

# ANACONDA TIMES

SEPTEMBER 27, 2006

PROUDLY SERVING LSA ANACONDA



## OUTREACH

Anaconda medical community reaches out to local village

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DROWNING POOL CRANKS UP METAL NOISE

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13 SC(E) >>

## Terry uncases colors, history

by Spc. Alexandra Hemmerly-Brown

Anaconda Times Staff Writer

LSA ANACONDA, Iraq –The 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) unfurled its colors as it accepted the responsibilities handed over by 3rd Corps Support Command in a transfer of authority ceremony Sept. 16.

Brig. Gen. Michael J. Terry, commander of 13th SC(E), officially took over the theatre sustainment mission from Brig. Gen. Rebecca S. Halstead, commander of 3rd COSCOM, hours before she redeployed to Wiesbaden, Germany.

“The 3rd COSCOM has established a reputation for excellence that will be tough to sustain—but I promise you we will,” Terry said. “This is truly a historic day in the future of our Army.”

“The path to today’s ceremony has been long and we could not stand here ready to seize the torch without the countless hours put in by your staff over the past year,” he said complementing Halstead for the work done here, by her unit.

It is the second deployment in Iraq for both commands.

“Thank you for joining us on this historic day as 3rd COSCOM, the last corps support command to deploy to combat, transfers responsibility to the 13th SC(E), the first sustainment command to deploy to combat,” Terry said.

The 13th SC(E)’s primary mission is to provide combat support and combat service support in the areas of supply, maintenance, trans-

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13 SC(E) >>

## Fort Hood-based 13th SC(E) takes on logistics mission

“(This) transfer of authority is a symbol of America’s unwavering commitment to the people of Iraq.” -- Lt. Gen. Peter W. Chiarelli



Photo by Spc. Amanda Solitario

Brig. Gen. Rebecca Halstead, commander of the 3rd Corps Support Command, and Brig. Gen. Michael J. Terry, commander of the 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) stand together after the COSCOM colors were cased and the 13th SC(E) were uncased during the transfer of authority ceremony here on Sept. 16.



### “I will never quit.”

I am Spc. Terrance L. McGay , from Columbia, S.C.  
39th Finance Battalion >> financial specialist

# AT Spotlight: 13th SC(E) Command Sgt. Major Terry Fountain

## What is your philosophy as the 13th SC (E) Command Sergeant Major on Logistical Support Area Anaconda?

I would say my philosophy is the same as the commanding general, to ensure that all Soldiers are taken care of here at LSA Anaconda. There are approximately 30,000 Soldiers, civilians, and airmen that are here, and our job is to give them the best training and to protect them in any way that we can.

## Briefly describe your leadership style?

Leaders probably think that I am an authoritarian type of leader, but I am not. I am a participative. But with that, when the mission or the commander's intent is out there, I enforce the standards. So, if everyone knows what the commander's intent is, then I will enforce those standards.

## How important are basic Warriors Skills when in a combat environment?

It's more than just in a combat environment; it is anywhere that you are. Here, particularly, Soldiers need to be focused at all times, regardless if they are on the forward operating base or on a combat logistics patrol, because you don't know where the enemy is going to hit.

## In your opinion, what makes a Soldier a "great" Soldier?

A disciplined Soldier, because if you have a disciplined Soldier, he or she will do what you ask of them. An undisciplined Soldier is the one that you will have problems with.

## How have your previous deployments for



## Command Sgt. Major Terry A. Fountain Desert Shield/Desert Storm and Operation Iraqi Freedom impacted your role here during this deployment?

It's a different war, but we have the same Soldiers, so instilling the difference of the war from Desert Storm/Desert Shield and Operation Iraqi Freedom is knowing the Tactics, Techniques, and Procedures that are in place now that Soldiers must know to survive on the battlefield.

## What is your biggest pet-peeve?

The lack of discipline.

## What has been your most memorable

## experience during your 28 years in the military and why?

The changing of the Army. I enjoy changes. A lot of leaders want to stay in the past. I know if you stay in the past, you think in the past. I am a future type of leader, so changes are okay with me, because we have better Soldiers in the Army today. Why, they are more intelligent, and they want to know what's going on, and we have at the staff sergeant level in the Army today, doing more than the staff sergeants have ever done in their whole career in the Army.

## What do you personally hope to gain from this year-long deployment?

More knowledge. Ensuring that Soldiers understand and adhere to the standards. I just want to ensure that all Soldiers that have come here go back home safely.

## How do you define and measure success?

We are going to accomplish the mission, that's the Army's first goal. Taking care of Soldiers is what we need to focus on the most, because the mission will happen without any problem if the Soldiers are taken care of.

## What advice would you give the lowest-ranking 13th SC (E) Soldier?

To listen to your noncommissioned officer and to do what is right regardless of how hard it may be. It may be a hard thing to do, but that's what I ask of them. Do what is right.

## Why is family important to the Soldiers here?

Family is what keeps you glued together in

reference to knowing what you are going back home to. With that, we have Soldiers that are married. Both family members are here, but that is what keeps us moving forward...the families that are in the rear.

## Many of your Soldiers have been previously deployed to either Iraq or Afghanistan. What does this experience bring to the commanders in the field?

It brings a lot of experience, knowing that the Soldiers have faced that battle before. It makes it a little easier for us to know that some have been through some of the things that we are going to go through, and they can help the junior Soldiers who have not been through, and they can get that first line experience from their battle buddies.

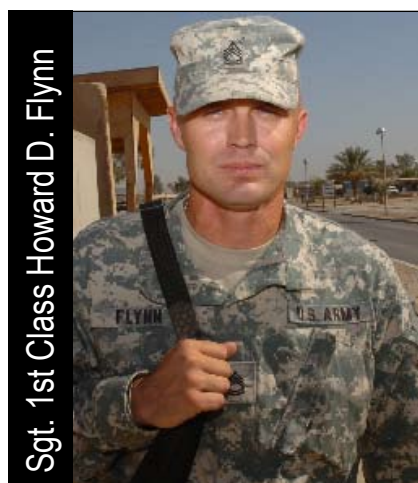
## Do you feel that Soldiers should further their education (if time permits) while they are deployed?

I encourage that for all Soldiers because of the technology that we have today. On-line computer classes are here. We encourage each and every Soldier to do take these classes if they have the time to do it; however, mission first, and you will get your education.

## Is there anything else you would like to add?

I am glad to be a part of the 13th SC(E). I am working with General Terry, and ensuring that we give the Iraqis back their country. We know that it is going to be a difficult thing to do, but we are willing to do what is right to give this back to them.

## From your point of view, what makes a great Soldier?



Sgt. 1st Class Howard D. Flynn

"Having the motivation and the discipline to do what he is asked to do in the time of need for our country."



Sgt. Sonia M. Rodriguez

"Having integrity and knowing how to be an example for your Soldiers."



Spc. Michael S. Wells

"Going outside the wire twice a day and putting forth all he's got. Trying to make Iraq safer, and coming back safe."



Spc. Liliana K. Dang

"Them being themselves, listening, always on time, following commands, and always doing what's best."

## ANACONDA TIMES

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# Soldiers join a time-honored corps of leaders

by Sgt. Gary A. Witte

**Anaconda Times Staff Writer**

**LSAANACONDA, Iraq** – As each sergeant stepped up to the arch, they also moved into the spotlight on stage.

“Who will sponsor this noncommissioned officer into the NCO Corps?” Command Sgt. Maj. Gary R. Miller called across the room.

The sponsors’ voices answered from the audience, and each Soldier stepped forward to be inducted into the NCO Corps. At the end of the Sept. 7 ceremony in the Air Force Town Hall, the 11 new sergeants of 3rd Battalion, 135th Aviation Regiment, stood together to recite the NCO creed.

“It gives the rank a little more shine than normal,” Sgt. Derrick D. Randall, the Nuclear, Chemical, Biological noncommissioned officer for Headquarters and Headquarters Company,

said of the event. “It helps to think about the responsibility of leadership you assume when you take on the rank.”

It was the first such ceremony for the Missouri National Guard unit that runs the Sherpa flights here, with elements of the ritual copied from other NCO induction events, 1st Sgt. Greg S. Sumpff said.

Sumpff said their aim was to give junior NCOs and enlisted people more attention and help establish a sense of tradition.

“Hopefully this will rub off on these guys and they’ll take it back to their units,” he said of the Soldiers. “This is one way to give them some recognition.”

The ceremony included a description of how new sergeants during the time of Fredrick the Great would stand watch for four nights before they could be inducted into the NCO Corps.

Command Sgt. Maj. Dennis E. Taylor,

35<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division, served as the keynote speaker for the event. He stressed that the inductees should realize the importance of their new positions as leaders.

“The stripes you wear set you apart from most Soldiers,” he said. “The Army’s success depends on you, the NCO.”

Taylor said an outstanding NCO requires elements to build them, rather than natural-born skills.

“Training, practice, and experience builds good leaders,” he said.

He gave advice based on his 30 years of experience in the military, stressing the concepts of “Be, Know, and Do.”

Taylor also noted the importance of knowing their Soldiers’ families and setting the example of good character.

“Show your Soldiers every day that you can do everything they can do,” Taylor said. “If

you make a mistake, admit it. Don’t sacrifice your integrity.”

After the ceremony, Sumpff said the event was important to help show the new sergeants the long history they are now a part of.

“We’re the worker bees,” he said. “The NCOs get the job done.”



Photos by Spc. Walton McJordan

(Clockwise from left) The new sergeants of 3rd Battalion, 135th Aviation Regiment prepare for the Sept. 7 NCO induction ceremony. Sgt. Paul M. Kay steps through the arch representing his passage into the NCO Corps. Command Sgt. Maj. Dennis E. Taylor, 35th Infantry Division, was the keynote speaker for the event.

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# ARMY RESERVE

It's not your everyday job.

# Iraqi Assistance Office opens at east gate

story and photo by Spc. KaRonda Fleming

**LSA ANACONDA, Iraq** – Iraqis now have a safer place to voice their concerns or complaints, due to the new Civil Military Operations Center's Iraqi Assistance Office here.

The new office held a grand opening at the east gate on Sept. 9.

For many Iraqis, the old office, which was located at the north gate, was more intimidating. They received threats when they came onto the base here, said Spc. Kristen L. Riess, a civil affairs clerk with the 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary).

"It was more dangerous for the Iraqi people to go there," said Sgt. Gloria I. Ingalls, noncommissioned officer in charge of the operations center. "The roads are less risky at the east gate, and the Iraqis won't be afraid to come and tell us whatever their problem is."

She said that convoys come in through the north gate too.

Many of the people that go to the north gate have other problems that don't have anything to do with civil affairs, such as needing medical assistance at the hospital, Ingalls said.

Iraqi citizens that have issues with the military are able to voice their concerns with the help of this office, said Maj. Manuel S. Wong, operations officer in charge.

"In the past year, we have had more than 300 Iraqi visitors," Wong said.

So far, the military ordered thorough investigations of approximately 200 of those cases, he said.

"These claims deal with land, property damage, injury, missing persons, and death of family members," Wong said.

Normally, if there is an accident between U.S. forces on patrol and civilians, such as a vehicle collision or an escalation of force, then the right thing for the patrol to do is to stop, render first-aid, and fill out an accident report, Wong said. The patrol is supposed to give the Iraqi a receipt.

The Iraqis are supposed to bring their receipt to the office and describe through translators what happened, he said. If the Iraqis are to be compensated, then condolence payments are provided.

This keeps a peaceful relationship between coalition forces and the Iraqi people, Wong said.

Riess, a reserve Soldier from Texas, usually does military police work. Her background as an MP will help when she speaks to the Iraqi people.

"It's a good thing to be on the good side of the war, instead of going out killing people. Our job is helping out the Iraqi people," Riess said.

Ultimately, the new office wants to show the Iraqis that the military cares about them.

"There is always going to be someone out there that we can't reason with," Ingalls said. "There is always going to be someone out there that doesn't like us-no matter what. But I think that we are making a difference in general, for most of them, because they are seeing that we are here not trying to take over their country," she said.

Ingalls said, "I think slowly, it's starting to make a good difference. It's starting to show a good image of us."



Maj. Manuel S. Wong, CMOC officer in charge, counts out recompensation money to an Iraqi civilian who previously had two family members involved in an accident near post.

**What you don't see  
could kill you.**

**Look for secondary  
explosive devices.**



**STAY ALIVE**





Photo by Senior Airmen James Croxon

Staff Sgt. Brandi Cannedy tracks aircraft on her scope. Transportable radar approach control Airmen like her monitor all aircraft, military or civilian, in central Iraq. By the time their Air Expeditionary Force rotation is over, they will have controlled more than 95,000 missions.

# Balad airmen control central Iraq airspace

by Senior Airman James Croxon  
332d Air Expeditionary Wing Public Affairs

**BALAD AIR BASE, Iraq** - Working transportable radar approach control at Balad Air Base, Iraq, is like a world-class chess tournament, but instead of 32 pieces on an eight-by-eight board, there are hundreds, and instead of veterans with years of experience, Airmen averaging less than four years in service are controlling the pieces.

The transportable radar approach control airmen here control the air space in central Iraq, including Baghdad, according to Tech. Sgt. Gerald Joins, crew senior watch supervi-

sor. "It's basically the air space left over after the northern and southern no-fly zone," he said.

Unlike home station, the airmen behind the scopes have to learn new tasks due to the unique dynamics of Iraq.

"We train Airmen in a (Federal Aviation Administration) environment back home; it's very static and controlled," said Chief Master Sgt. Hank Gillen, TRAPCON superintendent. "Here it's much more chaotic and dynamic.

"Unlike the special use air space we send the aircraft to at home, the whole country is special use and blocks of air space become restricted for missions with little notice. The

controllers have to remain flexible enough to accommodate that at any time," the chief said.

Like master chess players who stay many moves ahead of their opponents, the Airmen stay ahead of the aircraft they control and constantly look for ways to stay flexible.

"Back home we have an A-plan and a B-plan," said Senior Airman Ben Omara, deployed from Luke Air Force Base, Ariz. "Here we have five or six plans just in case air space is activated for a combat mission or to support ground troops, and it often is."

It's not just the quantity of aircraft that makes the job challenging. The airmen must

track the size, shape, speed, and even nationality of the "pieces" they control.

"I'm used to one size of aircraft back home and the occasional civilian jet," said Senior Airman Shantell Ward, deployed from Laughlin Air Force Base, Texas and who received her 5-skill level certification in February. "Here I have to know if I'm dealing with a (MQ-1) Predator traveling at 60 knots, a C-17 traveling at 250 knots or an F-16 cruising at 450 knots. The F-16 turns on a dime but the Predator can stay airborne all day. I'm constantly prioritizing the aircraft based on need and position."

In addition to communicating with U.S. military aircraft conducting missions, the controllers also communicate with other pilots, including Iraqis.

"The language barrier is probably the hardest thing to get used to," said Senior Airman Clarin Cabana, a Riverdale, Ga., native, who is deployed from Dover Air Force Base, N.J.

The amount of trust and responsibility assigned to these airmen is tremendous, since losing a match would result in mission failure. It's the flexibility inherent in the career field that allows airmen in their 20s or even younger to do a job that is so demanding.

"These Airmen amaze me everyday," said Staff Sgt. Brandi Cannedy, deployed from Grand Forks Air Force Base, N.D. "I don't remember having anywhere near this much responsibility when I was an Airman. It's a steep learning curve when they get here, steeper than technical school or on-the-job training and they accept the challenges and meet them."

Here in Iraq, the tournament never ends; there are always new pieces to move.

## ANACONDA DINING FACILITY HOURS

	DFAC 1	DFAC 2 & 3	DFAC 4
<b>Breakfast</b>	6 to 9 a.m.	6 to 9 a.m.	5:30 to 8:30 a.m.
<b>Lunch</b>	11:30 to 2:30 p.m.	11:30 to 2:30 p.m.	11 a.m. to 2 p.m.
<b>Dinner</b>	5:30 to 8:30 p.m.	5:30 to 8:30 p.m.	5:30 to 8:30 p.m.
<b>Night</b>	2 to 5 a.m.	11:30 p.m. to to 1 .am.	11:30 p.m. to to 1 .am.

### CONVOY CAFÉ SERVING TIMES

Breakfast	4 to 8 a.m.
Dinner	noon to 2 p.m.
Dinner	5 to 9 p.m.

**Colors, from Page 1**

portation, and field services. The 13th SC(E) will also play a critical role in training Iraqi logistical units.

Formerly 13th COSCOM, it restructured and re-designated into its current structure in February, and will play a key role in redesigning the logistics battlefield in Iraq to better support the Army's newly transformed combat units.

On its first deployment in Iraq, the 13th SC(E) processed 2,000 tons of mail, averaged more than 200 convoys a day, and was responsible for quality of life improvements for the joint forces.

Halstead talked briefly about her command's undertakings during the past year.

She said out of nearly 3,000 vehicles on the road each night, many of those belonged to 3rd COSCOM.

Halstead also spoke about the pride of working the Iraqi soldiers and civilians here.

"Iraqi's show great courage, and are fighting to protect their families," she said.

Lt. Gen. Peter W. Chiarelli, commander of Multi National Corps-Iraq, who opened the ceremony, spoke of the progress being made in Iraq.

"We've driven a wedge between Iraqi terrorists, and those who want a free and democratic Iraq," Chiarelli said. "(This) transfer of authority is a symbol of America's unwavering commitment to the people of Iraq."

3rd COSCOM's motto, "Sustain the line," will now be replaced by 13th SC(E)'s, "Phantom support."

"Our Soldiers are now trained and ready to accept the mantle. On behalf of the Soldiers of the 13th I make this promise—we will continue to sustain the line," Terry said.



Photo by Spc. Amanda Sollitario



Photo by Sgt. Gary A. Witte



Photo by Sgt 1st Class Mark Bell

(Clockwise from Above) The 13th SC(E) colors are finally uncased during the transfer of authority ceremony on LSA Anaconda on Sept. 16. Workers install the new headquarters signs shortly after the completion of the ceremony. Soldiers hold their weapons and listen to Brig. Gen. Rebecca Halstead, 3rd Corps Support Command commander, give her farewell speech during the ceremony. Brig. Gen. Michael J. Terry, commander of 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), addresses the large crowd during the transfer of authority ceremony on LSA Anaconda.



Photo by Spc. KaRonda Fleming



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Mark Bell



Photo by Spc. Amanda Solitario



Photo by Spc. KaRonda Fleming



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Mark Bell



Photo by Spc. Amanda Solitario

*(Clockwise from left) Sgt. Antonio Rodriguez stands at attention with the 4th Corps Materiel Management Center, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) colors during the transfer of authority ceremony on LSA Anaconda on Sept. 16. Brig. Gen. Rebecca Halstead, 3rd Corps Support Command commander, gives Brig. Gen. Michael J. Terry, commander of 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), a farewell hug after the completion of the ceremony. Brig. Gen. Michael J. Terry, commander of 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and Command Sgt. Maj. Terry A. Fountain, 13th SC(E) command sergeant major, uncases the command colors during the ceremony. The transfer of authority color guard stands at attention. Command Sgt. Maj. Ralph R. Beam, Multi-National Corps-Iraq sergeant major, Maj. Gen. Daniel A. Hahn, Multi-National Corps-Iraq deputy commanding general, Brig. Gen. Rebecca S. Halstead, 3rd Corps Support Command commander, and Command Sgt. Maj. David D. Wood, 3rd COSCOM sergeant major, stand at attention while the U.S. colors pass at the conclusion of the ceremony.*

# Soldiers, Iraqi doctors come together to help village

13th SC(E) surgeon, civil affairs use medical assistance visit to evaluate local health care, supplies

by Spc. Amanda Solitario

*Anaconda Times Staff Writer*

**RAMADAN, Iraq**—The military vehicles came to a halt in front of the small run-down medical clinic. Children swarmed the Humvees with their little hands outstretched asking for candy and toys. This time, however, Soldiers were there to provide aid of a different kind.

In a coordinated effort to deliver medical supplies, furniture, and on-the-spot healthcare, Soldiers from various nearby units made the Sept. 13 medical assistance visit, or MAV for short, to the Iraqi town, Ramadan.

Word spread quickly of the Soldiers intent, and within minutes, dozens of village residents lined up outside the building seeking medical care.

Soldiers and children formed a line stretching from the backs of vehicles to the door of the clinic, quickly unloading the boxes of donations.

Filling the bare shelves and unfurnished rooms with much-needed resources will help the community, but restocking the clinic with supplies was not the primary goal of the mission, said Capt. David Banks, team leader for the 404th Civil Affairs Battalion, based at Fort Dix, N.J.

While donations and supplies only last for a limited time, training the Iraqi doctors will provide invaluable skills, which will stay with them as they continue to treat the residents of the town, Banks said. In turn, the patients will gain confidence in their structure of healthcare.

“If they can trust their own system, they become invested in their own government,” he said.

As the Iraqi doctors stocked the medicine cabinets with the pills and liquids donated by the Air Force Theater Hospital at LSA Anaconda, they thanked the Soldiers for their generosity.

“We love to take the help and support from the Americans,” said one of the doctors through a translator.

In an attempt to assess the type of care patients receive at the clinic, military doctors paired up with the Iraqi doctors, while those wishing to be treated moved into one of the four examining rooms.

Dr. (Maj.) David Hale, from Woodbury, Minn., the 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) surgeon, met with some of the Iraqi doctors to observe their healthcare system and aid them in treating the people.

According to Hale, a Minnesota Guardsmen, the doctors and nurses at the clinic are very smart, but require more up-to-date training as well as additional supplies. Unfortunately, the supply issues need to be addressed by the Ministry of Health.



Dr. (Maj.) David Hale, from Woodbury, Minn., the 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) surgeon, talks with two local Iraqi doctors about medicines in the clinic.

“On the other hand, the training is something that we can help them with,” said the emergency room site director and chief of staff for Woodwinds Hospital in Woodbury. “We want to try to get them to a point where they can take care of themselves.”

In a joint effort, the Army and Iraqi medical teams divided patients into different groups according to their illness or complaint. And for more than four hours, the doctors continued to administer aid to the sick.

Spc. Brian Lesko, a medic with 1st Battalion, 8th Infantry Regiment, evaluated the patients with less serious conditions such as minor aches and pains, usually providing the individual with anti-inflammatory medicine and exercise suggestions.

Lesko, from Plainfield, Ill., said he was glad to be out in the town helping to improve the health of the citizens adding that it feels great to be “winning the hearts and minds of the people.”

Hale handled the more complicated problems and even conducted minor procedures. At one point, an 18-year-old boy needed a growth removed from one of his toes. With an Iraqi doctor watching over his shoulder, Hale successfully removed the cyst.

The Soldiers also had a room set up exclusively for women with health concerns. Capt. Heather Bassett, a physical therapist with 1st Battalion, 34th Brigade Combat Team, treated 18 women and dozens of children.

“It was a good start for an outreach to the community,” she said of the mission.

The women typically do not have an obstetrician or a gynecologist that they can see on a regular basis, so this gave them an opportunity to voice any problems they might be experiencing, she said.

Bassett said she did everything from giving prenatal advice to a 7-month pregnant woman to checking the hips of a little girl.

Hale said the mission went very well and has confidence in the doctors, physicians, and nurses who treat the people in the town. The biggest problem is getting the residents to have faith in their system.

“The people need to understand they have good physicians,” he said. “When they gain confidence in their own healthcare system, they will use it more.”



Two local Iraq doctors are interviewed by military broadcast journalists about the improvements of health since 2003.



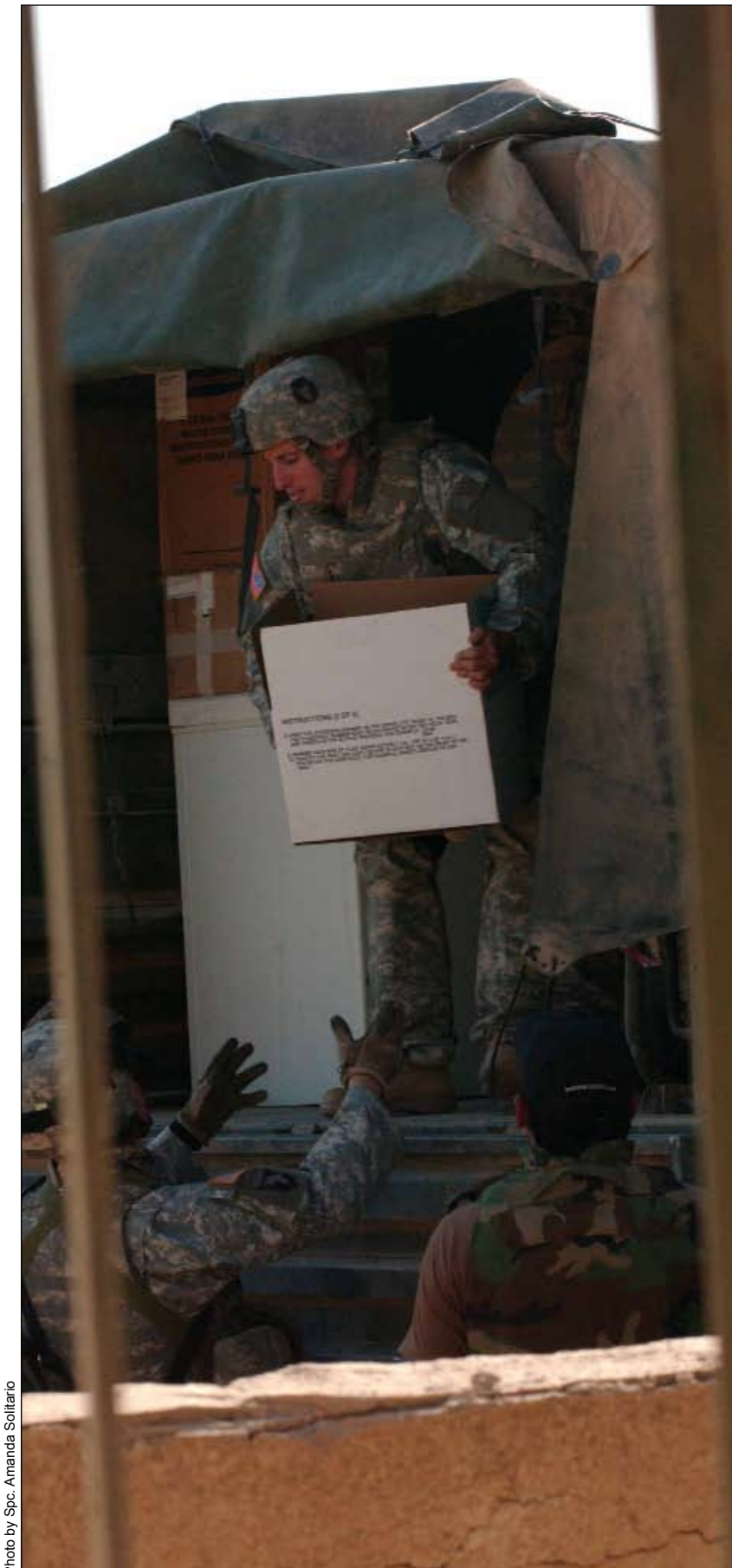
Capt. Heather Bassett, a physical therapist with 1st Battalion, 34th Brigade Combat Team, listens to an Iraqi woman's health concerns.



An Iraqi doctor watch as Soldiers unload numerous medical supplies, gifts for local Iraqi children and furniture during a recent medical assistance visit.



Spc. John Scholes, a medic with 1st Battalion 167th Reconnaissance, Surveillance, and Target Acquisition, speaks to an Iraqi man, with the help of an interpreter, about things he can do to help with his kidney pain. Scholes is from Lincoln, Neb.



Soldiers unload medicals supplies during a recent medical assistance visit.



Capt. Heather Bassett, a physical therapist with 1st Battalion, 34th Brigade Combat Team, checks the blood pressure of a local Iraqi resident.

Photo by Spc. Amanda Solitario

Photo by Spc. Amanda Solitario

Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Mark Bell

Photo by Spc. Amanda Solitario

Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Mark Bell

Photo by Spc. Amanda Solitario





Photos by Sgt. 1st Class Mark Bell

## 149th earns 'Screaming Eagle'

"There's nothing like being in a combat zone and being part of a military family."

- Spc. Leo Avila, from Seguin, Texas

by Staff Sgt. Lorin T. Smith

### 36th Combat Aviation Brigade

**LSA ANACONDA, Iraq** -- More than 350 Soldiers of the 1st Battalion, 149th Aviation Regiment, 36th Combat Aviation Brigade, received the "Screaming Eagle" combat patch during a Sept. 11 ceremony.

The attack helicopter battalion has been conducting operational missions in Iraq under the supervision of the 159th Combat Aviation Brigade, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) for at least 30 days, thereby earning the patch.

"Becoming a combat veteran is recognition of the faithful service and selfless service to our nation," said Col. Jeffrey Colt, 159th brigade commander. "We are so proud to have you as part of this task force."

The "patch slapping" began with Colt placing the patch on Lt. Col. Richard P. Adams, 149th's battalion commander. Adams followed suit by handing out the patches to his brigade staff and company commanders. Everyone sported the new combat patch in minutes.

"The combat patches are looking good," Adams said. "The ground guys are nugging it out, depending on us to help them – they depend on you."

No invitations were sent out for the ceremony although chairs, cake, and refreshments were set up inside the hanger. Colt said he did not want anyone else in attendance because the ceremony was exclusively for the 149th Soldiers.

"This ceremony today

is for you guys, and is a chance to recognize a proud day," Adams said.

Spc. Leo Avila, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Bn., 149th Aviation Regt., said he is proud to be part of the 101st's tradition and team.

"This combat patch has a lot of history, and I'm proud to be apart of it," the 20-year-old from Seguin, Texas said.

Avila has a childhood friend also deployed to Iraq with the 172nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team. One of his plans while in Iraq is to visit his friend and show off his new combat patch.

"There's nothing like being in a combat zone and being part of a military family," he said.

The Shoulder Sleeve Insignia-Former Wartime Service patch, or combat patch, is worn on the right sleeve of the uniform. Adopted in 1945, the patch comes with several requirements for authorization of its wear.

The Secretary of the Army or higher must declare the theater of operation as a hostile environment or Congress must declare war. The unit must have participated in or supported ground operations against hostile forces, and the military operation must last at least 30 days or longer.



Col. Jeffrey N. Colt, 159th Aviation Brigade, talks to Soldiers during the ceremony.



Capt. Randall Stillinger, commander of HHC, 149th Aviation Brigade, stands in formation.



# Ramadan: Know what to expect

by Spc. Amanda Solitario

*Anaconda Times Staff Writer*

**LSA ANACONDA, Iraq**—As the region moves into its holiest month, servicemembers should have a basic understanding of the holiday, and what to expect from observers of the Islamic faith.

On the ninth month of the Islamic calendar, Muslims will fast for the entire month focusing on their faith and concentrating less on the business of everyday life. Based on a lunar calendar, the dates of Ramadan vary with every year. This year, Muslims celebrate Ramadan from Sept. 24 until Oct. 23.

“The month of fasting is a time to clean the body, soul, and mind—spiritually and physically,” said Master Sgt. Calvin Noble, an Islamic lay leader at Anaconda.

The Fast of Ramadan is one of the Five Pillars of Faith, the foundation of Muslim life. During this time, they deny their bodies food and water during daylight hours.

Noble said there are many servicemembers on Anaconda who will observe the fast, and it is important for other troops to watch for signs of dehydration and fatigue.

Families wake before the sun rises for suhoor, a pre-dawn meal, then will fast until

the sun sets. After the last ray of light vanishes, Muslims break the day’s fast with iftar, a meal shared with family and friends. The meal customarily begins with dates and sweet drinks to replenish lost energy.

Noble said food and water are not the only things Muslims abstain from during the daylight hours. They are not allowed to smoke, swear, or engage in sexual activities.

“They try to be at their best during this time,” said Noble, a retention noncommissioned officer for the national guard.

Noble said fasting reminds Muslims of the suffering of the poor, adding that it boosts self-control and enhances their spirituality.

In addition to the fast, individuals spend a majority of their time at the Masjid, or Mosque praying and studying the Quran. Many spend the night hours engaging in prayers called the Tarawih.

On day 27, Muslims observe Laylat al-Qadr, the Night of Power. They believe this to be the day the first verse of the Quran was revealed to Mohammed.

The final three nights of Ramadan mark the end of the fast and is known as Eid al-Fitr. Typically, gifts are exchanged and families and friends share a large meal. Muslims are obligated to be especially generous and



**The local mosque on LSA Anaconda.**

grateful by feeding the poor or contributing to the mosques.

Although the holiday centers around becoming a better Muslim and asks Muslims to refrain from violence, Soldiers should still remain alert for suspicious activity, Noble said.

Additionally, non-Muslims should avoid profanity and crude language around observers of the Islamic faith during Ramadan.

All Muslims are invited to morning and evening prayers everyday at the Eden Chapel located on New Jersey Ave.

**Swing Dancing Lessons**  
**Tuesdays**  
**8 p.m. to 10 p.m.**  
**East MWR**

**Freedom Radio**  
**107.3**

**be iSmart**  
 headphones are not authorized outside while walking or running



Brig. Gen. Michael J. Silva, 411th Engineer Brigade commander addresses the audience.



Command Sgt. Maj. Edward Ramsdell, 411th Engineer Brigade, uncases the brigade colors.

# 411th takes helm of corps engineering efforts

by Spc. Amanda Solitario

*Anacoda Times Staff Writer*

**LSA ANACONDA, Iraq** —“Hooah,” said Brig. Gen. Michael J. Silva, as the 411th Engineer Brigade took over responsibilities from the 130th Engineer Brigade in a Sept. 19 transfer of authority ceremony.

With the unit’s colors uncased, Silva, the commander of the 411th Eng. Bde., officially assumed control from his predecessor, Col. Thomas W. Kula, commander of the 130th Eng. Bde.

“For the colors of the 411th, it’s our first tour of duty,” Silva said. “Our theme for our tour of service is plan, build, protect—assisting Iraq.”

The mission of the reserve unit from New Windsor, N. Y. is to provide engineer support for coalition forces throughout Iraq during the next 12 months.

“To the Soldiers of the 411th, take charge,” Silva said. “Now is the time to bring forward the leadership that you have exhibited and to

demonstrate all of the training you have gone through.”

The unit spent the last three months at Fort McCoy, Wis. training for the deployment, and Silva said his Soldiers are excited to undertake the duties that lie ahead.

“We are ready and prepared—tip of the spear,” he said.

Silva thanked the 130th engineers for their sacrifices over the past year and noted the unit’s exemplary patterns of selfless service.

As the 411th Eng. Bde. takes over, Kula expressed his optimism for the new brigade.

“The 411th assumes the mission as an

extremely competent command and staff that is ready to take the engineer support to new heights,” he said.

The 130th engineers leave behind a list of noteworthy achievements including the sweeping and clearing of more than 750 improvised explosive devices as well as the emplacement of more than 1,000 meters of bridges.

Kula spoke of the accomplishments of his unit and the sense of pride its Soldiers take home. Together, the unit cleared the way for other groups making the roads safer and more accessible, he said.

The 130th engineers honored the memory of the 16 fallen comrades who will not return home with them.

“We devote our accomplishments over the last year in their names,” Kula said.

Maj. Gen. Daniel A. Hahn, deputy commanding general of Multi National Corps-Iraq, welcomed the engineers of the 411th to the team as he bid farewell to the 130th Eng. Bde.

“You have large shoes to fill, but there is no doubt that you are up to the challenge,” Hahn said. “You have the confidence and support of all the MNC-I leadership.”



A Soldier reads Col. Thomas W. Kula’s biography.

Photos by Spc. KaRonda Fleming



Command Sgt. Maj. Micheal Buxbaum, 130th Eng. Bde. incases the brigade colors.

## SAEDA TIP OF THE WEEK

### Things To Report:

Red and black badges without escorts

### Things you can do to ensure information security:

Make sure all classified items are properly secured

# ANACONDA CROSSWORD

## "OPERATIONS"

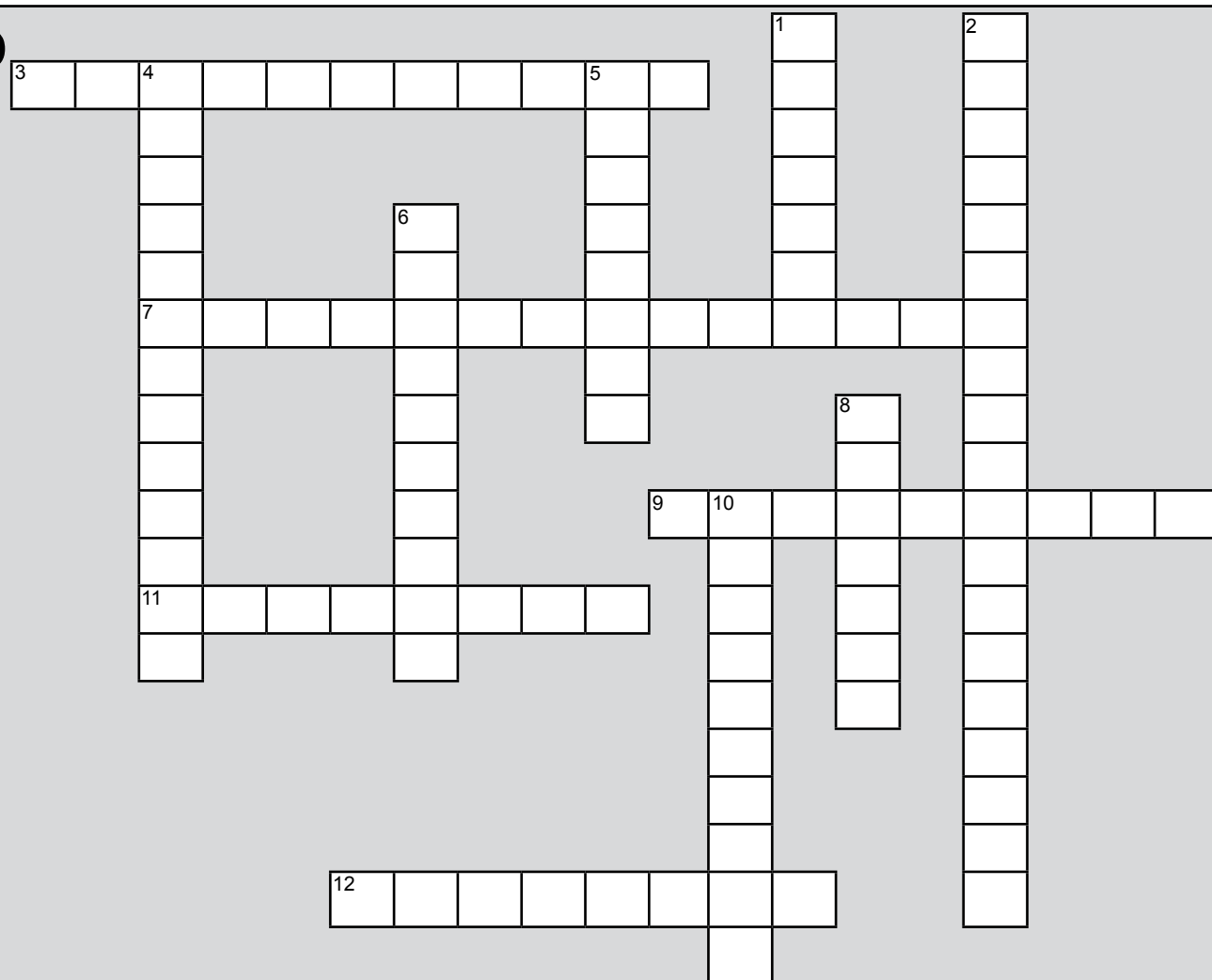
various military operations over the years

### Across

- 3. U.S. invasion of Iraq
- 7. U.S. air raids on Libya in 1986
- 9. U.S. invasion of Panama
- 11. Britian's response to German V1&2 attack during WWII
- 12. Allied invasion of Northern Europe

### Down

- 1. Planned German invasion of Britain during WWII
- 2. Destruction of German trains in France and Germany
- 4. Mission to watch the no-fly zone in Iraq
- 5. Operation Eagle Claw was given the name to what mission
- 6. German invasion of Soviet Union in WWII
- 8. Operation Yonatan location
- 10. U.S. invasion of Grenada



## SUSTAINER REEL TIME THEATER

(Schedule is subject to change)

### Wednesday, Sept. 27

- 5 p.m. Clerks II (R)
- 8 p.m. The Last Kiss (R)

### Thursday, Sept. 28

- 5 p.m. Little Man (PG-13)
- 8 p.m. Monster House (PG)

### Friday, Sept. 29

- 2 p.m. John Tucker must Die (PG-13)
- 5 p.m. Clerks II (R)
- 8:30 p.m. The Guardian (PG-13)

### Saturday, Sept. 30

- 11 a.m. John Tucker must Die (PG-13)
- 2 p.m. The Guardian (PG-13)
- 5 p.m. The Lady in the Water (PG-13)
- 8 p.m. The Guardian (PG-13)

### Sunday, Oct. 1

- 2 p.m. The Lady in the Water (PG-13)
- 5 p.m. John Tucker must Die (PG-13)
- 8 p.m. The Guardian (PG-13)

### Monday, Oct. 2

- 5 p.m. Clerks II (R)
- 8 p.m. The Guardian (PG-13)

### Tuesday, Oct. 3

- 5 p.m. Monster House (PG)
- 8 p.m. My Super Ex-Girlfriend (PG-13)

### Wednesday, Oct. 4

- 5 p.m. The Guardian (PG-13)
- 8 p.m. John Tucker must Die (PG-13)

## WORD SEARCH

### IRAQI CITIES

- |              |              |
|--------------|--------------|
| Baghdad      | Bayji        |
| Nineveh      | al-Kūfah     |
| Basrah       | as-Satrah    |
| Irbil        | Ad Duluiyah  |
| Kirkuk       | Dahuk        |
| Sulaymaniyah | Tikrit       |
| Najaf        | Ad Dawr      |
| Karbala      | Al Qaim      |
| Nasriye      | Babylon      |
| Hilla        | Balad        |
| Ramadiyah    | Daquq        |
| Diwaniyeh    | Haditha      |
| Kut          | Iskandariyah |
| Amarah       | Nineveh      |
| Ba'qubah     | Ramadiyah    |
| Fallujah     | Samarra      |
| Samarra'     | Sulaymaniyah |
| Az Zubayr    | TallAfar     |
| Tall 'Afar   | Tikrit       |
| As-Samawah   |              |

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### Cryptogram Corner: Famous Military Quotes

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
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 12 26 14 25 10 16 18 9 14 10 7 6 11 8 10 1 26 16 15 26 20  
 18 8 10 18 1 1 2 18 8 5 9 2 10 12 18 12 7 23 26 20 1 7  
 5 11 1 1 18 9 21 20 11 8 8 10 1 18 14 18 3 20 12 7 8 10 7  
 15 18 8 7 9 8 10 9 10 8 24 10 15 26 20 8 6 11 8 10 18 12 7

# Messages from Home

Luis Figueroa

Your family missed you very much. Your boys are wearing your hats and shoes. Your daughters are asking for your delicious meals. Love Nelly

Christopher Smead

We are off to the mainland for the wedding this week, but traveling isn't any fun without you. We wish you were with us, but we know what you and your fellow soldiers are doing is so important. I bought a special dress and I will save it to share with you when you return. Your girl is flipping fantastic (literally!) She is doing front handspring, front fly-spring, front tucks! Your boy is wowing everyone with his intellect and charm (one of which he gets from his Dad - you get to decide which!) We MISS you! Love, Terri

Zosima Richards

We all love and miss you and are counting down the days until you return. We can't seem to cook the SPAM right without you!!! Love always your husband Ron and your son Blake

Juliana Collins

I would like to tell her that I love her, proud of her, and our kids our proud of her also. We miss her and can not wait to see her on RNR. We also like to tell you everyone over there that we are also proud of them and to stay safe.

Come home soon.

Jen

We miss you and love you! much love and hugs and kisses, Mom, Dad and pazzo

Frank Quenga

Happy anniversary and happy birthday dad! We love you! Chelsie, Eric, Kevin and Elsie

Peleti Mauga

Talofa! Just to let you know you are dearly missed and in our prayers always. We love you! your wife and sons, Pohakalani, Peleti Jr., Palepoi, and Punalehua the Bossman.

Kevin Lovett

"We love you and miss you like crazy! The bear wants to give you a kiss, a hug with arms and

squeeze, a high-five, a handshake and finally, a bonk on the head! And I send tons of kisses and hugs! Happy Anniversary on October 3rd!! I love you and would marry you again in a heartbeat!

Love, Ashley and Aiden"

Glen Acierto

Aloha from your ohana in beautiful Kaneohe. We miss you and love you. Take care and God bless!!! Aloha Ke Akua P.S. Don't forget your wife's birthday on Sept. 27

Magno Manzano

"Hang in there keep up the good work and hurry home safely to me and all of his family members. We are all proud of you and love you a lot Love U Baby." Julie Ragasa

Robert VanDerTuin

I love you, miss you, and I am so very proud of you. Stay strong in mind, courageous in heart, and keep your purpose firm. Focus on completion, your beautiful wife is waiting for you in the end zone. Your Loving Wife, Jaylene

Want your family members to read the Anaconda Times at home or write short messages in the the AT.? Have your unit FSG email us at [mark.bell@balad.iraq.centcom.mil](mailto:mark.bell@balad.iraq.centcom.mil).



# MPH

when  
driving  
on rocks

**Do YOU have a story idea for the Anaconda Times?**  
**Do YOU want YOUR story told to your hometown?**  
 email [mark.bell@balad.iraq.centcom.mil](mailto:mark.bell@balad.iraq.centcom.mil) for more details

## LSA ANACONDA RELIGIOUS SCHEDULE

Religious schedule subject to change

### Roman Catholic Mass

Saturday 5 p.m. Tuskegee Chapel  
 Saturday 8 p.m. Provider Chapel  
 Sunday 7:30 a.m. Freedom Chapel  
 Sunday 9 a.m. Tuskegee Chapel  
 Sunday 5:30 p.m. Provider Chapel  
 Sunday 11 a.m. Air Force Hospital  
 Monday - Friday 5 p.m. Tuskegee

### Sacrament of Reconciliation

30 minutes prior to each mass

### Church of Christ

Sunday 2 p.m.. Tuskegee Chapel

### Islamic Prayer

Friday 12:30 p.m. Provider Chapel

### Samoan Congregational Service

Sunday 4 p.m. Provider Chapel

### Latter Day Saints

Sunday 1 p.m. Provider Chapel  
 Sunday 4 p.m. Freedom Chapel  
 Sunday 7 p.m. Tuskegee Chapel

### Friday Shabbat Service

Friday 7 p.m. Tuskegee Chapel

### Eastern Orthodox Prayer Service

Sunday 3:30 p.m. Tuskegee Chapel

### Protestant-Gospel

Sunday 10 a.m. Sustainer Indoor Theater  
 Sunday, 11 a.m. MWR East Building  
 Sunday 11:30 a.m. Freedom Chapel  
 Sunday 2 p.m. Air Force Hospital Chapel  
 Sunday 7 p.m. Provider Chapel

### Protestant Praise and Worship

Sunday 9 a.m. MWR East Building  
 Sunday 9 a.m. Eden Chapel  
 Sunday 7 p.m. Freedom Chapel

Sunday 7:30 p.m. Eden Chapel  
 Wednesday 7 p.m. Freedom Chapel

### Protestant-Contemporary

Wednesday, 8 p.m. Tuskegee Chapel  
 Sunday 11 a.m. Town Hall

### Protestant-Traditional

Sunday 9:30 a.m. Air Force Hospital Chapel  
 Sunday 9:30 a.m. Provider Chapel  
 Sunday 10 a.m. Freedom Chapel  
 Sunday 5 p.m. Tuskegee Chapel  
 Sunday 7:30 p.m. Air Force Hospital Chapel

### Non-Denominational

Sunday 9 a.m. Signal Chapel

### Non-Denominational Spanish

Sunday 2 p.m. Freedom Chapel

**September 27**

**Aerobics**  
6 a.m. and 5:30 p.m.  
East MWR Fitness Center

**Yoga**  
6 p.m.  
East MWR Fitness Center

**Boxing**  
7:30 to 9 p.m.  
East MWR Fitness Center

**Rock Climbing Class**  
8 p.m.  
East MWR Fitness Center

**8-Ball Tourney**  
8 p.m.  
West Recreation Center

**Madden '05**  
8 p.m.  
West Recreation Center

**9-Ball Tourney**  
8 p.m.  
East Rec Center

**DJ Classes**  
8 p.m.  
East Rec Center

**September 28**

**Tae Kwon Do**  
7 to 8:30 p.m.  
East MWR Fitness Center

**NOGI Jiu-Jitsu**  
9 p.m.  
East MWR Fitness Center

**Level 2 Swim Lessons**  
7 p.m.  
Indoor Pool

**Level 1 Swim Lessons**  
8 p.m.  
Indoor Pool

**ANACONDA ACTIVITIES**

Your one-stop connection to activities around LSA Anaconda to add your activity to the event calendar, email mark.bell@balad.iraq.centcom.mil

**Battlefield Ground**  
8 p.m.  
East Rec Center

**September 29**

**Aerobics**  
5:30 p.m.  
East MWR Fitness Center

**Boxing**  
7:30 to 9 p.m.  
East MWR Fitness Center

**Chess Tourney**  
8 p.m.  
West Recreation Center

**4-4 Volleyball Tourney**  
8 p.m.  
West MWR Fitness Center

**Caribbean Dance**  
8 p.m.  
East Rec Center

**September 30**

**Aerobics**  
noon to 1 p.m.  
East MWR Fitness Center

**Open Court Volleyball**  
6 p.m.  
East MWR Fitness Center

**500m Fins/Kickboard**  
9 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.  
Indoor Pool

**Texas Hold'em**  
8 p.m.  
West Recreation Center

**Aerobics**  
8 p.m.  
West MWR Fitness Center

**Salsa Dance**  
8 p.m.  
East Rec Center

**Tae Kwon Do**  
7 to 8:30 p.m.  
East MWR Fitness Center

**NOGI Jiu-Jitsu**  
9 p.m.  
East MWR Fitness Center

**Level 2 Swim Lessons**  
7 p.m.  
Indoor Pool

**Level 1 Swim Lessons**  
8 p.m.  
Indoor Pool

**Command & Conquer**  
8 p.m.  
West Recreation Center

**Dodgeball Tourney**  
8 p.m.  
West MWR Fitness Center

**Texas Hold'em**  
8 p.m.  
East Rec Center

**October 1**

**Aerobics**  
5:30 p.m.  
East MWR Fitness Center

**Boxing**  
7:30 to 9 p.m.  
East MWR Fitness Center

**100m Butterfly**  
10 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.  
Indoor Pool

**Spades Tourney**  
8 p.m.  
West Recreation Center

**4-4 Volleyball Tourney**  
8 p.m.  
West MWR Fitness Center

**Caribbean Dance**  
8 p.m.  
East Rec Center

**October 2**

**Aerobics**  
noon to 1 p.m.  
East MWR Fitness Center

**Open Court Volleyball**  
6 p.m.  
East MWR Fitness Center

**One-Mile Swim Race**  
10 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.  
Indoor Pool

**Texas Hold'em**  
8 p.m.  
West Recreation Center

**Aerobics**  
8 p.m.  
West MWR Fitness Center

**Salsa Dance**  
8 p.m.  
East Rec Center

**October 3**

**Open Court Volleyball**

6 p.m.  
East MWR Fitness Center

**Tae Kwon Do**  
7 to 8:30 p.m.  
East MWR Fitness Center

**Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu**  
9 p.m.  
East MWR Fitness Center

**Green Bean Karaoke**  
8 p.m.  
Green Bean Coffee Shop

**5-5 Basketball Tourney**  
8 p.m.  
West MWR Fitness Center

**Hip Hop Class**  
8 p.m.  
East Rec Center

**Poker**  
8 p.m.  
East Rec Center

**October 5**

**Aerobics**  
6 a.m. and 5:30 p.m.  
East MWR Fitness Center

**Boxing**  
7:30 to 9 p.m.  
East MWR Fitness Center

**Rock Climbing Class**  
8 p.m.  
East MWR Fitness Center

**One-Hour Swim-A-Thon**  
Two-Person Teams  
5:30 a.m.  
Outdoor Pool

**Jam Session**  
8 p.m.  
West Recreation Center

**REGISTRATION FORM**

Last Name, First, M.I. \_\_\_\_\_ Rank/Grade \_\_\_\_\_

Unit/Company \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_  
MM DD

Age Bracket (please circle)

18-19 20-24 25-29 30-34 35-39 40-44 45-49 50-54 55 & Over

Gender M [ ] F [ ]

T-Shirt Size M [ ] L [ ] XL [ ] 2XL [ ]

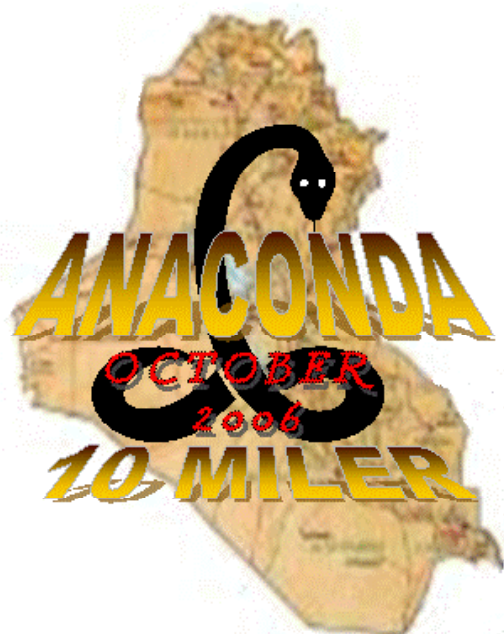
**WAIVER - ALL ENTRANTS MUST READ AND SIGN**

4TH ANNUAL ANACONDA 10 MILER, Sunday, October 8, 2006

WAIVER. I agree and understand that a road race is potentially hazardous. I agree that I am voluntarily participating in the Event and using Event facilities or premises and assume all risk of injury, illness, damage or loss to me or my property that might result, including, without limitation, any loss or theft of personal property. I hereby consent to medical treatment in event of injury, accident and/or illness during the Event. I agree on behalf of myself (or my representatives, heirs, executors, administrators, agents, and assigns) to release and discharge all Event sponsors, volunteers, employees and the U.S. Army from any and all claims or causes of action (known and unknown) arising out of negligence. I also understand that this run is entered at the sole risk of me and the organizers and sponsors of the run are exempt for liability for any cause. I grant permission to use the name, pictures and quotes from myself for publicity purposes.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

please tear off the registration form and return it to the circuit gym (next to the main gym) before race day



# DROWNING POOL.

**turns seemingly quiet crowd into body-surfing frenzy**

*story by Spc. Amanda Solitario*

**LSA ANACONDA, Iraq** - As the guitarist struck the first chord, the crowd surged toward the stage for a better view of the four performers.

The beat of the music vibrated through the night air as bottles of water shot out into the sky raining down onto hundreds of screaming fans.

With every move from the tightly packed crowd, clouds of dust flew over the more than 3,500 servicemembers and civilians who rocked out in a high-energy concert with the Nu-Metal band Drowning Pool at Holt Memorial Stadium.

"For us to be here is an honor," said lead singer Ryan McCombs, who joined the group last July shortly after Jason Jones' departure in June. Jones replaced the original singer Dave Williams after his death in 2002.

According to the bass player, Stevie Benton, it was ironic for the band to play for the troops on the fifth anniversary of Sept. 11. After the tragedy in New York, one of Drowning Pool's most popular songs, "Bodies" was removed from many radio stations.

Those opposed to the lyrics said it reminded the public of the victims jumping from the twin towers. Benton said the meaning of the song was deeply distorted by the critics, and the way it was perceived was all wrong.

Despite the views of some, the song soon gained momentum in the military and was even used in training videos.

"We felt very vindicated and happy," Benton said. "It turned into a positive and motivating song."

The members of the band said it was unbelievable to be in Iraq five years later playing that very tune for the troops.



**Drowning Pool's lead singer, Ryan McCombs, entertains more than 3,500 fans during a concert at LSA Anaconda.**

"It is sweet justice," said C.J. Pierce, the guitarist.

After a moment of silence to remember the lives lost in Sept. 11, Drowning Pool took to the stage, turning the dirt field into a raging mosh pit. Some fans even dared to crowd-surf above the sea of uniformed personnel.

The band said they love to watch the troops escape from the realities of war and lose themselves in the music for just a little while.

"It is nice for us to give everybody a mental break from the seriousness that goes

on out here," said Mike Luce, the drummer.

The four rockers had their own combat experience only hours before the show. While touring the Air Force Theater Hospital, the base took indirect fire, which almost resulted in the canceling of their performance.

Luce said after visiting Anaconda and seeing things first-hand, he gained a new perspective on what daily life is like for the

troops.

"It blows your mind," he said.

Drowning Pool admires the military, Pierce said. This is their second USO tour, and they are always playing near military bases back in the states. They support the troops and the fans know it.

"For them to be here today shows a deep appreciation for the Soldiers," said Spc. Nicholas Hogan, a Soldier with the 72nd Signal Battalion, and a long time fan of the group. "You don't usually get that from a band of this caliber."

After their previous USO tour, the band was inspired to write a song about the men and women of the Armed Forces. They played the untitled track that night for the servicemembers stationed at Anaconda.

The concert was a mix of some of their most popular hits as well as several unreleased songs. Drowning Pool hopes the new album will hit retail shelves by March of next year.

"The troops are hearing it first which is awesome," Pierce said. "We are giving them a treat."

After the show, the group took the time to shake hands, take pictures, and sign autographs for the sweat and sand streaked faces of their fans.

Airman 1st Class Maria Loreda, a security force airman with the 332nd Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron said the concert was great, and she was glad to get out of her room for a little while.

"Things like this should happen more often," she said.

