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**225TH
ENGINEER BRIGADE**

JUNE 3, 2009

VOLUME II, ISSUE VII

COMMANDER'S COMMENTS

BG Owen W. Monconduit

Engineer Soldiers and Family members,

Engineering operations continue to be outstanding here in Baghdad. Military success is possible because of the outstanding work by Engineer Soldiers and strong support from loving families back home! Military Engineers are essential enablers to Brigade Combat Teams.

The month of June presents a great time to focus on making our engineering processes even more effective. In performing your military duties, take a moment to focus on ways to



potentially improve the process. Start by reviewing your unit's mission statement and consider your critical tasks supporting the mission. Once you have an im-

provement idea, explain to your first line supervisor how you can make the process better. Your first line supervisor will then assess the original process, complete a feasibility study of your improvement idea, and suggest a means of implementation. Either your company or battalion commander will assist you in getting approval of your idea. Your improvement

idea may become the next military modification to an existing Tactics, Techniques and Procedures (TTP) or Lessons Learned (LL).

Finally, remember to be safe. Outdoor temperatures are above 100 degrees during the day and drinking water is essential. Take care of yourself and check on your battle buddy. While on EML, practice safety measures allowing you to return to duty aggressive and ready to perform your mission. Working safely will build endurance in our continuous operations (CONOPS).

Safe Deployment ≈ Safe Return.

Castle 6

MESSAGE FROM CASTLE 7

CSM Joseph Major

Greetings Engineer Soldiers,

It's important that we maintain our living and work areas within the proper standards. We must ensure at least bi-weekly that we clean up our containerized housing unit (CHU) and work areas. The following is a short checklist on maintenance of CHUs and work areas.

- Dust or clean desk and furniture
- Check fire alarm for operations
- Remove trash from trash cans
- Sweep and mop floors weekly
- Clean/service air conditioners in CHUs only

•Remove any fire hazards from the work or sleeping area

•Review and correct any electrical hazards

•Check the locking mechanism on doors and windows

•Remove CAC card from your computer when not in use

Keep in mind that if you do not maintain your CHU, you could be reassigned to a tent city area (NOT GOOD), so keep it clean and serviceable.

If you discover any issues or short comings, please notify your first line supervisors

for corrective action through KBR.

In closing, stay safe, work hard to support the BCTs, and watch out for your "battle buddy." Keep your families informed and share your true adventure with them as often as possible.



"SUCCESS IS NEVER A DESTINATION, IT'S A JOURNEY."

AUTHOR: SATENIG ST. MARIE

Safe Deployment = Safe Return
CSM Joe Major



On the Cover:

Photo by Sgt. Rebekah Malone

A monument at the Iraqi Tomb of the Unknown Soldier is believed to represent a staircase to heaven for the Soldiers.



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Chaplain's Corner

By Chap. (MAJ) Jeff Mitchell

The Theology of Peace-1

In this world we will not find an ultimate sense of peace. However, in this world we can find and experience the Prince of Peace that will give us enough peace to carry on in hope. Personal peace has very little to do with how comfortable our circumstances may be or not be at any given moment. As a matter of fact, we will look at a passage soon, which portrays when we are in the hardest circumstances of life, that a "peace that surpasses comprehension" can be experienced. Over the next few Reflections we will look at what Jesus has to say about peace. First, in Matthew 10:34 Jesus states, "do not think I came to bring peace on the earth; I did not come to bring peace, but a sword." In this context, Jesus is addressing confessing Him as Lord before men. When Christ becomes Lord of your life vs yourself and you now an-



Staff Sgt. Paul Fleming and Chap. (Maj.) Jeff Mitchell at a school.

swer primarily to the Father of another Kingdom as a royal son or daughter; it can create a sword like effect in your other relationships, especially those closest to you. Your family may rejoice with you that you are in the Kingdom of

God and you have a new King in your life and now get your worth, value, and identity from being a royal son, or they may want to kill you, or be somewhere in between. This is why Jesus addresses this matter right out of the gate; for rejection may come quick from those you love the most. Rejection will come many times in your spiritual journey, so get comfortable with the lack of peace it will cost to walk to the beat of a different drummer. However, in the midst of rejection, there is a person of peace that can be experienced as we walk through the hard times. When we walk through these hard times, clinging to the Prince of Peace-Jesus, we come out the other side and are able to proclaim as Paul did in Ephesians 2:14, "**For He Himself is our peace.**"

Joke of the Week

Reader's Digest: Humor in uniform
My wife was sitting in the cockpit of my fighter jet — her head spinning as I pointed to the myriad of buttons, levers and switches on the control panel.

"Do you really know what each one of these buttons does?" she asked.

"Yep," I said proudly.

Scowling, she then asked, "And I'm supposed to believe you can't figure out how to run the washing machine?"

—Matt Dietz

Cpt. Yvonne McFarland-Davis (bottom right) shows her excitement after receiving a signed T-Shirt from the UCLA head football coach, Rick Neuheisel, during a meet and greet at the Engineer Chapel on Camp Liberty, Baghdad, June 1. Coach Neuheisel, with his fellow college football coaches: Mack Brown of the University of Texas, Troy Calhoun of the Air Force Academy, Jim Grobe of Wake Forest University, Mack Brown of the University of Texas, Jim Tressel of Ohio State University, and former University of Auburn coach Tommy Tuberville, took time out of their busy schedules to visit with deployed troops overseas answering questions, signing autographs and show their overall support for the U.S. troops. Baton Rouge, La., native, Maj. Shane Rauh (bottom left), enjoys a moment with college football head coach, Houston Nutt of Ole' Miss. Spc. Jada Smith (top) meets Ohio State University Coach Jim Tressel. Mr. "Hook'em Horns" himself, the legendary University of Texas head football coach, Mack Brown, (background) displays his support for the troops, wearing the traditional Texas burnt orange polo shirt with the words, 'We Honor Those Who Serve.'

College Football Coaches Tour



Photo by Sgt. Rebekah Malone



Photo by Scott Flenner



Photo by Scott Flenner

Top 3 Reasons to cancel a softball game during war

1. All games have been moved 1 hr forward for safety reasons. It's too dark even with lights, reflective belts, reflective shorts, reflective shirts and reflective ball. Everyone must attend a safety brief one hour before start time and a safety AAR after the game. Also, don't forget your PPE: ballistic safety glasses, knee and elbow pads and ACH.
2. Big sky will not be able to play tonight. Most of their players are getting the anthrax shot and won't be able to make it to the game. The game has been rescheduled to 6 June at 1800 hrs.
3. Saturday's game is RESCHEDULED to Sunday at 1700 hrs. The MRAP team has *IMPORTANT* visiting military personnel and won't be able to make it on Saturday.

A special brigade MDMP task force has been convened to solve how to start the games on time. The FRAGO has not been received as of yet; pre-MDMP analysis is pending, an answer is expected sometime before August 2010.

By 1st Lt. Kawanda Tate

Standing (Left to Right) Cpl. Watson, William; Spc. Farnes, Ian; Sgt. Pollom, Patrick; Spc. Wigle, Ryan Kneeling (Left to Right) Spc. Livsey, Benjamin; Cpl. Auguste, Carlyle; Pfc. Irvin, Colby



Increasing force protection and identifying electrical hazards are two fundamental premises to making sure Soldiers are safe. Recently squad leader Sgt. Patrick Pollom, a native of Pearl City, Hawaii, who led his squad in a week long project that included constructing an observation platform and minor electrical repairs

Eng. provide 'cooler' way to conduct missions

Station (JSS) Oubaidy with these ideas in mind. The JSS is home to paratroopers of the Alpha "Attack" Company of the 2nd 505 PIR, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division and is located on the outskirts of Baghdad.

In addition to constructing the observation platform, the squad also provided much needed electrical work to improve the living conditions around the JSS.

"They had environmental control units [ECU] but no one to install them," stated Spc. Travis Peters, a native of Carrollton, Ill. Spc. Peters led the electrical team and installed six conditioners and over 15 electrical receptacles for the dining area.

Due to the extreme heat the landowners also requested that the observation tower have an air conditioner so that the Soldiers will be more comfortable while performing their duties.

"This is the first time that I've ever done electrical work in an observation tower; it was an excellent training opportunity,"

stated Pfc. Colby Irvin, a native of Orland, Calif., a carpenter in the squad.

Despite being almost a year into a 15-month deployment, this was the first major project for the squad performed independently from the rest of the platoon.

"This is the first time that I have all of my guys together on our own in one spot," stated Pollom. "We have been

on three to four man team missions, but never one where we are all together," he added. Pollom also stated that he used this project as an opportunity to train and mentor his junior Soldiers.

In addition to performing the mission, the engineers also fostered a good relationship with the landowners.

"Everyone was extremely appreciative of the new tower as well as the electrical upgrades to the dining facility and living quarters," added Pollom.

"It is always nice when you can build a good relationship with the landowners who are essentially your customers," stated Spc. Ian Farnes, a native of Montana, a carpenter/masonry specialist.

"We are essentially trying to improve the quality of life for Soldiers that don't have the same luxuries as larger camps in MND-B," stated Spc. Ryan Wigle, a native of Pittsburgh, Pa., carpentry masonry specialist.

Did you know that:

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Rusafa Barrier Walls Come Tumbling Down

By Sgt. Rebekah Malone

Just as American teenagers hang out with friends on a hot summer night, Iraqi teenagers were doing the same, May 28, except their entertainment was watching Soldiers from the 46th Engineer Combat Battalion, (Heavy), 225th Engineer Brigade tear down barriers blocking a popular street in central Baghdad.

Many cheered, gave a thumbs-up or simply said, 'Good!'

The walls surrounding the small Combat Outpost known

simply as 102, in the Rusafa district of Baghdad, came crashing down, further evidence of the implementation of the Security Agreement.

The nighttime operation opened up streets and buildings that guarded the walls that housed Soldiers from Troop B, 5th Squadron, 73rd Cavalry Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division. The Soldiers lived and worked out of the run-down hotel in order to stay in close contact with the community and help train Iraqi Security Force partners.

"It is significant that this route is being opened fully," said Brig.

Gen. Owen Monconduit, commander of the 225th Engineer Brigade, as he toured the work site with Col. Tim McQuire, commander of the 3rd Brigade

Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division.

No one would agree more than the Iraqi residents.

"The Iraqis seem very excited," Staff Sgt.

ers as COP 102 is closed," explained the future operations officer for the 225th Eng. Bde., Maj. Shane Rauh, of Baton Rouge, La.

Lopez, the noncommissioned officer in charge of removing Hesco barriers for the 46th Eng. Combat Bn., described the work as important for the neighborhood. He said tearing down the walls would allow for better access to buildings that provide economic stimulus for the economy.

"This project has a big impact on the community," Lopez said. "They are getting their neighborhood back."



Hesco barrier removal along Abu Nuwas Street was further proof of the implementation of the Security Agreement as Combat Outpost 102 in the Rusafa district of Baghdad, May 28. The engineers from the 46th Engineer Combat Battalion (Heavy), 225th Engineer Brigade performed the nighttime mission at the direction of the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division.



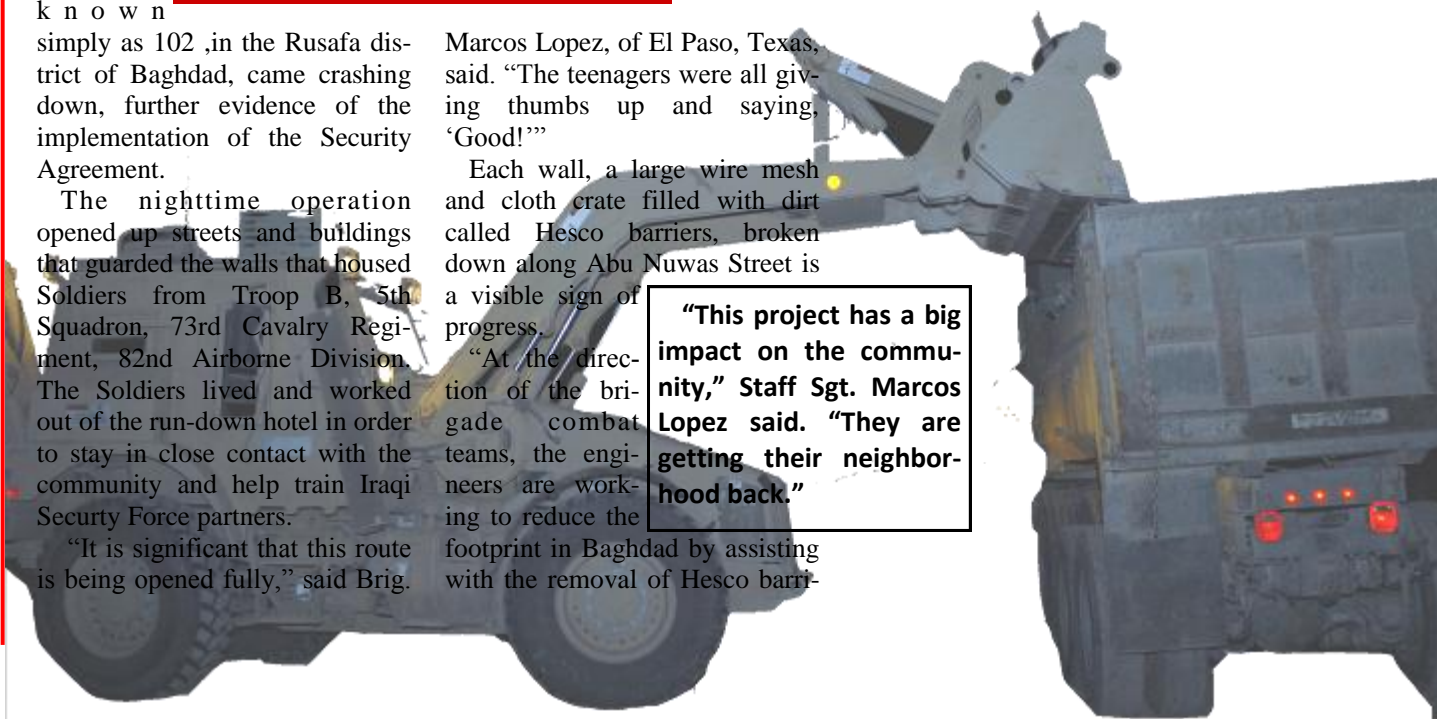
Spc. Winsper (near) and Staff Sgt. Callaway (far) listen to the interpreter speak with a resident of Rusafa near COP 102, May 28.

Marcos Lopez, of El Paso, Texas, said. "The teenagers were all giving thumbs up and saying, 'Good!'"

Each wall, a large wire mesh and cloth crate filled with dirt called Hesco barriers, broken down along Abu Nuwas Street is a visible sign of progress.

"At the direction of the brigade combat teams, the engineers are working to reduce the footprint in Baghdad by assisting with the removal of Hesco barriers

"This project has a big impact on the community," Staff Sgt. Marcos Lopez said. "They are getting their neighborhood back."



By 1st Lt. Jerry Rodriguez

Quotable quotes from the DAO, Lt. Col. Pat Simon (when he thought *no one* was listening!):

The effectiveness of the notorious Rip It's: *"I feel like a hummingbird on crack!"*

On MDMP: *"This is worse than making sausage!"*

My wife, Dolores, never quite got the hang of the 24-hour military clock. One day, she called the orderly room and asked to speak to me. The person who answered told her to call me at the extension in the band rehearsal hall.

"He can be reached at 4700, ma'am," the Soldier advised.

With a sign of exasperation, my wife responded, "And just what time is that?"

— Eric D. Erickson



FIRE POLICE EMS
EMERGENCY CALL
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 (VOIP OR DSN)
 IRAQNA 0790-194-2960 NON EMERGENCY 485-2758
 SVOIP - 243-4407 FM 902 - GATEKEEPER
 225 EN BDE TOC: 242-4407 / 847-2613
 HHC, 225 EN (GOAT HOUSE): 242-4150 / 847-2382

Safety Spotlight

On a normal day, during a normal errand run to the PX, two soldiers found themselves in an abnormal situation.

Spc. Kimberly Ortiz, Bethlehem, Pa., and Spc. Alex Hunt, Juneau, Ala., both of A Co., 46th Eng. Bn., suddenly found themselves face to face with a Soldier rushing towards them with bloody hands.

The Soldier, Sgt. Trickey from the 104th Engineers had deep cuts to both hands and was going into shock.

Quickly, the Soldiers began treating the wounds, elevating his hands and applying pressure. They got the

Safe Soldier!

Soldier into the MRAP they were driving. It was then that battle focused training kicked in.



Spc. Alex Hunt of Juneau, Alaska prepares a light for installation. Hunt is an electrician.



Spc Kimberly Ortiz of Bethlehem, Pa., shakes hands with the brigade CSM Major. Ortiz is a carpentry/masonry specialist.

Executive officer for A Co. explained that part of the Soldier's training is to actually drive MRAPs around and practice treating a patient while moving to get

more of a feel for the difficult situation.

"Both Soldiers are [certified] combat life savers," 1st Lt. Michael Cirillo said. "As a platoon they conduct internal first aid

classes as part of their movements. Battle focused training gave them knowledge and kept them calm, cool and collected."

The Soldiers drove Trickey to the Riva Ridge TMC for treatment and waited for more than an hour to hear an update.

Cicirillo said he was extremely proud of his

Soldiers who helped someone they didn't even know. "Knowing they could help a guy, a Soldier ... shows they are team players."

Concrete team leaves Iraq for Afghanistan

By 1st Lt. Janeene Yarber and Maj. Jared Erickson

A 12 month deployment that started in Iraq has come to an end for 15 U.S. engineers, as they pack their gear to head for Afghanistan.

The Soldiers from the 46th Engineer Combat Battalion (Heavy) will make up the 31st Concrete Team to improve the quality of life for Soldiers fighting in Afghanistan. The concrete mission will take the

har. I'm really looking forward to getting out there."

"The 31st Concrete Team's presence will be vital to the Kandahar Province," said Capt. Kimberly Cowlin, commander, Headquarters and Support Company, 46th ECB (H), from Childersburg, Ala. "They will construct reinforced concrete



team to new territory, but it's not entirely new for all the members of the team.

"I've deployed to Afghanistan once before," said Staff Sgt. Wesley Roach, team leader with 46th ECB (H), and a native of Rapid City, S.D. "This time will be very interesting. I'm not sure what all of our jobs will be, but we will definitely be helping to build up forward operating bases (FOB) in the outlying areas of Kanda-

pads to provide improved living quarters, maintenance and other support facilities for Soldiers on several expanding forward operating bases."

Over the last 12 months, the concrete team has received numerous praises for

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31st Concrete Team

The team consists of: Sgt. Kellen Barns of Fallbrook, Calif., Sgt. Seth Willson of Rome, NY., Spc. Daniel Parker, Mansfield Center, Conn., Staff Sgt. Dennis Bartlett, Plant City, Fla., Spc. Christopher Bortell, Waterville, ME, Sgt. Dontai Smiley, Columbus, Ga., Pfc. Eric Vanstrander, Elmira, NY, Sgt. Nicholas Gibbs, Vernal, UT, Pfc. Pete Cervantes, Demotte, Ind., Sgt. Maurice Polite, St. Helena, S.C., Pvt. Christopher Ruffin, Garner, NC, Sgt. Jeremy Royer, Rochester, N.H., Pvt. Joshua Heintz, New Carlisle, OH, and Spc. Matthew Boyle, Syracuse, N.Y.

The 31st Concrete Team will rejoin the 46th ECB (H) back at Fort Polk, in the fall of 2009 when the remainder of the battalion ends their tour in Iraq.

Concrete team leaves

Continued from Page 8

improving the living conditions of their fellow Soldiers who spend hours patrolling the hot, dusty streets.

Simple comforts of home like electricity, air-conditioning and showers can make a big difference at

the end of the day for the hard-working Soldiers. The 31st Concrete Team hopes to add the Soldiers in Afghanistan to the list of other happy customers.

"The 31st Concrete team was [formed] approximately

Iraq for Afghanistan

months ago in order to improve the quality of life for Soldiers deploying to the Afghanistan theatre of operations," said Sgt. 1st Class James Dean, an equipment pla-

toon sergeant with the 46th ECB (H). "The 15 hand-



Staff Sgt. Wesley Roach, team leader, 31st Concrete Team, 46th Engineer Combat Battalion (Heavy), a native of Rapid City, S.D., said, "I can't wait to get there...so we can get the job done and come home." Roach's team is congratulated and receives well-wishes from Soldiers in the battalion after their Iraq end of tour awards ceremony, May 29. The team will head to Afghanistan the first week of June.

picked warriors have been conducting concrete missions over the last 12 months here in Iraq. They are truly

the

technical experts."

As Roach waited for

his flight to Afghanistan, June 1, the team leader could not hide his excitement about his new mission.

"I can't wait to get there to know exactly what we are going to be doing," stated Roach. "So, we can get the job done and come home."

While in Afghanistan, the 31st Concrete Team will be assigned to the 19th Engineer Battalion, based in Fort Knox, Ky. The 19th Eng. Bn. provides Army engineer support to U.S. Forces in Afghanistan, through the 25th Naval Construction Regiment, based in Gulfport, Miss.

'Steel Spike!'



The 31st Concrete Team's advance party of Sgt. Kellen Barns (right) and Sgt. Seth Willson, both of the 46th Engineer Combat Battalion (Heavy), 225th Engineer Brigade, say a few words to their platoons during their Iraq end of tour awards ceremony, May 28 before departing for Afghanistan.

Soldier receives greater reward than promotion

by Lt. Col. Pat Simon

His smile says it all. With a sharp salute, the ripping off of the old rank and a putting on of the new, 37 year old Edward Davis, of New Orleans, La., became the Army's latest Sgt. First Class.

"It's a great privilege and a great honor," said Davis with a smile. "It's been a long time coming and a lot of hard work but it's worth every bit of it."

The only thing better would be for his seven children to witness their father in Iraq getting a battlefield promotion.

"They would be very happy for daddy," said a beaming Davis. "They have not gotten the chance to be at any of my promotions because they took place away from home."

That being said, Davis' promotion is a great military accomplishment, but there is something far greater that he has received while serving in Iraq: a future career goal and a tremendous sense of pride.

As the platoon sergeant with Bravo Company, 46th Engineer Combat Battalion, 225th Engineer Brigade, Davis is busy overseeing his engineer

Soldiers working long hours at Combat Outpost Carver, just south of Baghdad, to make sure fellow



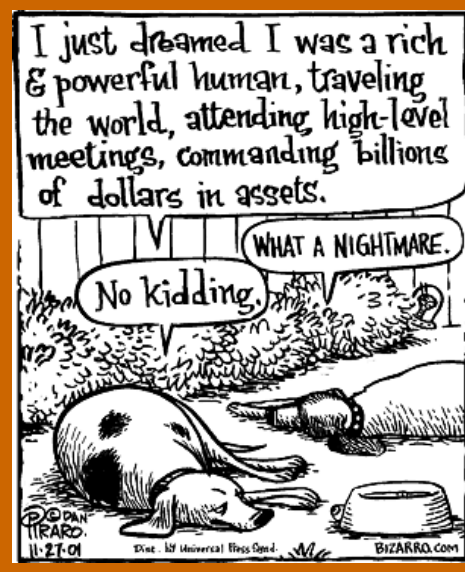
Staff Sgt. Edward Davis gets promoted to Sgt. First Class by Brig. Gen. Owen Monconduit and Command Sgt. Maj. Joe Major, and Cpt. Beal at Combat Outpost Carver June 2. Davis, a native of New Orleans, La. said he is proud of the honor, but that perhaps his great achievement here in Iraq is helping Soldiers who are "leaving the cities" by providing them a comfortable place to stay.

Soldiers moving "out of the cities" have a comfortable place to stay. And that will mean lots of smiles for the builders and the new tenants.

"I may be back here in a year or two and Soldiers will still be able to see their work here. And it just does you good because you know you are doing something for our own," said Davis. "It makes you feel good inside, better than any awards you can receive."

After serving 16 years on active duty, Davis is beginning to consider his next career step when he retires in a few years. He has already started a construction company back at home in New Orleans. And when he turns in his military uniform for good, he is hoping to give something back to those who has given him more than just engineering experience.

"I will continue doing the work I have done in the Army, take it out to the civilian world and probably put a few more smiles on faces of the Soldiers over the years."



A series of historical places in Iraq: Iraqi Kurdistan

Article by Foy Hartman, engagement coordinator

“No Friend but the Mountains”

The first time most Americans heard the name “Kurdish” was in 1988 when the world news agencies reported the chemical weapon attacks by Saddam Husain on Northern Iraqi Villages killing men, women and children indiscriminately.

Kurds are quick to point out they are not Arabs and even their language is biased on Iranian/European, not Aramaic. Kurds number about seven million in the provinces in northern Iraq which are together known as Iraqi Kurdistan. Kurds also have a

presence in Kirkuk, Mosul and Baghdad. Worldwide there are approximately 40 million Kurds, most of which live in Turkey, and they represent the largest ethnic group in the world without a country of their own.

In the 15 years from 1960 to 1975, Kurds, led by the father of Prime Minister Barzani, were engaged in heavy fighting against successive Iraqi regimes. In March 1970, Iraq announced a plan providing for Kurdish autonomy to help bring peace to the region, however, at the same time, the Iraqi regime started an “Arabization” program in the oil-rich regions of Kirkuk which remains a major cause of contention in the area. The peace agreement did not last. In 1974 the Iraqi gov-

ernment began a new offensive against the Kurds and then started another wave of “Arabization” by moving Arabs to the oil rich areas and into Kurdish homes resulting in the deportation of 200,000



Kurds to other parts of Iraq over the following three years.

During the Iran-Iraq War in the 1980s, the regime implemented anti-Kurdish policies and war broke out. Iraq was widely-condemned by the international community, but was never seriously punished for oppressive measures such as the mass murder of hundreds of thousands of civilians, the wholesale destruction of thousands of villages and the deportation of thousands of Kurds to southern and central Iraq. The campaign of Iraqi government against Kurds in 1988 was called *Anfal* (“Spoils of War”). The *Anfal* attacks led to destruction of hundreds of villages and death of 80,000 Kurds.

In 1991, encouraged by the US

administration, the Kurds revolted against Saddam Hussein and led by the PUK and KDP. Iraqi troops once again invaded the Kurdish areas and thousands of Kurds fled to the

mountains giving birth to the phrase “No friend but the mountains.”

Kurdish lobbyists lead by Dlawer Ala'Aldeen, petitioned the British and American Governments to help alleviate the situation, and an autonomous region was proposed by

John Major and finally established by the UN Security Council. The Kurdish population welcomed American troops in 2003 by holding celebrations and dancing in the streets. The area controlled by Kurdish soldiers called Peshmerga, meaning ‘putting death behind you,’ was expanded and Kurds now have effective control not only in Kurdistan but in half of Kirkuk and parts of Mosul. The Kurds have opened their borders to foreign investment and free trade resulting in growth and economic development.

Kurdistan is known as the safest area in all of Iraq. No Coalition Forces have died due to combat in Kurdistan since 2004.

Racing Through Deployment

By Scott Flenner

An Iraq combat tour for engineer Soldiers with the 225th Engineer Brigade is chock full of twists and turns with surprise construction missions, lack of sleep, unbearable heat, and the same 'delicious' food day after day from a dining facility, if they are lucky.

Every Sunday on Camp Liberty in Baghdad the twists and turns for a few of these engineer Soldiers takes place away from work, on a dirt track, racing remote controlled cars in a friendly contest against other Soldiers, Airmen, Seamen, and civilians who they kindly call their competition.

"We are out there every Sunday racing," said SPC Krider McCan from the 225th Eng. Bde.

The RC cars that these Soldiers race are not like the ones you had or saw as a kid. These cars on steroids come in various shapes and sizes and can run at speeds anywhere from 40 to 70mph. Some look like monster trucks, some look like racecars, but all when controlled properly can be seen flying over jumps and navigating hairpin turns in a conquest to conquer the track. Sometimes the track wins swallowing up the cars and spitting out little spare parts.

Seamans, and Spc. Walter Gammill, all members of the 225th Eng. Bde, can be seen on their downtime practicing, fixing and upgrading their RC cars, and assisting in maintaining the track all in preparation for the upcoming Sunday race.

Why do these soldiers who already have such demanding schedules take so much time out of their day to prepare for the next race?

"Before the races I didn't have anything to look forward too. I just went to work ... but now I know I have Sunday coming. I have four hours where I almost forget that I am even in Iraq," said McCan from Pineville, La.

"Controlling a car that is and a half long truck going 45mph is pretty hard," said Spc. Michael Hanks from Lecompte, La. "It's hard to keep up with them, and the only way to get better is to practice."

"It feels like just the other day it was February (start of his combat tour) and now it is already June. Time flies when you are having fun," said Hanks.

And practice they do. Every week "Team Tango" comprising of McCan, Hanks, Sgt. First Class Russell

If you are interested in seeing some exciting racing action and having a little fun Sunday evenings, stop by the RC track on Camp Liberty from 1900-2300. You will not be disappointed, and who knows you may even find a new hobby.



Spc. Krider McCan and Spc. Michael Hanks



Spc. Krider McCan

2009: Year of the NCO



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-PAO Team

"Four hostile newspapers are more to be feared than a thousand bayonets."

United States Army Non-Commissioned Officer Creed

No one is more professional than I. I am a Noncommissioned Officer, a leader of soldiers. As a Noncommissioned Officer, I realize that I am a member of a time honored corps, which is known as "The Backbone of the Army". I am proud of the Corps of Noncommissioned Officers and will at all times conduct myself so as to bring credit upon the Corps, the Military Service and my country regardless of the situation in which I find myself. I will not use my grade or position to attain pleasure, profit, or personal safety.

Competence is my watchword. My two basic responsibilities will always be uppermost in my mind -- accomplishment of my mission and the welfare of my soldiers. I will strive to remain tactically and technically proficient. I am aware of my role as a Noncommissioned Officer. I will fulfill my responsibilities inherent in that role. All soldiers are entitled to outstanding leadership; I will provide that leadership. I know my soldiers and I will always place their needs above my own. I will communicate consistently with my soldiers and never leave them uninformed. I will be fair and impartial when recommending both rewards and punishment.

Officers of my unit will have maximum time to accomplish their duties; they will not have to accomplish mine. I will earn their respect and confidence as well as that of my soldiers. I will be loyal to those with whom I serve; seniors, peers, and subordinates alike. I will exercise initiative by taking appropriate action in the absence of orders. I will not compromise my integrity, nor my moral courage. I will not forget, nor will I allow my comrades to forget that we are professionals, Noncommissioned Officers, leaders!

Image of PSD members Sgt. Timothy Cowsar & Sgt. Charles Williams., 225th En. Bde.

Know a high-speed Soldier that should be featured in the Express? Recommend them today!