

JOINT BASE BALAD'S
EXPEDITIONARY TIMES
 Proudly serving the finest expeditionary Servicemembers throughout Iraq

www.dvidshub.net (search phrase: Expeditionary Times)

Vol. 1, Issue 9



MPs, civilian donate wheelchairs to Iraqi children Pg. 11

Photo by Pfc. Amanda Tucker

Capt. Jay Clark, a chaplain for the 728th Military Police Battalion deployed from Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, plays with an Iraqi child after helping to deliver a wheelchair in Balad, Iraq, Aug. 9.

RIP out

3rd SB finishes tour, replaced by 16th SB

Page 7



A look at the historic events of women rights

Pages 8-9

200,000, still aiming higher

777th EAS flies their 200,000th passenger

Page 10

Canal pump team keeps water, good relations flowing with Iraqi villagers

by Spc. Anthony Hooker

Expeditionary Times staff

AL BATHRA, Iraq – Members of the 542nd Support Maintenance Company work with local Iraqis to help sustain the flow of water into Contingency Operating Base Adder and Camp Cedar.



Serving under the 7th Sustainment Brigade, the 542nd fuels and services generators located at nearby homes off base.

Locals are hired to monitor water pumps and canals that draw from the Euphrates River, so the team also practices community relations. Their efforts provide a steady water

“Once (the Soldiers) realized we were working with the locals and how important their efforts were to the leadership, they were motivated..”

Sgt. Kevin Tamberg
 542nd Support Maintenance Company

supply to the thousands of Servicemembers on COB Adder and Camp Cedar .

The 542nd, a unit from Ft. Lewis, Wash., travels four or five times a week to visit the three assigned sites. They routinely check

pipes for leaks, inspect centrifugal pumps, and make sure no one is stealing fuel from the generators.

They also get a report of any physical activity from local Iraqis called “monitors.”

Monitors generally watch for debris and small animals like fish in the pipes. Curious children would seem to be a concern, but one Iraqi monitor said there have been no real problems.

“The kids normally don’t bother the area,” said an Iraqi who has worked with the military since 2005. “The kids come over when the Soldiers visit but only to get stuff (like candy and clothes).”

Sgt. Kevin Tamberg, the team’s noncommissioned officer-in-charge, said the local sheiks keep a tight guard on the area. Anything out of the ordinary is reported to the sheiks. The sheiks then pass the information to a local post’s garrison command through

See **WATER**, Page 7

PMO Blotter: 7 Aug. – 14 Aug.

Disrespect to a Senior NCO- A Soldier being counseled by his team leader became belligerent and disrespectful. The Soldier began shouting obscenities and threw his gear and weapon in the direction of the team leader. The team leader defended himself by striking the Soldier in the chin, knocking him to the ground. When PMO arrived on scene the Soldier was incoherent and was transferred to the Air Force Theater Hospital for treatment. The supervisor was released at the scene.

Simple Assault- Three foreign nationals working for the Westside PX got into a physical altercation in which they punched and kicked each other. The two instigators of the altercation were charged with the assault and barmen procedures were initiated on both.

Minor Traffic Accident- One of the PMO patrols drove over an elevated manhole cover near the Air Force town hall building. The manhole cover tore up the undercarriage of the vehicle requiring significant repair. The manhole cover was reported to Air Force safety personnel in order to determine a solution.

Mischief- An Army sergeant was playing around with a red pen laser pointer, the style used for briefings, around the flight line. The sergeant pointed the laser in the direction of an approaching bus, shining the laser in the eyes of several pilots.

Digging in Trash- PMO responded to the report of several foreign nationals digging through the trash in a dumpster near the H-1 housing office. PMO detained the individuals and turned them over to Army Counter Intelligence personnel.

Contact the Provost Marshal Office:
NIPR- 443-8602
SIPR- 242-9982
Email- PMOdesk@iraq.centcom.mil

Women's Equality Day: Women's right to vote

The 19th Amendment: women's suffrage, ratified Aug. 18, 1920, states that "The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex." "Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation."

Those are very powerful words and are the result of a long and difficult battle to get the 19th Amendment ratified and passed. The initial concerns were documented and raised in America as early as 1776 by Abigail Adams. She wrote to her husband, John Adams, while he was attending the Continental Congress in Philadelphia. She requested that he and the other men working on the Declaration of Independence "remember the ladies." However, the wording on the Declaration stated that "all men are created equal."

When talking about a woman's right to vote, I would not do the topic justice if I didn't mention a few of the pioneers for this cause.

Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony formed the American Equal Rights Association; an organization for black and white women and men dedicated to the goal of universal suffrage in 1866. These women, who used more radical methods, split from the women's rights movement and formed the National Woman Suffrage Association. Lucy Stone, Henry Blackwell, and Julia Ward Howe formed the American Woman Suffrage Association, and were more conservative in their approach. The two sides eventually reunited. Regardless of the method used, the fundamental issue, was ensuring that women would be given the opportunity to vote.

Woman suffrage supporters for years lectured, marched, lobbied and practiced civil disobedience among other things just



Sgt. Major Brenda Simmons

to achieve this change to the American Constitution; however, many of its early supporters did not live to see the final victory in 1920.

Not only was the struggle to obtain the right to vote critical, it was a catalyst for future rights of women in many other areas such as politics, education, and to own property.

I, for one, never missed an opportunity to vote once I became of voting age. I went with

my mother to the polls, and my daughter went with me and she takes her daughter. The tradition carries on. However, over the years, I have more closely researched the issues, and tried to make informed decisions based on what issues and values are important to me and my family; specifically as a woman, an American citizen, and as a Soldier. I want to have a say in who governs my future, or at least I can say I tried to make an impact. My perspective is that if you do not vote, you should not complain.

It took women some time to reap the benefits, but look at where we are now. We have a female secretary of state and recently had the first female competing for the Democratic presidential nomination. Take a look back at the turn of the last century, when women could not vote. Now see where we are today; it is an amazing accomplishment.

What a great time in our nation to be a female. Women today can be just about anything they want to be; the possibilities are endless. The great females of our past deserve the credit for where women are today and those accomplishments thus far will live on through the woman of our future, our daughters.

I am excited about the possibilities for women today. To all females, I say, you too

3d Sustainment Command
(Expeditionary)

Presents
Women's
Equality Day

Luncheon

At OASIS Dining
Facility (DFAC 1)

Audie Murphy Room

August 26

1130-1300

Guest Speaker:
Colonel Therese M. O'Brien
Commander, 55th Sustainment
Brigade

POC: MSG Tuynuykua Jackson,
3d ESC HR/EO Advisor at
433-2527 or 332nd AEW & 76th
IBCT EO Office

Retraction

In the Aug. 13 issue of the Expeditionary Times, Maj. Robert Hutson was misquoted. The correct quote should have read. "Today we saw specialists, sergeant majors, captains . . . all lending a helping hand, working side by side with Iraqi sheiks, the Iraqi Army and the Romanian Army. The Iraqis see that and it's a face of America they don't normally see."

can be a sergeant major, a secretary of state, speaker of the house, and even President of the United States of America. Your opportunities have no boundaries and are only limited by you. Seize these opportunities to the fullest; don't let anyone hold you back because of who you are or your gender. Be determined by your choices and be strong—"Army Strong!"

Sgt. Major Brenda Simmons
76th IBCT
Mayor Cell

EXPEDITIONARY TIMES

3^d ESC Commanding General, Brig. Gen. Mike Lally

Expeditionary Times is authorized for publication by the 3^d Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) for the Joint Base Balad community. The contents of the Expeditionary Times are unofficial and are not to be considered the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, including the Department of Defense or Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Expeditionary Times is a command information newspaper in accordance with Army Regulation 360-1.

Expeditionary Times is published weekly by the Stars and Stripes central office, with a circulation of 5,000 papers.

The Public Affairs Office is located on New Jersey Ave. building 4136, DSN 318-433-2154. Expeditionary Times, HHC 3d ESC, APOAE 09391. Web site at www.dvidshub.net Contact the Expeditionary Times staff at: anaconda.times@iraq.centcom.mil

Managing Editor
Maj. Paul Hayes, 3^d ESC
paul.r.hayes@iraq.centcom.mil

215th MPAD Commander
Maj. Timothy Horton, 215th MPAD
timothy.horton@iraq.centcom.mil

215th MPAD NCOIC
Sgt. 1st Class David Zerbe, 215th MPAD
david.zerbe@iraq.centcom.mil

3^d ESC PAO NCOIC
Sgt. 1st Class David McClain, 3^d ESC
david.mcclain@iraq.centcom.mil

3d ESC G2, Security Manager
Lt. Col Dale Davis, 3^d ESC
dale.davis@iraq.centcom.mil

Expeditionary Times NCOIC
Staff Sgt. Tim Sander, 215th MPAD
timothy.sander@iraq.centcom.mil

Photo Editor
Sgt. Gary Hawkins, 215th MPAD
gary.hawkins@iraq.centcom.mil

Layout and Design
Spc. Ryan Hohman, 215th MPAD
ryan.hohman@iraq.centcom.mil

Staff Writers
Spc. Anthony Hooker, 215th MPAD
anthony.hooker@iraq.centcom.mil
Spc. Charlotte Martinez, 215th MPAD
charlotte.martinez@iraq.centcom.mil
Spc. Michael Behlin, 3^d ESC
michael.behlin@iraq.centcom.mil
Pfc. Amanda Tucker, 3^d ESC
amanda.tucker1@iraq.centcom.mil

Contributing Public Affairs Offices

1st Sustainment Brigade
3rd Sustainment Brigade
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

Distribution
Sgt. Geno L. Gardner, 215th MPAD
geno.gardner@iraq.centcom.mil

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^d 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.

Soldiers to compete for Sgt. Audie Murphy Board

by Spc. Michael Behlin

Expeditionary Times staff

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq – On August 20, Joint Base Balad will hold its Sergeant Audie Murphy Club board which will decide induction into one of the Army's elite organizations.

The SAMC program is an elite organization for noncommissioned officers whose leadership achievements and performance merit special recognition.

The SAMC recognizes those NCOs who contribute significantly to the development of the professional NCO Corps and a combat ready Army. SAMC members exemplify leadership characterized by personal concern for the needs, training, development and welfare of Soldiers and Families of Soldiers.

"To me, the Sergeant Audie Murphy Club represents an organization of NCOs who have clearly distinguished themselves from their peers," said Master Sgt. Elbert Jackson, 3d Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) command chaplain noncommissioned officer in charge and the unit's only SAMC member. "I remember back to when I was going through all the boards and processes to become a member of Sergeant Audie Murphy Club and I was a chaplain's assistant competing against drill sergeants. It made me feel really good to be able to compete against the best the Army has to offer and be successful at it."

Started in 1986 at Fort Hood, Texas, the SAMC is dedicated to improving its Soldiers and local communities by commitment, caring, mentoring and

List of Sgt. Audie Murphy's awards	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medal of Honor • Distinguished Service Cross • Silver Star <i>with first Oak Leaf Cluster</i> • Legion of Merit • Bronze Star <i>with "V" device and First Oak Leaf Cluster</i> • Purple Heart <i>with second Oak Leaf Cluster</i> • U.S. Army Outstanding Civilian Service Medal • Good Conduct Medal • Distinguished Unit Emblem <i>with First Oak Leaf Cluster</i> • American Campaign Medal • European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal <i>with one Silver Star, four Bronze</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Service Stars (representing nine campaigns) and one Bronze Arrowhead (representing assault landing at Sicily and Southern France)</i> • World War II Victory Medal • Army of Occupation <i>with German clasp</i> • Armed Forces Reserve Medal • Combat Infantryman Badge • Marksman Badge with Rifle Bar • Expert Badge with Bayonet Bar • French Fourragere <i>in colors of the Croix de Guerre</i> • French Legion of Honor, Grade of Chevalier • French Croix de Guerre <i>with Silver Star</i> • French Croix de Guerre with Palm • Medal of Liberated France • Belgian Croix de Guerre 1940 Palm

training. While just a Fort Hood entity at the time, the club's founding members included Lt. Gen. Crosbie Saint, then III Corps commander, Command Sgt. Maj. George L. Horvath, then III Corps command sergeant major, Jean Crisp, Test and Experimentation Command award clerk, and Don Moore, a Killeen, TX, artist. The SAMC expanded and became an Army-wide organization in 1994.

The club received its name after Sergeant Audie Murphy, who as a squad leader, consistently demonstrated the highest qualities of leadership, professionalism and regard for the welfare of his Soldiers.

Murphy is known for being one of the most decorated United States combat Soldiers of World War II. His awards include the Medal of Honor, the U.S. military's highest award for valor, and 32 additional medals which include awards from France and Belgium.

Induction into the club is a privilege few exceptional NCOs earn, which

begins with a very rigorous process. NCOs serving in the Active Army, Army Reserve, and National Guard in the ranks of corporal through sergeant first class are eligible to compete in the process.

Those interested will need a nomination from their commander, and must appear at an initial selection board and a final selection board. Jackson noted that while the process seems impossible, it could possibly become a reality for NCOs wanting to join.

"The process may seem difficult and it's definitely not easy, but it can be done," said Jackson. "Many have been inducted into the club so NCOs wanting to become members shouldn't let the process or any of the hype surrounding the process discourage them from striving for it."

For more information on the Sergeant Audie Murphy Club look up U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Regulation 600-14 and U.S. Army Forces Command Regulation 215-7.

'Hooah' of the week



Photo by Spc. Michael Behlin

Joint Base Balad, Iraq – Pfc. Timothy Russell Schneider, 3d Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) trial defense paralegal, is congratulated by 3d ESC command sergeant major, Command Sgt. Maj. Willie C. Tennant, Sr., for being selected this weeks Hooah Soldier of Week. Schneider is a native of Gahanna, Ohio.

Women's Equality Day 5K

When: 0515 August 26, 2008
Race will begin at 0530

Where: Holt Stadium

FIRST 500 finishers will get a T-Shirt!!

Prizes: Male and Female 1st, 2nd and 3rd Place.

POC:
SSG Narcomey adrianna.narcomey@iraq.centcom.mil
MAJ Granger susie.granger@iraq.centcom.mil

VOTES FOR WOMEN

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.	FREEDOM 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.*

\$1 headset fix improves Predator mission

by Tech. Sgt. Francesca Popp

407 Air Expeditionary Group

ALI BASE, Iraq -- MQ-1 Predator unmanned aerial vehicle pilots here can now talk over a secure Internet phone line using their headsets thanks to one Airman's ingenuity and one dollar.



Staff Sgt. Ray Stetler, the noncommissioned officer in charge of base information and infrastructure for the 407th Expeditionary Communications Squadron here, received a 2 a.m.

phone call that led him to make the modification, which grants pilots access to Voice Over Secure Internet Protocol.

Stetler said the 407th ECS help desk thought he could fill the request because of his reputation for fixing things. After they called, he went out to the Predator site and contacted the person who called in the work request.

"All he told me was that (higher headquarters) wanted to be connected to the pilot for a mission the next day, and he called the communications squadron because he couldn't think of anyone else to call," said Stetler, noting that he'd never worked with secure radios or VOSIP phones before that night.

After contemplating for a few minutes how he was going to make the modification, he went to work. With five hours, a soldering iron and two meters of cable -- total cost, \$1 -- the NCO completed his impromptu invention.

"I terminated a network connection cable inside the headset coming from the wire harness and connected it to the conference call terminations on the circuit board inside a VOSIP phone," said the 31-year-old from Phoenix.

Predator operators can plug the modified headset into the radio system and make a call to the Combined Air and Space Operations Center or anyone else using VOSIP, said Stetler, who is deployed from

the 31st Combat Communications Squadron at Tinker Air Force Base, Okla.

Previously, pilots used an instant messaging system to talk with higher headquarters. Using VOSIP to conduct a mission increased productivity by 50 percent, said Capt. Trey Teasley, a Predator pilot with Detachment 1, 46th Expeditionary Reconnaissance and Attack Squadron here. Captain Teasley conducted one of the first missions with the modified headset.

"Now, we don't need to get on our keyboard to type our request or take our eyes off the screen," he said. "We can just talk (to the CAOC) to receive clearance authority to engage a target or get other updates instead."

By using VOSIP, pilots can tap into the same resources that are available at their home units and the CAOC, said Teasley, who is deployed from the 11th Expeditionary Reconnaissance Squadron at Creech Air Force Base, Nev.

"With the phone, (people at the CAOC) are able to call us and use all the (communications) capabilities available there to feed us real-time support through the headset," Teasley said.

Looking back, Stetler said he just did what he could to close a trouble ticket, but now realizes his invention improved the way Predator pilots do business. It was his simple fix that caught the attention of Lt. Gen. Gary North, U.S. Air Forces Central and 9th Air Force commander.

"I never would have thought that a three-star general would know what I did, much less think so highly of it," Stetler said.

General North, who visited Ali Base in July, urged the 11-year Air Force veteran to share his creation with others. Upon the general's recommendation, Stetler immediately submitted his design to the Air Force's Innovative Development through Employee Awareness Program. If the Air Force adopts his idea, Stetler could receive an award of up to \$10,000 -- not a bad return for a \$1 investment.

Taji Level III Wheeled Maintenance Facility cranks it up



Photo by Staff Sgt. Bryant Maude

CAMP TAJI, Iraq -- Iraqi Soldiers work to rebuild the engine of a humvee at the Taji Level III Wheeled Maintenance Facility Aug 7. The Soldiers recently repaired 130 vehicles in 30 days at the facility a goal that was set by their commander, Col. Muhammad. Col Muhammad started getting assistance from the 1st Sustainment Brigade's Iraqi Security Force Cell in April 2008.

Food from the sky



Photo by Sgt. Gary Hawkins

FORWARD OPERATING BASE CALDWELL, Iraq - Pallets of water and Meals Ready to Eat hit the ground with a loud "thud" after being dropped from a C-130 Hercules during a morning drop at Forward Operating Base Caldwell August 12.

Water purification unit from Good Water, Ala., makes good water

by Spc. Charlotte Martinez

Expeditionary Times staff

AL ASAD, Iraq -- For years, people from the South have been recognized for their hospitality and one Alabama unit shows just how true that is.

The 1207th Quartermaster Company is a water purification unit from Goodwater, Ala., based at Al Asad Air Base, Iraq. This unit is not only known for the coincidence between their job and hometown, but also for their southern hospitality.

Spc. Tony East, a Clay County, Ala., native and water purifier with the unit, said Soldiers from the 1207th have been working with Iraqi Security Forces at Camp Mejjid, which is located on Al Asad, in

their water treatment plant.

"The Iraqis are real anxious to learn," said East. "We are showing them how to make water usable for their facility."

East said the 1207th has been working with the Iraqis for approximately five months and they have done a complete turn around in learning how to run the plant and all the things that go with it.

The Soldiers from the 1207th are currently training their third group of ISF on the water treatment facility.

"Right now, the first group of Iraqi Army Soldiers that went through the training are training the others and I just oversee the progress," said East.

East also said there is a language barrier that he has had to

overcome, but also receives the help of interpreters.

Not only do they work with the ISF, but the 1207th corresponds with Servicemembers and third country nationals all over Al Asad at their main water site, Freedom Lake.

Sgt. John Davis, the Freedom Lake noncommissioned officer in charge, said the water from their site isn't used for drinking by Soldiers, but for t-barriers to be set up around Al Asad.

"At Freedom Lake, we purify the water for construction, concrete and dust control by pulling the water out of the lake through the (reverse osmosis purifying units) to purify the water," said Davis. "The water is used for T-barriers and that's for the safety of

the troops."

A Turkish national known as "Too Good" by the Soldiers of the 1207th stops by to talk with the Soldiers on a regular basis, even if his truck doesn't need water that day. Davis said "Too Good" is one of the few Turkish nationals on the base who has learned to speak English so he can talk with the Soldiers. This has built a very good, long standing relationship between the two entities.

So not only have the Soldiers of Goodwater made good water, but they have built strong friendships and are aiming to make a difference with the local ISF.

"They make fun of me because of my (Southern) accent," chuckled East. "We have a little more freedom than they do so we can



Alabama

show the Iraqi Army what freedom is all about."

"I am hoping that what I have done here has helped the people that I have encountered," he said.

Communications, electronics shop services throughout Taji

by 1st Lt. Justin D. Haug

1st Sustainment Brigade

CAMP TAJI, Iraq – Since the start of the new year, Signal Company, Special Troops Battalion, 1st Sustainment Brigade, has been actively serving Camp Taji as an electronic repair facility for equipment outside of their normal duty requirements.



A C&E shop is ultimately responsible for the troubleshooting, installation, and maintenance of signal support systems such as radios. However, Sgt. Frank Morales, the noncommissioned officer in charge of the C&E shop, has been accepting less typical electronic equipment for repairs from even less typical customers.

Personnel from outside the brigade are bringing non-Army electronics to the shop for repair. For example, the 249 Military Transition Team brought a commercial laser printer in for repair. While the 1st Sust. Bde. has no MiTT teams under its umbrella of responsibility, the word is out: the Signal Company's C&E shop is willing to lend anyone a hand, helping in any way they can.

Suffering from the Signal Corps' massive new equipment fielding and the Army's restructuring to a more modular force, company-level C&E shops are often tasked with missions that do not match their current situation. In theater, it is not uncommon for electronic components to be transported directly from a platoon to a division-level C&E shop for repairs or replacement; that is where most of the equipment's contracting field service representatives reside.

"So we spent a lot of effort renovating our office and doing carpentry work for the company; but then we realized how much more of a benefit we could be if our work was more related to our specific skill set. Nothing says we can't fix printers," said Morales.

Despite having a shop of only two personnel, Morales and Spc. Jonathan Oakley, the special electronic device repairer, have serviced commercially available office electronics, spending more than 100 man hours on repairs. This number only reflects the time spent on successful repairs.

Often, the shop is limited by the tools and parts they have at their disposal. Being designed to maintain ruggedized Army equipment, they don't always have the necessary parts for commercial repairs.

Twenty-nine of those service hours though, were for units outside of the brigade. Their repairs include items such as large-screen plasma televisions,



Courtesy photo

Spc. Jonathan Oakley, the special electronic device repairer for the Signal Company, Special Troops Battalion, 1st Sustainment Brigade, Communications and Electronics Shop, and Sgt. Frank Morales, the noncommissioned officer of the C&E Shop, have been actively serving Camp Taji as an electronic repair facility since the New Year. Although a C&E shop is ultimately responsible for the troubleshooting, installation, and maintenance of signal support systems such as radios, Morales and Oakley have been servicing equipment outside of their normal duty requirements such as large-screen plasma televisions, numerous printers, digital senders, and even a few video gaming systems.

numerous printers, digital senders, and even a few video gaming systems.

The customers understand that all the work being done is nothing more than a big favor. The C&E shop helps when it can and works to be as timely as it can. Customers have been more than grateful thus far, now spreading the word and returning with more equipment.

"People enjoy doing what they are trained to do. We may not be tearing apart Army radios, but we're still burying our noses in wiring diagrams. With the amount of office equipment we've fixed so far, I'm confident our efforts are making a difference," Oakley said.

This problem-solving mentality and willingness to work is invaluable in today's Army, and is bringing pride to the Signal Company, the STB, and the 1st Sust. Bde.



Photo by Staff Sgt. James E. Brown, Jr.

(left to right) Ziyadnabeel, the co-owner of Ala'a Dian Souvenir and Gift Shop, and Maj. David Stapp, a native of McCaskill, Ark., and the Mayor Cell Operations Officer, Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 1-206th Field Artillery, begin the festivities with the ribbon cutting ceremony that marked the store's grand opening.

Grand opening

by Staff Sgt. James E. Brown Jr.

1st Sustainment Brigade

CAMP TAJI, Iraq – Down to the last few minutes, employees were still scurrying around, bringing in goods, stocking shelves, and making sure everything was just right for the grand opening ceremony that was about to take place.



The guest of honor, Maj. David Stapp, a native of McCaskill, Ark., and the Camp Taji Mayor Cell Operations Officer, Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 1-206th Field Artillery; and Ziyadnabeel, the Co-owner of Ala'a Dian Souvenir and Gift Shop, led the festivities with the ribbon cutting ceremony. With one snip of the scissors, the ribbon floated to the ground and bright cheerful faces were seen all around. Ala'a Dian Souvenir and Gift Shop was now officially open for business.

Everyone in attendance flooded inside while Stapp was presented a plaque of Iraq and an Iraqi flag from Ziyadnabeel.

"My job here is to provide good benefits and low prices to facilitate the life of the Soldiers here in Iraq. We hope that they are going to help us rebuild Iraq and to establish a new country after what happened in 2003. You are welcome in Iraq and we are helping you as much as you are helping us," said Ziyadnabeel.

"I like it because it is closer to where we are at and we can get more people over here. I like the people," said Spc. David Rodgers, a native of Dardanelle, Ark., and a gunner for Bravo Battery, 165th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 1st Sustainment Brigade. "It's a real good opportunity because the others are so far away and it's hot out there; no one wants to go out. This one is closer and makes it a lot easier on the Soldiers."

"I think it's great, a good opportunity to get some of the cultural gifts," said 2nd Lt. Eva Weatherley, a native of Des Arc, Ark., and the assistant operations officer for the Camp Taji Mayor Cell, as she browsed around to see what the shop had to offer.

The newly opened shop, sponsored in part by the 1st Sustainment Brigade, is located on the corner of Irish and 26th Street and carries a large variety of items, from authentic Iraqi souvenirs and gifts to hand tools and electronics.

**BALAD FIRE DEPARTMENT
FIRE FIGHTER CHALLENGE**
WHEN: Saturday, August 23, 2008 at 0900hrs
WHERE: H-6 BASKETBALL COURTS

Always wanted to be a Firefighter?
Do you have what it takes?

Teams will compete in 5 timed events.
Sign up a team of 6 to compete in the AEF 3/1 Fire Fighters Challenge. Limited to first 20 teams. FASTEST TEAM WINS

Contact:
Van.Smith@blab.centaf.af.mil
to enter your team.

AVANT
Is coming to JBB
August 25, 2008
Watch for more information



Photo by Staff Sgt. James E. Brown Jr.

The first graduating class of the Areef "Sergeant" Course held at Camp Taji, Iraq, by the Iraqi Noncommissioned Officer's Academy poses for a picture after the ceremony was completed.

Camp Taji's first Areef "Sergeant" Graduation

by Staff Sgt. James E. Brown Jr.

1st Sustainment Brigade

CAMP TAJI, Iraq – The air was filled with excitement and joy for the Soldiers who were beginning to form up for the first graduating class of the Areef "Sergeant" Course conducted by the Iraqi Army Noncommissioned Officer Academy.

Row by row, Soldiers of the Iraqi Army stood at the position of attention, executed a right face and individually marched to the stage to receive their graduation certificate. This historic occasion put forth 23 Iraqi

Soldiers of various occupational job skills to complete the experimental course that taught basic leadership skills and some infantry techniques by U.S. Army advisors of various units within the 1st Sustainment Brigade.

"The course was mandated by the Iraqi Minister of Defense and designed to raise the level of confidence of the noncommissioned officer and the Iraq Army, to give them the skills and the knowledge to train their fellow Soldiers," said Sgt. 1st Class Carl Miller, a native of Euless, Texas, and senior advisor to the Iraqi Noncommissioned Officer Academy.

The highest enlisted member of the Iraqi Army, Command Sgt. Maj. Adel Abdul Jabbar Abdul Wahed, congratulated several Soldiers for their accomplishment.

IA increase communications capabilities throughout Iraq

by Spc. Andrea Merritt

1st Sustainment Brigade

CAMP TAJI, Iraq – As the Iraqi Army continues to grow, their forces continue to make significant improvements in different areas. The most recent advancement for Iraqi forces on Taji was in the area of communications.

In March, U.S. Forces began an initiative to field 12,500 military radio systems to the Iraqi Army. Since the first fielding April 23, the Iraqi Army has received approximately 4,500 of their 12,500 radio systems.

The radios, which are Single-Channel Ground and Air Radio Systems, provide secure, encrypted communications and allow the Iraqi Soldiers to communicate at a range they had never been able to before.

The SINCGARS have been installed in about 300 humvees and 11 T-72 tanks; but there are enough radios to distribute to four Iraqi Army divisions, which includes 1,800 humvees, one brigade of T-72 tanks, and 600 other tactical vehicles.

"At the time, (the Iraqis) wanted to get away from commercial systems to military-grade communications. We have seen much improved communications at the tactical level, and we will no doubt see improvement in their tactical command and control capability" said U.S. Marine Capt. Steven Eckdahl, a radio communications officer with Multi-National Security Transition Command – Iraq.

In mid-July, Iraqi Soldiers completed their first-ever Warfighter exercise. The culminating event was a battalion cordon and search into the village, and they incorporated the SINCGARS into the exercise.

"For the first time ever really, they had long-range tactical, secure communications to reach back to battalion and brigade headquarters. They could do battle tracking, and they knew where their units were at on the field," said 1st Lt. Nathan Spreitler, an advisor with the Coalition Army Training Team who has been working since the beginning to help field the 12,500 radios to the IA.

"They could communicate internally and externally in a range they had never been able to do before. Now, they have that tactical command and control piece to keep that battlefield situational awareness of where their units are and what their status is," added Spreitler.

Although the new systems have proven beneficial to the IA, achieving this significant milestone did not come without challenges.

"There were lots of challenges. We've had challenges in getting the training accomplished, but the Iraqi Signal School and their combat colonel have really stepped up," Spreitler said.

In the last four months, the Iraqi Signal School has trained more than 300 Iraqi Soldiers to be radio operators. Also, in an effort to aid in the training, Multi-National Division – Baghdad sent a mobile training team with Iraqi officers who have gone through the advanced training at the signal school to go out and train the divisions.

"Getting all that coordinated was challenging, but it happened and now we have an excess of 1,000 operators that have been trained in the Iraqi Army," Spreitler stated.

In May, Coalition Forces handed control of the radio installation and repair to Col. Mohammed Nassir. The weight of supplying Iraqi Security Forces with secure communications rests on his shoulders.

"I am very thankful and grateful for all efforts from the American teams and the American officers for their help for us to rebuild our Army and our facilities," said Col. Mohammed.

"The radio sets now are different than the radio sets we used in the past," said Mohammed. "This radio is very useful in armored tanks and armored vehicle. We can use base stations and man pack stations with our Soldiers, so it's very important."

With the fielding of the SINCGARS, the Iraqi Army was able to improve their communications capabilities and come one step closer to becoming a strong and stable fighting force for their country.

"I've been here at Taji for seven or eight months now, involved in the training of the signal school Soldiers and the basic trainees. For them to have the equipment was one thing, but after we went through that Warfighter exercise that we were the observer controllers for and to see them be able to use those systems was pretty rewarding," said Spreitler.

"They have the capability to be a world-class army and this is just one of those steps to give them those tools to allow those battlefield commanders to take control of their own sectors," Spreitler concluded.

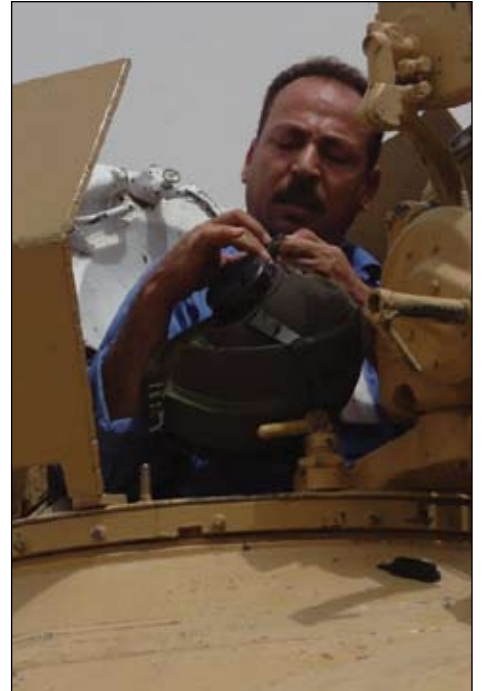
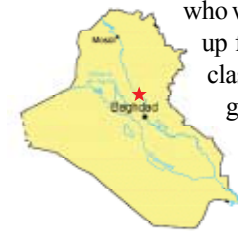


Photo by Spc. Andrea Merritt

A contractor prepares to test a Single-Channel Ground and Air Radio System that was installed on a T-72 tank July 17 to make sure it is operational. The SINCGARS have been installed in about 300 humvees and 11 T-72 tanks; but there are enough radios to distribute to four Iraqi Army divisions, which includes 1,800 humvees, one brigade of T-72 tanks, and 600 other tactical vehicles.



MNF-I
TF SAFE

Power Strip Work Sheet

PROTECT YOUR INVESTMENT

MNF-I
TF SAFE

Your television, stereo/radio, game-boy, and other electrical products that you have purchased can be seriously damaged or destroyed from overloaded circuits and electrical devices. This worksheet is designed to help you protect your investments by doing some simple calculations to determine the electrical load on your power strip. Take a few minutes to complete the worksheet below. Remember, do not include your refrigerator in this equation because refrigerators cannot be plugged into a power strip; they must be plugged directly into the wall outlet. Also, you cannot daisy-chain power strips to increase your capabilities. In fact, this will have the opposite effect and increase your chances of an electrical overload... and loss of your equipment!

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Look for the UL or CE certification or label mark on your power strip.
2. Look for AMP rating on your power strip and write that value in the last line.
3. Look for the rated AC input on each appliance to be plugged into the power strip, and write those values in the last column. (NOTE: if it does not say 220V do not plug it in without a converter.)
4. If no AMPS are shown, look for the WATTS and write that number in the WATTS column. Divide WATTS by 220V and write the result in AMPS column.
5. Total ALL the AMPS. Your total CANNOT exceed the AMPS of your power strip.

Appliance	WATTS	/220 =	AMPS
		/220 =	
		/220 =	
		/220 =	
		/220 =	
		/220 =	
THIS TOTAL →		CANNOT EXCEED the Power Strip Rating below	
POWER STRIP RATED AMPS:			
()			

← DO THIS
to PREVENT THIS:

WATER, from Page 1

an interpreter.

Tamberg, a Hattiesburg, Miss., native, said the sheiks are highly respected and the locals normally have no issues with the military.

"We have a tight bond and it begins from working with the locals," he said.

During these reports, it's common for the team to get requests from the monitors. At the first stop, Tamberg meets with water monitor 'Hani.' After giving his report, 'Hani' leads the group inside his hut and points out the condition of his bed. Constructed of cardboard slats and thin bed rails, 'Hani' said his wife has continually complained about its condition and said he should ask the Coalition Forces to bring a new one. Tamberg takes down the information, thanks 'Hani' for his time and moves to the next station.

Furniture requests was not an action members of the 542nd expected to do when they got orders to deploy to Iraq. Tamberg said when the unit arrived in Iraq, some Soldiers were nervous.

"They were worried about being shot at and blown up," Tamberg said. "Once (the Soldiers) realized we were working with the locals and how important their efforts were to the leadership, they were motivated."

Tamberg said his Soldiers feel like the job they're doing has a purpose.

"They're motivated because every time they go out, they know they were making a true difference."

"We've connected emotionally with these people," said Tamberg. "They don't want anything to happen to us because we offer them more jobs, and more chances to learn a trade. They may have a skill or trade they learned in the past and now can apply it – not only for us but their own people."

Children show up from near and far when the 542nd arrives on site. They come from neighboring homes, even rowing their boats across the Euphrates to spend time with the visiting Soldiers. The kids have an unrelenting enthusiasm for the visitors, asking for candy, water, anything of value. The requests rarely cease even when the Soldiers finish their duties and return to their humvees.

Responding professionally to the requests of the locals can be taxing. 2nd Lt. Jaclyn Adams, the convoy commander for the water canal pump team, said the job has been "really difficult, but very rewarding" for her Soldiers.

"We're seeing people who are not like us," said Adams. "It's a mixing of cultures . . . we interact, bring them food, water, clothes. Soldiers have been writing people at home so they can send stuff."

Tamberg said the children's attitude is infectious.

"Seeing little boys and girls open up with a smile opens up the Soldiers even more," Tamberg said, "so even when we have to get up at early morning hours to do long days, it's made better by the time we spend with the kids."

Tamberg, an Operation Iraqi Freedom veteran since 2003, said the change of policy by Coalition Forces has created a different mindset for the Iraqis he meets.

"Compared to now, I rarely had any contact with local nationals (on my first tour)," said Tamberg. "Some would come on my base to do small jobs . . . some would shy from us, some would be open-minded."

Tamberg said he didn't really see many children except for those who would come to the side of the road near convoys asking for stuff. By entering their neighborhoods, the kids' curiosity toward Soldiers emerged.



Photo by Spc. Anthony Hooker

Sgt. Kevin Tamberg, a convoy commander with the 542nd Maintenance Support Company, speaks with a local Iraqi July 30 at Al Bathra, Iraq. Tamberg and the Iraqi work together to make sure water is pumped out to COB Adder and Camp Cedar.

"They're always asking us questions, trying to learn more English," Tamberg said. "Instead of asking us for something, some will ask us to join them for supper or to kick the soccer ball around."

Pfc. Brian Lawrence said he regularly plays with the kids.

It makes them feel comfortable (with us)," said Lawrence, who has two children. "Doing that makes it easier when other convoys come; (the children) won't get nervous and start throwing stuff to hurt the Soldiers."

Lawrence said, however, that it was important for Soldiers not to lose their professionalism.

"If someone's not being professional at a time they need to be, BOOM! . . . there goes your truck."

The team is predominantly manned by

younger Soldiers; Adams, who is 23, said fighting complacency is a big issue with the team.

"Guys are so young," she explained, "It's hard to keep them on their toes, from being complacent. We make sure we cover that (concern) all the time, preaching safety."

"We don't want (the Soldiers) to be comfortable outside the wire, with the local nationals," Adams said. "There's a line that you cannot cross."

Adams said they have a good relationship with the locals but added there will always be potential issues dangers outside the base.

"We're on their land," said Adams, "If they have a problem with us, you never know what's going to happen."

"(We) have to make sure they like us," she laughs.

'Heart of the Rock' transfers authority to 16th Sustainment Brigade

by Spc. Anthony Hooker

Expeditionary Times staff

FORWARD OPERATING BASE Q-WEST, Iraq— The 3rd Sustainment Brigade, under the leadership of Col. Darrell K. Williams, transitioned its mission in Multinational Division-North to the 16th Sustainment Brigade, led by Col. Martin B. Pitts, during a transfer of authority ceremony Aug. 9 at Forward Operating Base Q-West, Iraq.

The ceremony marked the end of a highly successful 15-month tour for the 3rd SB, a Fort Stewart, Ga., unit and the arrival of the 16th SB from Bamberg, Germany. The 16th SB, on its first deployment, is the only U.S. Army sustainment brigade in Europe.

Brig. Gen. Mike Lally, the commanding general of the 3d Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and reviewing officer for the ceremony, reminded the audience of the 3rd SB's achievements; Lally also spoke of how important the 16th SB's ability to maintain focus on the mission would be.

"Transitions of Authority mark the end of a challenging and successful mission," said Lally. "It's also a time to reflect on the gravity and breadth of your unit's impact on our success in Iraq. For the incoming unit, it's an official assumption of a vital mission and an important mental shift from a mindset of preparation to one of execution."

The 3rd SB, operating as the logistical headquarters

for MND-North, successfully supported 13 brigade-sized units with forces totaling over 70,000 Servicemembers, contractors, and Department of Defense civilians. The 3rd SB also drove over 3,700 combat logistical patrols, pushed nearly 134 million gallons of fuel from fuel farms at Q-West, Camp Marez, and Contingency Operating Base Speicher.

After welcoming his "new best friends" from the 16th, Williams gave thanks to everyone in attendance as well as the "nameless" individuals who serve on all lines of the battlefield. He singled out Soldiers who lost their lives fighting on behalf of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Williams said in a separate interview that logistical support serves as an enabler to the successful transition of Iraq back to its citizens.

"Logistics helps this campaign in two ways," said Williams. "We are critical in assisting our fighting forces as they reposition themselves to the battlefield."

"We also are setting the condition for Iraqis to better themselves- training the Iraqis how to build and sustain supplies so they can support their military logistical forces better in the future."

Pitts' speech emphasized his enthusiasm for the challenge ahead for his Soldiers. Pitts also expressed his regard for the outgoing unit's accomplishments and their hospitality.

"I am humbled and blessed by the opportunity to command this unit during combat operations and am honored by the opportunity we have been given to break new



Photo by Spc. Anthony Hooker

Col. Martin B. Pitts, commander of the 16th Sustainment Brigade, and Command Sgt. Maj. James E. Spencer, the senior enlisted member of the 16th Sustainment Brigade, unroll their brigade's colors at a transfer of authority ceremony at FOB Q-West Aug. 9.

ground and forge the storied history of the 16th Sustainment Brigade."

Women's Equality

1848 The first women's rights convention is held in Seneca Falls, New York. After ten days of discussion and debate, 68 women and 32 men sign a Declaration of Sentiments, which outlines grievances and sets the agenda for the women's rights movement. A set of 12 resolutions is adopted calling for equal treatment of women and men under the law and voting rights for women.

1869 May
Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton form the National Woman Suffrage Association. The primary goal of the organization is to achieve voting rights for women by means of a Congressional amendment to the Constitution.
Nov.
Lucy Stone, Henry Blackwell, and others form the American Woman Suffrage Association. This group focuses exclusively on gaining voting rights for women through amendments to individual state constitutions.
Dec. 10
The territory of Wyoming passes the first women's suffrage law. The following year, women begin serving on juries in the territory.



1948 President Truman signs Women's Armed Services Integration Act granting women the right to an Army career full-time active duty or part-time in the Army Reserve. Retirement pay and drill pay for ORC members also enacted.

1920 The 19th Amendment to the Constitution, granting women the right to vote, is signed into law by Secretary of State Bainbridge Colby.

1916 Margaret Sanger opens the first U.S. birth-control clinic in Brooklyn, N.Y. Although the clinic is shut down 10 days later and Sanger is arrested, she eventually wins support through the courts and opens another clinic in New York City in 1923.

1936 The federal law prohibits contraceptive information through obscenity laws. Throughout the 1940s, advocates are engaged in numerous court cases.

1919 The federal woman suffrage amendment, originally written by Susan B. Anthony and introduced in Congress in 1878, is passed by the House of Representatives and the Senate. It is then sent to the states for ratification.

1850 The first National Women's Rights Convention takes place in Worcester, Mass., attracting more than 1,000 participants. National conventions are held yearly (except for 1857) through 1860.

1893 Colorado is the first state to adopt an amendment granting women the right to vote. Utah and Idaho follow suit in 1896, Washington State in 1910, California in 1911, Oregon, Kansas, and Arizona in 1912, Alaska and Illinois in 1913, Montana and Nevada in 1914, New York in 1917; Michigan, South Dakota, and Oklahoma in 1918.



1860

1870

1880

1890

1900

1910

1920

1930

Time Line



1968 The EEOC rules that sex-segregated help wanted ads in newspapers are illegal. This ruling is upheld in 1973 by the Supreme Court, opening the way for women to apply for higher-paying jobs hitherto open only to men.

1999 The Supreme Court rules in *Kolstad v. American Dental Association* that a woman can sue for punitive damages for sex discrimination if the anti-discrimination law was violated with malice or indifference to the law, even if that conduct was not especially severe.

1963 Congress passes the Equal Pay Act, making it illegal for employers to pay a woman less than what a man would receive for the same job.

1972 In *Eisenstadt v. Baird* the Supreme Court rules that the right to privacy includes an unmarried person's right to use contraceptives.

1973 As a result of *Roe v. Wade*, the Supreme Court establishes a woman's right to safe and legal abortion, overriding the anti-abortion laws of many states.

1986 *Meritor Savings Bank v. Vinson*, the Supreme Court finds that sexual harassment is a form of illegal job discrimination.



1960 The Food and Drug Administration approves birth control pills.

...ing the dissemination of ... hough the mail is modified ... is no longer classified as ... 0s and 50s, birth control ... erous legal suits.

1976 The first marital rape law is enacted in Nebraska, making it illegal for a husband to rape his wife.

1972 The Equal Rights Amendment is passed by Congress and sent to the states for ratification. Originally drafted by Alice Paul in 1923, the amendment reads: "Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex." The amendment died in 1982 when it failed to achieve ratification by a minimum of 38 states.

1978 The Pregnancy Discrimination Act bans employment discrimination against pregnant women. Under the act, a woman cannot be fired or denied a job or a promotion because she is or may become pregnant, nor can she be forced to take a pregnancy leave if she is willing and able to work.

2005 In *Jackson v. Birmingham Board of Education*, the Supreme Court rules that Title IX, which prohibits discrimination based on sex, also inherently prohibits disciplining someone for complaining about sex-based discrimination. It further holds that this is the case even when the person complaining is not among those being discriminated against.

2-12th Soldier is 777th EAS' 200,000th passenger

by Staff Sgt. Don Branum

332nd Air Expeditionary Wing

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq -- An indirect fire infantryman with Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 12th Cavalry Regiment became the 777th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron's 200,000th passenger when he stepped aboard a C-130 Hercules' loading ramp at Ali Base Aug. 5.

When Army Spc. Steven Nix boarded the aircraft bound for Joint Base Balad, he expected nothing more than a typical one-hour flight, but the Airmen who comprised the C-130's crew had a surprise for him.

"The lieutenant colonel who was on the plane asked me if I'd like to ride up front, and I said, 'Sure,'" Nix said. "When I got to the cockpit, he explained that I was the 200,000th passenger. I thought he was just messing with me, just joking around a little."

Lt. Col. Chris Cantu, commander of the 777th EAS, was the navigator for the flight.

"We keep track of what we move," Cantu said. "We knew our 200,000th passenger would be (Aug. 5). We presented him a flag that we'd flown all day along with a squadron coin and a certificate."

"I thought it was cool -- I wasn't expecting all that on a regular flight," said Nix,

who is deployed from Fort Hood, Texas. "They let me see everything they do (on the flight deck). There are so many checks they have to do before they can fly ... but it was a lot more comfortable in the cockpit than in the belly of the aircraft."

Nix joined the Army in 2005 after his freshman year of college and reenlisted for six more years in June. This deployment is his second; his first was to Forward Operating Base Rustamayah, about 20 miles southeast of Baghdad. Supporting him from home are his wife and two children, who are part of the reason why he reenlisted.

"The military provides good service for the family," he said. "You couldn't ask for much more. Not too many other jobs give you a housing allowance or full medical insurance -- I feel lucky for that."

Coincidentally, both Nix and the C-130 crew calls Arkansas home. Nix lived in De Queen before he joined the Army. Cantu and his Airmen are deployed from Little Rock Air Force Base, about 180 miles from there.

Another coincidence is that about 200,000 people live in the city of Little Rock, Cantu said.

"So in 2½ years, we've moved the equivalent of every man, woman and child in Little Rock," he added.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Don Branum

Spc. Steven Nix brandishes a 777th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron coin on the South Ramp here Aug. 8.

The squadron reached 200,000 passengers sortie by sortie, person by person. Most sorties carry between 30 and 40 people, and the crews average about six sorties per day, said Capt. Kevin Eklund, a navigator with the crew. A C-130 crew may move as many as 300 passengers per day.

The 777th EAS' aircrew is nearing the end of a two-month deployment to Joint Base Balad, for which every Airman volunteered.

"This is one of the places where you really feel like you're doing the mission," said 1st Lt. Will Herbert, a C-130 copilot with the 777th EAS.

Maj. Wesley Sweitzer, the 777th EAS director of operations, credited maintainers, the Air Tactical Operations Center and other supporting agencies with helping the squadron reach this milestone.

"We couldn't fly without a good plane," Sweitzer said.

Powers of attorney: general vs. special

by Spc. Allison K. Harsh

3rd ESC Staff Judge Advocate

Being deployed thousands of miles from families and state-side obligations, it's very common for Soldiers to need a power of attorney at one point or another while away from home. Determining whether you need a general or a special power of attorney should not be taken lightly. In fact, the decision regarding a general or special power of attorney may be one of the most important personal decisions you make during your deployment. The wrong decision could impact your financial future for years.

A general power of attorney allows your agent, the person you designate, to do almost everything you could do as if you were standing there yourself. Your agent could buy a car in your name, make withdrawals and write checks on your bank account, and secure loans or credit cards in your name. These are just a few of the actions someone could take when you appoint them as your agent in a general power of attorney. You should remember that there is little you can do to counter the past actions of your agent due to the broad powers granted by a general power of attorney. In addition, you are legally bound for the acts of your agent on your behalf. Although businesses or individuals are not required to accept powers of attorney, many will accept them; therefore, making you legally responsible. Consequently, you should consider carefully whether you have a compelling need to give someone a general power of attorney. You must have the utmost confidence in your agent's integrity and responsibility before ap-

pointing a general power of attorney.

To mitigate the potential financial hardship and worry often associated with a general power of attorney, you can choose to give your agent a special power of attorney. A special power of attorney limits and specifically details your agent's authority. You only empower the agent with the authority to do specific things for a defined period of time. For example, you may need an agent to register your car, file your taxes, cash particular checks, file insurance claims, buy a house, sell your old car, or buy a new one. These are just a few examples of specific powers you can specify with a special power of attorney.

Unfortunately, there is no way to guarantee that any power of attorney will not be misused. Here are some precautions that may help prevent abuse:

- Never use a general power of attorney when a special power of attorney will do.
- Make sure the expiration date is for a fairly short period of time.; you can always have a new power of attorney drafted.
- Never grant a power of attorney unless you have a legitimate need to grant one. If you're not sure, contact legal assistance to discuss.
- If you need to cancel or terminate a power of attorney before it expires, you can execute a revocation of the power of attorney.

For further information on powers of attorney or to have a power of attorney drafted, please contact SPC Allison Harsh at the Combined Legal Center, DSN 422-2386.

MNF-I
TF SAFE

SAFETY BULLETIN
Electrical Equipment Labeling

IS MINE SAFE ??

How do you know for sure if the power strip, converter, or adapter you are using is an approved "certified" device? The information below will help you determine that.

All certified devices will have a label embedded in the device. The primary European certification label is CE. (look for the symbol on the device or cord).



Another certification label used in Europe is the UL/GS.



European UL GS Mark

The most common label used is the UL Mark



Underwriters Laboratory



"BE AWARE OF COUNTERFEITERS Placing CE or UL Labels on unapproved Devices"

Bottom Line:

If your device does not have an embedded mark on the device or cord it is most likely not a certified device and can put you and others at serious risk. If you are unsure about your device have it checked at the Safety Office or the Mayor's Cell. Don't take risks with electricity - it's a deadly gamble.

MPs, chaplain, civilian donate wheelchairs to local Iraqi children

by Pfc. Amanda Tucker

Expeditionary Times staff

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq – Military police sponsors, a chaplain and one huge-hearted civilian reached out to help the local community in Balad, Iraq, by giving two handicapped Iraqi children wheelchairs August 9.

Members of the 164th Military Police Company based out of Fort Richardson, Alaska, and currently commanded by 18th Military Police Brigade; go in sector on a daily basis, patrolling surrounding areas and helping to improve the capabilities at Iraqi Police checkpoints. However, the company does much more than that. The MP have become a part of the community and felt the need to help two children who cannot walk.

Capt. Matthew Norris, commander, 164th Military Police Company, 728th MP Battalion, 18th MP Bde. and Phoenix native started looking for a wheelchair after he discovered an Iraqi police chief's son who had a hole in his heart, causing the 2-year-old boy to have muscle weakness.

Once other Soldiers in the unit heard about the commander's idea, they began to inquire about the need for a wheelchair for an 8-year-old Iraqi girl near another checkpoint in Balad.

According to Sgt. Keith Banks, military police team leader, 164th MP Co., his squad would go out to a checkpoint in Balad where

the girl visited at regularly. The little girl would always peek out of her house from her gate in curiosity at the MP.

"At one point, I got a good look at her and saw that she was walking on her hands; so that brought concern to us," said the Malvern, Ark., native.

Norris went to multiple organizations trying to acquire the wheelchairs. He finally succeeded when he talked to Chaplain (Capt.) Jay Clark, chaplain, 728th MP Bn. Deployed from Schofield Barracks, Hawaii and N.D. native, about his predicament.

Clark was able to provide the wheelchairs with the help of Brad Blausner, a humanitarian volunteer and Dallas native who started the Wheelchairs for Iraqi Children

"I was estatic. The little girls father was speechless. Just to be able to see her now be able to maneuver around with her sister out there... it was great."

Capt. Matthew Norris
164th Military Police Company

program. Clark and Blausner had initially met on a prior deployment when the two met in a dining facility on Contingency Operating Base Speicher, where Brad told the chaplain about the program 'Wheelchairs for Iraqi Children.'

"We went through... ins and outs of trying to get it all connected but once we did,



Photo by Pfc. Amanda Tucker

Brad Blausner, a humanitarian volunteer and a Dallas native, works with Spc. Mari-sol Riley, a driver for the 164th Military Police Company based at Fort Richardson, Alaska, and Riverside, Calif. native, work on adjusting a wheelchair donated to a handicapped child in Balad August 9.

ian's nose as he worked, but it was nothing in comparison to the smile that seemed to never fade as he put forth the effort.

"I was ecstatic. The little girl's father was speechless. Just to be able to see her now be able to maneuver around with her sister out there... it was great," said Norris.

According to Blausner, Iraq has the largest population of handicapped people in the world with 10 percent of Iraq's population is disabled. Iraq has more than 28 million people, with roughly 3 million people disabled, and if just five percent of that 3 million are children, it's 150,000 kids who need a wheelchair. Thanks to combined efforts of the military police, chaplain and a humanitarian volunteer, two children in Balad no longer have to wait for one.

3rd Sustainment Brigade kept troops prepped for mission

by Spc. Anthony Hooker

Expeditionary Times staff

CONTINGENCY OPERATION BASE Q-WEST, Iraq– The 3rd Sustainment Brigade, serving under the 3d Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), completed a 15-month tour of duty at COB Q-West Aug. 9 in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Led by Col. Darrell K. Williams, the 3d SB successfully provided sustainment and distribution support to over 70,000 Servicemembers, contractors, and Department of Defense civilians located at Multinational Division – North.

Beginning in June 2007, the 4,025 Soldiers with the 3d SB provided sustainment in support of counter-insurgency operations, provided logistical training and advisory teams to improve the Iraq Army's logistical resources and developed a non-lethal engagement strategy to assist the transition to a stable and self-reliant Iraq.

With 169 units at 25 locations spread across an area the size of Pennsylvania, the 3d SB compiled the following statistics during OIF 07-09:

- Drove 7.85 million miles while conducting 3,780

combat logistics patrols

- Issued nearly 134 million gallons of fuel throughout MND-N
- Issued over 7.2 million cases of water and over 126,000 Meals Ready to Eat
- Repaired over 16,000 pieces of equipment
- Delivered 26.9 million pounds of mail

Reinforcing their non-lethal engagement strategy, the 3rd SB employed 497 Iraqis on COB Q-West (including eight Iraqi business and four contracting groups), conducted 14 job-training sessions and joined forces with local Iraqi Army units to two civil-medical engagements. Units under the 3rd SB also conducted Adopt-A-Highway cleanup events and distributed over 2,000 sundry and school packs.

Finally, the 3rd SB secured funding for over 85 base projects, including improving the dental and troop medical clinic, expansion of the ammunition supply point, and the relocation of the postal hub from Forward Operating Base Marez.

The cost for the projects totaled 148 million dollars. Col. Darrell K. Williams, commander of the 3rd SB, said during his farewell speech that his Soldiers were worth every bit of the money spent.

"During this deployment," Williams said, "the Warriors of the 3rd Sustainment Brigade taught me if you take care of Soldiers, the mission will happen."

Joint Base Balad
Rock 'N Roll
1/2 Marathon

31 August 08
Holt Stadium - 0445

Free Registration/T-Shirts/Medals
Sponsored by Virginia Beach's
Rock 'N Roll 1/2 Marathon - 2008

Online Registration Begins Soon - Watch for Next Week's Flier!
13.1 Miles - Begin your training NOW!
Email Jennifer.Dunlavy@blab.afcent.af.mil For More Information!

News around Iraq

Baghdad Zoo welcomes two new tigers: Riley, Hope

BAGHDAD – The Baghdad Zoo officially welcomed two Siberian-Bengal tigers, Riley and Hope, to its animal kingdom Aug. 8.



Riley and Hope, male and female respectively, were donated by the Conservators' Center in North Carolina.

“This is a very important step to improve relationships (between) the zoo and the people of Iraq, and it is proof that the security situation in Iraq is getting better,” said Adel Salman Mousa, the Baghdad Zoo director.

“They’re a real signature species; people really identify with the beauty of the tigers,” said Lt. Col. Robert Sindler, the Multi-National Coalition – Iraq veterinary officer who helped bring the tigers to Baghdad.

When Sindler first spoke with the zoo director, he asked which animal the park needed most. The tiger was first on his list.

“The zoo has been a real gem for the people here in Iraq ... and the tigers will really add to that,” Sindler said.

After coordination with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Sindler found the right pair of tigers and the owners willing to donate the cats to benefit the people of Iraq.

The process took the joint effort of civil affairs representatives, military veterinarians, provincial reconstruction teams, Iraqi and Coalition Forces and the U.S. Embassy Baghdad more than six months.

The two tigers traveled from North Carolina to the John F. Kennedy Airport, N.Y., then to Bahrain and finally Baghdad Aug. 4. A veterinarian tended to the tigers throughout the entire trip.

The embassy covered the transportation and associated costs, as it often funds development projects in Iraq.

“The zoo’s a vibrant part of the economic and social revitalization of Baghdad. Supporting this project fits these goals,” said Allan J. Jones, who works for the U.S. Embassy Baghdad as the program manager for the U.S. Department of State, Iraq, Transition Assistance Office.

Sol member finds IED

FORWARD OPERATING BASE FALCON, Iraq – A



Son of Iraq security member discovered an improvised explosive device in the Masafee area of the Rashid district’s Doura community Aug. 13.

At approximately 11:30 a.m., Multi-National Division – Baghdad Soldiers from Company B, 2nd Battalion, 4th Infantry Regiment, attached to the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, responded and established a cordon until an explosive ordnance disposal team arrived on site to destroy the device.

“The Iraqi Security Forces, partnered with Coalition Forces, continue to make substantial gains in their ongoing efforts to keep the communities and neighborhoods of the Rashid district safe and secure from the violent acts of criminals and terrorists,” said Maj. Dave Olson, spokesperson, 1st BCT 4th Inf. Div. “The 1st Brigade is committed to supporting the Iraqi Security Forces in their endeavor to protect and to serve the people of Baghdad.”

Sol member turns in C-4 stockpile

FORWARD OPERATING BASE HAMMER, Iraq – A



stockpile of C-4 explosive material was turned in to Coalition Forces by a member of the Sons of Iraq Aug. 10 in Jisr Diyala.

The explosives were discovered after a group of children unearthed them while playing in

their backyard. The children’s father immediately gathered the explosives and delivered them to a nearby member of the SoI.

The SoI member delivered the explosives to Soldiers of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, TF 1-35 Armor, who quickly handed the explosives over to the Explosive Ordnance Disposal team on site.

The small stockpile contained 10 blocks of C-4 plastic explosives, each weighing just less than one-and-a-half pounds. The explosives are the largest concentration of captured plastic explosives found by TF 1-35 Armor since the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division helped secure the area.

“Having these explosives turned in by the SoI obstructs the enemy’s ability to attack innocent civilians inside the Mada’in Qada area”, said Maj. Wayne Marotto, a spokesman for the 2nd BCT, 1st Armd. Div.

After inspecting the explosives, EOD determined that the blocks were all manufactured within the last three years and were of Iranian origin.

MND-SE conducts transfer of authority

BASRA – Maj. Gen. Andy Salmon OBE assumed command of Multi-National Division – South East from Maj. Gen. Barney White-Spunner CBE during a ceremony in Basra Aug. 12.

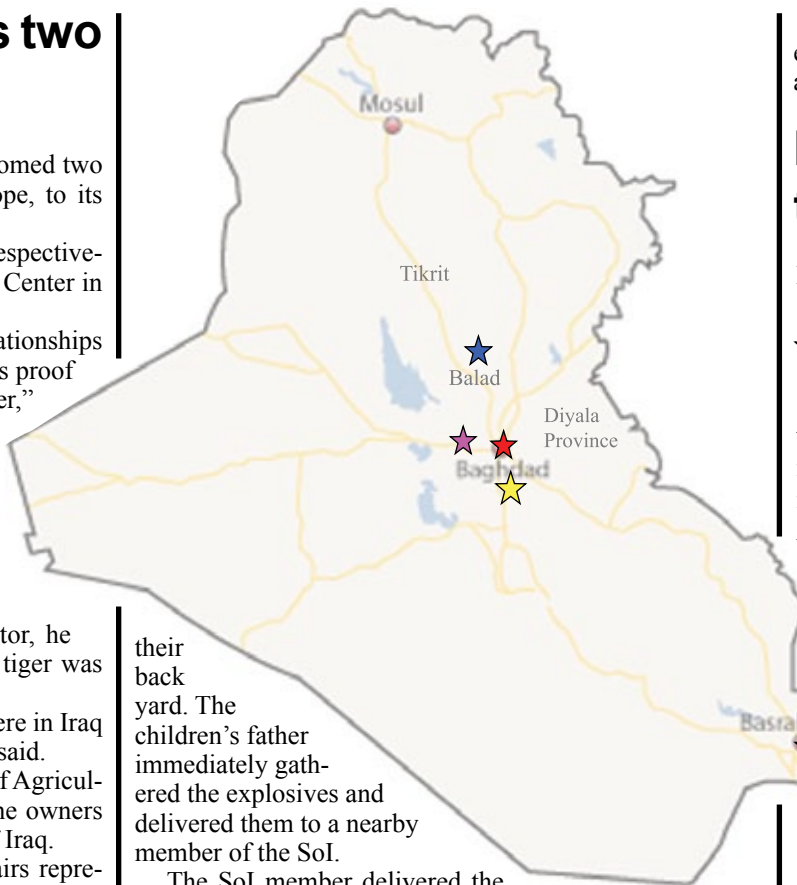
Salmon’s headquarters, Royal Navy UK Amphibious Force staff also replaced White-Spunner’s 3 (UK) Division staff.

The ceremony was attended by Lt. Gen. Lloyd J. Austin III, Multi National Corps Iraq commanding general, Maj. Gen. Mohammed, commander of the Iraqi Army in Basra and other local dignitaries.

“General Barney and his headquarters have performed superbly,” Austin said. “Within a week of their arrival, the Government of Iraq launched the Charge of the Knights Operation to restore the rule of law here in Basra. Multi-National Division - South East is key to supporting the operation through partnership with the Iraqi Security Forces.”

“Let me thank the leaders and the people of Basra,” White-Spunner said. “Basra now stands poised to be the economic miracle of the Gulf. With the security forces provided by the Iraqi Security Forces it will soon rival Dubai or Bahrain.”

With the help provided by the British, the 14th Iraqi Army Division in Basra is developing into a very effective military force. It has already demonstrated its ability to plan, execute and sustain operations, which has led to the vastly improved security situation.



“Iraq, its government and its people will remember the efforts that have been made for some time with respect and appreciation,” said Mohammed.

ISF detain nine suspected terrorists in northern Iraq

BALAD, Iraq – Iraqi Security Forces detained two suspected al-Qaeda in Iraq members and nine others in northern Iraq during separate operations Aug. 6-8.



Tikrit Special Weapons and Tactics team detained a key suspected al-Qaeda in Iraq weapons facilitator in Tikrit, Aug. 8. The suspect is believed to be facilitating weapons for members of the Islamic State of Iraq and AQI in the Salah Din area. He was recently sentenced to 15 years in prison, but pardoned through the Iraqi reconciliation program and continued to facilitate AQI.

During an operation in the Al Tamim neighborhood of Bayji Aug. 7, Iraqi Security Forces detained nine suspected AQI/ISI cell members. The individuals are believed to be using Bayji as a safe haven for their terrorists activities in northern Iraq.

IA Soldiers seize weapons cache

BAGHDAD – Iraqi Army Soldiers seized a substantial amount of munitions that were found hidden underground in a water tank in the Sadr City district of Baghdad Aug. 12.



At approximately 8:30 p.m., Soldiers with 3rd Battalion, 42nd Brigade, 11th Iraq Army Division found the cache.

“Iraqi Army Soldiers continue to scour the area to seize these dangerous weapons,” said Lt. Col. Steve Stover, spokesman, Multi-National Division – Baghdad and the 4th Infantry Division. “They are vigilant in protecting the Iraqi people.”

MND-B, Iraqis open Furniture Road

BAGHDAD – Iraqi commuters have a new route to take in the Zafaraniyah neighborhood of eastern Baghdad as Furniture Road opened for public transportation Aug. 7.



Motorists and pedestrians now have access to Furniture Road, thanks to the combined efforts of Iraqi local government officials, contractors and Soldiers from 5th Battalion, 25th Field Artillery Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team.

The addition of Furniture Road, which spans just a few kilometers, opens a major conduit for the people in Zafaraniyah, said Capt. Sean O’Brien, effects coordinator for 5th Bn., 25th FA Regt.

“This is going to be an explosion of economic development here as more people come down and buy their supplies and equipment down this road from the market area,” said Master Sgt. David Stewart, Company B, 418th Civil Affairs Battalion.

Contractors have been working on the project for a couple months.

The opening of Furniture Road signifies an important step toward improving the levels of governance, economics and security in the area, said O’Brien. The new road will allow residents to get to places that would have been more challenging before, and do so with more speed and ease.

Other benefits include more businesses projected to open along Furniture Road.

MESSAGES FROM HOME



CSM Willie C. Tennant Sr.
 There are no words to express how much we love & miss you.
 Your wife & daughter is so proud of you.
 Household 7
 Kinder 7

.....

Elijah, the kids and I would like to say Hi and that we miss your wonderful Breakfast!! YUMMMY.....can't wait until you return! We will continue to keep you and the entire unit in prayer that God will cover each of you with his whole Armor and return you all home safe.
 Love You Always
 Shelia, Deshylae, Elijah and Josiah!!!



To Billy Daniels, the Love of My Life
 Happy 25th Anniversary
 From Your Loving Wife

.....

LTC Wienecke,
 Your girls miss you and want you to know that we think of you every minute of every day! Be safe and know that we love you with all our heart. See you in May!
 Love,
 The Wienecke girls!

.....

To PFC Adam Lyons,
 Miss you and can't wait until you're back in Alaska. Lots of LOVE from Michigan. Big Hugs and Kisses from, Mom, Dad, & Maggie, too!

I want to send a shout out to 164mp co for their dedication and hard work. I want to send a special shout out to Tanya and Mo Monvilus from: Kenndal, Lil Cel and Mom Diane. We love you and Miss you. Hugs and Kisses from all of us. Looking forward for your return home. from your loving family

.....

Pfc Lyons, Adam
 Looking forward to your homecoming! We are so proud of you and all of our young men and women serving in the military! Love Nonne, PaPa, Aunt Debi & Uncle Bryan.

.....

TO: W01 Essex, Christopher, I love and miss you very much. There is not a day that passes that I don't stop and think about how much I love you and pray for your safety. I am counting down the months until our family has you home again. Until then, stay safe and remember my love for you is endless. Love, Carlisa

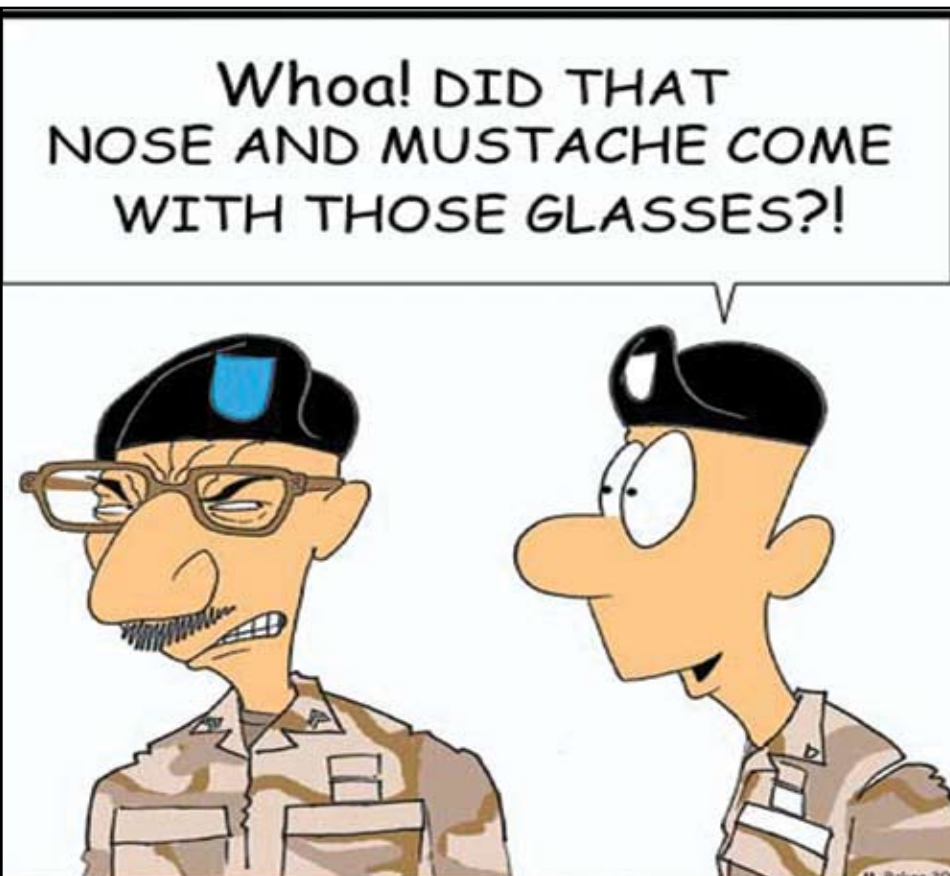
.....

SFC James Galvin,
 You are the 1/2 of me that is perfect! I love and miss you so much!
 Jan

.....

Hello, my name is Asia Bledsoe. I would like to send a shout out to my husband, SSG Christopher Bledsoe. He is with the 164th Military Police Company. "I would like to tell him to keep his sprits up, his head down and know that I love him very much, and we can't wait for him to arrive home". Please let me know if I need to do anything else for this shout out to make it in the paper. Thank you very much.

PVT. MURPHY'S LAW



Iraq according to Opet



Messages From Home

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

Contact the 3rd ESC Public Affairs Office to print your message.

E-mail Anaconda.Times@iraq.centcom.mil

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 stick fighting combatives 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- 8 p.m.

9-ball tournament: Wednesday- 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: Sat-

urday- 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 Jui Jitsu: Tuesday, Thursday- 8:30 p.m.

CIRCUIT GYM

Floor hockey: Monday, Wednesday, Friday - 8 p.m.

SUSTAINER REEL TIME THEATER

Movie Times

Wednesday, August 20

5 p.m. The Mummy 3

8 p.m. Don't Mess With Zohan

Thursday, August 21

5 p.m. Wanted

8 p.m. The Mummy 3

Friday, August 22

2 p.m. Wall-E

5 p.m. Hancock

8 p.m. Clone Wars

Saturday, August 23

2 p.m. Clone Wars

5 p.m. Hancock

8 p.m. Wall-E

Sunday, August 24

2 p.m. Wall-E

5 p.m. Clone Wars

8 p.m. Hancock

Monday, August 25

5 p.m. Wall-E

8 p.m. Clone Wars

Tuesday, August 26

5 p.m. Hancock

8 p.m. Iron Man

(Schedule is subject to change)

New Movies

Clone Wars



George Lucas continues his most popular franchise's legacy with Star Wars: The Clone Wars, a computer-animated 3-D film that takes place between Star Wars: Episode II and III. The first-ever animated feature from Lucasfilm Animation,

this action-packed space adventure follows the heroic Jedi Knights as they attempt to maintain order and restore peace during a time of monumental galactic strife. The Clone Wars have engulfed the galaxy in chaos, and as the dreaded droid army of the Separatists wipes out everything in its path, the future of the Galactic Republic becomes increasingly uncertain. Meanwhile, Anakin Skywalker and his Padawan learner Ahsoka Tano embark on a pivotal mission that pits them directly against the dreaded Jabba the Hutt and his criminal minions while Count Dooku enlists the aid of Asajj Ventress and the rest of his sinister agents in ensuring that the young Jedi fails in his noble mission. Back on the front lines of the Clone Wars, Obi-Wan Kenobi and Master Yoda attempt to fend off the forces of the dark side with the assistance of a massive clone army.

Wall-E



Disney and Pixar join forces for this computer-animated tale about a wide-eyed robot who travels to the deepest reaches of outer space in search of a newfound friend. The year is 2700, and planet Earth has long been uninhabitable. For hundreds of years, WALL-E (Waste Allocation Load Lifter

Earth-Class) has been taking out the trash, and collecting precious knick-knacks in order to stave off the boredom of his dreary routine. Little does WALL-E realize that he has recently stumbled onto a secret that could save planet Earth, and once again make the ravaged planet safe for all humankind. When highly advanced search robot EVE makes friends with WALL-E and realizes the value of his remarkable discovery, she excitedly races back to let the humans know that there's hope for their home planet after all. But after centuries alone in space, WALL-E can't stand the thought of losing the only friend he's ever known, and eagerly follows her into the deepest reaches of space on the adventure of a lifetime. Along the way, the friendly trash-collecting robot who has always known what he was made for gradually begins to understand what he was meant for. Finding Nemo director Andrew Stanton returns to the helm for this family-friendly sci-fi adventure featuring the voices of Fred Willard, Jeff Garlin, and Ben Burtt.

STUPID STATE LAWS

Ever wonder just how dumb things can be? Does your state have dumb laws? Read on and find out. In the upcoming weeks, the Expeditionary Times will have a series of dumb and stupid laws for each state.

Many of the laws have been verified, but many have been taken from sources which do not include law citations. The laws cited below have been taken from news groups, web sites and city governments. Remember, something had to have happened to get these laws passed. Some laws have been repealed, but not all; some are still on the books.

New Mexico

- Idiots may not vote.
- State officials ordered 400 words of “sexually explicit material” to be cut from Romeo and Juliet.
- It’s forbidden for a female to appear unshaven in public.
- Persons may not spit on the steps of the opera house.
- Hunting is prohibited in Mountain View Cemetery.
- You may not carry a lunchbox down Main Street.

Sudoku

Level: Hard

			9	5	4			3
3	5	9						
	2							7
	7	1						
			5	8	6			
						9	4	
9							2	
						8	5	4
6			3	2	5			

The objective is to fill the 9×9 grid so that each column, each row, and each of the nine 3×3 boxes contains the digits from 1 to 9 only one time each.

Upcoming sports on AFN

Wednesday 8/20/08

Beijing 2008 Olympic Games - Boxing: 48kg, 60kg and 81kg Quarterfinals, 12 a.m. live AFN/sports
MLB: Los Angeles Angels @ Tampa Bay Rays, 2:00 a.m. live AFN/xtra
Beijing 2008 Olympic Games -Track and Field: Men’s 1500m Gold Medal Final, Women’s 400m Gold Medal Final, Women’s 100m Hurdles Gold Medal Final; Gymnastics: Men’s Parallel Bars Gold Medal Final, Men’s High Bar Gold Medal Final, Women’s Balance Beam Gold Medal Final; Men’s Diving: Springboard Gold Medal Final; Cycling: BMX Quarterfinal, 3 a.m. live AFN/prime pac
Beijing 2008 Olympic Games - Softball: Semifinal, 7 a.m., live AFN/xtra
Beijing 2008 Olympic Games - Track and Field: Men’s High Jump Gold Medal Final, Men’s Discus Throw Gold Medal Final; Beach Volleyball, 7:30 a.m. live AFN/sports
Beijing 2008 Olympic Games - Track and Field: Men’s High Jump Gold Medal Final, Men’s Discus Throw Gold Medal Final; Beach Volleyball, 7:35 a.m. live AFN/prime pac
Beijing 2008 Olympic Games - Men’s Basketball: Quarterfinal; Canoeing: Semifinal; Women’s Swimming: Marathon Gold Medal Final; Men’s Water Polo, live 9 a.m. AFN/sports
Beijing 2008 Olympic Games - Men’s Volleyball: Quarterfinal, live 5 p.m. AFN/prime pac
Beijing 2008 Olympic Games - Softball: Bronze Medal Game; Men’s Volleyball; Baseball: USA vs Japan; Wrestling: Freestyle 66kg Gold Medal Final, 74kg Gold Medal Final; Table Tennis; Men’s Handball: Quarterfinal (JIP), live 7 p.m. AFN/sports

Thursday 8/21/08

Beijing 2008 Olympic Games - Boxing: 51kg and 75kg Quarterfinals, live 12 a.m. AFN/sports
Beijing 2008 Olympic Games -Track and Field: Men’s 200m Gold Medal Final, Women’s 400m Hurdles; Gymnastics: Gala; Women’s Beach Volleyball Gold Medal Match; Women’s Diving: Platform Semifinal; Cycling: BMX Gold Medal Finals, live 3 a.m. AFN/prime pac
Beijing 2008 Olympic Games - Women’s Track and Field: 20k Walk, live 7 a.m. AFN/xtra
Beijing 2008 Olympic Games - Women’s Volleyball: Semifinal; Women’s Track and Field: Hammer Throw Gold Medal Final; Women’s Beach Volleyball: Bronze Medal Match, live 7:35 a.m. AFN/prime pac
Beijing 2008 Olympic Games - Women’s Soccer: Gold Medal Match; Softball: Gold Medal Game; Canoeing: Semifinals; Wrestling: Freestyle 84kg, 96kg, 120kg Competition; Women’s Table Tennis: Quarterfinals; Men’s Table Tennis, live 9 a.m. AFN/sports
Summer Olympics: Men’s Basketball: USA Game; Baseball: USA vs Netherlands; Tennis: Beach Volleyball; Women’s Field Hockey: USA vs Germany; Women’s Fencing: Team Sabre Competition Gold Medal Final; Women’s Archer: Individual Gold Medal Final, live 9 a.m. AFN/sports

Saturday 8/23/08

Beijing 2008 Olympic Games - Boxing: 48kg, 54kg, 60kg, 69kg, 81kg and +91kg Semifinals live 12 a.m. AFN/sports
Beijing 2008 Olympic Games - Track and Field: Men’s

Beijing 2008 Olympic Games - Women’s Basketball: Semifinal; Women’s Soccer: Bronze Medal Match; Women’s Water Polo: Bronze Medal Match; Women’s Handball: Semifinals; Women’s Volleyball: Semifinal, live 12 p.m. AFN/xtra
Beijing 2008 Olympic Games - Men’s Swimming: Marathon; Gymnastics: Rhythmic Competition; Women’s Water Polo: Gold Medal Match; Equestrian: Individual Jumping Gold Medal Final; Softball: Gold Medal Game Report, live 5 p.m. AFN/prime pac
MLB: Kansas City Royals @ Cleveland Indians, live 7 p.m. AFN/sports

Friday 8/22/08

Beijing 2008 Olympic Games - Wrestling: Freestyle 84kg, 96kg and 120kg Gold Medal Finals, live 12 a.m. AFN/sports
MLB: New York Yankees @ Toronto Blue Jays, live 2 a.m. AFN/xtra
NFL/NFL Preseason Week 3: San Francisco 49ers @ Chicago Bears, live 3 a.m. AFN/sports
Beijing 2008 Olympic Games -Track and Field: Men’s 400m Gold Medal Final, Men’s 110m Hurdles Gold Medal Final, Men’s Triple Jump Gold Medal Final, Women’s 200m Gold Medal Final, Women’s Javelin Throw Gold Medal Final, Decathlon Day 1; Women’s Diving: Platform Gold Medal Final; Men’s Beach Volleyball: Gold Medal Match, live 3 a.m. AFN/prime pac
Beijing 2008 Olympic Games - Baseball: Semifinal, live 7 a.m. AFN/xtra
Beijing 2008 Olympic Games - Men’s Volleyball: Semifinal; Men’s Beach Volleyball: Bronze Medal Match, live 7:35 a.m. AFN/prime pac
Beijing 2008 Olympic Games - Men’s Basketball: Semifinal; Men’s Water Polo: Semifinal; Men’s Track and Field: 50k Walk; Women’s Table Tennis: Singles Semifinal; Men’s Table Tennis: Quarterfinals; Canoeing: Gold Medal Finals, live 7:35 p.m. AFN/prime pac
Beijing 2008 Olympic Games - Men’s Basketball: Semifinal; Men’s Water Polo: Semifinal; Men’s Track and Field: 50k Walk; Women’s Table Tennis: Singles Semifinal; Men’s Table Tennis: Quarterfinals; Canoeing: Gold Medal Finals, live 9 a.m. AFN/sports
Beijing 2008 Olympic Games - Boxing: 51kg, 57kg, 64kg, 75kg and 91kg Semifinals, live 9 a.m. AFN/ xtra
Beijing 2008 Olympic Games - Men’s Soccer: Bronze Medal Match; Baseball: Semifinal; Men’s Volleyball: Semifinal; Women’s Field Hockey: Bronze Medal Match; Women’s Moder Pentathlon; Women’s Mountain Bike; Men’s Handball: Semifinal, live 12 p.m. AFN/xtra
Beijing 2008 Olympic Games - Men’s Basketball: Semifinal; Canoeing: Gold Medal Finals; Women’s Table Tennis: Gold Medal Final, live 5 p.m. AFN/prime pac
MLB: Washington Nationals @ Chicago Cubs, live 9 p.m. AFN/sports

4x100m Relay Gold Medal Final, Men’s Pole Vault Gold Medal Final, Women’s 4x100m Relay Gold Medal Final, Women’s Long Jump Gold Medal Final, Women’s 5000m Gold Medal Final, Decathlon 500m; Men’s Diving: Platform Competition, live 3 a.m. AFN/prime pac
NASCAR Sprint Cup Series: Sharpie 500 (Bristol Motor Speedway, Bristol, TN), live 3 a.m. AFN/xtra
NFL Preseason Week 3: Houston Texans @ Dallas Cowboys, live 3 a.m. AFN/sports
MLB: Minnesota Twins @ Los Angeles Angels (JIP), live 5:30 a.m. AFN/xtra
Beijing 2008 Olympic Games - Men’s Soccer: Gold Medal Game, live 7 a.m. AFN/sports
Beijing 2008 Olympic Games - Women’s Volleyball: Bronze Medal Match; Men’s Table Tennis: Singles Semifinals; Synchronized Swimming: Team Competition, live 7:35 a.m. AFN/prime pac
Beijing 2008 Olympic Games - Women’s Volleyball: Bronze Medal Match; Men’s Table Tennis: Singles Semifinals; Synchronized Swimming: Team Competition, live 7:35 a.m. AFN/prime pac
Beijing 2008 Olympic Games - Baseball: Gold Medal Game; Women’s Handball: Gold Medal Game; Women’s Volleyball: Bronze Medal Game; Men’s Field Hockey: Gold Medal Final; Men’s Table Tennis: Singles Semifinal, live 9 a.m. AFN/sports
Beijing 2008 Olympic Games - Women’s Basketball: Gold Medal Game; Synchronized Swimming: Team Gold Medal Final; Canoeing: Gold Medal Finals; Gymnastics: Rhythmic Individual Gold Medal Final; Women’s Volleyball: Gold Medal Match; Boxing: Gold Medal Finals, live 5 p.m. AFN/sports
Little League World Series - U.S. Championship, live 7:30 p.m. AFN/sports
MLB: Washington Nationals @ Chicago Cubs, live 8 p.m. AFN/sports
Little League World Series - U.S. Championship, live 10 p.m. AFN/sports
MLB: MLB on FOX: Los Angeles Dodgers @ Philadelphia Phillies (JIP), live 11 p.m. AFN/sports

Sunday 8/24/08

Beijing 2008 Olympic Games - Track and Field: Men’s Marathon, Men’s 800m Gold Medal Final, Men’s 5000m Gold Medal Final, Men’s 4x400 Relay Gold Medal Final, Women’s 1500m Gold Medal Final, Women’s 4x400 Relay Gold Medal Final, Women’s High Jump Gold Medal Final; Men’s Diving: Platform Gold Medal Final, live 2:30 a.m. AFN/prime pac
NFL: Preseason Week 3: Pittsburgh Steelers @ Minnesota Vikings, live 3 a.m. AFN/sports
NASCAR Sprint Cup Series: Sharpie 500 (Bristol Motor Speedway, Bristol, TN), live 3 a.m. AFN/xtra
Beijing 2008 Olympic Games - Men’s Table Tennis: Singles Gold and Bronze Medal Matches, tape delay 7 a.m. AFN/xtra
Beijing 2008 Olympic Games - Men’s Basketball: Bronze Medal Game, live 7 a.m. AFN/sports
Beijing 2008 Olympic Games - Men’s Basketball: Gold

Medal Game; Men’s Mountain Bike; Men’s Table Tennis: Gold Medal Match; Cycling, live 7:30 a.m. AFN/prime pac
Beijing 2008 Olympic Games - Men’s Basketball: Gold Medal Final Game; Men’s Volleyball: Bronze Medal Match; Men’s Water Polo: Bronze Medal Match; Men’s Handball: Gold Medal Game, live 9 a.m. AFN/sports
MLB: MLB on FOX: Tampa Bay Rays @ Chicago White Sox, tape delay 10 a.m. AFN/xtra
MLS: MLS on FSC: New England Revolution @ Toronto FC, tape delay 6 a.m. AFN/xtra
Beijing 2008 Olympic Games - Boxing: Six Gold Medal Finals; Men’s Water Polo: Gold Medal Match; Gymnastics: Rhythmic Group Gold Medal Final, live 7 p.m. AFN/prime pac
MLB: Houston Astros @ New York Mets, live 8 p.m. AFN/xtra
Little League World Series - World Championship, live 10:30 p.m. AFN/prime pac
PGA: PGA Tour 2008 The Barclays (Westchester Country Club, Harrison, NY) (JIP), live 11 p.m. AFN/prime atlantic
MLB: Florida Marlins @ Arizona Diamondbacks, live 11 p.m. AFN/xtra

Monday 8/25/08

Beijing 2008 Olympic Games - Men’s Volleyball: Gold Medal Match; Closing Ceremony, live 2 a.m. AFN/prime pac
NFL Preseason Week 3: Buffalo Bills @ Indianapolis Colts, live 3 a.m. AFN/xtra
ESPN Sunday Night Baseball: Los Angeles Dodgers @ Philadelphia Phillies, live 3 a.m. AFN/sports
MLB: Minnesota Twins @ Los Angeles Angels, tape delay 7 a.m. AFN/xtra
IndyCar Racing Series: Indy Grand Prix of Sonoma (Infineon Raceway, Sonoma, CA), tape delay 10 a.m. AFN/xtra
PGA: 108th U.S. Amateur Championship: Final Round (Pinehurst Resort & Country Club Village, Pinehurst, NC), tape delay, 1 p.m. AFN/sports
NFL: Preseason Week 3: Buffalo Bills @ Indianapolis Colts, tape delayed 5 p.m. AFN/xtra
Tennis: 2008 US Open: Men’s and Women’s Opening Rounds (USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Center, Flushing Meadows, NY), live 5:30 AFN/sports

Tuesday 8/26/08

Tennis: 2008 US Open: Men’s and Women’s Opening Rounds (USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Center, Flushing Meadows, NY), live 2 a.m. AFN/xtra
NFL: Preseason Week 3: Seattle Seahawks @ San Diego Chargers, live 3 a.m. AFN/sports
MLB: Arizona Diamondbacks @ San Diego Padres (JIP), live 6 a.m. AFN/xtra
MLB: Houston Astros @ New York Mets, live 1 p.m. AFN/sports
Tennis: 2008 US Open: Men’s and Women’s Opening Rounds (USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Center, Flushing Meadows, NY), live 6 p.m. AFN/sports

SHOUT OUT!!!

TELL YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS HOW MUCH YOU MISS THEM

Contact the 3d ESC Public Affairs Office for scheduling.

E-mail Lee.Fowler@iraq.centcom.mil

Durable house of pain

by Spc. Andrea Merritt

Expeditionary Times staff

CAMP TAJI, Iraq – As cheers grow louder around the ring, two challengers stand face-to-face in the eye of the storm. They are able to drown out the noise from the crowd, but the beats of their hearts and the flutters in their stomachs are as loud as ever.



When the bell rings, the gloves come up and the bout is on. The only thing that matters now is remembering everything they were taught, so they can out-think and out-manuever their opponent.

Every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, this is the reality for the residents on Camp Taji who go to learn the fundamentals of boxing at a place know as the Durable House of Pain Boxing Gym.

“I’ve been boxing for a while now. I know for a fact from practicing boxing in the past that it’s a great workout,” said Sgt. 1st Class Luis De La Rocha, the maintenance manager for the support operations section of the 1st Sustainment Brigade and the noncommissioned officer in charge of the boxing gym.

“The goal here is not only to provide the Soldiers a different way to work out and get in shape, but also to instill discipline and self-confidence because that’s what boxing is all about,” added De La Rocha, an El Centro, Calif., native.

A few months ago, a group of Soldiers from the 1st Sustainment Brigade took a vacant building and turned it into a place where people on the camp could get a good workout and learn the fine art of boxing.

Along with finding a place to operate in, the group also built the boxing ring and supplied punching bags, gloves, hand wraps, jump ropes, mitts, and other essential items necessary for training.

“Just about everything you see came from our group. We got together and came up with ideas from our different backgrounds. We were able to put it all together and make the facility what it is today,” said Chief Warrant Officer Darren Lester, a Kansas City, Mo., native and the boxing

facility manager.

Since opening three months ago, attendance at the boxing gym has gone from ten to 40 people.

During the boxing workout, the class goes through a one-hour conditioning drill, which consists of upper and lower body exercises. During the second hour, participants work on their form. They learn how to control their punches, how to control their moves and how to feed off of their opponent.

“Boxing causes you to think a lot. You have to think about what you’re going to do to defend yourself from an attack and what you’re going to do as an offensive attack to your opponent,” said Lester.

“You can definitely get in shape with this program that we have. You are guaranteed to work every bit of your body. With this, you learn discipline and the basic skills of defense. You will get a greater love of the sport,” Lester added.

Although most people come for the workout, about ten people – both males and females – actually train to compete. Servicemembers who are not part of the 1st Sustainment Brigade need approval from their commanders to box.

“People not in the brigade can still come and train, they just can’t get in the ring and do contact like sparring until we get a memorandum from their commander stating they are released to do that,” De La Rocha said.

Once a month, a boxing smoker is held at the Durable House of Pain Boxing Gym, where competitors can actually put all that they have learned into practice. Before competing, boxers have to complete a physical with the medics at the Easy Red Clinic.

Since opening, the gym has held two boxing smokers; one on June 20 and another on July 4.

“It was harder than I thought it was going to be. All of a sudden I got scared and nervous all at the same time,” said Sgt. Genevieve Capalia, a Shreveport, La., native, and a logistics NCO for the 165th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, who participated in the boxing smoker June 20.

“I started questioning my decision, but after the first round, I caught my breath and got a little more into it,” said Capalia,

As more people on Camp Taji grow interested in the

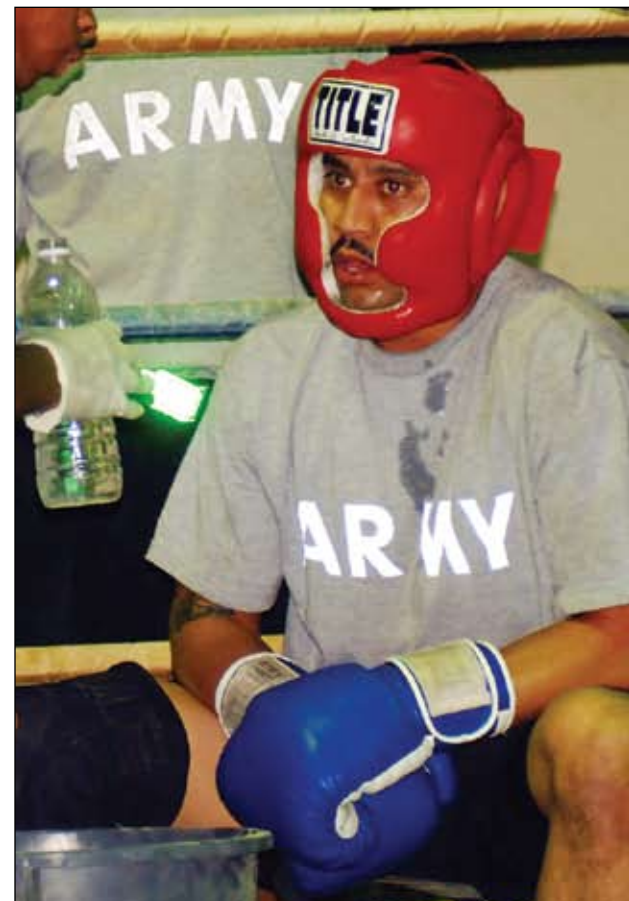


Photo by Spc. Andrea Merritt

Staff Sgt. Charles Keese, a Seneca, S.C., native and an Iraqi Army maintenance advisor with the 2303 Military Transition Team, offers advice to Sgt. 1st Class Nelson Rivas, a noncommissioned officer with the Support Operations of the 1st Sustainment Brigade. Rivas is one of the Soldiers from the 1st Sustainment Brigade who helped build the boxing gym. He also coordinates workouts for those who come to train.

sport, they can always expect a good workout and to learn more about this particular art of self-defense at the Durable House of Pain.

“I didn’t know much about boxing. I still have a lot to learn. I’m just learning the basics and getting it little by little every day,” said Pfc. Daniel Lopez, a Stanton, Texas, native, and importer controller with the 25th Infantry Division.

“Some of the stuff I learn here, I will definitely keep it with me. I plan on working on my skills after I leave Camp Taji,” Lopez concluded.



Photo by Spc. Andrea Merritt

Sgt. Genevieve Capalia, a Shreveport, La., native and logistics noncommissioned officer for the 165th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, and Pfc. Erika Keown, a Killeen, Texas, native and customer assistance representative with the General Supply Branch of the Support Operations section of the 1st Sustainment Brigade, go toe-to-toe during the boxing smoker June 20 at the Durable House of Pain Boxing Gym.



Photo by Spc. Andrea Merritt

Staff Sgt. Charles Keese, a Seneca, S.C., native and an Iraqi Army maintenance advisor with the 2303 Military Transition Team, takes some quick jabs at a double-end punching bag during a conditioning workout at the Durable House of Pain Boxing Gym. Keese, who has been boxing for nine years, tried out for the All Army Boxing Team in 1999.