

# IRON STRONG DAILY

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## Combat Camera: Footage from the frontlines

**Story by**  
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"We're here to, basically, document history," said Mass Communication Specialist Petty Officer 2nd Class Angela McLane, Fleet Combat Camera Group Pacific. "We're frontline cameramen."

A common misconception of troops who have never gone out on missions with COMCAM Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, and Marines, is that they never go outside the wire while deployed, said McLane, the noncommissioned officer in charge of combat camera and the resident COMCAM videographer at Forward Operating Base Warhorse, Iraq.

In reality, the photographers and videographers live up to their job titles.

"Combat Camera uses still and moving imagery to support military operations worldwide," McLane said. "Any kind of conflict, war, crisis, anything like that, you'll see combat camera there documenting it. Our job is to be there when something significant happens."

COMCAM is a job that holds a unique significance to the military, McLane said.

"We capture history in the making, history as it's happening," she said. "This is how we can show the world, in current times and in years to come, what we are doing as a military and as a country. We can show all the good we are doing, as well as look back to learn from the mistakes that we have made in the past."

McLane said as well as using COMCAM imagery for documentation and historical purposes, the military uses it for training purposes, as well.

"No one is perfect, but I think we can be as close to it as possible," she said.

"We can use COMCAM's past imagery for that. If something is done wrong, we can reflect back on it, look back on it, and that way we can learn from history instead of repeat it."

McLane said while most job fields in the military require troops to go out on specific types of missions, COMCAM is there for them all.

"I've been on night raids where they go and find bad guys, I've gone and documented where they have found weapons caches, I've been on missions where U.S. forces have had to disable snipers," McLane said. "But I have also been on missions where the U.S. has assisted on new hospital wings opening, or where we have been training Iraqi Army Soldiers on new techniques to better handle the problems in their own country. COMCAM dabbles in a little bit of everything."

McLane has even dabbled in a bit of battlefield injury, having recently taken some shrapnel in the arm from an improvised explosive device and subsequently refusing removal so she can continue her mission.

"The doc said that if they took it out it would cause more damage to my arm and prevent me from going out on missions for two weeks to a month," she said. "I didn't want to do that so I just decided to wait until I get home, because I'm here to accomplish a mission and that is to document all that the U.S. is doing out here."

Despite the long missions, oppressive desert heat and thankless, quality time spent with video editing systems, McLane loves her job as a combat camera

videographer because she gets to see the progress being made, first hand.

"I get to see the Iraqis starting to return to normalcy, just like I get to see U.S. and Iraqi forces catching bad guys," she said. "The more bad guys we catch, the less violence there is and the less innocent people get hurt. And what I like the most is that I get to show that. I like to be able to show that we are helping to make that progress."



U.S. Navy photo by Petty Officer Second Class Paul Seeber

**Mass Communications Petty Officer 2nd Class Angela McLane, Fleet Combat Camera Group Pacific, documents U.S. Soldiers interacting with Iraqi people in a small town in the Diyala Province of Iraq.**

# ATTENTION: SERVICEMEMBERS STATIONED IN GERMANY

## FUEL RATION CARD FACT SHEET

\*The German government requested the U.S. Forces to change from manual fuel coupons to an automated fuel ration card to combat tax fraud.

\*Members of the U.S. Forces who are stationed in Germany and have a vehicle registered within the USAREUR registry of motor vehicles are eligible to get a long-term fuel card.

\*Members of the US Forces who are on temporary duty in Germany, or are stationed within Europe or Northern Africa and on official leave in Germany are eligible for obtaining a short term fuel card.

\*Each fuel ration card will have as many as two licensed drivers as authorized users, and each vehicle may have as many as five licensed drivers with their names on fuel ration cards for your vehicles.

\*Aral, ESSO, and AAFES will not accept fuel coupons after 31 December 2008.

\*After activating your fuel ration

card(s), you will no longer be eligible to buy or use fuel coupons.

\*You may delay activating your fuel ration card until the end of December if you wish, however, the 31 December ending date for coupons will not change.

\*Prices for transactions at ESSO stations will always be the AAFES publicized price.

\*All registered vehicles will continue their current monthly ration after they activate their fuel card.

\*POV diesel cards are coded to only allow purchase of diesel fuel. POV gas cards are coded to only allow purchase of regular, super, or super-plus purchases.

\*AAFES plans tentatively to begin issuing fuel ration cards in July 2008. There will be command information and direct mailings to vehicle sponsors to keep all U.S. Forces personnel stationed in Germany aware of new developments on this project.

\*The German government does not allow "pay at the pump" technology to be part of this fuel ration card

system.

\*The card is only for purchasing fuel. AAFES fuel prices will continue to be based on the national monthly average cost in the United States and updated weekly.

\*Upon fuel ration card activation, the related vehicles are no longer eligible for use of fuel coupons. Customers may redeem their unused coupons at AAFES main exchange customer service counters for a direct refund of the value that was paid for the coupons.

\*Never pump more fuel than the remaining vehicle ration will cover. The fuel ration card system will flag and report all transactions that exceed monthly rations as customs violations. The fuel ration card system does not approve the transactions that exceed monthly rations; the customer is obligated to pay for the full value of their transaction, as shown in Euro cash value on the fuel pump.

NOTE: ADDITIONAL FACTS TO FREQUENTLY ASK QUESTIONS MAY BE OBTAINED BY VISITING THE IMCOM-E WEBSITE:  
[HTTP://WWW.IMCOM-EUROPE.ARMY.MIL/SITES/NEWS/FUELCARD\\_FAQ.ASP#HIGH](http://www.imcom-europe.army.mil/sites/news/fuelcard_faqs.asp#HIGH)

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## ENTERTAINMENT NEWS

**(AP)** Oscar winner Jennifer Hudson's 7-year-old nephew was found dead in the back of an SUV on Monday, ending a frantic search that began after the shooting deaths of her mother and brother three days earlier.

The singer and actress was among seven family members and close friends who cried and held hands as they identified Julian King's body from a live image on a television screen at the Cook County Medical Examiner's office Monday afternoon.

Chicago police spokeswoman Monique Bond said the boy, like his grandmother and uncle, had been shot. The medical examiner's office planned a Tuesday autopsy.

Chicago Police Superintendent Jody Weis said a motive remained unclear Monday but added, "It wasn't a case of a stranger-type homicide."

Police have characterized the slayings as "domestic related" and authorities have been questioning Julian's stepfather, who has been estranged from the boy's mother and is being held on a parole violation. No one has been charged in the slayings.

Julian's body was found shortly after 7 a.m. in the rear seat of the SUV, which matched the one mentioned in an Amber Alert for the boy and was parked on the street in a neighborhood of brownstone homes and apartment buildings.

The vehicle was about 10 miles from the house where the other victims

were found, which was where Julian lived and where Hudson grew up.

Hudson had offered \$100,000 Sunday for information leading to the safe return of her nephew, the son of her sister, Julia Hudson. Hudson's publicist did not immediately return calls and e-mail messages Monday.

"Miss Hudson wanted to request privacy," Cook County spokesman Sean Howard said after the family left the medical examiner's office. "This is a very trying time for her and her family."

Hudson's aunt, Dorothy Hudson, said the Chicago funeral home she owns with her husband will handle arrangements for the family, but details were pending.

"We're just sad. We're going through this stage where we're just sad and in shock," Dorothy Hudson said.

The Amber Alert had listed William Balfour, the estranged husband of Julia Hudson, as a suspect in a "double homicide investigation." He is not the boy's father and has not been charged in the slayings.

Weis said Monday that Balfour "remains a person of interest."

The chief said he was confident that with two crime scenes, investigators would find important clues.

Balfour, 27, was taken into custody for questioning Friday after the bodies of Hudson's 57-year-old mother, Darnell Donerson, and 29-year-old brother, Jason Hudson, were found.

On Sunday, Balfour was transferred to the Illinois Department of Corrections, where a spokeswoman declined Monday to discuss his parole violation.

Corrections records show Balfour spent nearly seven years in prison for attempted murder, vehicular hijacking and possessing a stolen vehicle. He was expected to remain in state custody until the Illinois Prisoner Review Board looked at his case.

Balfour's mother, Michele Balfour, has said Hudson's mother

kicked Balfour out of the family home last winter. She denied her son had anything to do with the killings.

It was unclear whether Balfour had an attorney.

Lynette Loudon, 47, said she called police about the SUV across the street from her home on Chicago's West Side after her family's Chihuahua started barking at it early Monday. Some neighbors said they hadn't seen the vehicle before Monday, but Loudon said it had been there since at least Saturday.

"I only hoped the body wasn't in there," she said. "When they said that it was, I cried."

Weis said police were waiting for the autopsy to determine how long the boy had been dead, but estimated the vehicle was parked on the street "a couple of days."

When asked how officers could have missed the SUV during their massive search, Weis noted that Chicago is a big city and that the vehicle was "several miles away from the first crime scene."

Steve Peterson, head of the department's Bureau of Investigative Services, said the search for the boy had been centered farther east based on information they had about where Balfour's current girlfriend lives.

Hudson, 27, who won an Academy Award for best supporting actress in 2007 for her role in "Dreamgirls," returned to Chicago to be with her family during the weekend. She also had identified the bodies of her mother and brother.

Neighbors and well-wishers brought stuffed animals and other items to a makeshift memorial outside Donerson's two-story white clapboard home as news of Monday's discovery spread.

At a candlelight vigil on Monday night, hundreds of people gathered outside the Englewood home. They sang, held hands and cried in the cold as they contributed to an expanding memorial of stuffed animals, balloons and flowers.

"I wanted to come out and support the community in their endeavor and to let Jennifer Hudson know how much we care and we're praying for her," said Doris Jones, who lives in the neighborhood. "It pains all of us to know three lives are gone and we don't know why."



## FOOTBALL

**(Reuters)** The Tennessee Titans rallied for a 31-21 home victory over the Indianapolis Colts on Monday to record their seventh consecutive win and remain the National Football League's only unbeaten team.

The Titans (7-0) were down 14-6 in the third quarter but scored 25 unanswered points to seal victory and open up a four-game lead in the AFC South over their three divisional rivals, including the Colts (3-4).

"The season is still early, and there's a lot of games left," Tennessee coach Jeff Fisher told reporters. "We're not looking too far ahead."

"As far as the division and all that stuff is concerned, we're just trying to win ballgames right now."

Indianapolis led 7-6 at the half but could not contain the Titans after the break. The Colts are experiencing their worst start to a season since standout quarterback Peyton Manning's rookie year.



**(AFP)** Los Angeles Clippers guard Baron Davis is questionable for the team's National Basketball Association season opener here on Wednesday against the Los Angeles Lakers because of a finger injury.

The 29-year-old guard, has been wearing a splint on his left ring finger after a partial tear of a ligament in the finger. He missed the Clippers' past seven pre-season games and missed much of Sunday's practice session.

The Clippers, perennial also-rans in the Western Conference, could also be without Marcus Camby, out the entire pre-season with a heel bruise, and Tim Thomas, who has a groin injury.

Davis signed a five-year contract worth 65 million dollars with the Clippers last July. His only injury-free season came seven years ago when he was coming up on a contract renegotiation.

"It's going to be tough for us to win the division now, there's no question about that," Colts coach Tony Dungy said. "We can still be a playoff team though."

"I think once you get in the playoffs, anything can happen, as we've seen two of the last three years."

LenDale White rushed for two touchdowns and Rob Bironas kicked three field goals for the Titans, who started their comeback with White's one-yard run with 3:21 left in the third.

## BASKETBALL



Ahmad Hall then caught a pass from quarterback Kerry Collins for a two-point conversion to tie the score at 14-14.

Bironas added his third field goal of the game, a 48-yarder, early in the fourth quarter and White and Chris Johnson scored touchdowns to seal the Titans' win.

Going back to last season, it was Tennessee's 10th regular season win in a row, matching the club's second-longest winning streak.

The Titans have a two-game lead over Pittsburgh, New England and Buffalo for the best record in the AFC.

Collins went 24-for-37 passing attempts and 193 yards, while Manning threw for 223 yards and two touchdown passes but was also intercepted twice by Chris Hope.

## LAOS

**(AFP)** A US-based human rights group Tuesday called on communist Laos to free Hmong ethnic minority protest leaders who it said had been jailed after being forcibly deported by neighbouring Thailand.

Thousands of Lao Hmong have lived in Thai refugee camps for years and requested political asylum in third countries, saying they fear persecution because many Hmong once fought alongside US forces during the Vietnam war.

Thailand has since 2005 repatriated more than 1,500 of the 8,000 Hmong residents of the Thai camps, while both Bangkok and Vientiane have rejected requests by the UN refugee agency or other groups to monitor the process.

New York-based Human Rights Watch (HRW) said in a statement Tuesday that Laos was now detaining several Hmong deported by Thailand this year.

"The Lao government is notorious for treating deported Hmong harshly upon their return," said Bill Frelick, the group's refugee policy director.

"By imprisoning these Hmong deportees, Lao authorities confirm the

fear many Hmong asylum seekers and refugees have expressed of being persecuted if returned to their native country."

The group said that in June more than 5,000 of the 8,000 Hmong marched out of Huay Nam Khao refugee camp in Thailand's Phetchabun province to protest a wave of arrests and deportations of Hmong refugees.

Thai authorities stopped the march, arrested 837 Hmong and forcibly returned them to Laos, said the group, adding that eight demonstration leaders and some of their family members had since disappeared.

Several had been jailed in southern Laos for more than three months, said HRW, citing witnesses, while other protest leaders remained missing.

Frelick said that "Thailand's forcible, secret return of Hmong refugee camp protest leaders to Laos is a clear violation of international refugee law."

Laos says it does not discriminate against Hmong and that returnees are well treated. Last month the Lao military command invited Thai government and military officials and media to visit a Hmong relocation site in Pha Lak.

HRW said that in recent



decades, "Lao security forces have been responsible for arrests, torture, sexual abuse and extrajudicial killings of Hmong living in areas of Laos suspected to be insurgency regions."

Frelick said that "as long as both Laos and Thailand deny the UN High Commissioner for Refugees access to the Hmong, these so-called voluntary returns cannot be believed to be truly voluntary."

## MEXICO

**(AP)** The world's heaviest man has tied the knot.

Manuel Uribe, who hasn't left his bed in six years, married his longtime girlfriend Claudia Solis Sunday in northern Mexico.

Wearing a white silk shirt with a sheet wrapped around his legs, Uribe

smiled as Solis, 38, walked down a flight of stairs wearing a strapless ivory dress, a tiara and hot-pink lipstick.

He later broke into tears as a notary declared the couple husband and wife in a civil ceremony attended by more than 400 guests. For the traditional first dance as newlyweds, Uribe and Solis held hands and swayed to a romantic ballad.

A popular local norteno band played accordion-heavy tunes at the reception, which featured a banquet of meat and buttered vegetables.

Uribe's mother, Orquedia Garza, said the groom steered clear of the five-tier wedding cake.

"He didn't break his diet," she told The Associated Press. "His doctors are here and they are watching him very closely."

The wedding, which

was closed to most media, will be featured in an upcoming Discovery Channel documentary on Uribe, the 43-year-old former mechanic said.

"I have a wife and will form a new family and live a happy life," Uribe told hordes of reporters earlier as they followed him through the streets of Monterrey.

A flatbed truck was brought in to tow his custom-made bed decorated with a canopy, flowers and gold-trimmed bows to the wedding at a local event hall. Two police patrol cars escorted him ahead of a long line of traffic.

Uribe tipped the scales in 2006 at 1,230 pounds (560 kilograms), earning him the Guinness World Record as the world's heaviest man. He has since shed about 550 pounds (250 kilograms) with the help of Solis, whom he met four years ago.

Uribe said he's gunning for a new title: world's greatest weight loser.

