

JOINT BASE BALAD'S  
**EXPEDITIONARY TIMES**  
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Vol. 1, Issue 3



Photo by Air Force Master Sgt. Heather Cabral

From Left: Lt. Gen. Gary North, 9th Air Force and U.S. Air Forces Central commander; Maj. Gen. Burt Field; and Brig. Gen. Brian Bishop stand at attention during the Air Force Song concluding the wing change of command ceremony here July 4.

## 332 AEW welcomes new commander

by Air Force Staff Sgt. Mareshah Haynes  
 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing

**JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq** -- Brig. Gen. Brian Bishop assumed command of the 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing during a change of command ceremony here July 4.

Bishop follows Maj. Gen. Burt Field, who will leave Joint Base Balad to become Vice Director, Strategic Plans and Policy, Joint Staff at The Pentagon in Washington, D.C.

"I'm humbled; that's the only word I can find to describe the emotion I feel changing command today," Field said as he addressed the Airmen of the 332 AEW one last time as their commander. "I'm humbled by your hard work, I'm humbled by your dedication and I'm humbled by your commitment. I've seen American Air-

men at their finest. You are fulfilling the promise of the original Tuskegee Airmen and in you the legend continues."

Lt. Gen. Gary North, 9th Air Force and U.S. Air Forces Central commander, presided over the ceremony where he lauded Field for his superb leadership of the more than 8,000 Airmen assigned to the wing and everything they accomplished in the last year under his command.

"General Field is an exceptional man, leader and Airman," North said. "The (332nd Air Expeditionary Wing) has flourished under your command. It has been my honor and pleasure to watch you lead the Red Tails."

North also expressed his confidence in Bishop, an Air Force Academy graduate and former commander of the U.S. Air Force Air Demon-

stration Squadron, the Thunderbirds, and his ability to lead and continue the legacy of excellence perpetuated by today's Tuskegee Airmen. Bishop comes to Joint Base Balad from Washington D.C., where he was deputy director, Legislative Liaison, Office of the Secretary of the Air Force, Headquarters U.S. Air Force.

"(General Bishop) will have the opportunity to write the next chapter in Red Tail history," North said. "It has been an exceptional year under the leadership of General Field and it will be an exceptional year under General Bishop."

The heritage of the 332 AEW, headquartered at Joint Base Balad, Iraq, is tied to the famous 332nd Fighter Group led by the Tuskegee Airmen in World War II. The 332nd Air Expedition-



### Cleaning up Amarah

ISOF and ISF join forces against Special Groups

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### Remembering "A-Train"

Member of the Tuskegee Airmen dies at 87

Page 5



### Multi-Village soccer tournament

Local Iraqis come together for international sport fun

Page 12

See **COMMAND**, Pages 8,9

## Provost Marshal Office: Weekly police blotter

Week of 16 June

**The Provost Marshal Office conducted:** (328) Security checks, (13) Traffic stops, issued seven DD Form 1408 Armed Forces Traffic Tickets, registered (111) vehicles on the installation, investigated five minor traffic accidents and (25) common access cards were reported lost.

**Crime Prevention:** Report suspicious activity and crimes immediately to the Provost Marshal Office Law Enforcement Desk. Dial 911 for emergencies and 443-8602 for all others.

**Lost & Found:** The following unclaimed property has been found between June 16 through 21 and turned into the Provost Marshal's office:

**CAC identification cards:** 2  
**Eagle Cash card:** 1  
**Identification badges:** 5  
**Cell phone:** 1  
**Keys:** 11  
**Driver's license:** 1  
**Cordless lamp:** 1  
**Pager:** 1  
**Dog tags:** 2  
**Ring:** 1

If you believe any of the unclaimed items listed above may be yours, please contact Staff Sgt. Joshua Jackson or Staff Sgt. Jonathon Phillips at 443-6105. (jonathon.jackson@blab.afcent.af.mil or joshua.phillips@blab.afcent.af.mil).

By Air Force Tech Sgt. Michael Hodgman

## From the Chaplain's chair...

by Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Wilbert Harrison

3d Sustainment Command (Expeditionary)

### Don't worry; be happy -- God is in control.

Are you at that point in your life where fretting has gotten the best of you? Well, I have some good news for you; it's a simple remedy that works every time I use it and I want to pass it on to you. My recipe for happiness is found in Psalm 37.

First, do not fret. The dictionary meaning of fret is to wear or cause to be worn away.

Another word is corrode, which means to wear away gradually. To fret can have physical and spiritually consequences and it could lead to poor health.

Second, it states we are to trust in the Lord and do good. The word "trust" is to rely on something or someone.

We can rely on God and depend on God to be there to meet our every need. Have confidence in God; he can be trusted and will never let you down. In Psalms 32: 8, it states, "I will instruct you in the way you should go; I will counsel you and watch over you."

God is greater than our circumstances and he cares about what happens to us.

Third, delighting yourself in the Lord. The word "delight" means to "bend." In order for a person to find peace, they must bend their will to God's will. We are to turn our will over to God so that we can enjoy the things God has in store for us.

My mother would delight herself in her children when she would see how much we bragged about her cooking. In the same way, God wants to delight us with his goodness so that we can enjoy life.

Fourth, commit your way to the lord, "Commit" means the idea of transferring from your self, to the care and custody of another.

Another meaning is for one to roll onto another. When a person commits themselves to God he or she is putting full weight on God. God says he can handle

your weight. Why not trust God to take care of your problem. In Peter 5:7, it says, "Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you."

Fifth, be still before the Lord and wait patiently for him. We miss out on God's best because of our failure to wait. It is God's will to give us the desire of our heart, but you must put yourself in a still position so that you can see what it is that he has for you.

Often times, what we want is not what God has in mind for us, but if we wait on the Lord, he will show what he has for us. God's blessings always surpass anything we imagine or think.

Sixth, refrain from anger. Do not let anger control and get the best of you.

In Ephesians 4: 31, 32, it says, "Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ, God forgave you."

To hold on to anger has grave consequences. It will destroy relationships, destroy marriages, hurt friendships and put you in debt because of poor decision-making. Anger and wrath can be leading causes to other destructive health and behavior problems. Get rid of anger in your life.

So, how do you know when the fretting is over and God is in control? You will know because God will remove the anger and replace it with his peace. You will begin to feel better about yourself and others will see God's peace in you. You will turn the matter over to God to work out on your behalf.

Peace in your heart and mind is a sure guarantee that you have committed the matter to God and you have allowed him to take control.

The results of your faith will produce a comfortable sense of God's presence, which leads to less stress and more blessing. Putting your life in the hand of God is the only sensible and peaceful thing to do.

God bless.



## EXPEDITIONARY TIMES

3<sup>d</sup> ESC Commanding General, Brig. Gen. Mike Lally

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7th Sustainment Brigade  
332nd Air Expeditionary Wing  
20th Engineer Brigade  
55th Sustainment Brigade  
402nd Army Field Support Brigade  
CJSOTF-AP  
76th Infantry Brigade Combat Team  
Task Force 49

**Mission Statement:** The Expeditionary Times Staff publishes a weekly newspaper with a primary mission of providing command information to all Servicemembers, partners, and Families of the 3<sup>d</sup> Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) team and a secondary mission of providing a means for units on Joint Base Balad to disseminate command information to their audiences.

# ISOF and ISF continue clean up of Amarah



Photo by Naval Petty Officer 1st Class Joseph W. Pfaff

**The Government of Iraq is cracking down on criminals undermining the stability and security in Amarah.**

Courtesy Story

CJSOTF-AP PAO

**JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq** – Iraqi Special Operations Forces, the Hillah Special Weapons and Tactics team and the Baghdad National Emergency Response Unit are playing key roles in the

Government of Iraq’s massive campaign to disrupt the criminal elements that overpower the city of Amarah.

With the cooperation of the tribal leaders and many of the local citizens, Iraqi Security Forces began setting the foundation to take back control of the city June 19. As part of that

mission, ISOF, Hillah SWAT and the Baghdad National ERU conducted several precision operations throughout the city targeting Special Groups criminals and abettors.

According to Iraq Brig. Gen. Noa’amam Dakeel Jawad, Iraqi National ERU commander, the ISOF and ISF will continue to

conduct operations in the area until the citizens of Amarah are safe and free from the criminals terrorizing their city.

“The ERU, ISOF and Hillah SWAT have all played a large role on missions of high importance,” he said. “Things have been successful and will continue to be.”

In the past several days, Jawad and his men, along with Hillah SWAT and ISOF have arrested more than 20 men on warrants issued by the Ministry of Interior.

“(Our) missions have targeted much of the leadership and government officials who work hand-in-hand with the Special Groups,” Jawad said.

Many of the warrants were for members of the local government, Iraqi Police or Iraqi Army who are either Special Groups criminals or have allowed these extremists to operate freely.

A local sheikh remarked that one of the reasons the criminals were able to exploit the local population and dominate the government is because of the poor economy in the region. He added that some of the local leaders and police let the criminals know when there were warrants for their arrest which gave criminals free reign and greatly contributed to the oppression of Amarah’s citizens.

The local population is some-

what fearful that the Special Groups criminals will return and retaliate, but they are more tired of the criminal-controlled government and blame them for economic disparity in the city.

“The people are divided,” Jawad said. “There are people that see the bright side and the future. Then there are those who are scared and fear the government and militias. Either way, this mission was an order from the Prime Minister and we are determined to make this a success.”

The past weeks’ clearing efforts have afforded the Iraqi government to take back control of Amarah and work to establish a lasting presence for security and stability. Many Special Groups criminals, particularly the top-level criminals fled the area to avoid capture.

“So far, there has been little to no retaliation and no innocent [people] have been hurt,” said an ISOF sergeant.

While most of the criminals fled in fear since their operations began on June 19, Jawad and his men are still making arrests, finding evidence of criminal activity and recovering criminal’s weapons caches.

In one particular mission, the ERU raided a downtown build-

**See AMARAH, Page 5**

## WORSHIP SERVICES

### PROTESTANT – TRADITIONAL

|                  |                            |
|------------------|----------------------------|
| SUNDAY 7:30 A.M. | AIR FORCE HOSPITAL CHAPEL  |
| 9:30 A.M.        | PROVIDER CHAPEL            |
| 10:30 A.M.       | FREEDOM CHAPEL (WEST SIDE) |
| 11 A.M.          | CASTLE HEIGHTS (4155)      |
| 5:30 P.M.        | GILBERT MEMORIAL (H-6)     |
| 7:30 P.M.        | AIR FORCE HOSPITAL CHAPEL  |

### PROTESTANT – GOSPEL

|                |                            |
|----------------|----------------------------|
| SUNDAY 11 A.M. | MWR EAST BUILDING          |
| NOON           | FREEDOM CHAPEL (WEST SIDE) |
| 12:30 P.M.     | GILBERT MEMORIAL (H-6)     |
| 7 P.M.         | PROVIDER CHAPEL            |

### PROTESTANT – CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP

|               |                            |
|---------------|----------------------------|
| SUNDAY 9 A.M. | MWR EAST BUILDING          |
| 10:30 A.M.    | GILBERT MEMORIAL (H-6)     |
| 2 P.M.        | CASTLE HEIGHTS (4155)      |
| 8 P.M.        | EDEN CHAPEL                |
| 7 P.M.        | FREEDOM CHAPEL (WEST SIDE) |
| 9:30 P.M.     | FREEDOM CHAPEL (WEST SIDE) |

### PROTESTANT – LITURGICAL

|               |                          |
|---------------|--------------------------|
| SUNDAY 9 A.M. | EPISCOPAL FREEDOM CHAPEL |
| 11 A.M.       | LUTHERAN (CHAPEL ANNEX)  |
| 3:30 P.M.     | GILBERT MEMORIAL         |

### PROTESTANT --MESSIANIC

|                  |                            |
|------------------|----------------------------|
| FRIDAY 8:30 P.M. | FREEDOM CHAPEL (WEST SIDE) |
|------------------|----------------------------|

### PROTESTANT—SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST

|                 |                 |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| SATURDAY 9 A.M. | PROVIDER CHAPEL |
|-----------------|-----------------|

### PROTESTANT—CHURCH OF CHRIST

|                  |                       |
|------------------|-----------------------|
| SUNDAY 3:30 P.M. | CASTLE HEIGHTS (4155) |
|------------------|-----------------------|

### ROMAN CATHOLIC MASS

|  |                            |
|--|----------------------------|
| (SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION 30 MIN PRIOR TO MASS) |                            |
| SATURDAY 5 P.M.                                    | GILBERT MEMORIAL (H-6)     |
| 8 P.M.   | FREEDOM CHAPEL (WEST SIDE) |
| SUNDAY 8:30 A.M.                                   | GILBERT MEMORIAL (H-6)     |
| 11 A.M.  | PROVIDER CHAPEL            |
| 11 A.M.  | AIR FORCE HOSPITAL CHAPEL  |
| MON-SAT 11:45 A.M.                                 | PROVIDER CHAPEL            |
| THURSDAY 11 A.M.                                   | AIR FORCE HOSPITAL CHAPEL  |
| MON,WED,FRI 5P.M.                                  | GILBERT MEMORIAL           |

### LATTER DAY SAINTS-(LDS)-(MORMON)

|               |                            |
|---------------|----------------------------|
| SUNDAY 1 P.M. | PROVIDER CHAPEL            |
| 3:30P.M.      | FREEDOM CHAPEL (WEST SIDE) |
| 7 P.M.        | GILBERT MEMORIAL (H-6)     |

### JEWISH SHABBAT SERVICES

|               |                        |
|---------------|------------------------|
| FRIDAY 6 P.M. | GILBERT MEMORIAL (H-6) |
|---------------|------------------------|

### ISLAMIC SERVICE

|                   |                             |
|-------------------|-----------------------------|
| FRIDAY 12:30 P.M. | PROVIDER CHAPEL (WEST SIDE) |
|-------------------|-----------------------------|

### PAGAN/ WICCAN FELLOWSHIP

|                           |             |
|---------------------------|-------------|
| THURSDAY, SATURDAY 7 P.M. | EDEN CHAPEL |
|---------------------------|-------------|

### BUDDHIST FELLOWSHIP

|                |             |
|----------------|-------------|
| TUESDAY 7 P.M. | EDEN CHAPEL |
|----------------|-------------|

### PROTESTANT – SPANISH NON-DENOMINATIONAL

|                    |                 |
|--------------------|-----------------|
| SATURDAY 7:30 P.M. | PROVIDER CHAPEL |
|--------------------|-----------------|

### EASTERN ORTHODOX- DEVINE LITURGY

|               |              |
|---------------|--------------|
| SUNDAY 9 A.M. | CHAPEL ANNEX |
|---------------|--------------|

*\*Please note, schedule is subject to change.*

# Trebil Mission: Part Three

by Staff Sgt. Bryant Maude

1st Sustainment Bde

**TREBIL, Iraq** – Day three in Trebil was spent with the Marines at the Port of Entry – Trebil, along the Iraq border with Jordan in the far west corner of the country. I was in Trebil at the request of Col. Kevin O’Connell, my commander, and the commander of the 1st Sustainment Brigade, to report on the activities of the 266th Movement Control Team out of Fort Riley, Kansas.

Capt. Fredrick Kelo, a Gurney, Ill., native, and commander of the 266th MCT, suggested I go out to the port with the Marines to get a better understanding of their mission. I’m glad I did.

I joined a small group of Marine reservists heading to the port during shift change June 4. Their leader, Cpl. Kristyn Stewart, a Pittsburg, Pa., native, and military police officer attached to Alpha Company, 3rd Battalion, 10th Marines, introduced me to the others in the group and made sure I had everything prior to our departure. We walked a few hundred yards, loaded our weapons, and made our way down the dusty road out the gate toward the port.

I’m always amazed as I travel the country of Iraq to discover so many remnants of Saddam’s regime left untouched; granted the paint is fading, or chipping, and the plaster is starting to crumble and fall off. But still, there are numerous subtle signs of his former government and today was no exception. At one point along our walk, we passed a portrait of the Lion of Babylon painted black on a white background, surrounded by decorative bricks. And at the entrance of the port was an old fountain laid out in

the design of the Bath Party emblem - the double squares forming a star.

More important than that is the numerous signs of progress in Iraq and this trip was no exception. Just past the Lion of Babylon, I eyed a long tractor trailer loaded with new red Toyota pick-up trucks. Someone made the comment as we walked past them: “I wonder where the dealership is.”

After arriving at the port, I was introduced to the Port of Entry Transition Team members who were in the process of registering truck drivers into the biometrics automated tool set and issuing them badges.

“We’ve been out here since mid February and have registered about 95 percent of the port workers,” said Staff Sgt. Ernesto Panalze, intelligence chief, and member of

the POETT. “Now we’re moving on to drivers in an effort to register as many people as we can.”

The drivers coming in and out of Iraq will spend a great deal of time waiting around. As a result, they will go by the port and attempt to get a coalition badge.

“The drivers want these badges because it makes it easier for them to pass through check points,” said Panalze.

The first step in the process is to have a retina scan at the door.

Lance Cpl. Brendan Conte, a Jeannette, Pa., native, and military police officer with 2nd Plt., stood by the door scanning retinas using a Pier 24 device, which can hold thousands of individual profiles that Iraqi and Coalition Forces have placed on alert for one reason or another.

“The reasons are many,” said Panalze. “It could be something like, do not hire this guy, or not allowed on base for some reason, to this guy is a criminal.”

This registration of employees has proved a good way of vetting individuals to determine who is trustworthy and who isn’t. Registering the drivers will take substantially longer but is already yielding results. While I was there the team had two individuals turn up who were on a watch list.

“It appears that he did some jail time not too long ago,” said Panalze.

The man’s passport was also expired. They sent him next door to the passport office to determine if he could get a new one or not.

The Marines were very efficient at what they did and I was glad Kelo made the suggestion I make the short trip.

I left Trebil the next day by convoy and was looking forward to getting back to Camp Taji. At one point I shared a helicopter ride with three Philadelphia Eagles cheerleaders and thought; “No one is going to believe this ending,” so I took a picture.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Bryant Maude

**Traveling to the Port of Entry Trebil along the Iraq/Jordan border by foot with members of 2nd Platoon, Company A, Military Police, 3rd Battalion, 10th Marines, here June 4.**

## Mother, daughter reunite downrange

by Spc. Michael Behlin

Expeditionary Times Staff

**JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq** – For some, deployments bring about many bazaar situations and circumstances. But because these situations are out of the ordinary, doesn’t necessarily mean they are all bad. In the case of Spc.’s Cheryl Schaffer and Jamie Clarke, their situation couldn’t have come at a better time.

Clarke, a member of the 3d Infantry Division who specializes in armament, electrical and avionic systems repair, and Schaffer, a multi-media illustrator who’s attached to the 3d Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), are a mother-daughter tandem who just happened to be in the right place at the right time. The two represent a select minority of mothers and daughters who have served together.

“I remember my mom sending an email telling me she was being activated and then another whenever she arrived in country,” Clarke said. “I informed my chain of command and they said that if I had family here, they were not going to stop me from seeing them. They then gave me a four-day pass and here we are.”

On Schaffer’s side, the 3d ESC allowed Clarke to hang out around the unit headquarters and close to her mother, which displayed how the unit is dedicated to supporting, informing, and recognizing its Servicemembers and their families.

The reunion, the first in two years, was



Spc.’s Jamie Clark and Cheryl Schaffer

the first time each has seen each other in uniform as active-duty Army Soldiers. This reunion also occurred in a war-zone of all places, which resulted in many gushy moments.

Also, last time the two were together was when Clark gave birth to Schaffer’s first grandchild. Clark noted that while she always knew there was a possibility of her mother deploying, she never expected it would actually happen.

“I’m still a little shocked that she actually deployed,” Clark said. “I realized it could happen but with her being a Reserve Soldier out of Fort Huachuca, Ariz., I seriously didn’t expect it. But then I realized that Re-

serve Soldiers do the same things we do, and here she is.”

Regardless of the circumstances that brought the two together this time around, they were just genuinely happy to be together; and while time together was scarce and hard to come by at times, they made the most of it by just hanging out and catching up. In fact, Clark brought along some items to help with the reacquaintance process.

“Last night we had the opportunity to play scrabble, which is a favorite family past-time of ours,” said Clark. “But overall I was just happy to see my mom and spend some time with her.”

The two women’s paths to becoming Soldiers are interesting as well. Schaffer, while only recently re-joining the Army, was a Soldier 15 years ago when Clark was a young child. The desire to once again become a Soldier came “about while my daughter was in the process of speaking with recruiters,” she said. “While she was in the process, I was also in the process of getting information for myself.”

Although Clark was very young at the time, she remembers some of her mother’s earlier time in service, which inspired her to

one day join as well.

“Joining the Army was always my dream—especially coming from a military family,” she said. “For a while as a kid, I was really rambunctious and everyone thought that I couldn’t do it, but I refused to let them discourage me and have my mother outdo me. I look to her as a role model, but I’m not going to be outdone by her.”

Schaffer jokingly added that “sometimes I don’t know if I’m her role model or her challenge, but I encourage all of my children to at least consider the military and for Jamie’s decision to join, I am very proud of her.”

Both view their Army and deployment experiences as rewarding and fulfilling. Clark mentions the close bonds, friendships and life experience as what she views to be beneficial. Schaffer, on the other hand, is just taking

everything in and getting used to her first deployment and new environment on Joint Base Balad. So far she is looking forward to “good memories and good pictures at a minimum as not too many mother – daughter duos were in a combat zone together.”

“Overall, so far it’s definitely a morale booster having her here,” Clark said. “But seeing how well she responds and reacts somewhere I’ve been twice is priceless.”

*“...seeing how well she responds and reacts to somewhere I’ve been twice is priceless”*

Spc. Jamie Clark  
3rd Infantry Division

## IA Soldiers search for weapons cache in Amarah



Photo by Naval Petty Officer 3rd Class Brian K. Fromal

**Iraqi Army soldiers clear a room inside a warehouse in Amarah, Iraq, June 25.**

### AMARAH, from Page 3

ing suspected of being the headquarters for Special Groups. In addition to discovering an apparent torture room containing what was identified to be interrogation tools and a large number of anti-Coalition propaganda, they found a large weapons cache. They seized several explosively formed penetrators, over 100

rounds of assorted ammunition, home-made bombs, large spools of wire and anti-tank rounds along with information on methods of attacking Coalition Forces' convoys.

Other successful operations included the arrest of a man reported to be the leader of a criminal cell specializing in extra judicial killings - execution-style sectarian cleansing, as well as a financier for the organization. The ERU has also arrested an Iraqi Police chief who is suspected of being a Special Groups criminal leader, facilitator and financier who has great influence over the IP in the area and a police officer wanted for his involvement with EJK activities.

According to a local sheikh, Amarah is used as a shipment point for all of the provinces in Iraq and a "warehouse" for weapons and wanted criminals traveling back and forth from Iraq and Iran.

In-depth searches for hidden weapons caches in Amarah by Iraqi Forces yielded approximately seven sites. Estimated finds by ISOF, SWAT, and ERU include roughly 180 lbs. of explosive compounds, 600 anti-tank mines, 280 rocket-propelled grenades, 200 various explosively formed penetrator-making materials, over 1,000 assorted rounds of ammunition, 320 mortar rounds, several hundred pieces of explosive-making materials and various weapons including more than 80 pieces of sniper equipment.

All of these elements are now off the streets of Amarah. Citizens are counting on the GoI to continue seizing illegal weapons and weeding out the corrupt officials and criminal elements from their city.

Jawad believes that the GoI will be successful and will ultimately turn Amarah into a peaceful community and a better place for its citizens.

When the clearing operations are complete, "There will be more opportunities for work and the youth will be more apt to join the Iraqi Security Forces. With (Special Groups criminals) gone, people will prosper from a stimulated economy and more safety and security," said Jawad.

"I would like all the bad people brought to justice, everyone should be held accountable. The law should be forced on everyone to guarantee the success of the mission for Amarah and all of Iraq," he said.

# Iraqi Security Forces detain nine suspected AQI throughout Iraq

Courtesy Story

CJSOTF PAO

**JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq** – Iraqi Security Forces detained nine suspected al-Qaeda in Iraq members in an operation to disrupt criminal activities throughout northern Iraq, June 23 – 28.

The 3rd Iraqi Army Division detained five suspected AQI believed to be leaders of a large-scale smuggling operation, June 28.

The suspects were detained at a suspected smuggling safe house in a village on the Syrian border northwest of Mosul.

The IA confiscated approximately 1,400 cartons of cigarettes valued at around \$49,000.

Money generated from the black market sales of contraband is reportedly used to support criminal and foreign fighters.

In another operation in Balad, the

4th IA Div. detained a suspected AQI cell leader from the Rowad village area of Baghdad, June 27.

The suspect, who was seeking refuge from Iraqi and Coalition Forces' clearing efforts in Baghdad, is believed to be involved in small-arms fire attacks against Iraqi and Coalition forces.

Another suspected criminal was also detained during the operation.

In Samarra, approximately 125 kilometers north of Baghdad, U.S. Special Operations Forces recovered approximately 100 pounds of potassium nitrate bags from what is believed to be a former AQI safe house June 26.

In Tikrit, the Tikrit Special Weapons and Tactics unit conducted an operation to disrupt criminals and foreign fighters, and AQI logistical capabilities June 25.

SWAT discovered, and later destroyed a fuel point believed to provide logistical capabilities to crimi-

nals in the western part of the Jazeera Desert-Thar region.

During the same operation, SWAT also found a possible AQI bed-down site.

In Bayji, 40 kilometers northwest of Tikrit, the Bayji Emergency Service Unit detained two suspected criminals, one believed to be a facilitator for AQI and the Islamic State of Iraq, a front organization for AQI, June 23.

They also confiscated a small weapons cache consisting of anti-tank mines, rocket propelled grenades, grenades, AK-47s, rockets and over 5,000 assorted rounds of ammunition.

"Iraqi Security Forces continue to degrade terrorists' safe havens and networks in the northern regions of Iraq as they demonstrate their determination to seek anyone operating outside the law," said Lt. Col. Neil Harper, a spokesperson for Multi-National Corps – Iraq.

## Remembering Tuskegee Airman



**Air Force (Ret.) Lt. Col. Charles Dryden**

**WASHINGTON** - Retired Lt. Col. Charles Dryden, 87, one of the famed "Tuskegee Airmen" who broke the military's color barrier by becoming a World War II fighter pilot, died June 24 in Atlanta.

Dryden was born Sept. 16, 1920 in New York City to Jamaican parents. He graduated from Peter Stuyvesant High School and earned a bachelor's degree in political science from Hofstra University and a master's in public law and government from Columbia University.

In August 1941, he was selected for Army Air Corps aviation cadet training, and was commissioned April 29, 1942, one of three graduates in the second all-black class to graduate from the Tuskegee Army Flying School in Alabama. He was a member of the 99th Pursuit Squadron and later the 332nd Fighter Group, which served in North Africa, Sicily and Italy.

Known as "A-Train," he remained in the military after World War II and served in additional combat during the Korean War. He retired in 1962. After his military service, Dryden traveled throughout the world to share his story with both Airmen and civilians through a variety of appearances.

In 2007, he flew with nearly 200 Aviation Career Education students from Atlanta to the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force in Ohio to present the museum with a replica of the Congressional Gold Medal for a ceremony.

He also wrote his autobiography, A-Train: Memoirs of a Tuskegee Airman, which was published in 1997 by the University of Alabama Press.

"Many of us feel we have an obligation to inform as many people as possible," said Dryden during a visit to Kadena Air Base, Japan, in February. "They need to know about this very important part of American history from our own experiences."

His visits made an impression on many Airmen.

"I was so excited to see him because my grandfather was his crew chief during World War II," said Master Sgt. Jonathan Curl, 18th Logistics Readiness Squadron at Kadena AB. "It was a way to touch my grandfather again."

"I believe the experiences that (he) faced during his career set the path for all who came and will come behind him," said Master Sgt. Michelle Rozier, 116th Air Control Wing protocol superintendent at Robins Air Force Base, Ga., where Dryden gave a speech.

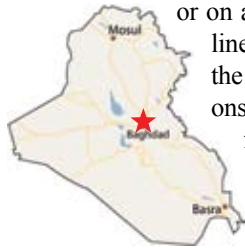


# Airmen help IA make each shot count

by Air Force Tech Sgt. Amanda Callahan

447th Air Expeditionary Group

**SATHER AIR BASE, Iraq** - The scene is a typical firing range, not unlike what one would find built for a gun club or on an Army post or Air Force base. The line safety officers meticulously watch the novice shooters, holding their weapons properly, aiming at a silhouette target further down the range.



"Is the line ready," shouts one Airman standing among the trainees in prone position. "The line is ready?" echo others, kneeling next to the

students.

"FIRE!"

Each shot disturbs the sand berm behind the targets, putting a cloud of dust in the air. This is not a range filled with airmen in basic training in Texas. This is a vital part of building the Iraqi military.

Training, advising and mentoring Iraqi airmen normally falls on the shoulders of the Coalition Air Force Training Team members or members of the Multi-National Security Transition Command - Iraq. CAFT-T members of the 370th Air Expeditionary Advisory Squadron at New Al Muthana Air Base, adjacent to Sather Air Base, have called in reinforcements from the 447th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron to help train Iraqis to defend and secure their air base.

Jundees can be described as Iraqi army infantry privates who are currently undergoing training. Master Sgt. Charles Rivera, a Security Forces adviser with the 370 AEAS trains the Jundees in many facets of security, such as base defense and patrols. With that comes small arms training. Taking about 10 trainees at a time, Rivera depends on the 447 ESFS to help at the shooting range to ensure the Iraqi trainees are



Photo by Air Force Airman 1st Class Leandra Hernandez

**An Iraqi Jundee fires an AK-47 during training at a firing range near Sather Air Base June 25.**

proficient in their weapons training.

"I usually have enough volunteers from (security forces) to work with the Jundees one-on-one," said Rivera, deployed from Lackland Air Force Base, Texas. "Sometimes their skill level is really low, but we spend the whole morning working with them on the fundamentals to get them where they're consistently hitting the target. By the end of the day, you see the joy at how much they're able to fire, how much they've improved just with the practice."

Tech. Sgt. Christopher Doherty, 447 ESFS, deployed from the 107th Airlift Wing, Niagara Falls, N.Y., explained why volunteering at the range was so important to him.

"It's a chance to see first hand why we're here. We're here for the Iraqi people, and if this is how I can help, it's what I'll do," he said. "If we can get these guys to shoot on target by the end of their training, we've accomplished what we set out to do."

Getting them to the point that they're hitting the target isn't necessarily an easy task.

"It is a challenge, with the language barrier, to try to tell them how to hit the target where they should," said Master Sgt. Harold Cox, 447 ESFS, deployed from the 190th Security Forces Squadron, Kansas Air National Guard. "We have to use an interpreter out there to tell them what to do, and they're shooting a different ... weapon."

The AK-47s used by the Iraqi airmen posed new difficulties for the Airmen responsible for training them due to the ESFS' inexperience with the weapon, but the 447 ESFS and 370 AEAS worked together to overcome them. Many security forces members go through additional training prior to deploying to become familiar with different types of weapons, but as a refresher, Cox has an AK-47 he shows the helping ESFS Airmen before they head to the range with the Iraqis and Rivera. The familiarization with the weapon helps Airmen explain weapons discipline and safety while on the range.

"The weapons handling and training they (the Iraqis) have been provided (in the past) is nothing to the standard we have, so safety is not as big a consideration for them as it is for us. I've got to spend some time on safety," Rivera said.

Echoing the attention to safety, Cox explained that the weapon itself isn't conducive to a safe environment due to the lack of imbedded functions. The sergeant explained that the bolt of an AK-47 doesn't automatically lock to the rear when the magazine is empty. "So we have to really double check that they're cleared before we walk down in front of the weapons," he added.

In addition to the AK-47, the Jundees receive training on M-9 pistols and familiarization training with the M-4 rifle.

The trainers don't plan to stop making their Iraqi brethren proficient anytime soon.

"As long as we've got personnel out there (at NAMAB), we'll keep going down and helping them," Sergeant Cox said. "It's great to watch how excited some of them (the Iraqis) get after they get done shooting."

## Army activates network warfare unit VFW sends care packages

News Release

U. S. Army News

**FORT GEORGE G. MEADE, Md.** - A new chapter for the Army began July 2 when the Army Network Warfare Battalion (Provisional) was activated during a ceremony at Fort George G. Meade, Md.

The battalion's cyber mission will provide support to the Army and the Department of Defense. This support will include a variety of tasks, ranging from tactical support to Army Brigade Combat Teams in Iraq through strategic support to the other services, joint commanders, and interagency partners as required.

"We observe history this morning when this battalion activates. It is a first for U.S. Army Intelligence and Security Command and a first for the Army," said Maj. Gen. David Lacquement, commander, INSCOM. "This battalion formalizes and centralizes the Army's mission to provide rapid, increasing support to forces worldwide and will lead the Army in providing a larger and more robust network warfare capability."

The threats to America's computer networks are real and significant. As part of approved military operations, the U.S. Army maintains capabilities to defend itself in cyberspace or any other domain, against terrorist groups or any adversary who seeks to harm our national security.

In the space of 15 years, networked in-

formation systems have become essential to organized human activity across much of the globe. These systems are integral to telecommunications, banking and finance, transportation and energy distribution, human services, government, and all levels of military operations.

"Activation of this unit centralizes the U.S. Army's existing computer network operations into a provisional battalion, which gains efficiencies. This unit will serve as core for Army network warfare activities that will expand and gain capacity in the coming years," Lacquement said.

Members and guests of the 704th Military Intelligence Brigade watched two ceremonies this morning. The INSCOM commander presided over the activation ceremony for the new battalion, as well as the brigade's change of command ceremony.

Lt. Col. Jen Easterly accepted command of the ANWB from the 704th MI Brigade commander, Col. George J. Franz. Easterly previously served as the director's fellow for the director of the National Security Agency.

After the activation ceremony, Franz, the outgoing brigade commander and a driving force behind the establishment of the new battalion, relinquished brigade command to Col. Robert Taylor. Taylor previously served as the director, School of Advanced Military Studies, Combined Arms Center, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas.



Photo by Sgt. Gary Hawkins

**JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq** - Spc. Julio Juarez, a member of the 202nd Military Police Company, based at Forward Operating Base Warhorse, helps take a care package back to his unit's vehicles July 4. Approximately 50 care packages were donated through Veterans of Foreign Wars and organized by Simone Sauers of Reading, Pa. They were sent to Joint Base Balad for distribution to Soldiers after being filled by various members of the VFW.

# More than 1,000 re-enlist at Camp Victory, Baghdad



Photo by Marine Cpl. Frances L. Goch

**Spectators gather in the balconies of Al Faw Palace at Camp Victory, Baghdad to join in the 4th of July celebration and re-enlistment ceremony.**

Courtesy Story

MNC-I PAO

**BAGHDAD, Iraq** – Servicemembers from across Iraq gathered in the Al Faw Palace rotunda at Camp Victory, Baghdad, to re-enlist and celebrate Independence Day July 4.

All 1,215 servicemembers celebrated by raising their right hands and pledging to continue defending the “land of the free” in what was the largest re-enlistment ceremony since the all-volunteer force began in 1973, according to Command Sgt. Maj. Marvin L. Hill, command sergeant major, Multi-National Forces – Iraq.

“Volunteering to continue to serve our nation, while deployed, is both noble and inspiring,” said Gen. David Petraeus, commanding general, Multi-National Forces – Iraq. “It is, as award citations often state, in keeping with the finest traditions of our military services.”

Petraeus presided over the ceremony and led the airmen, Marines, sailors and Soldiers in their oath to defend their country against all enemies, both foreign and domestic, on this day of celebration of America winning its independence.

“We recognize the sacrifices they make and the sacrifices their families and communities make as they serve in Iraq,” Hill said. “These servicemembers know the cost of war and they are still re-enlisting.”

Accumulatively, servicemembers pledged more than 5,500 years of additional service to their country.

“It makes me feel proud to serve this great nation,” said Spc. Zackary Cunningham, mechanic, 602nd Maintenance Battalion, Tactical Base Balad, who plans on making the Army a career.

The re-enlistees have every right to feel proud, according to Petraeus.

“You and your comrades here have been described as America’s new greatest generation and, in my view, you have more than earned that description,” Petraeus said. “It is the greatest of honors to Soldier here with you.”

# Mechanics at work



Photo by Spc. Anthony Hooker

**Specialist Andrew Gay of the 63rd Expeditionary Signal Company rolls a tire to his unit’s maintenance bay recently at Joint Base Balad. Gay is a light-wheel mechanic with the unit.**

# DUST STORMS!



Photo by Sgt. Gary Hawkins

**JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq - A military tactical vehicle, traveling north on Pennsylvania Ave, materializes from the sever dust storm that occurred on Joint Base Balad July 1. During times of limited visibility headlights should be on at all times for added safety.**

**COMMAND, from Page 1**

ary Wing is located 42 miles north of Baghdad and consists of five co-located groups and three geographically separated groups.

As the wing commander, Bishop will be responsible for the busiest single runway operation in terms of aircraft movement in the Department of Defense. Servicemembers assigned to JBB process more than 950 cargo aircraft, 12,000 tons of cargo and 19,000 passengers in an average month.

“Today is a truly humbling day -- for me to assume command of this wing on the 4th of July, our Independence Day, in a country that’s struggling for its own,” Bishop said. “Thank you General Field for turning over to me such an outstanding group of Airmen.”

Another significant event that coincides with Bishop’s assumption of command is the Air Force taking control of all the base support

functions under the Base Operating Support Integration initiative.

The changeover began June 15 under Field’s leadership and is scheduled to be completed Nov. 15 under Bishop’s command.

The base’s support functions, to include food service, lodging, vehicle operations, base upkeep and construction projects, as well as base defense, will now be the responsibility of Air Force units rather than Army units for the more than 30,000 servicemembers, civil servants, contractors and third country nationals who live on the base, said Lt. Col. Pat Ryan, 332nd Expeditionary Mission Support Group deputy commander.

Joint Base Balad is the most forward deployed Air Force wing in Operation Iraqi Freedom. The 332 AEW is co-located with the U.S. Army’s 3rd Expeditionary Sustainment Command, which is responsible for the operation of the largest Army supply center in Iraq.



Photo by Air Force Master Sgt. Heather Cabral

**Lt. Gen. Gary North, 9th Air Force and U.S. Air Forces Central commander, addresses the Airmen assigned to the 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing during the wing change of command ceremony here July 4.**



Photo by Air Force Master Sgt. Heather Cabral

**Lt. Gen. Gary North, 9th Air Force and U.S. Air Forces Central commander, left, and Maj. Gen. Burt Field, right, applaud Brig. Gen. Brian Bishop as the new commander of the 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing during the change of command ceremony here July 4.**



**Lt. Gen. Gary North, 9th Air Force and U.S. Air Forces Central commander, presents the 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing guidon to the incoming commander, Brig. Gen. Brian Bishop, here July 4.**

Background Photo by Air Force Senior Airman Julianne Showalter

**Airmen assigned to the 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing salute the colors while the Iraqi and U.S. national anthems are played during a change of command ceremony here July 4.**





Photo by Air Force Master Sgt. Heather Cabral

Members of the Joint Base Balad Honor Guard form a cordon for the entrance of the official party during the wing change of command ceremony here, July 4.



Photo by Air Force Master Sgt. Heather Cabral

Forces Central commander, passes the 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing's colors to the new commander, Gen. Brian Bishop during the change of command ceremony



Photo by Air Force Senior Airman Julianne Showalter

The Joint Base Balad Honor Guard guards the colors during the wing change of command ceremony here July 4.

# Soldiers get *fashionable* for suicide prevention



Photos by Spc. Anthony Hooker

**Sgt. Sonia Thornhill, a member of the 3rd Sustainment Brigade, sports a red and black vest and pants combination during the B.O.S.S. Fashion Show.**

by Spc. Anthony Hooker

Expeditionary Times Staff

**Forward Operating Base Q-West, Iraq** – The Q-West chapter of Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers hosted a fashion show June 21 at the base's Morale, Welfare, and Recreation facility.

The purpose of the event was to encourage single Soldiers to express themselves through style, said Sgt. Terrie McKenzie, Q-west's B.O.S.S. president and show organizer.

An U.S. Army Pentagon report said in May that suicides are on the rise and are nearly double the rate recorded before the invasion of Iraq.

McKenzie said events like the fashion show encourage servicemembers to express themselves and get an experience that can fight thoughts of suicide.

"B.O.S.S. is all about supporting single folks," said McKenzie. "Many folks on Q-West are single and shows like this help get folks out of their rooms and fight any depression that

can set in."

"Doing something fun like this is just a healthy release."

Participants were able to show off clothing purchased locally in the following categories: sleepwear, business attire, swimwear, sports, hip-hop casual, and evening formal.

Additionally, a rap group and unity step team composed of 3rd Sustainment Brigade officers entertained the audience. It was the second show held this year and remained a highlight for participants and viewers alike.

"It was wonderful," said Staff Sgt. Otis Johnson, a member of Headquarters Company, Special Troops Battalion, 3d Sustainment Brigade. "The variety was great . . . people looked way different (than normal)."

Spc. Terrence Reynolds, a member of the 360th Transportation Company, was one of the models and thankful for the experience.

"I worked with people I didn't know before," Reynolds said. "The levels of style were competitive but friendly."

Overall, Reynolds said the night was worth the effort.

"The crowd was great . . . they made me feel good. We're (still) in Iraq, but the feeling tonight was more like 'you are home'."



**Pfc. Sheamese Like, a member of the 24th Transportation Company, sports a Royal Blue shirt dress at the show Jun. 21.**

## Just in time: Soldier returns home for wife's commissioning

by 1st Lt. J. W. White

1038th Horizontal Construction Co.

**JONESBORO, Ark.** - For those who have aspired to be officers, there is one day that they look forward to once they enter an officer producing program – the day they receive their commission.

For 2nd Lt. Megan Holcomb, May 9 was special for more than one reason. Her husband, Master Sgt. Lance Holcomb, the platoon sergeant for 2nd Platoon, 1038th Horizontal Construction Company, made it home from Iraq – literally – just in time to see her receive her commission.

Since April 2008, Lance has been deployed to Camp Taji, Iraq, with the 1038th HCC, an Arkansas National Guard unit attached to the 1st Squadron, 152nd Cavalry Regiment, 1st Sustainment Brigade.

"You have no idea how hard it was to get here on time," said Lance.

After more than 50 hours of traveling, his plane landed at Memphis International Airport around 2 p.m. and the ceremony was scheduled to start at 3:30 p.m. in Jonesboro, Ark., which is about an hour and a half away.

With minutes to spare and a special introduction, Lance received a warm welcome home with cheers and applause from all those in attendance for the commissioning ceremony.

"It is wonderful. We were a little afraid that he wouldn't make it on time but we're really excited right now," said Megan, who will be attending the Basic Officer Leadership Course Phase II in Ft. Sill, Okla. Following her completion of the program, she

will attend the Transportation Officers Basic Course in Virginia.

Once his tour of duty in Iraq is complete, Lance plans to join the Army's active component and follow his wife to her first duty assignment in Korea.



Photo by 2nd Lt. George Newell

**2nd Lt. Megan Holcomb and her husband, Master Sgt. Lance Holcomb, pose together at her commissioning ceremony May 9 in Jonesboro, Ark.**

## Iraqi National Police deliver school supplies



Photo by Cpl. Jeremiah Green

**BASRA, Iraq** - An Iraqi boy comes away with a new backpack and a smile at an event organized by Iraqi National Police to donate school supplies to children in Basra June 26. Events like this one strengthen ties between the Iraqi Police and the local community.

# Airmen knock away at work orders

by Air Force Staff Sgt. Nathan Gallahan

407th Air Expeditionary Group

**TALLIL AIR BASE, Iraq** - They're a hungry bunch and they wolf-down a lot of work orders, about 14 a week since their arrival here.



The seven Airmen assigned to the 407th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron structures shop have been busy maintaining, improving and constructing infrastructure for Air Force and Coalition Forces here since January.

In the past six months, they helped build shelters to house MQ-1 Predator aircraft, have helped build the Army a site to operate in, and they have helped the Navy with shelters to work from.

"Every organization in the air expeditionary group here has benefited from their appetite for work," said Senior Master Sgt. David Ewings, 407th ECES operations superintendent deployed from Elmendorf AFB, Alaska.

"On the first day we arrived we were out painting the centerline on the runway and it has

been non-stop since then," said Tech. Sgt. Sangva Sam, the shop's noncommissioned officer in charge, who is deployed from Eielson AFB, Alaska. "I can honestly say we've only had about four slow days where we could smell the roses - if there were any here."

In all, the shop has completed more than 300 different

jobs, which include woodworking, metal work, masonry, locksmith, signs, painting, milling, roofing or anything else their squadron asks them to do.

"With civil engineering, you have to be ready to work and you have to be ready to deploy," said Airman 1st Class Aaron Nickell, a structural apprentice deployed from Eielson AFB, Alaska. "This job can be very challenging, but a lot of times it's just hard work."

Sam and his crew have completed so many work orders, it has created a subculture within their small shop. They now look forward to each incoming job and joke about how they want to eat them up.

"We love to consume work orders, we eat them for lunch ... breakfast and dinner," Sam said. "As soon as we get them we like to consume them while they're hot, we don't let them go stale. They're good eating."

*"I can honestly say we've only had about four slow days where we could smell the roses - if there were any here."*

Air Force Tech Sgt. Sangva Sam  
407th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron

"If something goes bad, they don't call the ghost busters, they call structures," Sam said. "The fun part is you can do anything as long as you know how to do it and you can do it safely. You can get creative and you're always moving from different work sites."

"You go from concrete one day to woodworking the next, but you have to be willing to

work hard and eat it up everyday," said Nickell.

Along with eating hard, the Airmen have to drink lots of water to stay hydrated in the 120 degree heat and it helps wash the "food" down.

Staff Sgt. William Ferguson, a structures craftsman deployed from Elmendorf AFB, Alaska, drinks about 10



Photo by Air Force Tech Sgt. Sabrina Johnson

**Tech. Sgt. Sangva Sam and Airman 1st Class Aaron Nickell, 407th Expeditionary Civil Engineer structures team Airmen, construct a 22X22 meter sun shade at the Alpha site during the evening hours to beat the 116 degree temperatures during the day.**

quarts of water before lunch when he's out on the work site.

"You have to," he said. "I can tell I could drink even more water after I (hit the port-a-potty)."

The structures shop has an appetite for work that could rival any food-eating champion, but it hasn't shown on their waistslines at all.

"I don't think these guys have ever worked this hard, every one of them has lost a significant amount of weight, two of them have lost more than 45 pounds each, which is a direct result of the work we have accomplished here," Sam said. "We're lucky that all the work orders we've consumed in the last six months had low (carbohydrates) and zero (trans-isomer fatty acids)."

# Only YOU can prevent base fires

by Pfc. Amanda Tucker

Expeditionary Times Staff

**JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq** - According to the National Fire Protection Association, fires killed 3,245 people in 2006. Luckily, the fire that broke out in a Joint Base Balad Defense Contract Management Agency trailer did not add to the statistics for 2008. With the help of fire fighters and military police, no one was hurt.

Air Force Staff Sgt. Herman Gabaldon and Airman 1st Class Eduardo Beas, military policemen for the Army's 76th Infantry Brigade Combat team, were driving down Pennsylvania Avenue recently when they spotted smoke and realized it wasn't coming from the base's burn pit.

When they had almost arrived at the scene, they got the call stating a trailer next to the 3d Sustainment Command (Expeditionary)'s headquarters company area had caught fire.

"We did exactly as we were trained," said Gabaldon. "We called for addi-



Photo by Pfc. Amanda Tucker

**Air Force Master Sgt. David Clifford, deputy fire chief of the 332nd Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron, roots through a Joint Base Balad Defense Contract Management Agency trailer that recently caught fire.**

tional patrols right away. (Then) we ran to the adjacent buildings to see if they

had already been evacuated."

While the MPs secured

the area, fire fighters worked hard to suppress the fire.

According to Master Sgt. David Clifford, Deputy Fire Chief of the 332nd Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron, their hard work saved four offices, contract files, personal belongings, records and a secret internet protocol computer.

"It was a tough fire because it got into the roof," said Clifford. The fire chief added that once a fire went into the roof, it could go across the ceiling and come out on the other side of a building into another room. How the fire started is unknown, other than the fact that it was electrical.

According to the fire chief, preventing fire, not fighting it, is the fire fighter's number one priority. He said Joint Base Balad averages one serious fire every month.

"I think it is impressive," said Clifford. "It is good for a base this size.

According to Air Force Maj. Timm Estenson, Balad Team Leader for the DCMA, the fire extinguish-

ers had been inspected recently. His section plans to inspect all outlet strips and air conditioners they have. They are also going to take a monthly fire prevention course.

"Thank God nobody was hurt. The safety office recommended we be evicted and not hook the power up to that quad."

According to Clifford, there are many safety prevention techniques that everyone can use to prevent fires.

- Have a plan before a fire occurs so that accountability is easy and no one goes missing.

- Fire exit signs need to mark the appropriate doors.

- Do not perform any electrical wiring; leave that to the experts.

- Smoke cigarettes only in the designated smoking area.

- Test your smoke detectors once a month.

Fire safety comes down to protecting the people and continuing the mission, said Clifford. It saves lives and equipment and helps continue the mission.

# Multi-village soccer tourney, first in 5 yrs

by 1st Lt. Jonathan Springer

2-320th Field Artillery Regiment

**YETHRIB, Iraq** – For the people of Yethrib, Iraq, it has been a long five years.

For over half a decade, the Balad and Yethrib areas have been plagued with sectarian violence that has pitted rival Shiite Muslims and Sunni Arabs against one another; the bloodshed between tribes, at times, had turned into all-out warfare that was waged in palm groves and fields near the Tigris River.

In 2007, the conflict between the Muslim sects had reached a boiling point and many throughout Iraq described the situation as having elements of civil war.

But since then, things have drastically changed.

Over the course of 2007, the “tribal awakening” began to spread throughout all of Iraq; this awakening saw many high-profile Iraqi sheiks turn their backs against the brutality of foreign led fighters and stand up, along with the Coalition Forces and Iraqi Security Forces, to take back the streets of their homeland.

Because of this dedicated partnership, the sectarian violence that once gripped the Balad and Yethrib region is almost non-existent now, and attacks are down in almost all parts of the area.

With security improving, local citizens have begun taking full advantage of the much-improved stability in the country, and many have restarted the political process in their neighborhoods and cities and provinces.

The heated sectarian strife that once played itself out on the streets of Balad, is now playing out on a modest soccer pitch.

On June 30th, this ‘grand vision’ finally materialized. Teams from Al Jamiah and Albu Faras, both small villages near Joint Base Balad, squared off on the soccer field and began a two-week-long district soccer tournament.

The soccer tournament is a first of its kind in an area that has more than 60,000 people. The tournament is expected to run nightly through July 12th, and will pit over 24 teams

from the district in sporting competition against each other for the much-coveted championship trophy.

“This is the first time since the fall of Saddam Hussein’s regime that we’ve done something like this. Because of the sectarian violence in the area, we haven’t been able to hold this kind of event since 2003,” said Shouket Ahmed Rahman, mayor of Yethrib.

Shouket, who was born and raised in Yethrib, said this soccer tournament marks a dramatic turning point for the local villagers in the district. He said this tourney is momentous in that it brings various groups of people together, both Shia and Sunni, to rejoice and commemorate the substantial progress that has been made in the Salah ad Din Province.

“This soccer tournament is all about unity,” Shouket added. “In the past, many of these men were fighting each other with weapons ... but now, they are battling each other on the soccer field.”

Coalition Force’s representatives were on hand to witness the first-ever Yethrib nahi’a soccer tourney, and they were amazed and also proud of what they saw.

“It truly is a tribute to the local people that security has improved so much that they can do something of this magnitude. This unity is something that will grow as the Yethrib nahi’a continues to prosper,” said Lt. Col John F. Dunleavy, commander of the 2nd Battalion, 320th Field Artillery Regiment.

Dunleavy and his battalion of over 400 artillerymen own and operate the battle-space that encompasses Joint Base Balad. “The Balls of the Eagle” have been deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom since September 2007, and have worked tirelessly with local leaders in order to ensure the safety and security of the local populace throughout the region.

“The community has turned the table, and now the insurgents live with the fear of capture that was once their primary means to wield influence in the neighborhoods now participating in this soccer match,” said Maj. Timothy Frambes, executive officer for the 2-320th FAR.

“The next step in maintaining this secure environment is the continued partnership with the local government and police forces who have come so far in their capability and capacity to provide for the people they serve,” he said.

To locals in the area, this soccer tournament is more than



Photo by 1st Lt. Jonathan J. Springer

**Representatives from the villages of Al Jamia and Albu Faras compete against each other on the soccer field during the opening game of the Yethrib nahi’a soccer tournament in Yethrib, Iraq, on June 30th.**

just a game. They say it is significant because it celebrates their return to normalcy.

“Right now, security is the best it’s been in years ... this tournament is all about celebrating that,” said Ahmed Dawud Suwod, a 38-year-old villager from Albu Hishma, speaking through an interpreter.

Frambes pointed out that the game of soccer, in itself, is a way to celebrate life through sport and competition that does not end in violence. Seeing the people, both Shia and Sunni, battle each other on the soccer field, all in the name of ‘unity’, is proof of that.

“The teams are voluntarily competing in harsh conditions, and it’s well over 100 degrees. The pitch is lined out on a field that hasn’t seen a green blade of grass growing in centuries. But they’re doing this as a community because we have all partnered together to create an environment where the extremists and insurgents are identified, watched, and reported on.”

“I see the people of Iraq choosing to live free from fear and intimidation and embracing instead the freedoms and normalcy now enjoyed,” said Suwod

This is not an overnight success. It has been built over time through continued dedication by Coalition Force’s and local officials, Sheikhs, and people of influence who have forged relationships bound by the determination to win and refuse defeat.”

The victor of the first game was identified as the team from Al Jamia, by a score of 1-0 over Albu Faras. But to players on both sides of the field, and the well-over 300 local residents who traveled to watch the game, there were no losers after the game was over ... only winners.

“It doesn’t matter who wins this tournament. It’s all about celebrating the improved security in the area, and looking past our tribal differences to work together to build a better Iraq,” said Suwod.

Frambes agreed and said that many locals would not be enjoying this level of security if weren’t for the concerted efforts across all of the areas of influence around Yethrib.

“There are innumerable motivations, but the simple fact is that this partnership is the winning team,” said Suwod. “Many who were afraid to take the risk to commit support to the combined efforts of our Iraqi partners now see that we have gained irreversible momentum ... They’re coming off the fence, getting with their neighbors, and coming out to support Iraqi businesses, the future elections, and community events like this soccer tournament.”



Photo by 1st Lt. Jonathan J. Springer

**Soccer players from the villages of Al Jamia and Albu Faras compete against each other on the soccer field during the opening game of the Yethrib nahi’a soccer tournament in Yethrib, Iraq, on June 30th.**

# MESSAGES FROM HOME

Hey Anthony!!! I LOVE YOU MORE THAN ANYTHING!!!! UR MY WORLD!!!! BE SAFE!!! see you in a few weeks!!! Love always and forever your loving wife Jessica!!!

WOULD LIKE TO GIVE A SHOUT OUT TO MY WONDERFUL HUSBAND SPC JOSEPH THOMPSON 101ST HUMAN RESOURCES CO I LOVE YOU BABY CANT WAIT TIL YOUR HOME FOR THE BIRTH OF OUR DAUGHTER BE SAFE BABY HUGS AND KISSES YOUR WIFE

Just wanted to give a shout out to SSG Jason Biggs. We love you and miss you so much!! Can't wait until you come home.  
Love, Melanie, Jenna, & Josh

Id like to shout out to my dad MSG Patrick Amos who is currently over there serving out the last 8 months or so over is tour. I LOVE YOU DAD YOUR MY HERO AND YOU KNOW EVERYONE HERE AT HOME IS REALLY PROUD OF YOU AND KEEPS YOU IN THERE PRAYS ALWAYS! CANT WAIT TO HAVE YOU BACK HOME! Id also like to shout out to EVERY other soldier over there fighting for our country and the freedom which we all tend to take for granted at times not always keeping in mind that there are men and woman who fighting and dying daily for us daily and we should all pay more respect, i know its not enough but i just want to say THANKS, YOU ARE ALL AMAZING, WHAT YOU DO IS BEYOND RECOGNIZABLE RESPECT THERE ARE NO WORDS TO EXPRESS HOW HONORED I AM EVERYDAY TO KNOW THAT ALL OF YOU ARE OUT THERE FIGHTING FOR YOUR COUNTRY, AND YOU DONT DO IT CAUSE YOUR FORCED, YOU DO IT BECAUSE YOU WANT TO AND I APPRECIATE EVERYTHING, YOU ALL STAY IN MY PREYS.  
SINCERELY,  
Nathan Amos

Daddy- we miss you so much. We are so proud of you and all the hard work that you are doing. We cant wait to see you come home again though. We think about you every single day! We love you and want you to know that we are so anxious to see you and have fun with you again soon!  
Love, Jordan & Jacob

Steve Bish, Happy 4th of July. I am very proud & love you so much. I can't wait to set your fireworks off when you get home. I love you, Sandy

Wesley,  
I just want you to know that we are so Proud of you!!!! Dayton and I love you so much. See you soon, I love you Always and forever.  
Tiffany and Dayton Spear

## Messages From Home

Show your Soldier how much you miss them by sending messages, pictures, or poems in the ExpeditionaryTimes newspaper.

Contact the 3<sup>rd</sup> ESC Public Affairs Office to print your message.

E-mail [Anaconda.Times@iraq.centcom.mil](mailto:Anaconda.Times@iraq.centcom.mil)



Petty Officer 1st Class Joseph W. Pfaff

## America's warrior

*A snapshot of servicemembers in the Global War on Terrorism*

**Full name and rank:** Petty Officer 1st Class Joseph W. Pfaff.  
**Job Title:** Combat Camera noncommissioned officer-in-charge.  
**Time in service:** 8 1/2 years.  
**Unit:** Combined Joint Special Operations Task Force-Arabian Peninsula.  
**Hometown:** Detroit, Mich.  
**Pastimes (Hobbies):** Scuba diving, disk jockey, etc.  
**Life-changing event/moment:** When I returned to active duty.  
**Lesson Learned:** Lead by example.  
**Why I joined the military:** To better myself and put my life on track.

**If I wasn't in the military I would be:** working on my Master's Degree and seeking work in Public Relations.  
**The one thing I think the military got right:** Increased benefits for Active and Reserve forces.  
**What makes a good Servicemember?** Being open minded and having the ability to adapt.  
**Unusual fact about you:** I'm an avid toy collector.  
**Goals:** To make chief petty officer and eventually receive a commission as a Naval officer and complete my Master's.  
**Hardest part of my job:** As the NCOIC, its hard to judge who I send where and what is the best product.  
**Best part of my job:** Seeing my subordinates succeed and return safely as well as getting out there with them.

# JB BALAD ACTIVITIES

## INDOOR POOL

**Aqua Training:** Tuesday and Thursday- 7:45 p.m.

## EAST FITNESS CENTER

**Basketball League:** Monday-Friday – 7 p.m.

**Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu:** Monday, Wednesday, Friday – 8 p.m.

**Kyu Kyu Kempo:** Sunday- 2 p.m.

**Edged weapons and sticked fighting combative training:** Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays 8 p.m.

**Open court volleyball:** Sunday- 6 p.m.

**Shotokan Karate Do:** Monday, Wednesday and Friday- 6 p.m.

**Soo Bahk Do:** 6 p.m.

**Step Aerobics:** Monday, Wednesday, Friday – 5:30 p.m.

**Wrestling & physical fitness class:** Tuesday- 6 p.m. and Saturday- 7 p.m.

**Swing dance:** Sunday- 7:30 p.m.

**Abs-Aerobics:** Tuesday and Thursday- 6 a.m. and 5 p.m.

## EAST RECREATION CENTER

**8-ball tourney:** Monday- 3 p.m. and 8 p.m

**9-ball tournament:** Wednesday- 3 p.m. and 8 p.m.

**Game Console Tourney:** Thursday- 8 p.m.

**Country Dance Class:** Thursday- 7 p.m.

**Dominoes:** Friday- 8 p.m.

**Karaoke:** Monday- 8 p.m.

**Model building:** Sunday- 1 p.m.

**Poetry/ open mic:** Sunday- 7:30 p.m.

**Poker tourney:** Sunday- 6 p.m.

**Salsa dance class:** Saturday- 8:30 p.m.

**Swing dance:** Tuesday- 7p.m.

**Ping pong tourney:** Tuesday- 3 p.m. and 8 p.m.

## WEST RECREATION CENTER

**8-ball tourney:** Wednesday- 1 p.m. and 8 p.m

**9-ball tournament:** Monday- 1 p.m. and 8 p.m.

**Dungeons & Dragons:** Saturday- 8 p.m.

Friday- 8 p.m.

**Friday nights in Balad:** Friday- 8 p.m.

**Foosball:** Tuesday- 1 p.m. and 8 p.m.

**Green Bean karaoke:** Wednesday and Sunday- 8 p.m.

**Ice Ball Tourney:** Thursday- 4 p.m.

**Ping pong tourney:** Tuesday- 1 p.m. and 8 p.m.

**Salsa dance class:** Thursday- 8:30 p.m.

**Spades, Chess and Dominoes:** Friday – 1 p.m.

**Texas hold 'em:** Saturday- 1 p.m. and 8 p.m.

**Game Counsel Tourney:** Thursday- 1 p.m. and 8 p.m.

## WEST FITNESS CENTER

**3-on-3 basketball tourney:** Saturday- 7:30 p.m.

**6-on-6 volleyball tourney:** Friday- 7 p.m.

**Aerobics:** Monday, Wednesday, Friday- 7 p.m.

**Body by Midgett Toning Class:** Tuesday, Thursday - 7 p.m.

**Dodge ball Game:** Tuesday- 7:30 p.m.

**Furman's Martial Arts:** Monday, Wednesday, Sunday- 1 p.m.

**Gaston's Self-Defense Class:** Friday, Saturday- 7 p.m.

**Open court basketball:** Thursday- 7 p.m.

**Open court soccer:** Monday, Wednesday - 7 p.m.

**Zingano Brazilian Jiu Jitsu:** Tuesday, Thursday- 8:30 p.m.

## CIRCUIT GYM

**Floor hockey:** Monday, Wednesday, Friday – 8 p.m

# SUSTAINER REEL TIME THEATER

## Movie Times

Wednesday, July 9

5 p.m. Wall-E

8 p.m. The Forbidden Kingdom

Thursday, July 10

5 p.m. Deception

8 p.m. Wall-E

Friday, July 11

2 p.m. Sex and the City

5 p.m. Hancock

8 p.m. Hancock

Saturday, July 12

2 p.m. What happens in Vegas

5 p.m. Hancock

8 p.m. Sex and the City

Sunday, July 13

2 p.m. Hancock

5 p.m. Sex and the City

8 p.m. The Chronicles of Narnia

Monday, July 14

5 p.m. Sex and the City

8 p.m. What Happens in Vegas

Tuesday, July 15

5 p.m. Hancock

8 p.m. The Strangers

(Schedule is subject to change)

## New Next Week

Journey to the Center of the Earth

## New Movies

### Journey to the Center of the Earth



enough to elicit laughter within the academic community. During a scientific expedition in Iceland, the visionary scientist, Trevor Anderson, his nephew Sean (Josh Hutcherson) and their beautiful local guide, Hannah (Anita Briem), are unexpectedly trapped in a cave from which their only escape is to go deeper and deeper into the depths of the Earth. Traveling through never-before-seen worlds, the trio comes face-to-face with surreal and unimaginable creatures--including man-eating plants, giant flying piranha, glow birds and terrifying dinosaurs from days past. The adventurers soon realize that as volcanic activity increases around them, they must find a way back to the Earth's surface before it is too late.

Academy Award-winning visual effects artist Eric Brevig makes his feature directorial debut with this adaptation of the classic Jules Verne fantasy starring Brendan Fraser. When an ambitious science professor (Fraser) develops a decidedly unconventional hypothesis, the mere mention of his name is

enough to elicit laughter within the academic community. During a scientific expedition in Iceland, the visionary scientist, Trevor Anderson, his nephew Sean (Josh Hutcherson) and their beautiful local guide, Hannah (Anita Briem), are unexpectedly trapped in a cave from which their only escape is to go deeper and deeper into the depths of the Earth. Traveling through never-before-seen worlds, the trio comes face-to-face with surreal and unimaginable creatures--including man-eating plants, giant flying piranha, glow birds and terrifying dinosaurs from days past. The adventurers soon realize that as volcanic activity increases around them, they must find a way back to the Earth's surface before it is too late.

### Wall-E



report her findings to the humans. Meanwhile, WALL-E chases EVE across the galaxy. Joining WALL-E on his fantastic journey across a universe of never-before-imagined visions of the future, is a hilarious cast of characters including a pet cockroach, and a heroic team of malfunctioning misfit robots.

After hundreds of lonely years of doing what he was built for, WALL-E (short for Waste Allocation Load Lifter Earth-Class) discovers a new purpose in life (besides collecting knick-knacks) when he meets a sleek search robot named EVE. EVE comes to realize that WALL-E has inadvertently stumbled upon the key to the planet's future, and races back to space to

### Hancock



in their wake. Hancock isn't the kind of man who cares what other people think -- until the day that he saves the life of PR executive Ray Embrey (Jason Bateman). Facing what will be Hancock's greatest challenge yet -- and a task that may prove impossible as Ray's wife, Mary (Charlize Theron), insists that he's a lost cause.

There are heroes... there are superheroes... and then there's Hancock (Will Smith). With great power comes great responsibility -- everyone knows that -- everyone, that is, but Hancock. Edgy, conflicted, sarcastic, and misunderstood, Hancock's well-intentioned heroics might get the job done and save countless lives, but always seem to leave jaw-dropping damage





Photos by Spc. Charlotte Martinez

**Spc. Tommitrea Minniffee, a member of the 546th Area Support Medical Company, is the instructor for the Abs-aerobics classes held at the Eastside main gym Tuesdays and Thursdays at 6 a.m. and 5 p.m.**



# got abs?

**Spc. Tommitrea Minniffee, the instructor for the Abs-aerobics class held at the Eastside Fitness Center here, gives a mixture of core strengthening, yoga, pilates and a few other exercises to give a full core workout.**



**Spc. Tommitrea Minniffee instructs the Abs-aerobics class held at the Eastside Fitness Center here Tuesdays and Thursdays at 6 a.m. and 5 p.m. "It's something different than regular Army (physical training)," she said.**



**Top: Pfc. John Gilbert, a member of the 244th Air Defense Artillery, Alpha Battery, said the Abs-aerobics class held at the Eastside Fitness Center is intense. The class uses weights with the training on Thursdays.**

**Bottom: Servicemembers gather at the Eastside Fitness Center Tuesdays and Thursdays for the Abs-aerobics class, where they participate in a mixture of core and back strengthening exercises, as well pilates and yoga. The class is held at 6 a.m. and 5 p.m. both days.**

