



Victory Times



Telling the United States Forces - Iraq story

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Honor & Success: teamwork, purpose made us successful

Letter by Lt. Gen. Charles Jacoby Jr.
I Corps Commander

Members of the United States Forces-Iraq Team,

Thank you for your commitment, hard work, and unwavering focus on our mission here in Iraq. Without reservation, I can say that this has been the most gratifying deployment of my military career.

We have succeeded in this remarkable endeavor together as we have shared a vision of teamwork and executed in unity of purpose. We were a diverse team consisting of units, individual augmentees, joint and coalition cohorts, and Iraqi partners, all moving toward achieving our mission. We moved out with purpose and energy and never looked back. We did not simply endure, but we thrived together as a powerful, yet agile team.

You should feel a great sense of accomplishment and pride when reflecting upon our year at war together. We have seen Iraq through a dangerous, difficult period of transition. We have shown America that her service members are determined, steadfast, and ready to adapt to the most complex situations.

You have each been an important part of making history for our nation as well as Iraq's up-and-coming Democracy. I am proud to have served with all of you in America's Corps, the last Multi-National Corps-Iraq, and now the United States Forces-Iraq.

May God bless each of you, and I thank you and your Families for the many sacrifices and diligent service to our nation.
Courage!



Lt. Gen. Charles Jacoby Jr.

*Deputy Commanding
General
for Operations
United States Forces- Iraq,
Commanding General I Corps*

“Ensuring our partners are successful as they take the lead.”

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Chaplain's Corner

KEEPING THAT IMPORTANT DATE

By Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Leonard Higgins
Garrison Chaplain 561st Regional Support Group

Tick...Tick...Tick. Hear that? That is the sound of your deployment slipping away one second at a time.

"That's great, Chaplain!" you say, "I wish my time would go by even faster!"

But why wish your life away here in Iraq?

Here's a challenge: instead of wishing, work to seize every second of every day to do something that makes a difference.

"Make a difference over here? Me? No way!" you may reply, but I disagree.

How you spend those seconds each day does make a difference.

Maybe not dramatically or immediately, but you are making a difference nevertheless by the choices made each moment.

Will you use your time to build someone up or tear them down? Will you spend time strengthening your body or opt for the third helping of ice cream? Will you exercise your minds and spirit, or just waste a little more time on a cheap DVD?

The Almighty has given us the right amount of time for

each day and everyone gets the same amount. No more, no less.

The general does not get more than the private and KBR can't contract to get a little more as a bonus for a job well done! The limit is 24 hours a day. Don't waste it! How tragic it will be to leave this theater, never having made a difference in someone else's life.



Courtesy photo

Open your eyes and look beyond your own busy-ness or loneliness to see where you can help someone else.

You may not be the one talking, but you can be a listening ear. You may not be the star of the show, but you can help that star shine. You may not be sad, but you can cry with someone who is.

Each "tick" can make a difference!

It is written in Ephesians 5:16 "redeem the time,

for the days are evil."

That means you should buy up every second and fight against the evil that thinks seconds are cheap.

As you redeem those moments, you will soon see that one life does make a difference.

The second hand will no longer drag its way around the clock, but it will record the moments of your life that matter for eternity!



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USF-I Commanding General: Gen. Ray Odierno
I Corps Public Affairs Officer: Col. John R. Robinson
I Corps PA Sergeant Major: Sgt. Maj. Richard Puckett
Editor: Sgt. 1st Class Roger Dey
Print Staff: Staff Sgt. Dan Yarnall, Sgt. Chris McCann, Spc. Britney Bodner, Senior Airman Luis Loza Gutierrez
Layout: Spc. Britney Bodner, Senior Airman Luis Loza Gutierrez

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VICTORY VOICES

USF-I Soldiers share deployment perspectives

PERSPECTIVE 1:

Story by Sgt. Chris McCann
United States Forces-Iraq Public Affairs

Colonel J. Matt Lissner has served for the past year as the United States Forces – Iraq nighttime CHOPS – chief of operations – officer in the Joint Operations Center in the Al Faw Palace. When he deployed with I Corps, the plan was for “America’s Corps” to be in place to help Iraq through the elections process; the delay in polling now has the corps preparing to leave as voters go to the polls.

“When I got to Fort Lewis, I Corps knew about the deployment and was training from the bottom up,” Lissner said. “We ramped up from a 250-person headquarters to about 850 people in less than a year.

“We were told often that we were well-prepared to assume the role – we came specifically for the elections, to get them done in a good and peaceful way,” he said.

Because of the political conditions on the ground, however, the elections were delayed before the Iraqi government set a final date of March 7. Undaunted, the corps rose to the challenge.

“The pushing back of the elections didn’t affect our personnel timeline – we’re still leaving about the same time as we were slated,” said Lissner. “But there’s a bit of disappointment. For the senior leadership there was really a sense of personal ownership of getting it done before we left. Doing all this, and leaving before it’s really settled, is a bit of a letdown.”

While “America’s Corps” is transitioning with III Corps out of Fort Hood, Texas, during the elections timeframe, Lissner feels that they have performed admirably and accomplished the mission.

“I Corps has done a good job; the biggest thing was the ability to react – and I don’t mean as opposed to being active, I mean adapting to the way operations changed after June 30, when we left the cities.

“With the responsible drawdown, we’re in fewer places and have fewer people in those places, and we still can provide good situational awareness for the leadership.”

The deployment was not without its challenges on a more personal level – which in Lissner’s case overlapped

significantly with the operational picture.

“It was a little frustrating for me; I got little interaction personally, so it was difficult, purely in that regard, but I learned a lot. I had to,” he said with a laugh. “My world was that one room, the JOC.”

Nonetheless, the difficulties posed by the scheduling have had their own benefits.

“I have been the representative for the I Corps at night; I represent that leadership and all the various facets, all the things they do,” he said.

Although working the night shift meant fewer people to interact with, it did make the personnel on shift a tighter group, he said.

“We’re not the same as the 10,000 other people on day shift, and there’s a shared feeling there,” Lissner said.

All in all, the rotation has been an extraordinary opportunity, said Lissner.

“I think to be able to see...the country beginning to rebuild itself, is very remarkable. For the most part, even seeing it remotely, the good people in the country seem to embrace trying to make things better for the country as a whole.

“They say ‘we are all a part of history’ – it would be rewarding, very satisfying, in 20 or 30 years, when I’m in a rocking chair, to be able to tell my grandchildren that they can look at Iraq and see a prosperous country, and that I helped make a difference with that,” he said.



Col. J. Matt Lissner

Perspectives 2 & 3 on Page 6



I Corps Mission



Photo by Lee Craker

(Top) Members of the Color Guard set up the unfurled colors for the new single headquarters, United States Forces-Iraq Jan. 1, 2010. The activation ceremony was the official merging of five major commands that created what is now USF-I and was attended by more than 300 U.S. and Iraqi servicemembers and civilians.

(Right) Army 1st Lt. Jeremy Poisson, from Atlanta, Ga., with the 178th Military Police Company, attached to the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, and Iraqi Lt. Col. Mohamed Ali, executive officer for the 50th Iraqi Army Battalion, shake hands after lowering the front gate of the Old States Building, indicating the return of control back to the Iraqi Army, in Basra, Iraq, June 28, 2009.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Chrissy Best

Milestones & Moments



Photo by Spc. Samantha Ciaramitaro

A soldier with the 14th Iraqi Army Commandos attached to the 14th Iraq Army Division, pulls security along side with Capt. Ryan Stidum from 1st Battalion, 377th Aerial Reaction Force, 17th Fires Brigade, attached to 1st Infantry Division, during a joint patrol in Basra, Iraq, Feb. 10. The joint patrol was conducted as a practical exercise for the combined aerial reaction force to show the progress made in the training between U.S. and Iraqi security forces.

Lt. Gen. Charles H. Jacoby, I Corps Commanding General, and Command Sgt. Maj. Frank Grippe, I Corps Command Sergeant Major, participate in a Transfer of Authority April 4, 2009, when I Corps took over operations in Iraq from XVIII Airborne Corps.



Photo by Lee Craker



Photo by Staff Sgt. Joy Pariente

President of the United States Barak Obama speaks to Servicemembers and Civilians Al Faw Palace on Camp Victory, Iraq April 7. This was Obama's first visit to Iraq as commander in chief.

PERSPECTIVE 2: Story by Sgt. 1st Class Roger Dey, United States Forces-Iraq Public Affairs

When I Corps took over operations in Iraq from the XVIII Airborne Corps, on April 4, 2009, Sgt. Maj. Peter Motta had a large stake in the coming year. This was I Corps' first deployment in more than 50 years and, as the sergeant major for I Corps operations, Motta was heavily involved in the historic event by planning everything from individual training to developing battle command training centers.

The corps mission, Motta said, was to be the enabler for the multi-national divisions, and later, United States divisions in Iraq.

"We enabled them to do their job by providing oversight, guidance and resources," he said, "They are down there at the ground-level, the user-level, conducting all the operations that we planned for them."

Motta felt the corps handled its role remarkably well, crediting the "Class A varsity team" of officers and senior noncommissioned officers assembled by I Corps Commander, Lt. Gen. Charles Jacoby, and Command Sgt. Maj. Frank Grippe, the corps' senior enlisted Soldier.

"I think the corps did a magnificent job," Motta said, recognizing Col. Buck James and his Future Operations team for the efficient withdrawal of U.S. forces from the cities.

"Our C35 Future Operations guys carried the water," he said. "The CG would give them his guidance and these guys

would just 'stand on their heads' all night until they came up with a viable plan for the general to approve."

The job of the NCOs in I Corps is also a point of pride with Motta, who pointed to the November opening of the Iraqi Ground Forces Command's Combined Partners Operations Center as an example of their dedication.

"I watched my sergeants first class, staff sergeants and my sergeants go at that thing with a zeal that just describes the American Soldier," he said. "You tell them, 'here is your mission' and they're going to do it."

Although he said most of the deployment went smoothly, Motta described the "herculean effort" accomplished by the corps: the six-month process that resulted in standing up United States Forces- Iraq, Jan. 1, 2010.

Motta said the job of merging Multi-National Force-Iraq, Multi-National Corps-Iraq, Multi-National Security Transition Command-Iraq, Joint Area Support Group-Central and Task Force 134 into one unified command was the most significant battle of the year, adding that the human dimension of the transition was particularly challenging.

"It was just huge, in my estimation, that we pulled it off," he said. "Had we not had the team that Gen. Jacoby built it would have never happened. You'd have (had) a big brawl out in the middle of the rotunda."



Sgt. Maj. Peter Motta

PERSPECTIVE 3: Story by Spc. Britney Bodner, United States Forces-Iraq Public Affairs

Spc. Michael Nelson, a trumpet player for the 56th Army Band who also plays electric and acoustic guitar, said he has undergone many personal changes and will be more appreciative of things he has back home.

It's easy to compare life back in the states to life here and realize how easy life back home is and what we take for granted, Nelson said.

Nelson and the band deployed with I Corps in 2009 to provide support for official military ceremonies, functions, and to help keep the troop's morale high.

Nelson said they supported several major events including the president's visit, the Colbert Report from Baghdad, British and U.S. embassy events, countless transfers of authority and changes of command, and USO sponsored rock tours.

As a part of the 56th's rock band, Sunburn, he and other band members got to travel throughout Iraq during their deployment.

"We experienced a lot of really unique things going out to the smaller places across Iraq," he said.

"We wanted to bring a live rock show that you would see in



Spc. Michael Nelson

the states here to Iraq," Nelson said. "I know the Morale, Welfare, and Recreation and USO have a lot of civilian bands that come through here but I think the unique aspect for us is that we are an Army rock band and because we are Soldiers, it made it a lot easier to connect with the troops."

Nelson talked about a unique experience he had when the group traveled to Al Asad Airbase.

"The day we showed up there had been an attack on one of the convoys," he said. "The next night we were supposed to do our first show, and we had an opportunity to go visit

one of the Marines who had lived through the attack. He was in pretty rough shape the first day we went to go see him, but he made it a point to come out and see our concert. We did the best we could to play a really special concert for him."

"That's the significance as to what our Army band's mission downgrade is," Nelson said, "To play music for those guys because they see and they experience things that some don't.

They carry a big weight, a big burden that we don't have to carry."

CORPS STBs TRANSFER OF AUTHORITY



Photos by Spc. Kelly Morehouse
USF-I Special Troops Battalion Public Affairs

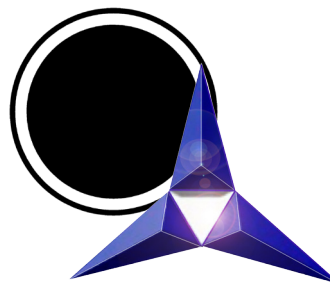
After serving a year in Iraq, Task Force Courage Special Troops Battalion transferred authority to Task Force Phantom STB March 4, at Camp Victory, Baghdad.

TF Courage Commander, Lt. Col. Hugh D. Shoultz and Command Sgt. Maj. Elmo Leichenauer of I Corps transferred authority to III Corps TF Phantom Commander Lt. Col. Robert L. Menti and Command Sgt. Maj. Timothy Livengood.

The ceremony was attended by Brig. Gen. Peter Bayer, United States Forces-Iraq Deputy Chief of Staff and I Corps Chief of Staff.

TF Courage and I Corps are returning to Fort Lewis, Wash., following a year-long deployment to Iraq.

The III Corps STB is based at Fort Hood, Texas



SHARP OF THE WEEK

When you date someone, communicate clearly with that person to ensure he or she knows your personal limits from the beginning. Both verbal and nonverbal (body language) communication can be used to ensure the message is understood.

Call the USF-I Deployed Sexual Assault Response Coordinator (DSARC) at 485-5085 or 435-2235 for help. Army members should seek assistance with their Unit Victim Advocate (UVA) or DSARC.



Operating Hours

Coalition Cafe DFAC
Breakfast 5:30 - 8:30 a.m.
Lunch 11:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Dinner 5 - 9 p.m.
Midnight Dining 11 p.m. - 1 a.m.

Sports Oasis DFAC
Breakfast 5:30 - 8:30 a.m.
Lunch 11:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Dinner 5 - 9 p.m.

Education Center
8 a.m. - 8 p.m.

Camp Liberty Post Exchange
8 a.m. - 10 p.m.

Fitness Center
Open 24 Hours

Victory Main Post Office
Monday-Sunday 7:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.
Saturday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Sunday 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

USF-I Unit Mail Room
Customer Services/Mail Call:
3-6 p.m.

Al Faw Palace Post Office
Wednesday and Sunday
12:30 - 5:30 p.m.

Golby TMC Sick Call
Monday - Friday 7:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
Saturday & Sunday 9 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Dental Sick Call
Monday - Friday 7:30 - 10:30 a.m.
Saturday 9 - 10:30 a.m.

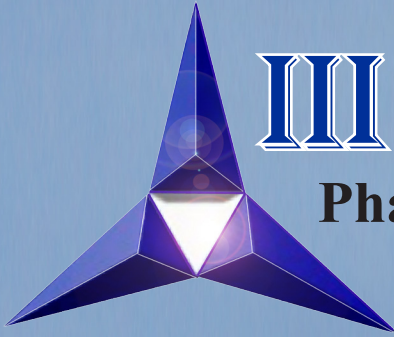
Mental Health Clinic
Monday - Friday 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Saturday 9 a.m. - noon

Pharmacy
Monday - Friday 7:30 a.m. - noon;
1 - 4:30 p.m.
Saturday & Sunday 9 a.m. - noon

Parking Notice

Due to the I Corps-III Corps Transfer of Authority ceremony, there will be NO PARKING on the Al Faw Palace island or in the Colonel/Sergeant Major parking lots between March 12 at 1800 and March 14 at 1500. All Non-Tactical Vehicles left in these parking areas during this timeframe will be towed.

For more information contact: Sgt. 1st Class Housey at DSN: 318-485-2716



III CORPS IS BACK

Phantom Corps begins third tour in Iraq

Story by Master Sgt. Timothy Volkert
United States Forces-Iraq Public Affairs

III Corps will begin its third chapter in Iraq after I Corps commanding general, Lt. Gen. Charles Jacoby Jr., relinquishes authority of day-to-day operations of U.S. forces in Iraq during a transfer of authority ceremony scheduled to take place Saturday at Al Faw Palace at Camp Victory.

Lt. Gen. Robert Cone, commanding general of III Corps, will replace Jacoby as United States Forces-Iraq deputy commanding general for operations. III Corps' focus will differ from its two previous tours as the mission of U.S. forces now begins to transition from counterinsurgency and security operations to stability operations.

The corps first deployed to Iraq in 2004, its first combat tour since World War II. It assumed command of Multi-National Corps-Iraq, which is now one of several organizations that merged into U.S. Forces-Iraq in January. III Corps was responsible for the command and control of all U.S. forces in Iraq under the MNF-I command element. The corps returned to Fort Hood after it was relieved by the XVIII Airborne Corps.

The second deployment for the corps began in 2007. The Phantom Warriors were under the leadership of then Lt. Gen. Ray Odierno. During the 15-month deployment, the corps took command of U.S. forces in Iraq during the troop

CAMPAIGN STREAMERS

Conflict	Streamer	Year(s)
World War I	Aisne-Marne	1917
World War I	Osine-Marne	1917
World War I	Meuse-Argonne	1918
World War I	Champagne	1918
World War I	Lorraine	1918
World War II	Normandy	1944
World War II	Northern France	1945
World War II	Rhineland	1945
World War II	Central Europe	1945
Operation Iraqi Freedom	Iraq ***	2004-2005
Operation Iraqi Freedom	Iraq ***	2007-2008

*** (Army) Meritorious Unit Commendation for service in Central Asia.

surge, which peaked at about 170,000 servicemembers. III Corps conducted a similar mission to its first deployment as U.S. and Iraq forces and the coalition partners continued to build Iraq's security forces and work to defeat the insurgency.

As the Phantom Corps now begins its third deployment in Iraq, some of the major objectives will be the transition of U.S. forces from combat operations to stability operations, which will include the transition from combat brigades to Advisory and Assistance Brigades and the drawdown of U.S. of forces.



(Above) U.S. Servicemembers walk toward Al Faw Palace located on Camp Victory, Iraq in Baghdad. Saddam Hussein's former palace currently serves as headquarters to United States Forces-Iraq. (Photo illustration by Senior Airman Luis Loza Gutierrez)