



CSAF stresses importance of Airmen and mission

Story and photo by
Tech. Sgt. Mike Edwards
447th Expeditionary Group Public Affairs

The Air Force's top uniformed officer visited Sather Air Base, June 24 to meet with Airmen, talk about his priorities, and listen to the concerns of those living and working here.

"Let me begin by reminding you that everyone matters," Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Norton Schwartz told the more than 350 Airmen packed into the tent.

"It's like a team – everyone plays a position. If you have someone on the team who doesn't do their part, the team cannot win. Everybody counts.



Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Norton Schwartz, paid a visit to the 447th Air Expeditionary Group at Sather Airbase, Thursday, to meet with Airmen and discuss the importance of who they are and what they do to support the mission.

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Sgt. Maj. of the Army Visits Iraq

Sergeant Maj. of the Army Kenneth O. Preston visited Iraq June 24-25, to meet with Soldiers and service members stationed throughout the country.

Preston spent time talking with Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen assigned to United States Forces -Iraq during a dinner at Camp Victory, June 25. Preston discussed issues ranging from unit rotation schedules and dwell times to Comprehensive Soldier Fitness.

See the full story in next week's Victory Times. (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Roger Dey)

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Chaplain's Corner

Little things can make a big difference

By Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Keith Goode
Deputy USF-I Chaplain

*For want of a nail the shoe was lost.
For want of a shoe the horse was lost.
For want of a horse the rider was lost.
For want of a rider the battle was lost.
For want of a battle the kingdom was lost.
And all for the want of a nail.*

Benjamin Franklin printed this 15th century proverb in "Poor Richard's Almanac" in the 18th century, bringing it to the New World with the preface, "A little neglect may breed mischief..."

In the 21st century, the proverb still holds true today.

Consider all the things we must do each day: reporting, getting dressed, communicating, eating well, security, exercise, details, cleaning your room, writing home, laundry, PowerPoint, throwing away trash, brushing teeth, responding to email, walking.

Each of those things may be simple, and we may not think it's likely to change the world if one of them does not get done. But the proverb reminds us that there are no little things. The impact on health, work, and relationships

all depend on doing the little things consistently well. Failure to pay attention to those little things can build up, eventually causing failure at a critical point in life.

Yet little things can become boring and tedious after a while. We fool ourselves, thinking no one will notice and no one cares. Like the folks in the Brick Yard Logistics Support Area who throw cigarette butts on ground. They think no one will notice "just one little butt." But how long before it becomes unhealthy and perhaps even a fire hazard?

It's the little things.

What will help us pay attention to detail and focus on those little things?

In the Christian scriptures, 1 Corinthians 10:31 says that "whatever you do, do it all to the glory of God."

By keeping the focus on something (and someone) bigger than ourselves, we can maintain the perspective we need to do little things in a big way. In this view, our little world becomes a part in a much larger world in which the Almighty has designed everything to matter, even the little

things.

So, never tire of paying attention to details. We never know when the battle we face today may depend upon it.



SARC Smarts



From the USF-I SHARP Team: Protect yourself from acquaintance sexual assault; know your intentions and limitations and communicate them clearly. You have the right to say "no" to any unwanted sexual contact. If you say "no" say it like you mean it. Back up your words with your body language.

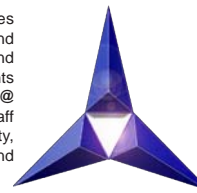
Call the USF-I Deployed Sexual Assault Response Coordinator (DSARC) at 485-5085 or 435-2235 for help. Army members should seek assistance with their Unit Victim Advocate (UVA) or DSARC.



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USF-I prepares to transfer Cropper TIF to GOI



Maj. Gen. Hasen Salman Khaleefa (left), Baghdad Operations Center chief of staff, discusses the transfer of the Cropper Theater Internment Facility through an interpreter, with Maj. Gen. Jerry Cannon, the United States Forces-Iraq deputy commanding general for detainee operations, and Brig. Gen. Faisal Muhsin, of the Iraqi Ministry of Defense, before the start of the final planning conference at FOB Future, June 22. The Cropper TIF is scheduled to be transferred to the Iraqi Government in July.

Story and photos by
Sgt. 1st Class Roger Dey
United States Forces-Iraq Public Affairs

Officials from the Government of Iraq met with representatives of United States Forces–Iraq June 22, to finalize plans for the transfer of the Cropper Theater Internment Facility to the Iraqi government next month.

Major Gen. Jerry Cannon, USF-I deputy commanding general for detainee operations and provost marshal general, opened the third and final transfer planning conference by reminding everyone that the date scheduled for the transfer is fast approaching.

“Ninety-nine days ago we turned over the keys to the Taji Theater Internment Facility Reconciliation Center,” Cannon said. “We only have 23 days left until we turn over the keys to the Cropper TIF. Thanks to everyone for your hard work to get us to this point; we still have more work left to do. If we’ve done our jobs well, this will be the last meeting before

the transfer.”

Cannon, flanked by Maj. Gen. Hassan Salman Khalifah Jamal al-Baydani, Baghdad Operations Center chief of staff and Deputy Minister Posho Ibraheem, senior deputy minister of justice, listened intently as the transition working groups presented assessments on issues that need completing before the transfer on July 15.

Faras Fami Azeez, the director general of the Iraqi corrections service and Brig. Gen. Faisal Muhsin of the Federal Police, were also present to hear the plans for the final transfer of everything from TIF security and infrastructure to the remaining detainees.

According to Lt. Col. Curtis Holden, chief of the Release Operations Center, everyone is working hard to ensure all warrants, detention orders and conviction orders are squared away in order to transfer the detainees and their

property to the Ministry of Justice. Holden said the process is on schedule.

“We transferred over 900 detainees in the last two weeks to get us prepared for this transfer,” he said.

The Cropper TIF currently houses approximately 1,900 detainees, with the capacity to hold up to 4,000 detainees. It is the last large internment facility in Iraq operated by United States forces. Its transfer to the government of Iraq represents a milestone in detention operations.

Until the transfer, the 49th Military Police Brigade Tactical Command Post, from Fairfield, Calif., will continue to oversee TIF operations. They are augmented by the 705th Military Police Battalion from Fort Leavenworth, Kan. The 705th, which operates the United States Disciplinary Barracks, was involved when the Taji TIFRC was transferred to the GoI in March.

Major Daniel Rempfer, executive officer for the 49th TAC CP, was the executive officer of the 705th at the time of the Taji transfer. He said lessons

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Faras Fami Azeez, Iraqi director general of corrections asks a question during a June 22 planning conference on the final hand over of the Cropper Theater Internment Facility. The conference addressed most of the remaining challenges before the Iraqis take control of the facility.

Red Team plays devil's advocate for Army plans

Story and photo by Spc. Britney Bodner
United States Forces-Iraq Public Affairs

What if this happens? Can we prepare for that? How do we avoid it? What do we need to consider about the culture of this area? Who do we see when we get to the village?

These are the questions asked, and answered, by the United States Force-Iraq Command Staff Red Team. Their mission is to anticipate the risks to a mission and the end state of any situation, according to Sgt. Maj. Ruby Mayweather, the Red Team sergeant major.

"We're the Devil's Advocate for the command group," said Lt. Col. Robert Short, Red Team commander. "We work with planners, challenging their assumptions and the way they think."

"A Red Team approach provides the commander and staff with unbiased, alternative perspective on problem sets that the command faces," said Col. Steven Mitchell, the United States Forces-Iraq J5 plans chief.

"A good example of how the USF-I Red Team is currently contributing to theater operations is by offering analysis' of the transition to stability operations and in providing initial insights into key facets of Operation New Dawn," said Mitchell.

The members of the team are picked based on their

background and experience and can be military or civilian, Short said.

Red Team members go to school in Fort Leavenworth, Kan., where they learn critical thinking skills, take college courses on cultural awareness, and learn different techniques of how to look at problems differently than what the military teaches, Short said.

"We take culture considerations and things that a military guy won't normally think of and make the planners involved think about it and come out with a better plan," Short said.

The Red Team prepares units that are going out on a mission with the most effective information for any situation that may arise, Mayweather said.

Short said that when he deployed at the beginning of Operation Iraqi Freedom, it would have been easier to solve problems more quickly and precisely if they'd had a Red Team keeping them informed about the culture.

The Red Team also works to find problems with plans that may affect relations with the Iraqi government.

Since the members of the Red Team can approach a problem by "standing in another's shoes" they offer multiple solutions and observations that aren't limited to a military viewpoint, Mitchell said.

When a plan is given to a team representative, they study the scenario and present an outside perspective, Short said.

"We also work with different subject matter experts, depending on a scenario and add their perspective for more accurate responses to use during a mission," he said. "It's also invaluable when preparing to present a plan to the Iraqis."

Mayweather said the Red Team was recently assigned to be a part J5 Plans to help refine projects that require their expertise.

By asking the right questions, the Red Team can help USF-I avoid cultural pitfalls and present plans to the government of Iraq to be successful in rebuilding their country.



Lt. Col. Charles Carlton, a member of the Red Team, does research for a current project. The Red Team's job is to challenge project planners with questions about cultural awareness and worst case scenarios. This helps planners determine how to react if something goes wrong.

Soldiers wounded together return with OPE VII

Story and photos by Staff Sgt. Dan Yarnall
United States Forces-Iraq Public Affairs

Corporal Charles DuPree took a knee and buried his head in his hands. Staff Sgt. Jerry Majetic knelt in front of him and they grabbed a hold of one another. Both veterans were too overwhelmed to support their own weight.

With his voice cracking, DuPree said, "This is it, we're back."

Dupree and Majetic were injured near Baghdad five year ago. On June 16, they made it back to the battlefield together. This time around they get to leave on their own terms.

The two Soldiers, along with nine other wounded warriors visited the Hall of Heroes on Forward Operation Base Falcon, June 16, during Operation Proper Exit VII, June 12-16. The program, sponsored by the Troops First

organization, brings wounded veterans back to Iraq to visit the sites where they were injured and to share their stories with other service members.

In 2005 Majetic was with the 304th Psychological Operations Company and Dupree was part of the unit's personal security detachment.

On a mission outside Baghdad that October, their humvee was struck by a road side bomb. Immediately after the blast they came under attack from small arms fire said DuPree.

The blast from the IED killed two Soldiers in the vehicle. It threw DuPree out of the gunner's hatch. He landed fifty meters away from the humvee. He sustained a broken right elbow, an open fracture to his lower right leg, and second degree burns to eight percent of his body.

"My leg was swollen so much they had cut it in order to relieve the pressure,



Staff Sgt. Jerald Majetic from St. Augustine, Fla., who deployed with the 304th Psychological Operations Company in 2005, leans up against a medical evacuation helicopter as 11 wounded warriors visit with pilots and check out static displays of MEDEVAC, Apache, and Kiowa aircrafts on Taji Air Base.



Cpl. Charles DuPree, Sr. from Memphis, Tenn., speaks to Soldiers during a visit to Joint Base Balad, June 12. Both DuPree and Staff Sgt. Jerald Majetic were injured together by a road side bomb in 2005 near Baghdad. They returned to Iraq along with nine other wounded warriors as part of Operation Proper Exit VII, the week of June 12-16. The group toured Iraq to visit the sites where they were injured and meet with troops. The goal of the OPE program is to provide the service members closure for their traumatic experiences and to give them the chance to exit Iraq on their own terms.

otherwise they would have had to amputate on the scene," said DuPree.

The explosion sealed the doors of the humvee, trapping Majetic inside. He sustained 2nd and 3rd degree burns to his entire head and face, and to 35 percent of his body.

After being pulled out of the humvee, Majetic was shot twice in the right leg during the firefight that followed the blast. After 52 minutes of fighting, the two Soldiers were medically evacuated off the battlefield.

Now, five years later, both wounded warriors returned to Iraq, and DuPree says there is some irony in their visit.

"The day we got hit, the first thing we said was, we will never be back," he said.

Both DuPree and Majetic are glad they were wrong.

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Father and son serve together on Father's Day

Story by Spc. Britney Bodner
United States Forces-Iraq Public Affairs

Father's Day in Iraq is often spent on a phone or webcam talking with family half-way around the world or opening a package sent weeks in advance. But one deployed father in Baghdad had a rare opportunity to spend it with his son.

Sergeant Earnest Carila, noncommissioned officer in charge of the personal security detachment for Lt. Gen. Kenneth Hunzeker, United States Forces-Iraq deputy commanding general for support, spent the day with his son, Spc. Ryan Carila, a chase driver for Hunzeker's PSD team.

Carila and Ryan arrived at Victory Base Complex in September 2009 with the Virginia Army National Guard's 229th Military Police Company and were both chosen for Hunzeker's PSD team.

It's very unusual for a father and son to work together on a PSD team and it surprises everyone who hears about it, said Sgt. 1st Class Edward Kawamura, personal security officer for the PSD team.

"Working together in this instance is a great fit," Kawamura said, "They look after one another and make sure they have what they need for any mission."

"It's been a great experience," said Carila, "Not many people can often deploy with their son on their first deployment."

Ryan thinks this experience with his father has been a very positive one.

"Our bond as father and son is stronger because of it," he said.

Carila said being deployed during Father's Day is hard for most Soldiers because they are a world away from their families.

"It's reassuring that I have my son with me this Father's Day. The feeling to not only be serving my country, but to be able to serve it together, especially on Fathers day, is great and fills me with pride," Carila said. "He made it a much better day being here with me than if I was alone."

Even though father and son spent the day running missions with the PSD team, Ryan was able to treat his father to dinner



Photo by Staff Sgt. Erica Foley

Sgt. Earnest Carila, the noncommissioned officer in charge of the personal security detachment for Lt. Gen. Kenneth Hunzeker's, United States Forces-Iraq deputy commanding general for support, poses for a photo with his son Spc. Ryan Carila, a chase driver for Hunzeker's PSD team, in front of the U.S. Embassy on Father's Day, June 20.

at Subway.

For Ryan this has been more than just a chance to spend time with his father, its been a chance to create lifelong memories that not a lot of children get to share with their parents.

"My son and I have had an opportunity of a lifetime, not only to serve together in Iraq, but to serve on the same team," said Carila. "I am proud of my son and it has been an honor to spend Father's Day with him on this deployment."

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"I really enjoyed coming back to Iraq, and I'm thankful we get to do this together," DuPree said.

Throughout OPE VII, DuPree said he felt like he was looking out for Majetic as if he was still a part of the PSD.

But on this day it was Majetic who was looking out for DuPree.

"This time Majetic was there for me. It was great to have someone there who knew what I was going through."

Majetic said he couldn't remember much of the attack, and knew the visit was going to be a little harder for DuPree.

"I wanted to be there for him like he was for me when I was injured," he said.

The opportunity to visit FOB Falcon again was very emotional for both Majetic and DuPree. But it is something that they will never forget, according to Majetic.

"Visiting FOB Falcon was hard; it was very hard," said Majetic. "Not because it was sad, but because I had to leave. I wish I could come here, stay and do my job again."

SAFETY ZONE

Armed Forces Voters Week

The Secretary of Defense has designated the week of June 28 - July 7, as Armed Forces Voters Week. During the week, commanders are encouraged to intensify efforts to contact all personnel and ensure they know the requirements for voting and that they have the necessary information regarding voting resources.

Commanders should make sure eligible voters know how to register and how to obtain their absentee ballot before the November election. Armed Forces Voters week is a great opportunity to ensure voters receive important materials such as the Federal Postcard Application. This will let them send their updated information to their local election officials in order to receive a ballot in time.

The majority of Soldiers vote via absentee ballot, so it's important that commanders encourage their Soldiers to stick to the ballot-mailing deadline guidance. This provides the best opportunity for each absentee ballot to be counted during the election. Voting Assistance Officers should also encourage voters to send and receive voting materials electronically to make it easier to receive ballots in a timely manner.

The General Election is fast approaching. Commands should make sure all necessary resources for our Soldiers to receive and cast a valid ballot are in place and ready to go.

Voting is both a privilege and a responsibility for citizens in our democracy. Your personal involvement will go a long way to ensuring the success and effectiveness of this important program.

VBC Facility Operating Hours

Sports Oasis DFAC
Breakfast 5:00 - 8:30 a.m.
Lunch 11:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.
Dinner 5 - 8:30 p.m.
Midnight chow 11:00 p.m. - 1:00 a.m.
Sandwich Bar open 24 hours

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

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

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

Paul Smith Gym
Open 24 Hours

Victory Main Post Office
Monday - Friday 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:**
Daily 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 - 11:30 a.m.
Saturday & Sunday 9 - 11:30 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

Websites

Check it out:

USF-I Web pages
www.usf-iraq.com
www.flickr.com/photos/mnfiraq
www.twitter.com/USF_Iraq

Facebook -
United States Forces-Iraq
U.S. Army III Corps
Phantom Battalion
III Corps Fort Hood

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Everybody matters,” he said.

In addition to stressing the point that every active-duty, guard, reserve, and civilian Airmen has an integral role in accomplishing the mission, the Air Force’s top general highlighted the need for discipline and compliance to Air Force standards.

“We had a major issue a little while back regarding accountability for nuclear weapons,” he said. “Fundamentally, we had lost focus, but we have taken steps to correct that.”

He explained the need to maintain high levels of vigilance and dedication.

“Compliance is not a four-letter word,” he told the audience. “It helps keep us safe and maintain our standards of excellence.”

The general acknowledged that the Air Force is currently challenged with too many people in its ranks.

“We are having a problem because retention is the best it has ever been in years,” he said. “As a result, we have had to implement some force-shaping measures to get our numbers back down to our allotted end-strength.”

He noted that paying personnel is the first bill paid out of the budget. “If we have more people to pay than we have in the budget, the money has to come from other programs such as childcare, housing and medical,” Schwartz added.

“Losing personnel is always tough, but we are opening up cross-training opportunities for those willing to change jobs,” he said. He also mentioned opportunities to continue to serve in the reserve components or in the civilian workforce.

The last point the chief of staff stressed before taking questions was suicide prevention.

“We are experiencing the highest rate of suicides we’ve seen in years,” Schwartz said solemnly. “It’s not just with Air Force members in uniform; it is also affecting our civilian population.”

He mentioned that the suicide affects not only the individual, but also the immediate and the larger Air Force family.

“If you see someone who needs help, assist them in getting that help. That’s what being a wingman is about, Schwartz said. “That’s what family is all about – we take care of each other.”

When he opened the floor for questions, one Airman expressed concern that Iraq might become the “forgotten” war as the transition is made from Operation Iraqi Freedom to Operation New Dawn.

“What we are seeing and experiencing right now is a result of our successes and the sacrifices we have made,” he said. “I know that the American people support you and have not forgotten what you are doing here. Just because the media attention is focused on Afghanistan right now, does not mean anyone has forgotten what you are doing here or the sacrifices we have made.”

Another question from the audience concerned family initiatives that have been addressed during the “Year of the Air Force Family.”

“I talked earlier about how we are all a team and that everyone on that team has to do their part for us to be successful,” Schwartz said. “Families are a very important member of our team. We have undertaken some very important steps to help take care of our families.”

Improving the availability of childcare and improving services for special-needs families were two of the initiatives he mentioned, and he also addressed housing.

“Over the past several years, we have been working with our privatized housing initiative to either build or refurbish more than 50-thousand homes,” he said.

“We want our bases to be an attractive place to live. We are working to make them communities in which people feel safe and secure,” Schwartz said.

The general noted that schools also have a huge role in creating those communities.

“The quality of schools is a significant factor for those volunteering for certain assignments or choosing whether or not to live on or off base,” he said. “We are working to improve that.”

Schwartz concluded the meeting by thanking everyone for what they are doing and for their commitment.

“What you do is important, and what you do matters to the overall success of the team. Never forget that,” he said.

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learned from the Taji transfer are being applied to Cropper to ensure the Iraqis are set up for success.

“They know how to do the mission, their people are trained,” Rempfer said. “The best thing we can do to set them up for success is give them the facility, the property and the equipment to sustain the mission.”

Rempfer said U.S. forces will maintain oversight on contracts that

provide sustainment services, such as power, water and waste management, until December 31. The goal is to assist the Iraqi government over time as they develop the ability to be self-sustaining, he said.

This is the third Theater Internment Facility to be closed or transferred to the government of Iraq in the last 12 months. Camp Bucca was closed Sept. 17, 2009, and its detainees were transferred to the Taji TIFRC or Cropper TIF. The Taji TIFRC, which housed approximately

2,600 detainees, was transferred to Iraqi control March 30.

In addition, the Iraqi Corrections Academy at Forward Operating Base Future was transferred to the Ministry of Justice Dec. 15, 2009, and renamed the National Corrections Training Center.

The NCTC, with help from the International Criminal Investigation and Assistance Program, trains the Iraqi correctional officers and support personnel who will be responsible for operating the internment facilities.