

Victory Times



Telling the United States Forces - Iraq story

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USF-I transfers vehicles to MOJ

Story and photos by
Staff Sgt. Edward Daileg
USF-I Public Affairs

United States Forces-Iraq officials transferred transport and utility vehicles to the Ministry of Justice during a ceremony at the National Corrections Training Center, Oct. 5.

The armored transport vehicle and three water trucks presented during the event will enhance the MOJs ability to move inmates and improve the water distribution process for the correctional facilities.

The vehicles transferred are considered Foreign Excess Personal Property by USF-I, which means it was not mission-essential for units here and it is more cost effective to transfer than to ship to other theaters or back to the states.

Transferring these vehicles allows USF-I to assist the Iraqis as they build their capabilities, said Maj. Gen. Jerry Cannon, USF-I deputy commanding general of detainee operations.

"We continue to develop our relationship with the Ministry of Justice to assist Iraq to become more self-reliant and sovereign," he said.

With correctional facilities spread out across the country, transporting inmates is one of the challenges the



USF-I Soldiers recite the oath of enlistment during a mass re-enlistment ceremony at Al Faw Palace, Oct. 5. Lt. Gen. Robert Cone, USF-I deputy commanding general for operations, swore in the 59 Soldiers.

Soldiers re-enlist en masse at Al Faw Palace

Story and photo by Spc. Joseph Vine
USF-I Public Affairs

Fifty-nine Soldiers stood at attention in the rotunda of Al Faw Palace, Oct. 5, raised their right hand and once again swore to protect and defend the constitution of the United States.

Lt. Gen. Robert Cone, United States Forces-Iraq deputy commanding general for operations, administered the oath of enlistment to the Soldiers who decided to continue serving their nation.

"We have been at war for nine years and in two separate conflicts," Cone said. "The difference between now and past conflicts is that these two wars are fought by an all volunteer force.

"Because of the devotion to duty and unparalleled professionalism of the Soldiers standing before us today, we are achieving success in Iraq that no one thought possible," he said. "I am honored to stand before you ... and thank you for your courage, commitment and

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Chaplain's Corner

God's majesty and our everyday needs

By Chaplain (CDR) James Denley
Strategic Operation Chaplain, USF-I

The Psalms are full of examples from a long-forgotten way of life.

The world was filled with the splendor of great kings and queens, and the imposing, majestic temples. Yet, that world was coupled with the very ordinary realm of everyday life with folk medicine, hard, daily labor, and simple mats for sleep.

The image of God's majesty and our ordinary lives is used in Psalm 113 to help us see just how much God loves us.

"The Lord is exalted above all of the nations, his glory above the heavens. Who is like the Lord our God, the One who sits enthroned on high..."
Psalm 113:4-5.

When I think of these things today, I recall the photographs in my college astronomy book: nebula, galaxies, twin stars, and distant moons.

He is above it all. He is enthroned there. He is beyond time and space and the constraints of our ordinary world and most certainly far above the nations of splendid kings and queens.

The psalmist also captured the ordinary world.

"He raises the poor from the dust and lifts the needy...he settles the barren woman in her home as a joyful mother of children," Psalm 113: 7, 9.

God "stoops down" to behold our ordinary lives of financial struggle and a desire to have a happy home.

From his majestic throne far above our imaginations, he intervenes right where we live. he raises us up. he gives us his joy for our homes.

From the majesty of the heavens to our families' needs, he loves us.

So as we face the daily trials of this deployment, never forget that you are loved by the One who is above it all. No matter your place or position, the Almighty is concerned with your life.

And that makes even the ordinary seem extra-ordinary.



SARC Smarts

Common myths regarding sexual assault:

MYTH #1: The rapist is usually a stranger

FACT: Most victims know their assailants and most assaults occur in the victim's home / dorm
(FBI Uniform Crime Report)

MYTH #2: Sexual assault affects only women

FACT: While women, sixteen to twenty-three are particularly vulnerable, men suffer ten percent of all reported sexual assaults

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 senior NCOs gather to share information, coordinate efforts

Story and photo by
Sgt. 1st Class Roger Dey
USF-I Public Affairs

The top noncommissioned officers of United States Forces-Iraq, gathered at Al Faw Palace, Oct. 5, to discuss the challenges faced by the command as it prepares to enter the final year of operations in Iraq.

Command Sgt. Maj. Arthur L. Coleman Jr., the senior enlisted advisor for the USF-I deputy commanding general for operations, organized the DCG-O Command Sergeants Major Conference to develop a common operating picture with the command sergeants major, sergeants major, command chief master sergeants and command master chiefs from brigade and higher-level headquarters.

"This is a huge command, ... it makes a difference when we know what each other is doing and how our roles intertwine and plug in to one another, because one way or another we are all in this together," Coleman said.

Sergeant Maj. Richard Jones, the USF-I operations sergeant major, helped Coleman organize the forum and said getting all the top NCOs together for the conference has huge implications for ensuring everyone, from the top down, understands what needs to be accomplished in the next 15 months.

Topics discussed included the capabilities of the Iraqi Security Forces throughout the country, the challenges faced by the U.S. divisions as they work to advise and assist their Iraqi counterparts, and the daunting task of dealing with the considerable quantity of supplies and equipment that has to be inventoried and shipped to Kuwait.

"It gets us all one common picture (of) what the challenges ahead are going to be, from everybody's perspective," Jones said. "We're sharing individual and collective training techniques and some of the things across the board that different divisions and different units are doing," he said, adding that the ideas and standards shared at the conference will affect the junior Soldiers who have to execute the missions.

Command Sgt. Maj. Terrence Murphy, 36th Engineer Brigade command sergeant major, also appreciated the opportunity for units to coordinate their efforts.

"I think it's very important because the information that comes out here is something that needs to come all the way down to the lower levels," he said.

"We know exactly what's required and when the sergeant major, the folks who own those decisions, put it out and own the plan, we all are synched together," Murphy said. "We can make sure that supply discipline and Soldier discipline comes



Sergeant Maj. Rodney Bottoms, USF-I personnel sergeant major, listens to a presentation on upcoming changes to the sergeant major rank structure during the DCG-O CSM conference, Oct. 5. The goal of the conference was to ensure the top NCOs in USF-I had a common picture of the challenges of the year ahead.

together from the bottom up as well as the top down to ensure that all the standards are met and that we can make this thing happen as an organized entity."

Jones put it in more direct terms.

"Let me just sum it all up by saying noncommissioned officers make things happen," he said.

"We're the heavy hitters; we're the movers and shakers," he said. "When you get a room full of senior enlisted together to make things happen, then good things happen."

Soldiers, Iraqi students hit high notes with musical partnership

Story and photos by Spc. Joseph Vine
USF-I Public Affairs



Sgt. Andrew Spinazzola, a senior instrumentalist with 1st Infantry Division United States Embassy, Baghdad, Sept. 28. Spinazzola is one of five band members which performed before conducting a skills improvement class for 25 students.

A tuba, two trumpets, a trombone, and a French horn are all it took for five Soldiers from the 1st Infantry Division Band to speak to 25 Iraqi music students, with the Peace Through Arts program, at the United States Embassy.

The students sat on the edge of their seats holding their instruments and mimicking the Soldiers' movements as they played. They listened intently, learning from every note produced by the instruments of the Cantigny Brass Quintet.

Once the quintet finished playing music that ranged from classical to movie themes, they gave one-on-one classes to the students to improve their playing skills.

The band members showed the students breathing techniques and proper hand placement on their instruments to play louder and longer.

"We showed them classical music, American marches and rock 'n' roll," said Chief Warrant Officer Jeremiah Keillor, a native of Los Fresnos, Texas, 1st ID band commander and band master.

He said that the student's musical skills are based on a good foundation. They only needed to hear the songs and they could play them back.

Mohammed Saad, one of the students from Baghdad, said they will benefit from the band member's experience to help them be better musicians.

This is the first time a musical exchange between Soldiers and young Iraqis has happened at the Embassy.

"I'm able to get a point across and communicate through the music," said Sgt. Matthew Johnston, a native of Ellicott City, Md., and a trombonist with the band.

"We did some of the Iraqi folk songs together," said Johnston. "We were able to produce music together for their

enjoyment and ours."

"Hopefully the students will take this experience and see that the band is made up of not just Soldiers, but musicians too," said Keillor. "We're like them. We can play the same music, we can open the same book, we can read it side-by-side," he said.

Ambassador James F. Jeffrey, United States Ambassador to Iraq said although the students associate Soldiers with Humvees and protecting them against terrorists, it's great to see the Soldiers share with them their love of culture and music.

"We're really proud of these Soldiers from the Big Red One, and proud of their cooperation with these young Iraqis," he said.

"By working with the children, we are able to collaborate and share a piece of their culture as well ours," said Johnston.

The Soldiers from the quintet will continue to reach out to the Iraqi students. The band has invited them to Contingency Operating Base Basra to play together again and to continue to develop a bond based on the language of music.

"It's all about small steps," said Keillor. "Hopefully it will shape the lives of the 25 kids that were here today."



..., plays side by side with Iraqi music students at the members who make up the Cantigny Brass Quintet, ents.



Sgt. Matthew Johnston plays along side two Iraqi students.



Chief Warrant Officer Jeremiah Keillor instructs Mohammad Saad on the proper way to play the French horn.



Mohammed Saad, of Baghdad, performs a French horn solo in front of a crowd of approximately 65 people at the United States Embassy in Baghdad. Saad is one of 25 music students who attended a skills development class by the 1st Infantry Division band's Cantigny Brass Quintet.

Hispanic Heritage Month

Hispanic pioneers of military success

Elwood R. "Pete" Quesada was an aviation pioneer, and a Army, and Air Force leader during and after World War II. His military career spanned aviation history from biplanes to supersonic jets.

Quesada was born in Washington, D.C., in 1904, just a few months after the Wright Brothers historic flight at Kitty Hawk, N.C.

Quesada joined Army Air Service as a cadet in 1924 and went through flight school at Brooks Air Force Base, Texas. With only a reserve commission, Quesada found the active Army Air Service had no position for him, so he returned to civilian life and briefly played baseball for the St. Louis Cardinals. In 1927, he returned to the Air Service and received an active Army commission.

On Jan. 1, 1929, a three-engine Fokker C-2A, dubbed the "Question Mark," took off from the metropolitan Airport in Los Angeles with Quesada as one of the pilots.

During their five days in flight, the Fokker crew pioneered air-to-air refueling by taking on fuel from a Douglas C-1C that passed a hose to them in flight. The Fokker crew made a total of 37 mid-air transfers of fuel, oil and water during a non-stop flight that covered more than 11,000 miles.

Quesada's largest contribution to air power came during World War II. The Allied air to ground tactics that helped

destroy Nazi forces in Europe didn't just materialize; it was conceived by Quesada.



*Elwood R. Quesada
First Hispanic-American
to head the Federal
Aviation Administration*

At Fort Leavenworth, Kan., Quesada began to build the concept of close-air support. He predicted the next war would require "all sorts of arrangements between the air and the ground, and the two will have to work closer than a lot of people think or want."

In December 1942, Quesada was promoted to brigadier general and sent to North Africa to command the 12th Fighter Command where he put his ideas through the crucible of combat. Quesada's success resulted in the Army Air Force's field regulation "Command and Employment of Air Power," published in July 1943.

Following the war, he became the first commander of Tactical Air Command. He moved the headquarters from Tampa, Fla., to Langley Air Force Base, Va., so he could be close to the headquarters of the Army Ground Forces.

When the Air Force became a separate service in 1947, he went along as a lieutenant general.

Quesada retired from the Air Force in 1951 and went on to serve as the first head of the Federal Aviation Administration.

Quesada died in Washington D.C. in 1993.

Vehicles, from Page 1

Iraqi Correctional Service faces daily. The Rhino's armored capabilities will help them transport inmates across the country in a safe and orderly manner.

"The up-armored vehicles will be used by the ICS to transport detainees to and from courts throughout the country," said Qais Rasheed A'lwan the director of machines and equipment for the ICS.

"With up-armored security vehicles, the concerns of risk are minimized. It provides them a peace of mind and a sense of security," said Cannon.

ICS will receive an additional armored transport vehicle by the end of the month, giving them a total of four Rhinos to provide transportation for inmates

across the country.

The three water trucks will be used to improve the water distribution process to all the correctional facilities throughout the country. By the end of the month, the ICS is slated to have twice as many water trucks to support their mission.

This marks the third of four planned vehicle transfers from USF-I to the MOJ.

With more than 20 correctional facilities to support, the water trucks will be used to provide a continuous water supply to the inmate population," said A'lwan.

Along with vehicle support, the U.S. government has also provided operator and maintenance training to the ICS.

"By providing them the proper equipment to perform their duties, we

continue to strengthen them to satisfy all the requirements for the rule of law in their country," said Cannon.



Maj. Gen. Jerry Cannon and Qais Rasheed A'lwan shake hands after The Ministry of Justice received a Rhino and three water trucks from USF-I at the National Corrections Training Center, Oct. 5.

Re-Up, from Page 1

unwavering sense of duty," he said.

Each Soldier in the ceremony had their own motivation for re-enlisting.

For Sgt. 1st Class Jedidiah Wells, of Battle Mountain, Nev., who has been in the Army for 10 years and serves as a career counselor with the 40th Expeditionary Signal Battalion, re-enlisting sets an example of long-term commitment for junior Soldiers.

"I think this is a great opportunity," said Spc. Derek Keith, from Henderson, Texas, a chaplain's assistant with III Corps. "Not many people get to re-enlist in a palace in Iraq,

especially during a mass re-enlistment."

Spc. Maurice Walter, from Huntsville, Ala., a signal technician with 1st Armored Division, saw it as a way to accomplish two goals at once.

"It gives me a chance to finish school while I'm serving my country," he said.

After reciting the last line of the oath of enlistment, the Soldiers made a right face and filed onto the stage to receive their certificate, a DCG-O coin, and congratulatory handshakes from both Cone and his senior enlisted advisor, Command Sgt. Maj. Arthur L. Coleman, Jr.

SISTERHOOD AGAINST SEXUAL ASSAULT ONE-DAY CONFERENCE: FINDING YOUR VOICE

The Sisterhood Against Sexual Assault will host a conference at the Camp Liberty Field House, Oct. 19, from 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. All military, Department of Defense civilians and contractors are invited to attend.

Guest Speaker - Command Sgt. Maj. Arthur L. Coleman Jr., senior enlisted advisor for the USF-I deputy commanding general for operations, will speak about different approaches to the prevention of sexual assault and harassment.

For more information or to RSVP, contact Maj. Lisa Belcastro at 485-6083 or lisa.belcastro@iraq.centcom.mil

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Pharmacy

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1 - 4:30 p.m.
Saturday & Sunday 9 a.m. - noon

Websites

Check it out:

USF-I Web pages

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322nd Medical Co. validates skills of combat medics

Story and photos by
Staff Sgt. Edward Daileg
USF-I Public Affairs

Twenty combat medics put their skills to the test as they low-crawled to casualties in the dark, while screams and the sound of gun fire echoed across the room.

Fortunately for the medics, the chaos was part of a training exercise designed to prepare them for combat casualties.

The 322nd Medical Company sponsored the event for medics on Camp Cropper so they could complete their Table VIII training.

"Table VIII consists of medical and trauma scenarios in both hospital and combat environments that combine medical skills from the first seven stages," said Staff Sgt. Heather Keaveny, the noncommissioned officer in charge of sustainment for the 322nd Medical Company.

Throughout the past year, the medics completed the first seven training tables.



Spc. Jason Kirkaldy initiates an IV on a simulated casualty during the combat medic table VIII training at Camp Cropper on Sept. 29.



Sgt. Kibichii Chelilim and Spc. Todd Henderson perform casualty care on a simulated casualty during the combat medic table VIII training at Camp Cropper on Sept. 29.

These events prepared them for Table VIII, which is the capstone training event for a medic. Upon completion of Table VIII, the Soldiers are recertified to continue to serve in the Army as a combat medic.

During the training, medics encountered challenges like lost limbs, excessive bleeding, and initiating an IV in the dark, but overcame them and took care of the injured service members.

Following medical treatment, the wounded were transported to a casualty collection point where the medics completed their final task of the training, calling in a nine-line medical evacuation request.

"The trauma lanes help you realize that in a real environment you're not going to have the situation mapped out," said Pfc. Christen Wilson, a platoon medic with the 108th Military Police Company, who completed all the training required for combat medic recertification.

To complete their validation

the medics also had to demonstrate basic medical assessments, proper documentation of care, and transfer of care decisions during the medical assessment and treatment lanes.

1st Lt. Kimberly Pillivant, the sustainment officer for the 322nd Medical Company, made the training as realistic as possible by enlisting Soldiers from the 105th and 108th MP Companies to role-play as casualties.

Providing different characters who weren't the medic's co-workers made the training more exciting and realistic, she said.

"Our main goal for this training is for our Soldiers to get a realistic experience to practice their medical skills in stressful situations in different environments," said Pillivant.

According to Spc. Shannon Forsbach, one of the medics who completed Table VIII, Pillivant succeeded.

"There's nothing that I've done in my military career that's as realistic as this. This gets me as close to that scenario as I can imagine," she said.