



The Mountain View

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August 29, 2008

Salvadorans transfers authority



Photo by Sgt. Daniel West

A guidon bearer for El Salvador's Cuscatlán Battalion sings El Salvador's national anthem during a TOA ceremony between the battalion's X and XI rotations at FOB Delta Aug. 26.

SGT. DANIEL T. WEST
41ST FIRES BDE.



FOB DELTA— El Salvador's Cuscatlán Battalion officially transferred authority from the battalion's tenth rotation to its eleventh in a ceremony here Aug. 26.

The ceremony featured a presentation of colors, a memorial for fallen comrades and addresses by Col. Walter Mauricio Arévalo, X rotation commander, Col. Cesar Adonay Acosta Bonilla, XI rotation commander, Maj. Gen. Michael Oates, Multi-National Division – Center and 10th Mtn. Div. commander and Col. Richard Francey, 41st Fires Bde. and Forward Operating Base Delta commander.

Bonilla said he looks forward to continuing the battalion's mission of humanitarian assistance and reconstruction in Wasit Province, as well

as maintaining positive relationships with Coalition and Iraqi forces in the province.

Arévalo highlighted during the numerous achievements of the rotation its six months in Wasit Province. Cuscatlán X completed more than 30 projects and conducted more than 50 missions to distribute humanitarian assistance, including wheelchairs, food and children's clothing to the needy in cities and villages throughout the province.

Francey praised the tenth rotation's discipline and motivation and said he looks forward to working with soldiers of the eleventh rotation.

The ceremony concluded with the presentation of gifts from Arévalo to Oates, as well as the signing of Battalion Cuscatlán's Libro de Oro, or Golden Book, by the dignitaries present.

Vets unite in Yusifiyah

STAFF SGT. MICHEL SAURET
MND-C



YUSIFIYAH— Sunni and Shia veterinarians are working together in Yusifiyah to form a certified non government organization and help the agricultural economy of the region.

"There's a kind of history being made in this area," said Maj. Michael Zink, veterinarian officer for Multi-National Division – Center. "This is the first (veterinarian) group getting together without letting sectarian issues interfere."

The Yusifiyah Veterinarian Association is in the final stages of receiving its certification. The association consists of more than 20 veterinarians, most of whom own private clinics.

"I don't look at them as Sunni or Shia. I look at them as veterinarians," said Dr. Kamil Almakssosi, Ph.D., bilingual and bicultural adviser for the Mahmudiyah embedded Provincial Reconstruction Team.

"Everyone is here to do their job," Almakssosi added.

That job is simple: work together to provide veterinarian care for Yusifiyah farmers and their agribusiness.

The group is also working with Coalition partners to build the first veterinary lab in Yusifiyah, known for its poultry business.

Almakssosi assigned different tasks to the members in order to enhance the association's effects.

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Ramadan marks the most sacred time for Muslims

SPC. SOPHIA R. LOPEZ
MND-C PAO



CAMP VICTORY – Ramadan, the ninth month of the Islamic calendar, is considered the most reverent and blessed month for the Muslim community. It is the month in which the Qu’ran began to be revealed to the Prophet Muhammad in 610 A.D.

This most sacred time of worship, focused on honoring Allah and remembering the giving of the Qu’ran, takes place Sept. 1 through Sept. 29 this year.

During Ramadan, Muslims focus on fasting, reading the Qu’ran, prayer, personal reflection and almsgiving (helping the poor). These acts signify the five essential pillars of Islam: faith in one God, ritual prayer, alms tax, fasting during Ramadan and the pilgrimage to Mecca.

Fasting is the most prominent event of the month. From sunrise to sunset,

Muslims will ingest nothing by mouth, including water, and will abstain from sexual activity. They will try to read the entire Qu’ran, spend additional time in prayer, and before sunrise, they will take part in a light meal for breakfast.

The fast is intended to be an act of deep personal worship in which Muslims seek a raised level of closeness to Allah. The act of fasting is said to redirect the heart away from worldly activities, which will cleanse the inner soul and free it from harm. Pregnant women, the elderly, the ill and children less than 12 years of age are all exempt from fasting as lack of food could damage their health.

Laylat alqadir, translated to The Night of Power, is considered the most significant night of Ramadan during which the Qu’ran was received. Muslims spend the night asking for forgiveness for their sins and reciting the Qu’ran. Laylat alqadir’s

date varies, but this year, Muslims may celebrate it between Sept. 27 and Sept. 30.

Ramadan ends with the festival of Eid al-Fitr, a three-day festival of fast-breaking. This year the festival is from Sept. 30 to Oct. 3. Eid al-Fitr is the second most important festival in the Islamic calendar marked by joyfulness, gift-giving, merrymaking and alms to the poor.

Mosques and holy sites, including an Najaf and Karbala, will see an increase in worshippers during Ramadan.

The Islamic calendar is a lunar calendar used to determine the proper day on which to celebrate Islamic holy days. It is based on a year of approximately 354 days. The lunar year is approximately 11 days shorter than the solar year, which means Islamic holy days usually shift 11 days earlier each successive solar year. This year, the beginning of the Islamic calendar was Jan. 10.

Soldier’s pocket guide to Ramadan:

Dates: Sept. 1 through Sept. 30

During daylight hours, Muslims abstain from:

- Food and drink
- Swearing
- Smoking
- Betting
- Sex
- Anger
- Envy
- Lust
- Sarcasm
- Gossip



Changes due to Ramadan:

- Reduced capacity within Muslim workforce.
- Increased traffic in the evening, both vehicles and pedestrians, especially prior to the pre-dawn breakfast.
- Reduced activity during the day.
- Increase in population around Mosques and holy sites.

The lessons of fasting:

- Fasting helps Muslims be closer to their God.
- It allows them to feel the suffering of the poor, which is why many families distribute food to the poor and needy before breaking their fast.
- Fasting trains Muslims in patience and to be wise.
- It reminds them to do good, positive things and control their behavior.
- The family and social gatherings during breakfast enhance family ties.

Ways to support Muslims during Ramadan:

- Avoid eating or drinking in the presence of Muslims during daylight hours.
- Avoid having food or snacks in plain sight during Ramadan.
- Avoid smoking or chewing gum in the presence of Muslims.
- Avoid using profane words or gestures.

THE Mountain View

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 Editor/Design — Spc. Sophia Lopez
 Staff Writer — Spc. Tiffany Evans, Sgt. David Turner, Spc. Justin Snyder
 Media queries please contact TF Mountain Public Affairs at MND-Center_PAO@iraq.centcom.mil

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 41st Fires Brigade
 354th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment
 793rd Military Police Battalion
 Division Special Troops Battalion, 10th Mtn. Div.
 Task Force 49



VETERINARIANS

From Page 1

He challenged them to encourage more veterinarians to join the association, reach out to the Government of Iraq for support and find a good location within Yusifiyah for the lab.

Zink said the veterinarians' combined resources and efforts to bring the lab to their area are much more effective than individual efforts. The certification will also assist the association in garnering support from private organizations and investors.

The lab will diagnose common diseases allowing vets to better respond with treatment and improve the livestock's well-being in the area.

There are already plans for two advanced veterinarian diagnostic labs to perform the majority of testing needs. They will be centralized in Baghdad and Irbil Province. The central lab in Baghdad is under construction, including equipping and hiring employees. The project will cost approximately \$250,000.

"We're (also) sending some of the Iraqi employees that work at the (centralized) labs to the United States to

train and then come back and train the people in the labs in Baghdad and Irbil," Zink said.

The organization also plans to have smaller cells in neighboring areas sending samples and material to Baghdad for more complicated or advanced testing.

The upcoming lab in Yusifiyah will be one such lab and will be able to send out testing material at no cost to its veterinarians.

"Doesn't matter where the vets are from. All the samples will be treated the same," Zink said, reassuring the association members that no lab or clinic would be discriminated against based on the veterinarian's religious sect.

These projects could not happen without the unity of veterinarians, but Almakssosi also credits Coalition forces for helping Sunni and Shia focus on a shared goal.

"This is most important to them, (to) know that Americans are not just



Photo by Staff Sgt. Michel Sauret

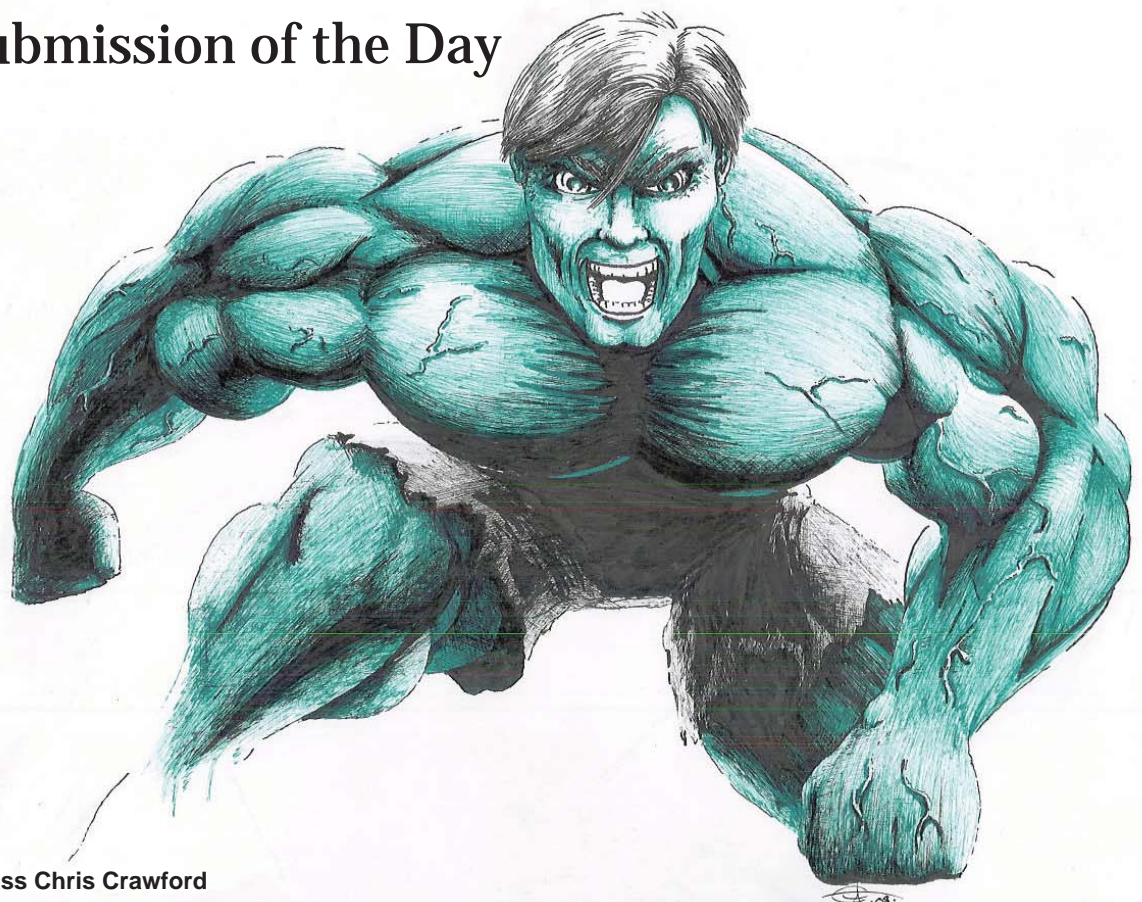
Members of the Yusifiyah Veterinarian Association discuss needs for a lab in their area during a meeting in Yusifiyah Aug. 23. The association consists of more than 20 veterinarians, most of whom own private clinics.

watching them. No, (they're) helping them, training them," Almakssosi said.

Zink sees the Coalition involvement as a significant catalyst to the union.

"They saw that we were honestly here to help," Zink said. "Once they saw that we were sincere in really trying to help them, then, everyone came together."

Soldier Submission of the Day



Drawn by Sgt. 1st Class Chris Crawford

Staff Section Round-up

G-1 Corner: Your vote does count

Susan B. Anthony stood trial in 1873 for voting in a presidential election. The judge ruled that she was incompetent to testify on her own behalf, and a jury found her guilty of voter fraud. She was ordered to pay a \$100 fine, which she said she would never pay - and she never did.

Forty-seven years later, the 19th Amendment granted women the right to vote.

Soldiers and civilians serving overseas and, in many cases, service members' families are afforded the opportunity to vote through an absentee ballot. Yet, many people do not exercise their right to choose the nation's leaders.

You do have a say, and your vote does count. Most states are still accepting requests for absentee ballots. Registration and request deadlines vary from state to state; it is important to submit a request as soon

as possible.

Soldiers can access information about absentee ballot registration at www.fvap.gov. The website has an online request to assist in the process.

Service members guard freedom and the American way of life through their efforts each day and their vote each election.

It is the responsibility of every Soldier to ensure their peers are aware of the registration and absentee ballot process.

It's as simple as asking, "Have you requested your absentee ballot yet?"

Be smart: research the candidates; find the one who represents your values and beliefs most closely; and cast your vote. All you have to do is fill out a form and drop it in the mail box. Your Voting assistance Officer can answer any questions you may have.



**VBC Bash
Victory
Stage
Aug. 31, 2008
at 8p.m.**

Any Questions contact:
822-7831
isaac.alexis@iraq.centcom.mil

IG Corner: Frequently asked uniform questions

Effective September 2008, Multi-National Forces-Iraq Memo 11-1 has been revised and is the reference used unless stated otherwise. These are the most common uniform-specific questions asked:

1. Can I be required to wear a specific combat patch even when qualified for more than one?

NO. MNF-I Memo 11-1, paragraph 5 a. (1) states: "tabs and shoulder sleeve insignia-former war time service patch, or combat patch are optional.

Leaders are reminded that the selection of which combat patch to wear is strictly the decision of the individual Soldier; there will be no mandatory combat patch wearing of a particular unit patch." AR 670-1, paragraph 28-17 d, dated Feb.3, 2005, also states: "Soldiers who are authorized to wear more than one SSI-FWTS patch have the option of choosing which SSI-FWTS

patch they will wear.

Soldiers may elect not to wear SSI-FWTS. (See appendix F for further guidance on the wear of the SSI-FWTS.)"

2. Is wearing of civilian clothes allowed?

NO. Paragraph 5 a. (3) states: U.S. military personnel may only wear the duty uniform and the prescribed service/unit physical training uniform. Civilian clothing is prohibited except as authorized by the Combined Joint Special Operations Task Force -AP Commander or MNF-I Command and Control." This applies to the Logistics Support Areas and PT fields also.

3. Are headphones authorized?

Headphones are not authorized outside the gym to include wearing them draped down the front of the PT uniform.

Paragraph 5 i. (5) states: Any

entertainment device that requires earpieces or headphones will not be worn while conducting outdoor physical training or when walking, riding, bicycling or operating a motorized vehicle.

Additionally, entertainment devices of any type will not be used at any time while serving as a crew member in any vehicle or aircraft. Earpieces/headphones/ipods/MP3 players will not be worn on the way to or from the gym." If headphones, ipods or MP3 players are on your body, then they are "on" you.

4. What is the proper wear of the Army Combat Shirt?

Paragraph 5 e. (6) g. states: "The ACS may be worn as a standalone shirt." However, paragraph 5 e. (6) i. also states: "The ACS will not be worn during Rest & Relaxation or Emergency Medical Leave travel. The Army Combat Uniform is the only appropriate travel uniform for Soldiers."

Headline Round-up

U.S. News:

Officials in New Orleans have begun preliminary planning to evacuate the city as tropical storm Gustav heads toward the Gulf of Mexico. Forecasters are warning that Gustav may become a Category 3 Hurricane before landfall. If a Category 3 or higher storm comes within 60 hours of the city, officials plan to institute a mandatory evacuation order. New Orleans is still in the recovery stages from Hurricane Katrina, which hit three years ago.

World News:

After a 22 hour standoff Aug. 27, two Sudanese men turned themselves in and let go 95 passengers and the crew of a Boeing 737 they had taken hostage just minutes into their flight. The passengers and officials at the airport in Southeastern Libya said the men identified themselves as members of a Darfur rebel group and demanded maps and enough fuel to reach France. "Their first demand was France. ... Then they negotiated for Libyan asylum. Then, they had no other solution — there was no escape," said Mohammed Al-Balla Othman, Sudan's consul in the desert oasis of Kufra, where the plane landed Tuesday.

Entertainment:

Olympic gold medalist Michael Phelps will host the season premiere of NBC's Saturday Night Live Sept. 13. This will kick off the 34th season of SNL. With his appearance, Phelps will join skater Nancy Kerrigan and skier Jonny Moseley as past Olympians who have hosted SNL.

Sports News:

Boxer Oscar De La Hoya is wrapping up a deal to finish his boxing career. On Dec. 6 he is expected to fight Filipino star Manny Pacquiao at the MGM Grand in Las Vegas. De La Hoya, the six-division champion and Olympic gold medalist, has repeatedly said he will not fight again after this year. He struggled to find a suitable opponent for his final fight.

WHO WAS THE MOST INFLUENTIAL FEMALE SOLDIER FOR YOU?



Photo by Staff Sgt. Michel Sauret

"Lieutenant Colonel Urick, from my past unit. The way she carries herself always encouraged us to do the best we could," said Spc. Alejandra Baeza, a multimedia illustrator for 13th Psychological Operation Battalion, supporting 10th Mountain Division.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Michel Sauret

"Major Kimberly Peebles. She's a hard worker and does everything (you ask). She helps everybody," said Maj. Adil Elnour, of Harrisburg, Mo., civil affairs officer for 4th Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division.

Quote of the Day

"There is much pleasure to be gained from useless knowledge."
— Bertrand Russell

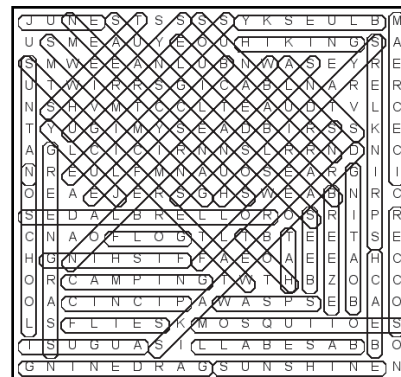
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from Sudoku Easy Presented by Will Shortz

Solution to yesterday's puzzle:

from Livewire Puzzles



from AskOxford.com

Anagrams

- tea.
- shrub.
- melon.
- Keats.
- dawn.
- Celia.
- Theodora.
- percussion.
- moorhen.
- crumpets.
- meatballs