with their Iraqi counterpart," said Col. Timothy R. Williams, from Harrisburg

Ark., training chief for United States Forces-Iraq, and the Stability Academy commandant.

The Iraqi Language and Culture Course is a 10-day program where students learn about Iraqi popular culture, reading and writing Arabic as well as the politics and history of Iraq.

"To learn a couple of phrases and understand the flow of the conversation helps to break the ice and get the Iraqi army to trust you more," said Williams.

"Their culture is totally different from what we're used to," said Jimmy Vaughan, from Shreveport La., and

a culture instructor at the Stability Academy.

Vaughan said the class will help give service members more of an appreciation for the Iraqi culture, and a better understanding of Iraqi customs.

The Iraqi Language and Culture Course is also helping Soldiers conduct their mission in the train, assist, and advise role.

"U.S. mechanics who used to work on humvees are now working with Iraqi counterparts in the Iraqi maintenance section," said Vaughan. "They're helping

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Chaplain's Corner

Coping with difficult decisions during deployment

By Chaplain (CDR) James Denley
USF-I Strategic Operations Chaplain

There are always decisions that need to be made; I'm glad to report that there is also good advice available to help everyone.

We make many small decisions each day such as when we get up, how we do physical training, and responding to dozens of emails.

Our individual battle rhythm helps us avoid some of these decisions. A routine helps us move right along so we don't spend our time thinking about when to drop off laundry or when to get a haircut.

The downside of this routine is monotony, which is one of the biggest operational stressors. Service members need to establish a routine and break it up with things that are genuinely fun, like starting a new hobby and living life to the fullest.



Fortunately, big decisions come less often. They're tough and require more of our time, attention and deliberation. Larger family issues require a lot of decisions, but they come to us more slowly.

One of the most common pieces of advice that chaplains give out during deployments is that all big decisions that can wait, should wait. If your decisions can wait, then four months after deployment is a reasonable amount of time.

If you did not plan on buying a new car or a boat before you deployed, then it's best to wait, but have fun shopping for it. If you and your spouse are having trouble, wait until you get home to get reacquainted again. Give yourself time before you make the big decisions.

If you're stuck on a decision and it can't wait, use the confidentiality of the chaplain's office to assist you through the decision making process.

SARC Smarts

What are your rights as a sexual assault victim? (AR 27-10):



- Be treated with fairness, dignity and respect
- Be protected from the offender
- Be notified (present at) court proceedings
- Confer with the prosecutor
- Receive info about the court-martial process
- Seek damages
- Have privacy rights respected

Call the USF-I Deployed Sexual Assault Response Coordinator (DSARC) at 485-5085 or 435-2235 for help.

Army members should seek assistance with their Unit Victim Advocate (UVA) or DSARC.



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Standard-issue eye-pro recalled

Story by Staff Sgt. Edward Daileg
USF-I Public Affairs

The Department of the Army recently sent out a recall message for defective eye protection that could fail and endanger service members.

During routine government testing of the Eye Safety System's Ice Naro spectacle kit, ballistic fragments cracked the lens of the eyewear. This failure could result in penetration of the lens, which could cause serious eye injuries.

"Ballistic eye protection is tested for different factors; impact resistance, protection from different angles of projection, and area of protective coverage," said Capt. Charles Tessman, officer-in-charge of the optometry section for the 167th Medical Detachment at Camp Liberty.

"Not all eye protection has the same thickness of lenses or the same distance from the face or curvature to maximize protection," he said.

"Military spec eye protection worn by our Soldiers shouldn't crack when they're hit by fragments; the lenses should only be dented upon impact," said Spc. Wales Rowe, the noncommissioned officer-in-charge of the 33rd Optical Company at Camp

Liberty.

United States Forces-Iraq Memorandum 11-1 Annex R, regulates the use of authorized protective eyewear to maximize the safety of service members from eye injury.

"Wearing approved protective safety glasses and protective goggles while engaged in any activity where the eyes are exposed to injury lowers your risk for eye injury, impaired vision, and complete loss of sight," said Lon Cooper, the USF-I safety manager.

Testing performed by the manufacturer shows that the months of production affected by this recall are Nov. 2008, Dec. 2008, June 2009 and July 2009. More than 42,000

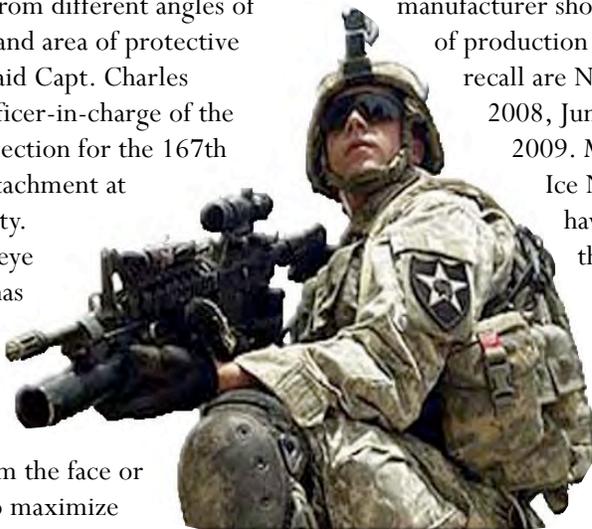
Ice Naro spectacle kits have been affected by the recall.

Upon notification of the test failure, ESS performed tests on their Ice Naro products and made corrective actions to resolve

the issue.

ESS has agreed to do a one-for-one exchange for the affected lenses.

Soldiers who were issued the affected ESS Ice Naro spectacle kit may turn in their lenses to their unit supply NCO for replacement.



How protective eyewear is approved

The Military Combat Eye Protection program puts commercial products through rigorous laboratory testing for protection from ballistic fragmentation such as rocks, glass and shrapnel, as well as through user testing in a field environment. The ballistic fragmentation requirements that MCEP tests against are based on Military Performance Specification 31013: 640 feet per second for spectacles and 550 feet per second for goggles. Spectacles are tested for their ability to resist .15-caliber steel fragments while goggles must protect against .22-caliber steel fragments.

Items that pass the tests and receive user approval are included on an authorized protective eyewear list (APEL).

In addition to providing ballistic fragmentation protection, all products on the APEL have been qualified to the American National Standards Institute Z87.1 Standard for Occupational and Educational Personal Eye and Face Protection Devices.

How to identify the affected ESS Naro spectacle kit

1. Check the lens print, and look for words "Ice Naro" on the top center of the lens. If the "Ice Naro" is present continue to step two.
2. Remove the frame or temples from the lens to reveal two codes etched on the top right and left sides of the lens.
3. Look for any of these date codes: 1108, 1208, 0609 and 0709.
4. Look for any of the following mold ID codes F0, F1, F2, F3, and F4.



If any of these items are identified on your ESS Naro eyewear, notify your unit supply NCO

3rd ACR keeps Camp Cropper secure

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

Ensuring safety and security of service members is a high priority of many camps across Iraq

Cavalry Troopers from Eagle Troop, 2nd Squadron, 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment, carry out the specified mission of keeping the perimeter of Camp Cropper and the Theater Internment Facility secure, as well as building community relations with the locals.

“We conduct the patrols to provide security for the Theater Internment Facility and to make sure the area is safe for the troops, and inmates,” said Sgt. Patrick Hampton, from Ellensburg, Wash., and a section sergeant with the 2nd Platoon, Eagle Troop.

“Camp Cropper is a special entity on VBC and is an area where we need to have extra security,” said Capt. David Taylor, from Greeneville Tenn., and commander of Eagle Troop.

“If we don’t have the area outside the wire secure, there is more potential for insurgents to attack the camp and possibly injure U.S. forces,” said Pvt. Phillip Seep, from Eau Claire Wisc., and a Bradley driver with the 2nd Platoon Wolverines.

While conducting their security patrols, the Wolverines look for suspicious activities, such as anyone observing the walls of Camp Cropper and any large piles of trash near the camp, said Hampton.

“We check to see if anything could be stacked up to climb the wall of the facility,” he said.

The Wolverines ensure that inmates aren’t able to escape



Sgt. Jason Roley and Pfc. Ruben Velasquez speak to a local Iraqi with the aide of an interpreter during a security patrol of the west side of Camp Cropper, Nov 18.

the prison and insurgents don’t have the opportunity to assist in a break-out attempt, said Hampton.

Looking for possible avenues of approach for enemy combatants to use is an added part the platoon’s security patrols, said Staff Sgt. Josef Gomez, from Largo Fla., a platoon sergeant with 2nd Platoon.

“We also provide overwatch and see if we can identify any enemy tactics, techniques and procedures or enemy movement in that area,” Taylor said.

During their patrols, the Troopers are assisting the Risalah residents while building a stronger relationship improving their quality of life.

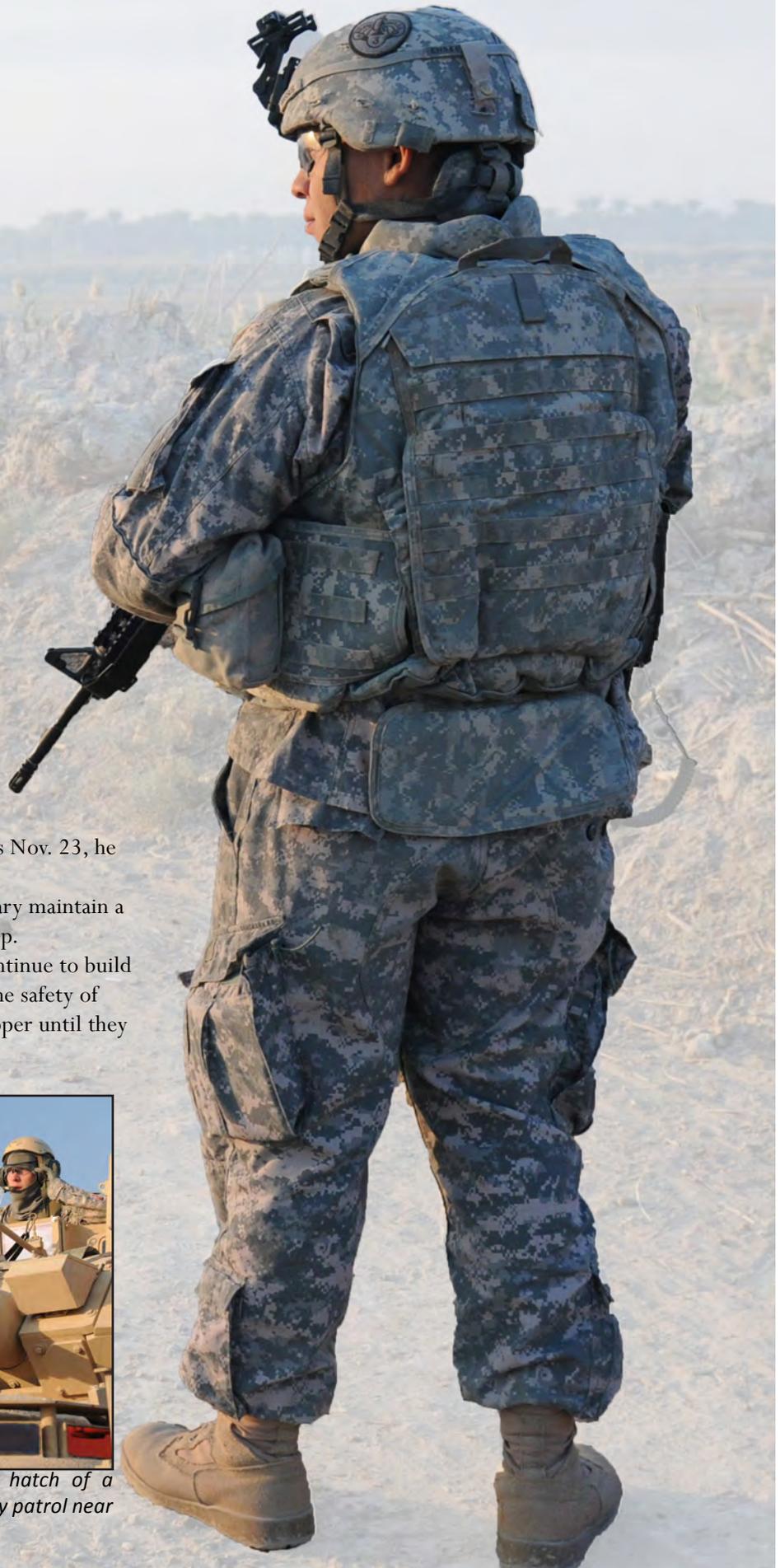
“The Iraqi’s that live near the camp have a water purification system that’s not currently working,” said Hampton.

“We are working on repairing and maintaining the water pump to assist the locals who live nearby with clean water,” said Gomez.

The Eagle Troop Soldiers also carried out a joint humanitarian aid mission and supplied about 450



Spc. Andrew Hanser tosses candy to an Iraqi boy during a security patrol outside of Camp Cropper.



students with school supplies and backpacks Nov. 23, he said.

“Out here, we are helping the U.S. military maintain a friendship with the local populace,” said Seep.

Gomez said Eagle Troop Soldiers will continue to build stronger bonds with the Iraqis and ensure the safety of service members in and around Camp Cropper until they redeploy in the summer of 2011.



Sgt. Patrick Hampton sits in the gunners hatch of a Bradley fighting vehicle during a daily security patrol near Camp Cropper.

Course, from Page 1

them fix Iraqi humvees, and having a class like this for service members goes a long way.”

“It becomes a force multiplier; the faster you can get to know an Iraqi and gain his or her trust, the easier it is to do your job,” Williams said.

“The material we teach comes from seven Iraqi-citizen instructors,” said Williams. “They design the course to focus on useful information such as meeting and greetings.”

“We teach service members how to do the first five minutes of a conversation and the last two minutes, with basic questions,” said Vaughan.

“You need to show an effort to learn the language; if you don’t, it could be considered disrespectful,” said Williams.

Williams said USF-I is committed to partnering with their Iraqi counterparts, and continue to learn more about their culture.

“The course will continue to be important as long as we have Americans interacting with Iraqis,” he said.



Ahmed Taha, head Iraqi instructor of the Iraqi Language and Culture Course, teaches students basic greetings and the Arabic alphabet at the Stability Academy on Camp Victory, Iraq.

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Unsung Hero



Sp. Jason Owens is recognized as this week's Unsung Hero and received a Certificate of Achievement from Brig. Gen. Joseph DiSalvo, Deputy Chief of Staff, United States Forces-Iraq, at Al Faw Palace, Dec. 3. Owens received the certificate for his exemplary performance during the data transfer to CENTCOM of more than 60,000 individual Geographical Information Systems products.

VBC Facility Operating Hours

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

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

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

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

Paul Smith Gym
Open 24 Hours

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

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

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

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

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

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

Army vs. Navy, which team will win and why?



**Chief Petty Officer
Franchot McDaniel**
Logistics Chief

USF-I Command Group
Secretary Joint Staff

"Navy - they've always had a winning tradition when it comes to collegiate athletics amongst the various services."



**Spc.
Marcus West**
Human Intelligence
Collector

Headquarters Support
Company, Special Troops
Battalion, III Corps

"Army - because they have a better team this"



**Lt. Col
Lance Lafond**
Joint Visitors
Bureau Director

USF-I Command Group
Secretary Joint Staff

"Navy - they've been on a roll for eight years, why stop now."



**Sgt.
Michael Benner**
Personal Security Detail
Shift Leader

USF-I Deputy Commanding
General-Operations Section

"Army - their defense is really good this time around."



**Petty Officer 3rd Class
Sipriano Marte**
Administrative Personnel
J1 Manpower Section

"Navy - they have been a more organized team."



**Chief Petty Officer
Jack Campbell**
DCG-S Operations NCO
USF-I Deputy Commanding
General-Support Section

"Navy - because we have a better team and it will happen."

Websites

Check it out:

USF-I Web pages
www.usf-iraq.com
www.flickr.com/photos/mnfiraq/
www.twitter.com/USF_Iraq

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

Iraqi scout, guides receive sports equipment



Service members and civilian volunteers unload boxes of sports equipment donated to the Iraqi children.

The Iraqi Boy Scouts and Girl Guides received brand new sports equipment from a California-based charitable organization Nov. 20.

With more than 800 pieces of sporting good equipment donated by the organization, the children will have a better opportunity to learn the benefits of good health through sports.

Service members and civilians throughout Victory Base Complex, volunteered their time and assisted with the distribution of equipment and then spent the day with the children.



Iraqi Boys Scouts get ready to play with the sports equipment they received Nov. 20. A charitable sports organization from the U.S. donated the equipment.



An Iraqi Girl Guide kicks a ball during one of the several activities held during the day.

Electrical Fire Safety

Never overload extension cords or wall sockets.

Do not place cords and wires under rugs, over nails, or in high traffic areas.

Replace all worn, old, or damaged appliance cords immediately.

Look for products that meet the UL standard for safety when buying electrical appliances.

Do not trap electric cords against walls where heat can build up.

If an appliance has a three-prong plug, use it only in a three-slot outlet.