

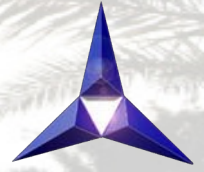
Victory Times



Telling the United States Forces - Iraq story

Vol. V, Issue 18

July 12, 2010



“I HEREBY DECLARE, ON OATH,

Photo by Lee Craker

that I absolutely and entirely renounce and abjure all allegiance and fidelity to any foreign prince, potentate, state, or sovereignty of whom or which I have heretofore been a subject or citizen;

that I will support and defend the Constitution and laws of the United States of America against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same;

that I will bear arms on behalf of the United States when required by the law;

that I will perform noncombatant service in the Armed Forces of the United States when required by the law;

that I will perform work of national importance under civilian direction when required by the law; and that I take this obligation freely without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; so help me God.”

America's newest citizens, see story Page 4

INSIDE:

*Reach out to prevent
suicide
Page 3*

*705th MPs play vital
role in detainee ops
Page 6*

*Peachtree Shadow Run
on Camp Victory
Page 8*

Chaplain's Corner

Build strength by taking time to recharge

By Chaplain (Maj.) Wylly Collins
Combined Joint Task Force Troy Chaplain

There is a beautiful verse in Isaiah that reads "... in quietness and trust is your strength." *Isaiah 30:15*

I think that this verse has a lot of wisdom for us "moderns" living in the 21st Century. We live in a busy and stressful environment here at Victory Base Complex. We rush in and out of the dining facilities and we work hard in the tasks we are given.

But, I would encourage all of us to make sure that we take time away from the "rat race." (The rats are the only ones who are winning, by the way!)

Chaplain (Maj. Gen.) Douglas Carver, U.S. Army chief of chaplains, has emphasized that it is good for chaplains and chaplain assistants to "take a knee" during this period of persistent conflict. "Taking a knee" does not mean getting out of the fight. It means taking a rest and re-assessing things.

Do you need to "take a knee" this week? What about the hard-charging people in your section who are doing

spectacular work? Do they need to take some time out because they are running on fumes?

Taking some time out to rest might mean doing a little less work on a given day. It might mean spending some time in your room reading a good book, or it might mean going to a chapel service. For others, it might mean a pick-up game of basketball.

It is important to have some down time during the week so we can refit and retool. Over time, resting makes us better workers who actually produce better work.

I would encourage those of us who are supervisors to take care of our personnel and give them the down time they need. Encourage them to spend time away from the office and to communicate with their loved ones. Little breaks add up and produce better morale.

When we take a knee, we can recharge our batteries and become more resilient in our area of influence.

We cannot give someone a cup of water out of a dry well. My hope and prayer for all of us today is that we can lead and serve out of lives that are overflowing!



Courtesy photo

SARC Smarts



In all relationships, you have the right to set limits, feel safe and get support. You also have responsibility to trust your instincts and model respectful behaviors. Every person has the right to say no and change his or her mind.

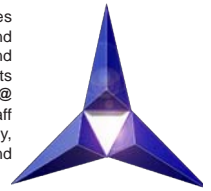
Call the USF-I Deployed Sexual Assault Response Coordinator (DSARC) at 485-5085 or 435-2235 for help. Army members should seek assistance with their Unit Victim Advocate (UVA) or DSARC.



The Victory Times is an authorized publication for members of the Department of Defense. Contents of this publication are not necessarily the official views of or endorsed by the U.S. Government or the DOD. The editorial content of this publication is the responsibility of the Public Affairs Office of United States Forces-Iraq.

USF - I Commanding General: Gen. Ray Odierno
USF - I Senior Public Affairs Officer: Col. Benton A. Danner
USF - I Senior PA Enlisted Advisor: Sgt. Maj. James Posten
Editor: Sgt. 1st Class Roger Dey
Print Staff: Staff Sgt. Dan Yarnall, Sgt. Chris McCann, Spc. Britney Bodner
Layout: Spc. Britney Bodner

The Victory Times welcomes columns, commentaries, articles and letters from our readers. Please send submissions, story ideas or comments to the editorial staff at roger.dey@iraq.centcom.mil. The editorial staff reserves the right to edit for security, accuracy, propriety, policy, clarity and space.



Help prevent suicide by reaching out to others

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

It's a devastating action that sends shockwaves through a unit and loved ones left behind. A permanent solution to temporary circumstances.

Suicide.

"The roommates and friends who spent time with a Soldier who has committed suicide often feel like there is something they could have said or done," said Staff Sgt. Arlyce Baty. "It tears them up."

Baty is the morale dog handler for the 49th Military Police Brigade and has seen how suicide effects units during visits with the chaplains.

Suicide is preventable and the Army has programs in place to help Soldiers with their issues, said Command Sgt. Maj. Timothy Livengood, command sergeant major for III Corps, Special Troops Battalion.

The ACE program is one of the more prominent programs that teaches service members what to ask their buddies and what to do if their friend is thinking about suicide.

"To say that the Army takes suicide very seriously would be an understatement," said Chaplain (Col.) Michael Lembke, United States Forces-Iraq chaplain. "It's important to encourage people to live."

There are many warning signs when someone is thinking about committing suicide, said Spc. Lawrence Williams, a mental health specialist from the 550th Area Support Medical Company from Fort Bragg, N.C. A Soldier may mention that they don't want to deal with life anymore, have a drastic change in their personality, give away personal items, or isolate themselves.

"Service members who have isolated themselves are at great risk for suicide because no one is around them to take notice in their change of behavior, and intervene," said Lembke, from III Corps based out of Fort Hood, Texas.

"The absolute first-line response has got to be the best friend or the immediate supervisor that sees the Soldier or civilian every single day," said Livengood, "They can judge the difference in their personality from day to day."

When a Soldier or a leader has spent time with someone who is having problems, they are more able to pick up these signs, he said.

"If a leader or peer doesn't take the time to get to know their Soldiers then they might miss the signs," Livengood said. "If you have that constant interaction, then there's trust and knowing that a leader or friend really does care. You can sit down and ask them what is going on."

"The most important thing to ask is 'are you going to hurt yourself?' Or more directly, 'are you going to kill yourself?'"

Lembke said. "Believe it or not, you'll be surprised at the answer you might get from some people."

"Depending on the answers given, if a service member is feeling suicidal or if they want to see someone, the leader or peer should bring them to the

Combat Stress Center, or to the chaplain's office," said Williams.

"The CSC offers help for stress anxiety, and that alone is very instrumental in combating suicide," Williams said. "We offer help through counseling and teach how to manage anger and stress."

"From a chaplain's standpoint, we don't focus so much on death and suicide," Lembke said. "We focus on encouraging life, affirming life, strengthening life and working on resiliency."

It all goes back to those who surround a struggling Soldier. They should reach out to them when troubles arise, said Livengood. It may be financial problems, a relationship going downhill, or multiple issues that pile on top of one another. Don't be afraid to approach someone if you are worried about them.



FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT
SUICIDE PREVENTION, CALL OR VISIT

Combat Stress Center:
485-2068

Chaplain's office:
485-3244

Websites

<http://realwarriors.net/>

<http://notalone.com/>

<http://www.militaryonesource.com>

<http://afterdeployment.org/>



Service members become citizens

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

The voices of 156 service members echoed off the marble-covered walls of the Al Faw palace as they proudly sounded off with the United States Oath of Allegiance.

The rotunda of the palace was standing room only July 4 as United States Forces-Iraq hosted the 17th U.S. naturalization ceremony held in Iraq.

Vice President of the United States Joseph R. Biden Jr., and his wife Dr. Jill Biden, were on hand as service members and civilians from across Iraq came to show their support for the new citizens.

Originally from 56 different countries, the new Americans now share a common bond of citizenship and have an additional reason to celebrate Independence Day.

Biden and Gen. Raymond T. Odierno, USF-I commanding general, both spoke to the service members before they recited the oath. They highlighted the selfless service the men and women have already given to their adopted country before becoming citizens.

“Hailing from 56 different countries, you came seeking our freedom, and before you even enjoyed the rights of full citizenship, you held up your right hand and you swore to support and defend that freedom, both at home and abroad. You volunteered to go into harm’s way in defense of your new nation,” Odierno said.

Emphasizing the “delicious irony” of the situation, Biden pointed out that the ceremony was being held in a palace built by a dictator.

“We are here in his marble palace, making a lie of everything he stood for,” said Biden.

“What a powerful symbol, what a powerful symbol you represent to those who yearn for freedom all across the world.

“On this Fourth of July weekend, I’m reminded that you have carried the torch of our founding fathers, the one that they lit 234 years ago. You carried it around the world,” he said.

A native of Brazil, Pfc. William Mesquita now lives in



Photo by Lee Craker

Pfc. Jean David Jeannite examines the coin presented to him by Gen. Raymond T. Odierno, U.S. Forces - Iraq commander, after receiving his certificate of naturalization at a July 4 ceremony in Al Faw Palace at Camp Victory, Iraq. Jeannite and 155 other service members from 56 countries became U.S. citizens during the event. Lori Scialabba, associate director of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, administered the Oath of Citizenship. The service members were then congratulated by Vice President Joseph R. Biden Jr., and his wife, Dr. Jill Biden. Command Sgt. Maj. Lawrence Wilson, USF-I senior enlisted advisor, presented a U.S. flag to each new citizen.

Kankakee, Ill., and came to Iraq with the Army Reserve’s 317th Engineer Company. He said he had wanted to become a citizen for a several years. As he sat among his fellow service members before the ceremony started, the reality that he was about to

during Independence Day ceremony



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Roger Dey

Vice President Joseph R. Biden, Jr. speaks at the Naturalization Ceremony in the Al Faw Palace rotunda, July 4. This was the 17th such ceremony held in Iraq since 2003 and the second that Biden has taken part in as vice president.

fulfill his dream hit him. That was when the anticipation began to make him nervous.

“Sitting there, I just couldn’t believe it. I had butterflies in my stomach,” he said. “I was feeling very proud. At the same time I was longing for the moment to come when I would become a citizen.”

Private 1st Class Jean David Jeannite, with 1st Brigade Combat Team’s Special Troops Battalion, 1st Infantry Division, came to the U.S. from Port-au-Prince, Haiti, when he was nine. He said this was the day he had been waiting 22 years for.

“Today was the greatest day of my life,” Jeannite said with a grin. “I’m finally, officially, part of the U.S., the greatest country in the world. I’m loving it. It’s unbelievable to be part of this. The vice president, wow! This is the highlight of my life!”

Although the new U.S. citizens were the center of attention

at the ceremony, they were not the only members of USF-I to feel inspired. The leaders of many of the troops becoming citizens also attended the ceremony.

First Sergeant Marcos Hernandez, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 4th Battalion, 9th Infantry Regiment, 4th Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd

◀ *United States Forces-Iraq service members hold their certificates of naturalization and U.S. flags during the ceremony.*



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Roger Dey

Infantry Division, had five Soldiers from his unit who citizens at the event. He and his unit are getting ready to redeploy to Fort Lewis, Wash., and he said this was a great way to end the tour.

“These five Soldiers are some of the most patriotic Soldiers in our unit,” he said. “They have been working extremely hard throughout the year, and today is the culmination of that. I am proud to see them finally get their citizenship.”

Lori Scialabba, with U.S. citizen and immigration services, administered the oath to the new Americans. Although she has attended many naturalization ceremonies, this was the first time she administered the oath. She said she was impressed with how much effort went into ceremony.

“This ceremony was very precise. The military aspect of it really made it what it was. It was more official than you would see at some of our other naturalization ceremonies,” she said. “I think it was fabulous.”

Scialabba said she was honored to take part in the event and to have an impact on the lives of those who earned their citizenship that day.

“This is the start of the rest of their lives as United States citizens. I feel privileged to be able to participate in this,” she said.

Mesquita said that he has always enjoyed Independence Day since moving to the U.S. almost 10 years ago. He said he will never forget this year’s Fourth of July.

“I love my country and am so glad to live there that I have always celebrated the Fourth of July Mesquita said. But now this is like having a second birthday.”



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Roger Dey

Spc. Stephen Mashol fills out his passport application with the help of Staff Sgt. Shawn Blackwell following the July 4 naturalization ceremony. Mashol came to the U.S. in 2003 as a refugee from the violence in Sudan.

705th MP BN plays historic role in USF-I detention ops

Story by Cpt. Charon Camarasa
49th MP Bde. TAC CP Public Affairs

The 705th Military Police Battalion has been essential to the Government of Iraq and United States Forces-Iraq's detention operations since it arrived in Iraq for its second tour in August 2009.

The 705th, currently assigned to the 49th MP Brigade Tactical Command Post, was instrumental in transferring operations of the Taji Theater Internment Facility Reconciliation Center to Iraqi control this March.

The unit, which operates the United States Disciplinary Barracks at Fort Leavenworth, Kan., is now working to transfer the operation of the last major USF-I detention facility, the Cropper TIF, to the Iraqi government.

The 705th first deployed to Iraq in 2006 to support detention operations at Camp Bucca.

While there, they developed a strong relationship with the Iraqi Corrections Services, which has served them well during this deployment.

When the 705th arrived at Camp Taji in 2009, it became a joint service battalion with 2,600 service members including Navy and Air Force personnel.

According to Sgt. Maj. Christopher Sommerville, operations sergeant major for the 705th, the unit integrated the staff to overcome the language barrier between the services and to build a common operating picture.

The unit's major responsibility at Camp Taji was to run the Theater Internment Facility Reconciliation Center and to provide care, custody and control of detainees.

"It was easy for the 705th to transition its responsibilities

by running the detention center in Taji. We drew from the experiences back home and implemented the same standards using the corrections-based model to improve the conditions in Iraq," said Maj. Daniel Rempfer, who served as the 705th executive officer at Camp Taji and is currently assigned as the 49th TAC CP executive officer.

The 705th relied on their knowledge of corrections operations to refine a plan to help leaders evaluate the Iraqi corrections officers. The plan included progress reports that measured the duties and responsibilities involved in supporting detention operations.

705th troops also built relationships with their Iraqi partners to assist the Iraqi corrections officers in taking control of the Taji TIFRC and helped them develop plans to maintain the facility's operation.

"Our Soldiers built close relationships with the ICS staff to teach them about the future operations concept," said Maj. Daron Settles, 705th operations officer.

He said they applied the Army's 'crawl, walk, run' method of training as they mentored the Iraqis.

"We stepped back once we saw they could handle operations on their own," Settles said.

Members of the ICS also received inmate behavior management training from the MPs. The ICOs received an education on rehabilitation efforts applied in Kansas and helped implement a corrections-based reward system. This practice helped them understand behavior modification based on a quid-pro-quo program.

"Detainees who followed the rules were transferred to

See Cropper, Page 8



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Roger Dey

Soldiers with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 705th Military Police Battalion, stand in formation during their transfer of authority ceremony at Camp Cropper, April 24. The 705th became the command-and-control element for the 49th MP Bde. Tactical Command Post and assumed responsibility for the Cropper Theater Internment Facility.

Kidnapping U.S. personnel is a stated goal of anti-Iraq forces.

We must take personal responsibility to protect ourselves from this threat. Take simple actions to protect yourself and your teammates to avoid or lessen the chance of abduction.

- Keep a close eye on your battle buddy and frequently check accountability of your fellow Soldiers.
- Maintain a calm, subdued, professional profile. Do not bring unnecessary attention to yourself or your fellow Soldiers.
- Do not let your guard down. Maintain OPSEC and do not discuss personal information with strangers.
- Always maintain control of identification, communication equipment and sensitive items.
- Maintain situational awareness. Scan your operating environment for threats. Frequently scan your sector in 360 degrees. Make note of routes of approach to your current location.
- Constantly ask yourself, "What could happen right now?" Be alert for that possible event.
- Always drive with your windows rolled up and doors locked. Open doors and hatches only when absolutely necessary to accomplish the mission. Secure outside access to gunners hatches.
- Look for unusual suspicious behavior in the local population.
- Get familiar with the normal activity in your immediate area. Report any suspicious activity to the chain of command.
- Establish a communications schedule to let you unit know that you are OK.
- All U.S. personnel should be within visual and audible range of another at all times. Ask yourself, "Where's my buddy?"
- Do not set predictable routines or patterns for the enemy to exploit.
- Maintain safe distances from crowded areas or instances of civil unrest, such as protests.
- If captured, do everything possible to escape.

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

Cropper, from Page 6

different 'case bands.' These case bands consisted of TV privileges, more recreational time and many other (privileges)," said Rempfer.

Like any detention facility, life support services are critical, and detainees at Taji received medical services by professionals dedicated to their care.

Major Lara Nunez, the battalion's surgeon, worked with the Iraqi Ministry of Health and brought their personnel into the medical clinic. Nunez made medical recommendations and



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Roger Dey

Maj. Daniel Rempfer (right), 49th TAC CP executive officer, and Galeeb A'aref, Iraqi Corrections Service property manager, present their plans at the final Cropper TIF transfer conference, June 22, for transferring TIF property to the ICS.

provided clinical guidelines for detainee healthcare. Additionally, she made sure Army and U.S. federal regulations for medical care were followed at all times.

Lieutenant Col. David Deadrich, 705th MP Battalion commander, brought his background as the former deputy commandant of the USDB to the table as he provided guidance and direction to the ICS. Deadrich organized weekly meetings between ICS members and the International Criminal Investigation and Training Assistance Program, U.S. advisors with extensive experience operating jails. He also oversaw the logistical support for detainees and ICS supplies, and he put contracts in place to provide maintenance support for the facility after the transfer.

"We did everything we were supposed to by setting the conditions of long-term contracts to feed the detainee population, provide fuel for generators, and integrate ICOs into our operations," said Deadrich.

In March, the 705th became the first unit in the Army to turn over a detention center and detainees to the GoI, successfully transferring the \$107 million Taji TIFRC to the Ministry of Justice.

Following the transfer, the battalion moved to Camp Cropper. The 49th TAC

CP is in charge of the Cropper Theater Internment Facility, the last major U.S.-operated detention center in Iraq. The unit took on a brigade-sized mission in April as the command and control element for the 49th TAC CP. The 705th now oversees the operations of three subordinate battalions and provides support to 3,000 service members.

The Cropper TIF is a multimillion dollar facility that currently houses roughly 1,900 detainees. It's scheduled to be transferred to the GoI in mid-July.

Once the transfer is complete, Deadrich believes the Iraqis will maintain the same high standard in correction operations set by the 705th.

Because these detainees may eventually be released back into Iraqi neighborhoods, Deadrich said it is important for jail administrators to apply the corrections-type model to not only provide custody and control of the population, but also to implement some sort of program to make their reconciliation possible.

"Providing a reconciliation program and treating the detainee or prisoner with dignity and respect will help him or her become a better contributor to society," Deadrich said.

Runners at VBC shadow Atlanta Peachtree Road Race, July 4



Photos by Sgt. Phillip Valentine

◀Runners dash away from the starting line of the Atlanta Journal-Constitution Peachtree Road Race 10K shadow run sponsored by Baghdad Chief Petty Officers and Petty Officers Association at Camp Victory July 4. This shadow race was held in conjunction with the race in Atlanta, the most-attended 10K race in the United States.

▶Navy Lt. Brandin Bignall, liaison officer assigned to the Expeditionary Logistics Group-Forward, runs with a Navy flag during the Peachtree Road Race shadow run. This July was the 40th running of the race in Atlanta and the fourth shadow race in Iraq.

