

ANACONDA TIMES

JULY 30, 2006

PROUDLY SERVING LSA ANACONDA



MOVE IT

TAJI CRSP YARD
REDUCES TIME TO
MOVE CARGO IN IRAQ

Page 8-9

Soldier takes training to heart

WEIGHT TRAINING USED AS BASIC
PILLARS FOR LIFE SUCCESS

Page 15



Vol. 3, Issue 30

71st CSB >>



Photo by Sgt. Rachel Brune

Instructors from the drivers training section of the 71st CSB Iraqi army logistics training applaud as their trainees receive their diplomas in a graduation ceremony July 20 at the Q-West MWR Theater.

71st CSB graduates IA logistical trainees

by Sgt. Rachel Brune

101st Sustainment Brigade PAO

Q-WEST BASE COMPLEX, Iraq – Fifty-two Iraqi army soldiers graduated from the first full iteration of the 71st Corps Support Battalion's IA logistics training course July 20 in a ceremony at the MWR theater here.

Courses of training included: automotive maintenance, power generation maintenance, armament repair, and drivers training.

"The essence of what we're doing here ... is to link ourselves with the Iraqi army," said Lt. Col. Russell Livingston, commander, 71st CSB. "It's been rewarding to share the logistics mission with the Iraqi Army."

The 71st CSB Soldiers assumed the training mission on the request of 4th Battalion, 11th Field Artillery Regiment, also stationed on Q-West, according to Staff Sgt. Erik Duiker, a section sergeant with 53rd Quartermaster Company. Duiker, a native of Mesa, Ariz., served as NCOIC of the logistics training program.

When the 71st CSB agreed to accept the

see Training, Page 5

SOLDIER PROFILE >>

Chaplain's assistant moves with a purpose

"From the very first conversation we had, to the first time I asked her to marry me, it was 21 hours," he said." - **Page 12**



Photo by Spc. Amanda Solitario

Spc. Desmond Bibbs, a supply clerk with the 50th Engineer Company, Multi-Role Bridge, hands an Iraqi girl a doll. Bibbs participated in Operation Helping Hands, a project designed to donate shoes, toys, and candy to some of the local children. Bibbs is from Jefferson City, Mo.



"I serve the people of the United States"

I am Spc. Nathan R. Gordon, from Vanberg, Germany
630th Military Police Company >> military police

STEADFAST accountability

by Brig. Gen. Rebecca S. Halstead, 3rd Corps Support Command Commanding General

“STEADFAST Leadership”... “S” was for “Soldiers” and “T” was for “Training”.... “E” was for “Excellence”.... “A” was for “Attitude”... “D” was for “Discipline”... “F” was for “Family and Friends”... and this month my focus is on the “A” for “Accountability.”

We probably all think about “accountability” in different ways, but let me share with you my focus. First, is the importance of taking “accountability” for our personal actions. Whether it is what we say or do, or do not say or do not do, we have a responsibility to hold ourselves accountable. Doing so is a measurement of our character.

Second, is the importance of maintaining “accountability” for our equipment and for

our people. Each of us, regardless of rank or position, have signed for personal equipment—from our personal weapon to a vehicle to the computer we type on! As such, we are responsible for making sure our equipment is serviceable, inventoried, and if broken, we are responsible for fixing it. More importantly, are the people we are responsible for maintaining accountability of—to ensure no one is forgotten or left behind. Whether you are a commander, a supervisor, a squad leader or a battle buddy, we are all responsible for looking out for at least one other person besides ourselves. When we each hold ourselves to the highest standard of accountability, we will discover there are fewer discipline problems

(more people become part of the solution and fewer are part of the problem), greater unit cohesiveness, and much higher morale.

Lastly, each of us is part of a team, whether it be at work or home or in the community. Accountability begins with each individual member of the team. It encompasses both personal and professional standards. The one who should be the toughest on you and hold you the most accountable is yourself. When we each accept our own conduct, our actions will truly speak louder than words, and we gain the necessary leverage to hold others to the standard. Personal “accountability” is a key ingredient to being people of integrity.

“Sustaining the Line!”



Media outreach with local Iraqi towns

by Lt. Col. Brian McNerney

3rd COSCOM Public Affairs Officer

Anaconda, the most significant evidence of the Iraqis who live in the areas surrounding the base comes in the form of periodic mortar or rocket attacks. While those Soldiers whose mission is to provide security to the hundreds of convoys are familiar with the landscape near the base, the vast majority never leave the protective cocoon within its perimeter.

Yet there is a handful of Soldiers who are engaged in a vital mission to establish and nurture a variety of outreach missions to the city of Balad, a city only a few short miles from the Logistical Support Area. Additionally, these Soldiers are also working to help the village of Ad Dujayl, which has figured prominently in the trial of Saddam Hussein, the fallen dictator currently being tried for various crimes against humanity that he perpetrated against his own people while he was in power.

One form of outreach developed out of converging efforts by three staff elements on the 3D COSCOM staff—public affairs, civil affairs (G5), and the Surgeon's Office. This synchronized effort grew out of a mission in which medical books were delivered to the city of Balad, a visit which occurred on 10 March

and which was covered by the COSCOM the public affairs office. That visit was coordinated by Captain Yancy Caruthers, who obtained the medical book donations with a hospital from his hometown in southern Missouri. On the same day, following the presentation of the books to the city hospital, Captain Caruthers and the COSCOM PAO, Lieutenant Colonel McNerney, met with approximately a dozen members of the city council to discuss possible future book deliveries. At LSA Anaconda, a library had been established that will provide a source of English-language book donations for the city library. The mayor, the other attending council members, and especially one Iraqi gentleman, who serves simultaneously as the editor of the city's newspaper, “Green Balad,” as well as the station manager of the city's sole radio broadcast outlet, embraced the concept of future book donations. In doing so, the groundwork was laid for further outreach efforts between Soldiers at LSA Anaconda and neighboring Iraqi townspeople who might benefit from such efforts.

While visiting the offices which house the modest radio station and newspaper operations, the COSCOM PAO and the “Green Balad” editor tentatively discussed possible endeavors

in which they might exchange articles between the civilian newspaper and the military command information newspaper that serves the LSA Anaconda population, “Anaconda Times.” This opportunity suggested a non-kinetic means of serving both audiences—the local Iraqi population as well as the service-members and civilians of the military base, and improving the mutual understanding of both communities in the process. The PAO staff has already identified a handful of articles that already appeared in the two newspapers, and in the coming weeks will publish selected articles from the Balad newspaper in the Anaconda Times to give residents here a glimpse into local Iraqi life: our neighbors' concerns, their struggle to improve their living conditions, and their attitude toward the Americans who live down the road. In June, Brigadier General Rebecca Halstead, the COSCOM commanding general, met with the Iraqi editor and found his thirst for democratic expression inspiring, and encouraged the media-sharing initiative.

Finally, the role of the COSCOM G5, the headquarters' civil affairs staff proponent, has been critical in allowing this project to evolve. After arriving in Iraq, the deputy G5, Major Patrick Howard, embarked on a separate project,

called Operation Iraqi Children (OiC), originated with the help of actor Gary Sinise, to help local village children with school supplies, toys, and other humanitarian donations. The civil affairs teams that operate in this region of Iraq work habitually with the G5 office, headed by LTC Al Zakaib, to find ways to improve the relationship between the on-post population and the surrounding peoples, and without their contribution—the friendships and relationships forged by regular direct interaction with the inhabitants of Balad and other villages—such an undertaking would simply not be possible.

While we do not yet know how long the American presence in this part of Iraq might last, we all do recognize that just as in Germany, where many COSCOM Soldiers are based, and in the United States, from where many CONUS augmentees serving in the COSCOM come, the essence of good neighboring is based on the greatest degree of openness and interaction commensurate with security considerations. Hopefully, this outreach effort will build upon a foundation already established by thousands of American Soldiers serving here who are committed to making a difference in the lives of Iraqi citizens as they build a better future.

Download the Anaconda Times at: www.mnf-iraq.com/publications_theater.htm or www.dvidshub.net

Tell us YOUR story... email YOUR story ideas and photo opportunities to mark.bell@balad.iraq.centcom.mil

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Some Soldiers eligible for MGIB benefits transfer

WASHINGTON – The Army announced today the implementation of a pilot program allowing Soldiers in critical skills who reenlist the ability to transfer Montgomery GI Bill benefits to their spouse.

Enlisted Soldiers who have completed at least six years of service, reenlist for a minimum of four years, qualify for a Selective Reenlistment Bonus (SRB), and are entitled to a Zone B or Zone C bonus will have the option to transfer up to 18 of 36 months of their MGIB entitlement. Soldiers can choose between a full SRB or a slightly reduced SRB plus the ability to transfer more than \$18,000 in benefits.

Soldiers who elected the Army College Fund (ACF) as an enlistment option and/or have enrolled and paid toward the \$600 MGIB Additional Opportunity can include their expanded benefit (MGIB, ACF and MGIB Additional Opportunity) in the transferability program.

The Army will study the results of the program with the possibility of making it a permanent part of the Army's reenlistment policies.

Soldiers interested in participating in the program should visit their Army retention career counselor for information.

No free credit monitoring for veterans

WASHINGTON – The White House withdrew its funding request Tuesday for free credit monitoring services for the 26.5 million veterans and family members whose information was thought to be impacted by the May 3 theft of a Department of Veterans Affairs computer.

Veterans Affairs Secretary R. James Nicholson announced the recovery of the stolen computer June 29, eight days after he announced that the agency would provide one year of free credit monitoring to those whose Social Security numbers and birthdates were feared stolen.

"The FBI has a high degree of confidence – based on the results of the forensic tests and other information gathered during the investigation – that the sensitive data files were not accessed or compromised," said White House Budget Director Rob Portman in a letter to House Speaker J. Dennis Hastert.

"On the basis of the FBI's analysis, the administration has concluded that credit monitoring services and the associated funding will no longer be necessary," Portman added.

Despite good news that the database was uncompromised, VA continues soliciting bids from companies that provide data-breach analysis to ensure information is kept secure in the future, according to VA spokesman Matt Burns.

"The VA has funds in its budget that can be used for this purpose," Burns said, "and there will be no diminution in the quality of health care and other services provided to veterans as a result of this expenditure."

The Fair Credit Reporting Act requires each of the nation's consumer reporting companies to provide one free credit report a year to each citizen, per the individual's request.

CAB Chinooks keep trucks, personnel off perilous roads

by Spc. Creighton Holub

4th Infantry Division PAO

CAMP TAJI, Iraq – CH-47 Chinook pilots with the 4th Infantry Division's Combat Aviation Battalion move an average of 40 pallets of equipment and supplies throughout Baghdad every night.

They've also kept an estimated 3,000 trucks and more than 7,000 Soldiers off the roads of Baghdad since their arrival.

"We're preserving democracy one pallet at a time," said Chief Warrant Officer Phillip Lopez, a Chinook pilot with Company B, 2nd Battalion, 4th Aviation Regiment, MND-B. "Once we started doing this mission, they started seeing the numbers of folks on the road dwindle. We're saving lives by not having civilians and military folks on the road."

The Chinook crews work closely with Soldiers from the division's Sustainment Brigade to get equipment and supplies where they are needed within the Multi-National Force – Baghdad area of operations. Soldiers who would normally drive trucks to deliver the equipment said they are pleased with the efforts of the Chinook crews.

"I feel a whole lot safer," said Sgt. Marcus Hargrave, a motor transport operator who is on his second deployment to Iraq, assigned to the 155th Cargo Transport Company.

"I don't have to worry about improvised explosive devices as long as we're not on the road," he said. "I think there's a lot less people



Photo by Spc. Creighton Holub

A crew chief with B Company, 2nd Battalion, 4th Aviation Regiment, Combat Aviation Brigade, 4th Infantry Division, guides a forklift operator toward a CH-47 Chinook during pallet-loading operations in Baghdad, July 14. Delivery missions flown by Chinook pilots help lower the number of convoys needed to move equipment and personnel along Baghdad's dangerous, IED-ridden roads.

getting injured and killed."

Although the helicopters are immune to the dangers of roadside bombs, they're still open to insurgent attacks.

"There is still risk involved," Lopez added. "The advantage of flying is that we're not out there on the road with the implanted IEDs. We

also have more maneuverability – that makes us a harder target than a convoy."

In addition to keeping Soldiers off the roads, using helicopters gets equipment and supplies to the customer quicker, Lopez added.

"As a unit, we can move them faster than they can on the ground," he said.

Maryland National Guard assists Lebanon evacuees

by Heike Hasenauer

Soldiers Magazine

BALTIMORE, Md. – About one dozen Maryland National Guard Soldiers from the 1297th Combat Sustainment and Sup-

port Battalion were at Baltimore-Washington International Airport early this morning to assist Americans being evacuated from war-torn Lebanon.

"We're helping to carry luggage, offering boxed lunches

(provided by Red Cross) and stuffed Mickey Mouse dolls to the children, helping them find their way through the airport to make flight connections, and even providing spiritual support," said Staff Sgt. Chris Gerben.

Chaplain (Capt.) William Baron of the battalion's 1st Squadron, 158th Cavalry, was among three chaplains on hand for the first flight of evacuees into BWI shortly after midnight July 20.

"Some people have sat down and talked to us. Some have had it pretty rough – dodging bombs to cross Beirut," Baron said. "Some were riding in cars and had artillery shells explode around them and saw parts of buildings crumble."

Many of the evacuees are dual citizens from Lebanon and were visiting relatives there. Many of them are now worried about the loved ones they left behind, Baron said.

Salah Ahmed of Springfield, Va., didn't yet know what his wife and children had experienced as he anxiously awaited their arrival in Baltimore.

"My family arrived in Lebanon together on June 20," Ahmed said. "I left on July 1, and they were supposed to return to the United States in August, but then

the fighting started."

Maha Stephanou and her two children were also visiting family.

"I was there for a month," she said. "I was evacuated with 120 other families who live in three apartment buildings in Beirut. We were transported by bus to a boat at a marina and then to the ship, Orient. Most of my family is still over there."

Lebanese Prime Minister Fouad Siniora shed insight into the graveness of the situation on "Larry King Live," stating that 330 Lebanese had been killed as of July 20 and 1,100 had been injured. Fifty-five bridges had also been destroyed.

The Israeli attacks "are bringing the country back 20 years," he said.

News reports indicate hundreds of thousands of people are fleeing Beirut. Some 50,000 evacuees fled into neighboring Syria in one day alone, CNN's Anderson Cooper reported. And a half million Lebanese citizens have been displaced by the fighting.

In a CNN report, Roula Talj, a Lebanese political adviser, said anyone who was able to flee Lebanon has fled. "It's very tense. It's very sad."



Photo by Heike Hasenauer

Chaplain (Capt.) William Baron of the Maryland National Guard's 1st Squadron, 158th Cavalry, from Annapolis greets newly arrived evacuees from Lebanon at BWI Airport Sept. 21.

Tikrit University benefits from civil affairs projects

by Spc. Cassandra Groce

133rd MPAD

TIKRIT, Iraq—The University of Tikrit is in the process of expanding their campus through the aid of Coalition Forces.

The five projects overseen by the 402nd Civil Affairs Detachment, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), will add housing, a dentistry school, women's college, sporting complex and a research facility.

"The projects will have a positive impact on the campus' daily operations," said Capt. John Skatoff, civil affairs team leader. "The projects will also have a great impact on the students' ability to access current information."

The projects are routinely inspected by the CA team to ensure they are meeting Iraqi quality standards and are all being completed by local contractors.

"The goals of the university and Coalition Forces are carefully balanced when a

project is discussed," said Skatoff. "It is a team effort between the university and Coalition Forces."

In addition to inspecting projects, the CA team visits the students and asks them about their educational experiences. Skatoff said his team's intention is to build relationships with the faculty and staff and to create a non-threatening environment at the university.

"I feel that we are making a positive impression with the students and faculty," said Skatoff. "We are building bonds for the future projects together."

The school was established more than 30 years ago and instructs more than 12,000 students, of which more than 10 percent are women. It also employs 1,600 citizens as professors, administrators and maintenance workers.

More than 1,000 students graduate each year and the university encourages students to seek employment in their communities.



Photo by Spc. Cassandra Groce
Capt. John Skatoff, 402nd Civil Affairs Detachment, 101st Airborne Division, meets with project contractors



Photo by Sgt. Zach Mott

Capt. Todd Looney, center, commander, Company C, 1-68th Combined Arms Battalion, 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, Task Force Band of Brothers, and 2nd Lt. Silki Cho, Co. C, 1-68 CAB, speak with a merchant in Khalis, Iraq, about the improvements the new, 321-meter sewage line will provide in his neighborhood.

Basic medical care for Iraqi citizens

by Sgt. Zach Mott

3rd HBCT, 4th Inf. Div. PAO

KHALIS, Iraq -- Iraqi citizens welcomed the addition of a new sewer system to this village northeast of Baquba in a ceremony July 16.

A 321-meter sewer line, along with eight adjoining manhole covers, was built to serve the local merchants and more than 100 citizens in this area.

"Without ... basic sanitation services, people would just be either throwing stuff out in the street or dumping it in their back yard, which is unclean," said Capt. Darren Plotts, civil affairs team leader, Company B, 404th Civil Affairs Battalion, attached to 1-68 Combined Arms Battalion, 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, Task Force

Band of Brothers.

This is one of three infrastructure facilities to open in recent weeks in Diyala Province. Other projects included a water treatment facility in Hibhib and an electrical substation in Baqubah.

"This is all part of your city council's efforts to try to improve the health situation here in Khalis and take care of the good people of Khalis," said Lt. Col. Thomas Fisher, commander, 1-68 CAB.

Civil affairs teams help commanders, such as Fisher, work with local governments to determine what the needs of those communities are and develop ways to meet those needs.

"This is part of the reason I joined the Army in the first place," Plotts said. "It makes me feel like I'm making a difference in this small part of the province."

News in Brief

School Renovation

BOREK, Iraq -- The primary focus of civil affairs teams in northern Iraq is helping the Iraqi people rebuild the infrastructure, from roads and bridges, to renovating schools for children.

Local schools in the north are in need of several upgrades and renovations due to years of neglect. The renovations are needed to help the children learn in an environment more conducive to learning.

Recently, a school renovation project was completed in Borek, Iraq, to give the children a more functional school in which they can be proud to learn in.

A local contractor was hired to complete the structural, electrical, and plumbing improvements. He also painted the inside of the school and the outside. A well was also constructed to provide running water to the school.

This school project will ensure that children of Iraq will have a safe reliable environment in which to study. The project will contribute to an improved learning environment for the children of Borek.

New Well

JUDAYDA, Iraq -- Civil Affairs teams have a very important job cut out for them in Iraq -- helping the Iraqi people rebuild an infrastructure devastated from years of neglect.

The 403rd CA Battalion, part of Task Force Band of Brothers, recently helped the small village of Judayda, Iraq, rebuild when they replaced an old rusted out water well with a new one that shines like a beacon of hope to the thirsty people of Judayda.

The new well now distributes water to 2,000 people. The improvements included a new storage tank, a water pump and power generation equipment.

This project created jobs for 30 citizens, thereby infusing much needed money into the local economy. The total cost amounted to \$19,000, and all supplies were purchased locally.

This project is one of many water and sanitation projects intended to create an irriga-

tion and consumable water network that will span from the Saddam Lake to the Jabal Sinjar Mountains and everywhere in between.

With the intense summer heat in the province of Ninevah, clean drinking water is more important than ever. Several small villages in Iraq have an overwhelming number of non-functional wells.

Coalition Forces have been supporting the local economy, ensuring that essential services such as water are available for humanitarian purposes.

Town Hall Meeting

TAL AFAR, Iraq -- The Sa'ad neighborhood in Tal Afar, Iraq, used to be an insurgent stronghold where no one wanted to go, but now citizens are moving back into their homes.

Coalition forces and Iraqi security forces cleaned up the neighborhood in March by arresting or driving out insurgents.

This was followed by a month of coalition force protection that later transitioned to ISF, including a new police station in the area. The last enemy activity in Sa'ad neighborhood was in April. Displaced residents, mostly Shia, began returning April 28 as town hall officials prepared to address their concerns. The leaders of the neighborhood were notified 48 hours in advance of the meeting and word was spread through ISF.

The goal was to facilitate a meeting of sheiks and family leaders residing in Hai Sa'ad to maintain security and address local civil problems that the residents face on a daily basis.

Local sheiks from around town attended the event as well as local residents. Total attendance was counted at 81 people, about 65 of which were from the neighborhood. Almost all were family and tribe elders. Several issues were raised and discussed such as water for the coming months, jobs and security.

According to coalition forces the meeting ended on a positive note; overall the meeting was a great success and great progress was made in three months. Future meetings may be planned monthly but CF would like to see the meeting run without coalition help.

IED doesn't stop Soldier from Oath of Enlistment

by Spc. Amanda Solitario

Anaconda Times Staff Writer

LSA ANACONDA, Iraq -- While lying in a hospital bed in Balad, awaiting surgery for wounds he received less than six hours earlier, one man decided to continue his duties as a Soldier despite the sacrifices.

Sgt. Robert Krei, a team leader with the 110th Military Police Company from Fort Hood, Texas, swore an Oath of Enlistment on June 29 at the Air Force Theater Hospital while receiving care for injuries caused by an improvised explosive device, his fellow Soldiers said.

Earlier that day, his squad was conducting area security for the northern portion of Camp Ashraf in Iraq, said 1st Sgt. John Challis, first sergeant for the company.

An explosive device, suspected to be a 105mm mortar round, detonated, injuring Krei and four other Soldiers. The remaining members of the squad immediately came to their aid and began to control the bleeding.

"The calmness and immediate actions provided by those Soldiers was encouraging to see, especially in such a bad situation," said Challis.

After the Soldiers were evacuated, Challis and 1st Lt. Gary D. Jones, platoon leader for 2nd platoon, went to Logistical Support Area Anaconda to be with their troops. Upon Challis' arrival, he found Krei waiting for surgery.

"I asked Sgt. Krei how he was doing and he told me he was fine, and that he would be okay. He then asked if there was any way that he could reenlist prior to heading into surgery, and the further evacuation to Germany," Challis said.

Krei's dedication to the military stems from a number of reasons. Before his second deployment, Krei's pregnant wife became sick and delivered their baby girl premature said



Sgt. Robert Krei raises a wounded right arm to take his Oath of Enlistment while 1st Lt. Gary Jones performs the ceremony at the Air Force Theater Hospital in Balad on June 29. Krei was wounded by an improvised explosive device just six hours before the ceremony.

Staff Sgt. Eric S. Reese, squad leader for first squad, second platoon. Krei's wife and daughter spent many months in the hospital under military care.

"He loved his job of training Soldiers and loved being a Soldier," Reese said. "It was the first job he hadn't gotten bored with after a few years, and he felt he owed something to the Army for taking care of his wife and kid."

With Krei in his bed, and other members of the unit gathered around, Jones began the ceremony. Krei took the oath of enlistment once again, promising to defend the United States

of America, Challis said.

"It was an honor to be in the presence of such a dedicated Soldier and noncommissioned officer while he committed the next four years of his life to the United States Army," he said.

The next morning, Sgt. 1st Class Brad J. Burgess, 3rd Corps Support Command retention career counselor, came to the hospital to complete the official reenlistment paperwork before Krei flew to Germany for further medical attention.

He gave Krei some 3rd COSCOM reenlistment shirts, a U.S. Army physical fitness

uniform and a gym bag to take with him, Challis said.

Challis said Krei has repeatedly proven himself by being one of the most dependable and reliable team leaders in the company,

"He is a noncommissioned officer that Soldiers and other noncommissioned officers look to for help, guidance and inspiration," Challis said. "Sgt. Krei has the rare ability to make those who are around him better, both as a Soldier and as person in general. He is well respected by his team and within his squad, platoon and company."



Lt. Col. Russell Livingston, 71st Corps Support Battalion commander, presents an Iraqi army graduate of the battalion's logistics training course with his diploma during the graduation ceremony July 20 at the Q-West MWR Theater.

Training, from Page 1

training mission, "it was purely a concept," said Warrant Officer Dennis Jones, OIC. The 71st Soldiers developed points of instruction, appointed instructors, located interpreters and found the physical space for the training to take place.

The battalion started the program with a two-week pilot training program, teaching Iraqi Army Soldiers to drive medium-sized trucks, said Jones, who is the 53rd Quartermaster Company unit maintenance technician. He called the pilot "a huge success," and said it "set the tone for the rest of the training."

The courses of training varied in length, from six weeks for the maintenance training to three weeks for the power-generation training.

Each section of trainees came up separately to receive the colorful diplomas.

The Soldiers were "all outstanding students who far exceeded my expectations," said Spc. Ricardo Martinez-Paz, armament-training instructor. Martinez-Paz, 317th Maintenance Company small arms repair specialist, said that weapons maintenance is important in the American Army, and that "Iraqis can now keep their warriors fighting."

To prepare to teach the class, Martinez-Paz trained on four different weapons systems, including the AK-47 Kalashnikov rifle and rocket-propelled grenade launcher. He and his fellow instructors taught the Iraqis weapon operations, functions, and how to repair the weapons systems.

Although he did not have familiarity with the weapons before learning them for the training, Martinez-Paz said the material was easy to master.

"Once you know one weapon, you can figure out the rest," said the Dallas, Texas, native.

Many of the instructors spoke warmly to their graduating trainees. Staff Sgt. Peter Martin, 425th Transportation Company, gave a short speech to his trainees as they prepared to receive their diplomas.

The training evolved into a "cultural exchange of ideas, thoughts and lifestyles," said Martin, who taught the drivers training section of the course. He described how the American and Iraqi Soldiers would take breaks to play soccer and kick around a hackey sack during their down time.

"I will be proud to serve alongside these Soldiers in the fight for peace," said Martin.



Spc. Michael Warner checks the settings on a radio within a humvee before a mission to the International Zone from Seitz Annex June 29. Photo by Sgt, Joshua Salmons

“Unless you’re on this team, you can’t see what we’re doing out here. This is a chance to make sure Soldiers get their supplies.” -- Spc. Michael Warner

by Sgt. Joshua Salmons

4th Sustainment Brigade

SEITZ ANNEX, Iraq -- New teams of trained 393rd Corps Support Battalion Soldiers are hitting the road, providing security for supplies moving from 4th Sustainment Brigade yards and staging areas in the Victory Base Complex to camps throughout the Baghdad area.

Specialized convoy escort teams (CETs) made up of Soldiers from companies throughout the battalion are finishing their certification process given by the Special Troops Battalion’s personal security detail.

The three-week training program is designed to introduce the Soldiers to the tactics and procedures they would face on the roads. Subject areas included how to spot and react to improvised explosive devices, how to prop-

erly perform escalation of force doctrine, how to operate the Counter Radio-controlled Electronic Warfare (CREW) devices and how to respond and interact with Iraqis on the road.

“The [Personal Security Detachment] was selected as instructors since they had the most experience on the roads,” said Capt. Anthony DeStefano, assistant STB S3. “They’ve finished most of the instruction and are doing route familiarization with the 393rd now.”

The curriculum wasn’t formal and focused less on classroom instruction and more on getting the Soldiers in the vehicles and on the roads, first with rehearsals and dry runs on the Victory Base Complex, and then to joint missions outside the wire with the PSD.

“We were busy from the get go; there was no loss of time,” said 1st Lt. Ricardo Lizardo-Ortiz, the 393rd CSB S2 operations officer, in charge of overseeing the coordination between

STB and 393rd personnel. “Practice drills on the FOB helped the Soldiers see what they had to do.”

CET troops from the 393rd Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment were chosen before the Puerto Rican National Guard unit came to theater. The remaining personnel required to fill the CETs were selected from the battalion’s subordinate companies, each giving up a percentage of Soldiers to serve on the teams for the remainder of the deployment.

“They’ll just be doing this, not their old jobs,” said Sgt. 1st Class Rex Frazier, the CET NCOIC, originally with the 98th Maintenance Company, based out of Fort Richardson, Alaska.

Responsibility falls to Frazier to prepare Soldiers and equipment to go out. He tries to balance the teams, placing the Soldiers with convoy experience with troops deployed for the first time, he said. “The biggest challenge

is the new Soldiers. We have to develop them on the ground and make sure they learn right the first time.”

For the Soldiers themselves, most see it as a chance to make a tangible difference in the brigade’s mission.

“This is something new,” said Spc. Michael Warner, a radio repair specialist for the CETs, originally with the 98th. “Unless you’re on this team you can’t see what we’re doing out here. This is a chance to make sure Soldiers get their supplies.”

With the completion of several convoys to Camp Taji and other area FOBs, the teams are now certified to provide convoy escorts without the assistance of the PSD, DeStefano said.

“Their actions and reactions to situations on the roads showed that they know what they’re doing.”

USAF Security Forces: defenders of the force

by Maj. Ryan Millay

Operations Officer, 332nd ESFS

On a joint installation like Anaconda and Balad Air Base, the need for a secure operating environment is a must. For the men and women of the 332nd Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron, this is our call to duty.

The flying operations of Balad Air Base have a crucial impact on our nation’s military and civil operations throughout Iraq. Close air support, casualty and medical evacuation and intra-theater airlift all depend on aircraft being able to operate efficiently and securely.

Air Force Security Forces are charged with maintaining the peace and ensuring an orderly flow of vehicle and pedestrian traffic to crucial areas of the base. These areas are not confined to the flight line area, they also include housing areas and critical command and control nodes of the base.

Maintaining and sustaining these posts is a process that goes on 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Air Force Security Forces have assumed an ever-increasing role to support ground operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. It has taken tasks to alleviate the U.S. Army and Marine Corps of convoy security escorts, military working dog support in urban operations, detainee transport operations and

the instruction of Iraqi police and military officers and noncommissioned officers.

To better accomplish this mission, Security Forces have extended their time in the theater to six months after completing one to two months of pre-deployment training with the Army. To alleviate deployment stress, the majority of Security Forces Airmen are in what is known as a “one to one dwell.”

This posture was established by the Air Staff to create some semblance of order in an Airman’s life. Simply put, Security Forces Airmen can expect to be deployed for six months and home for six months before the cycle repeats itself. While at home, Airmen are working 12-hour shifts while maintaining a training schedule that exceeds the rest of the Air Force. This type of action epitomizes the USAF core value of “Service before Self.”

How do the day to day operations of the 332nd ESFS affect the operations of the U.S. Army?

The intent of the Security Forces Operations Flight is to expedite troops to their mission out on the flight line. In the Army, the meaning of a restricted area is not much different than if you ask a bluesuiter. Entry into particular areas is ensured by proper use of a restricted area badge. Security Forces are constantly on alert for fraudulent use or alteration of a badge.

Numerous cases of abuse of restricted area badges have been discovered, most resulting in disciplinary action by an offender’s chain of command. Examples of abuse include mutilated or worn badges. The biggest violations are trading one’s badge in lieu of another’s or refusal to display a badge properly. Security Forces will be checking badges very closely and there are serious penalties for the above abuses.

What are the demographics of a typical deployed Security Forces Squadron?

Unlike our counterparts in the Army or Marine Corps, most Air Force units filling a combat support or combat service support roles are formed of personnel from easily half a dozen bases. For example, the 332nd ESFS is comprised of troops from commands in the Pacific, Europe, the Air National Guard, and other active duty bases from the continental United States.

In addition, some of our Airmen have been set aside to assist the garrison provost marshal in constituting the LSA Anaconda Law and Order Detachment. The mission of the Third Country National Force Protection escorts also falls under the purview of the 332nd ESFS.

This can be particularly challenging when it comes to levels of experience and training. Troop tactics and procedures are usually different and standardization of

equipment is never the same. Spread all of these different characteristics over a motivated squadron of 290 personnel and it makes for a rewarding situation for any major to take charge of. I wouldn’t trade my position in this squadron or the career field for any other.

Suggestions to U.S. Army personnel for use of the Restricted Area Badge:

Have your restricted area badge ready and readable to the sentry when approaching an entry control point. Do not change out badges between soldiers as they are a controlled item. If you observe a worn or faded badge, bring it to the 332nd ESFS Pass and ID office for a new one.

There is someone there every day and we can come to an organization that is going through a TOA to accommodate large groups. The noncommissioned officer in charge of that office is Staff Sgt. Greenwood, who can be reached at DSN 443-8112.

The 332nd ESFS wants to accomplish the mission of securing Balad Air Base in an expeditious manner. Like any other police force in a community, cooperation of the local population is crucial.

The flow of information and clear understanding of procedures is a must. If questions about Security Forces procedures arise, please feel free to contact me at DSN 443-8110.

Miller remembered for his hard work, constant smile

by Spc. Shannon Grauman

Special to the Anaconda Times

Scania, Iraq – Sgt. Kyle R. Miller of Willmar, Minn., was remembered Wednesday, July 5th, at the CSC Scania courtyard as a great friend and Soldier who would always get the job done, no matter the task.

Miller, a Signal Support System Specialist for the 1st Battalion, 125th Field Artillery (Strike), 1st Brigade Combat Team of the 34th Infantry Division, died when a roadside bomb detonated near his vehicle June 29 south of Balad, Iraq.

Capt. Richard Ruppin of Blaine, Minn., commander of the battalion’s Headquarters Battery, said that Miller possessed great expertise with computers and radio equipment.

“His section members considered him a ‘wiz’ with computers and automations equipment, said Ruppin. “He learned things about automation that were beyond his (Military Occupational Specialty) but Kyle was more than just a communications specialist.”

“Kyle had the ability to raise the morale of those around him with his sense of humor and wit,” he said. “His easy going attitude and positive disposition were his tools for morale.”

His fellow squad member, Staff Sgt. Jamison Burgess of Mankato, Minn., told the more than 300 Soldiers at the memorial, “When he walked into the shop his smile would brighten the room,” said Burgess.

“If you ever needed a laugh you just had to ask him what he was thinking about,” he said,” and you could be assured it was something unique.”

Burgess elaborated on Miller’s character



Photo by Spc. Shannon Grauman

Master Sgt. Robert Berggren calls the final roll call for Sgt. Kyle Miller during Miller’s Fallen Soldier Memorial Wednesday, July 5th, at Convoy Support Center Scania, Iraq. Miller died when a roadside bomb detonated near his Humvee June 29 south of Balad, Iraq.

and his effect on people.

“He hated to see others upset,” said Burgess. “If there was something wrong, he was right there trying to cheer you up or he’d put his hand on your shoulder so you’d know he was there for you... Kyle was a great Soldier, a great man and an even better friend.”

The friends he left behind paid tribute to Miller in a special ceremony.

In the center of the stage was a memorial boot stand. On the left were the American and Minnesota flags with the unit colors in the middle and the company guidons on the

right. On the top step was an M-16 rifle with a bayonet attached, placed into the step barrel first with a Kevlar helmet sitting on top of the rifle’s stock. Miller’s dog tags hung from the rifle.

Desert boots with the heels together at a 45 degree angle were resting on a step below his rifle. A small portrait of Miller rested on an easel next to the memorial stand. The photo featured Miller standing with an American flag hanging behind him in the distance.

Soldiers marched to the stand two at a time, turned, faced, and saluted it. Once they

dropped their salute, they turned away from the stand and left the stage, sometimes wiping tears from their eyes.

Several other battalion commanders and command sergeant majors of the 1/34 BCT also left their coins and several Soldiers ripped off their unit patch on their left shoulder and placed it on the stand.

Miller was born on Oct. 15, 1986, in Warren, Minnesota. He graduated from Willmar High School in 2004 with intentions of attending the University of North Dakota to earn a degree in electrical engineering.

Miller enlisted in the Minnesota Army National Guard on Nov. 19, 2003, as a signal support system specialist. He reported for basic training at Fort Benning, Ga., on Jan. 25, 2005. He graduated from his Advanced Individual Training at Fort Gordon, Ga., on Aug. 11, 2005. Upon completion of his training, he was attached to Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 682nd Engineer Battalion based in Willmar, Minnesota.

Miller was transferred to Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 1st Battalion, 125th Field Artillery based in New Ulm on Dec. 1, 2005, to deploy to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom 06-08.

Miller’s awards and decorations include the Bronze Star Medal, Purple Heart, National Defense Service Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Armed Forces Reserve Medal with M-device, Army Service Ribbon, and Combat Action Badge.

He is survived by his mother, Kathy Miller of Bird Island, Minn., his father, Randy Miller of Willmar, Minn., and his sister, Kim Miller.

Download the Anaconda Times at: www.mnf-iraq.com/publications_theater.htm or www.dvidshub.net

Do you have an interesting Soldier story to tell?

Tell your home-town television viewers your positive experiences in Iraq!!!

Want mom, dad, aunts, uncles and your high school graduating class to see you on the local news?

Email us for more details on the latest digital video system allowing deployed forces to tell their story to hometown media outlets -- live.

mark.bell@balad.iraq.centcom.mil

Freedom Radio Frequencies



- 107.7 Baghdad
- 107.9 Sinjar
- 105.1 Mosul, Fallujah
- 107.3 Balad, Kirkurk, Tallil, Ar Ramadi
- 93.3 Q-West, Tikrit, Al Asad
- 107.1 Ridgeway
- 102.5 Camp Taji

LISTEN TO WIN AN EARRADIO IN MAY! COURTESY OF WWW.AMERICASUPPORTSYOU.MIL



Where

by **Spc. Alexandra Hemmerly-Brown**
210th Mobile Public Affairs

TAJI, Iraq -- Ammunition, but don't always get on time. Supplies are traveling faster.

When it used to take three days to get to its destination,

"It was taking not only time from the Central Receiving Shipyard from Ft. Eustis, Va.

The way convoys used to take a lot of orders were ready to go out to fulfill only one order a

"Troops hate coming back

Now supply orders are coming only takes a few days for a convoy to bring back, he said.

"The new system has provided

Pollard also started using ground travel and delivery time

"We eliminated the amount of

The CRSP yard now works in Taji as well.

Sgt. 1st Class Hector Perdomo out of Puerto Rico, said convoys

"Our mission is to provide

Another added benefit is the newest way convoys are a system that are tracked, he said.

The way that the convoys and Pollard added

"They believe



Photo by Spc. Alexandra Hemmerly-Brown

Tires lined up are ready for use on convoys at the CRSP yard. Hundreds of tires are shipped to various locations throughout Iraq.



Photo by Spc. Alexandra Hemmerly-Brown

A pallet of supplies is guided and loaded onto a helicopter early Friday, July 14. Air transport of supplies is being used more now to keep troops off the road.



Sgt. Jose Maldonado on Camp Taji July 18.

Where's my stuff?

Hammerly-Brown
Affairs Detachment

uniforms, and beef jerky are all things we need in war zone. Thanks to a recent change in convoy organization here, supplies are moving from one place to another.

It used to take weeks to one month for a shipment of supplies out of Iraq, but it now usually takes only one week.

"We need the supplies but troops too," said Sgt. 1st Class David W. Pollard, a Senior Point NCOIC of the 155th Cargo Transfer Company.

If supplies are not properly organized, supplies might sit in a shipping yard until they can go to the same location or a big convoy might be sent and come back empty-handed, Pollard said.

"We work empty knowing their lives are on the line," he said.

Supplies are consolidated into small groups by location, so it usually takes a long time for a convoy to go out, and they almost always have a load to

deliver. "It's probably been 95 percent successful," Pollard said.

The more frequent air transport for goods to cut down on ground convoys.

"The amount of Soldiers on convoys," Pollard said.

He works with a three-truck team that delivers supplies on base.

Perez, truck master for the 432nd Transportation Company, says convoys are safer now due to intelligence reports.

"The decisions are based on the info we receive," Perez said.

One added safety measure is convoy tracking, Pollard said. The convoys are being watched and are with tracking tags. The tags are like a label that follows convoys similar to the way postal packages are tracked, he said.

The way supplies are shipped in theatre has totally changed, and he attributes this to the Soldiers for the system's success.

"We're in the system," Pollard said. "That's why it works."



(right) signs for containers to be delivered to on-post customers from the Central Receiving and Shipping Point
Maldonado is a truck commander with the 432nd Transportation Company.

Sgt. Jose Maldonado (right) signs for containers to be delivered to on-post customers from the Central Receiving and Shipping Point on Camp Taji July 18.

USAREUR Voting Assistance webpage and hotline makes it easy to vote

Never voted overseas before? Don't know when to mail your absentee ballot? Wondering if you can vote by fax? Answers are just a click and phone call away with the USAREUR Voting Assistance Webpage and Hotline at: <http://www.1perscom.army.mil/default.asp?strLink=C25>. DSN 379-9712 or commercial 0620-280-9712.

The hotline is available until November 7th to help individuals, as well as unit community Voting Assistance Officers, with voting questions. You can also contact your community voting action hotline. In addition to the webpage and the hotline, personnel can e-mail specific questions to USAREURVote@hq.1perscom.army.mil.

Top 10 ways to ensure you can vote

- (1) Start by contacting your Unit/Embassy/Organization Voting Assistance Officer for help in absentee registration and voting.
- (2) Visit the Federal Voting Assistance Program's website at www.fvap.gov for information on the absentee registration and voting process.
- (3) Ensure that you have applied for your absentee ballot using the hard copy or on-line versions of the FPCA.
- (4) Make sure your local election official has your current mailing address.
- (5) Sign and date all election materials.
- (6) Fulfill your state's witness/notary requirements (if required).
- (7) Ensure that your ballot or FPCA is postmarked.
- (8) Register to vote and request your ballot in a timely manner - not later than September.
- (9) VOTE - mail your ballot not later than October 15th of the election year.
- (10) Use the Federal Write In Absentee Ballot if you are overseas and your State absentee ballot does not arrive in time to be mailed back by the state's deadline.

Voting Action Lines

UNIT	DSN	COMMERCIAL
USAREUR	379-9712	06202-80-9712
IMA- EUROPE	370-9021	06221-57-9021
USAG ANSBACH	468-7736	09881-83-7736
USAG BAMBURG	469-8651	0951-300-7713
USAG BAUMHOLDER	485-6662	06783-6-6662
USAG BENELUX	366-6238	0032-6532-6238
USAG BRUSSELS	368-9697	0032-2717-9697
USAG DARMSTADT	348-6253	06151-69-7730
USAG FRANCONIA	351-4426	0931-296-4426
USAG GARMISCH	421-2959	0711-729-2959
USAG GIESSEN	343-8996	0641-402-8996
USAG GRAFENWOEHR	475-6753	09641-83-6753
USAG HEIDELBERG	373-6800	06221-57-6334
USAG HESSEN	323-3001	06181-180-3001
USAG HOHENFELS	466-1550	09472-83-1550
USAG LIVORNO	633-7018	0039-050-54-7018
USAG KAISERSLAUTERN	489-7199	0631-536-6513
USAG MANNHEIM	385-3411	0621-730-2613
USAG SHINNEN	360-7309	0031-046-443-7320
USAG SCHWEINFURT	354-1770	09721-96-1770
USAG STUTTGART	421-2959	0711-729-2959
USAG VINCENZA	634-7477	0039-0444-71-7477
USAG WIESBADEN	337-7669	0611-705-7068

Questions & Answers

In What Elections May I Vote?

Generally, all U.S. citizens 18 years or older who are or will be residing outside the United States during an election period are eligible to vote absentee in any election for Federal office. In addition, all members of the uniformed services, their family members and members of the Merchant Marine and their family members, who are U.S. citizens, may vote absentee in Federal, state and local elections.

How do I register to vote, or apply for an absentee ballot?

The Federal Post Card Application (FPCA) is accepted by all states and territories as an application for registration and for absentee ballot. The FPCA is postage-paid in the U.S. mail, including the Military Postal System, and State Department Pouch mail. An online version of the FPCA is available at the FVAP website, www.fvap.gov.

Do I have to be registered to vote absentee?

Registration requirements vary from state to state. States and territories allow voters to register and request an absentee ballot by submitting a single FPCA during the election year.

How do I complete the FPCA? Where do I send my FPCA?

Chapter 3 of the guide outlines absentee voting procedures for each state and territory. Complete the FPCA according to the requirements for your state or territory of legal voting residence.

When is the best time to apply for an absentee ballot?

Generally, the FPCA used only to request a ballot should be received by election officials at least 45 days before election day to allow ample time to process the request and mail the ballot. FVAP recommends submitting an FPCA in January of each year.

When should I receive my ballot?

Under normal circumstances, most states and territories begin mailing ballots to citizens 30-45 days before an election. If you have not received your ballot two weeks before the election, contact FVAP's Ombudsman Service. They will assist you in determining the status of your ballot. Always execute and return your absentee ballot regardless of when you receive it.

What is the Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot (FWAB)? UOCAVA voters may be able to use a Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot (FWAB) available through Voting Assistance Officers at military installations or at U.S. embassies/consulates.

THE ABSENT UNIFORMED SERVICES VOTER MUST:

1. Be absent from his/her voting residence;
2. Have applied for a regular ballot early enough so the request is received by the appropriate local election official not later than the State deadline; or the date that is 30 days before the general election; **AND**
3. Have not received the requested regular absentee ballot from the state.

THE CITIZEN OUTSIDE THE UNITED STATES MUST:

1. Be located outside the United States (including APO/FPO addresses);
2. Have applied for a regular ballot early enough so the request is received by the appropriate local election official not later than the State deadline; or the date that is 30 days before the general election; **AND**
3. Have not received the requested regular absentee ballot from the state.

Where is my "legal voting residence?"

For voting purposes, your "legal voting residence" can be the state or territory where you last resided prior to entering military service or the state or territory that you have since claimed as your legal residence. Even though you may no longer maintain formal ties to that residence, the address determines your proper district, ward, precinct or parish for voting purposes. To claim a new legal residence you must have simultaneous physical presence and the intent to return to that location as your primary residence. Military and family members may change their legal residence every time they change permanent duty stations or they may retain their legal residence without change. Family members may have a different legal voting residence from the member. A JAG officer or legal counsel should be consulted before legal residence is changed because there are usually other factors that should be considered besides voting.

My family members are not in the military; can they also vote absentee?

The law entitles eligible family members of military personnel to vote absentee. Family members are considered to be in the same category of absentee voter as military members and generally should follow the same procedures.

Election Dates

This chart lists the 2006 State primary election dates in all the States, Territories, and the District of Columbia; primary runoff dates (if applicable); states with U.S. Senate and Governor races; and the number of U.S. Representative seats up for reelection.

The General Election is Tuesday, November 7, 2006

State	State Primary	State Runoff Primary (if necessary)	GENERAL ELECTION		
			FEDERAL		Governor
			U.S. Senate	U.S. Representative	
Alabama	June 6	June 27	No	7	Yes
Alaska	August 22	—	No	1	Yes
American Samoa	—	November 21	—	1 Delegate	No
Arizona	September 12	—	Yes	8	Yes
Arkansas	May 23	June 13	No	4	Yes
California	June 6	—	Yes	53	Yes
Colorado	August 8	—	No	7	Yes
Connecticut	August 8	—	Yes	5	Yes
Delaware	September 12	—	Yes	1	No
District of Columbia	September 12	—	—	1 Delegate	Mayor
Florida	September 5	—	Yes	25	Yes
Georgia	July 18	August 8	No	13	Yes
Guam	September 2	November 7	—	1 Delegate	Yes
Hawaii	September 23	—	Yes	2	Yes
Idaho	May 23	—	No	2	Yes
Illinois	March 21	—	No	19	Yes
Indiana	May 2	—	Yes	9	No
Iowa	June 6	—	No	5	Yes
Kansas	August 1	—	No	4	Yes
Kentucky	May 16	—	No	6	No
Louisiana	November 7	December 9	No	7	No
Maine	June 13	—	Yes	2	Yes
Maryland	September 12	—	Yes	8	Yes
Massachusetts	September 19	—	Yes	10	Yes
Michigan	August 8	—	Yes	15	Yes
Minnesota	September 12	—	Yes	8	Yes
Mississippi	June 6	June 27	Yes	4	No
Missouri	August 8	—	Yes	9	No
Montana	June 6	—	Yes	1	No
Nebraska	May 9	—	Yes	3	Yes
Nevada	August 15	—	Yes	3	Yes
New Hampshire	September 12	—	No	2	Yes
New Jersey	June 6	—	Yes	13	No
New Mexico	June 6	—	Yes	3	Yes
New York	September 12	—	Yes	29	Yes
North Carolina	May 2	May 30	No	13	No
North Dakota	June 13	—	Yes	1	No
Ohio	May 2	—	Yes	18	Yes
Oklahoma	July 25	August 22	No	5	Yes
Oregon	May 16	—	No	5	Yes
Pennsylvania	May 16	—	Yes	19	Yes
Puerto Rico	—	—	—	—	No
Rhode Island	September 12	—	Yes	2	Yes
South Carolina	June 13	June 27	No	6	Yes
South Dakota	June 6	June 20	No	1	Yes
Tennessee	August 3	—	Yes	9	Yes
Texas	March 7	April 11	Yes	32	Yes
Utah	June 27	—	Yes	3	No
Vermont	September 12	—	Yes	1	Yes
Virginia	June 13	—	Yes	11	No
Virgin Islands	September 11	September 25	—	1 Delegate	Yes
Washington	September 19	—	Yes	9	No
West Virginia	May 9	—	Yes	3	No
Wisconsin	September 12	—	Yes	8	Yes
Wyoming	August 22	—	Yes	1	Yes

This election information is current as of August 2005. Contact your Voting Assistance Officer or check the Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP) website at www.fvap.gov for updates.

Soldier gives credit for success to wife, faith

"I couldn't look my kids in the face, knowing that I was young enough and able enough to serve my country and I didn't."

-- Sgt. Christopher M. Roosevelt said about joining the Army three days after Sept. 11, 2001

LSA ANACONDA -- For Sgt. Christopher M. Roosevelt, action comes in many forms. From wasting no time proposing to his future wife to starting his own church, Roosevelt hasn't hesitated when it counts.

Roosevelt, a chaplain's assistant for 3rd Corps Support Command and a reserve Soldier from Owensville, Mo., joined the Army with his brother just three days after terrorist planes struck the twin towers and the Pentagon in 2001.

"This was something that I had to do; I couldn't look my kids in the face, knowing that I was young enough and able enough to serve my country and I didn't," he said.

Roosevelt was 29 years old when he joined the Army and already had an established career as an assistant pastor in Michigan.

"I joined the Army for one reason, because I wanted to support my president and my country," he said.

He is on his second deployment as a chaplain's assistant. Roosevelt said his first deployment was spent in Arifjan, Kuwait.

Some of his duties here include providing armed protection for chaplains, being a substitute preacher, and supervising morning worship for the 9 a.m. Sunday service at the East Recreation Center.

Roosevelt, who joined the ministry because his father wanted him to be a pastor, is passionate about his praise and worship team here. The team practices every Wednesday to provide music for Sunday's worship service. Roosevelt deflects credit for the band from himself, and gives its members recognition.

"I am the front man for praise and worship, but not the only man," he said. "We are a team, and I'm just the head cheerleader."

As a chaplain's assistant, Roosevelt helps Soldiers with personal issues and also helps them get through their deployment emotionally.

Roosevelt spoke of helping an unidentified Soldier who had a family tragedy. He said the Soldier came to one of his Sunday services and after listening said, "You have no idea how much I needed to hear that."

"If that is the only Soldier I help on this deployment, I'll go home happy," Roosevelt said, although he has counseled many more. He spent much of his first deployment in Kuwait riding convoys with Soldiers just to give them support.

"I was tired of Soldiers saying, 'you don't know what it's like out there,'" he said.

Roosevelt, who is married with four children, gives his wife of 13 years, Christina, credit for much of his success.

"From the very first conversation we had, to the first time I asked her to marry me, it was 21 hours," he said.

Roosevelt's wife has also supported him in his latest plan to start a church from scratch when he returns home. With a Baptist background, he plans to start a non-traditional Baptist church focused on worship.

As an assistant pastor for years, Roosevelt most recently worked at the Union Baptist Temple in Union, Mo. He now wants to pastor his own church, although he was previously content with being an assistant pastor.

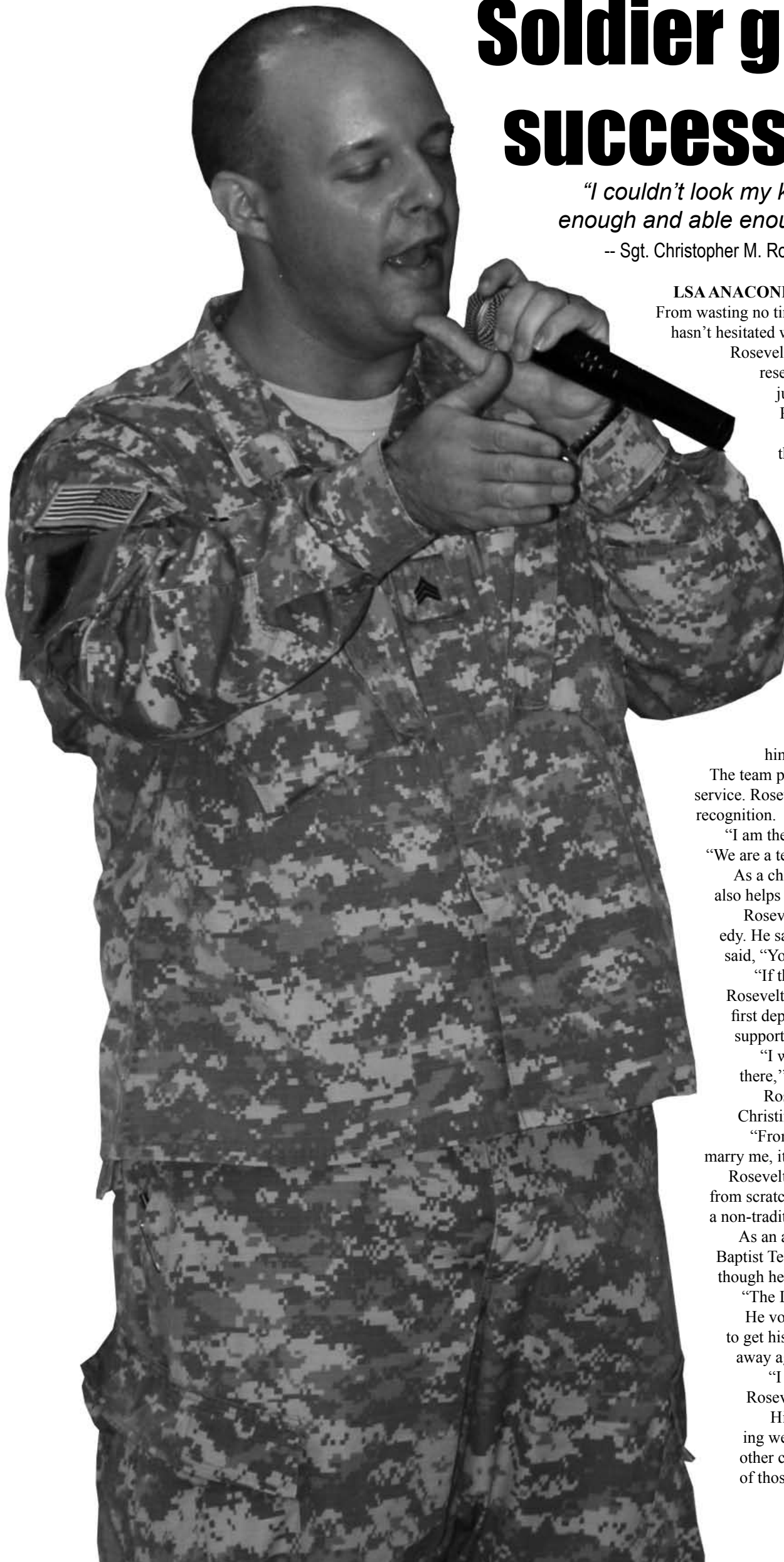
"The Lord has changed my mind," he said.

He volunteered for this second deployment so that he would have time to get his new church up and running without worrying about getting called away again for a while.

"I knew we were coming back [to OIF], it was just a question of when," Roosevelt said.

His new pastoral career might get a jump start, as he has been writing weekly newsletters to his home church, which have been sent to seven other churches in the United States. Roosevelt said he plans to preach at each of those churches upon his return, before starting his own.

by Spc. Alexandra Hemmerly-Brown



Movie Schedule

Sustainer Reel Time Theater

(schedule is subject to change)

July 30

2 p.m. You, Me and Dupree
5 p.m. Mission Impossible 3
8 p.m. Just My Luck

July 31

5 p.m. The Da Vinci Code
8 p.m. You, Me and Dupree

August 1

5 p.m. You, Me and Dupree
8 p.m. RV

August 2

5 p.m. Just My Luck
8 p.m. You, Me and Dupree

August 3

5 p.m. Goal! The Dream Begins
8 p.m. You, Me and Dupree

August 4

2 p.m. The Ant Bully
5 p.m. Mission Impossible 3
8 p.m. The Ant Bully

August 5

11 a.m.. The Ant Bully
2 p.m. Just My Luck
5 p.m. The Ant Bully
8 p.m. Poseidon



Religious Schedule

Roman Catholic Mass

Saturday 5 p.m. Tuskegee Chapel
Saturday 8 p.m. Provider Chapel
Sunday 8:30 a.m. Freedom Chapel
Sunday 9 a.m. Tuskegee Chapel
Sunday 11 a.m. Provider Chapel
Sunday 11 a.m. Air Force Hospital
Monday - Friday 7 p.m. Tuskegee
Sacrament of Reconciliation
30 minutes prior to each mass

Church of Christ

Sunday 2 p.m.. Tuskegee Chapel

Islamic Prayer

Friday 12:30 p.m. Provider Chapel

Samoan Congregational Service

Sunday 4 p.m. Provider Chapel

Latter Day Saints

Sunday 1 p.m. Provider Chapel

Sunday 4 p.m. Freedom Chapel

Sunday 7 p.m. Tuskegee Chapel

Friday Shabbat Service

Friday 7 p.m. Tuskegee Chapel

Eastern Orthodox Prayer Service

Sunday 3:30 p.m. Tuskegee Chapel

Protestant-Gospel

Sunday 10 a.m. Sustainer Indoor Theater

Sunday 11:30 a.m. Freedom Chapel

Sunday 2 p.m. Air Force Hospital Chapel

Sunday 7 p.m. Provider Chapel

Protestant Praise and Worship

Sunday 9 a.m. MWR East Building

Sunday 9 a.m. Eden Chapel

Sunday 7 p.m. Freedom Chapel

Sunday 7:30 p.m. Eden Chapel

Wednesday 7 p.m. Freedom Chapel

Protestant-Contemporary

Sunday 11 a.m. Town Hall

Protestant-Traditional

Sunday 9:30 a.m. Air Force Hospital Chapel

Sunday 9:30 a.m. Provider Chapel

Sunday 10 a.m. Freedom Chapel

Sunday 5 p.m. Tuskegee Chapel

Sunday 7:30 p.m. Air Force Hospital Chapel

Protestant-Praise and Worship

Sunday 9:30 a.m. Sustainer Indoor Theater

Sunday 9:30 a.m. DFAC Four Overflow Room

Sunday 5:30 p.m. Tuskegee Chapel

Non-Denominational

Sunday 9 a.m. Signal Chapel

Non-Denominational Spanish

Sunday 2 p.m. Freedom Chapel

Latter Day Saints

Sunday 1 p.m.. Provider Chapel

Sunday 4 p.m.. Freedom Chapel

Sunday 7 p.m.. Tuskegee Chapel

Religious schedule subject to change

“Dead Man’s Chest” keeps sequel alive

by Sgt. Gary Witte

Anaconda Times Staff Writer

“Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Man’s Chest” doesn’t reach the heights of its predecessor, but it remains goofy, stylish fun.

Instead, “Dead Man’s Chest” is like hanging out with a group of old friends while they’re drunk. They sometimes have a tendency to repeat jokes and may

occasionally get maudlin, but for the most part they’re just enjoying themselves.

The plot involves the interrupted marriage of Will (Orlando Bloom) and Elizabeth (Keira Knightly) and the fact that pirate Captain Jack Sparrow (Johnny Depp) – at some point in the past – made a pact with the seafaring version of Satan. Naturally, Sparrow is having problems weaseling his way out of it.

All this equals a good deal of running about, backstabbing deals and loopy action scenes.

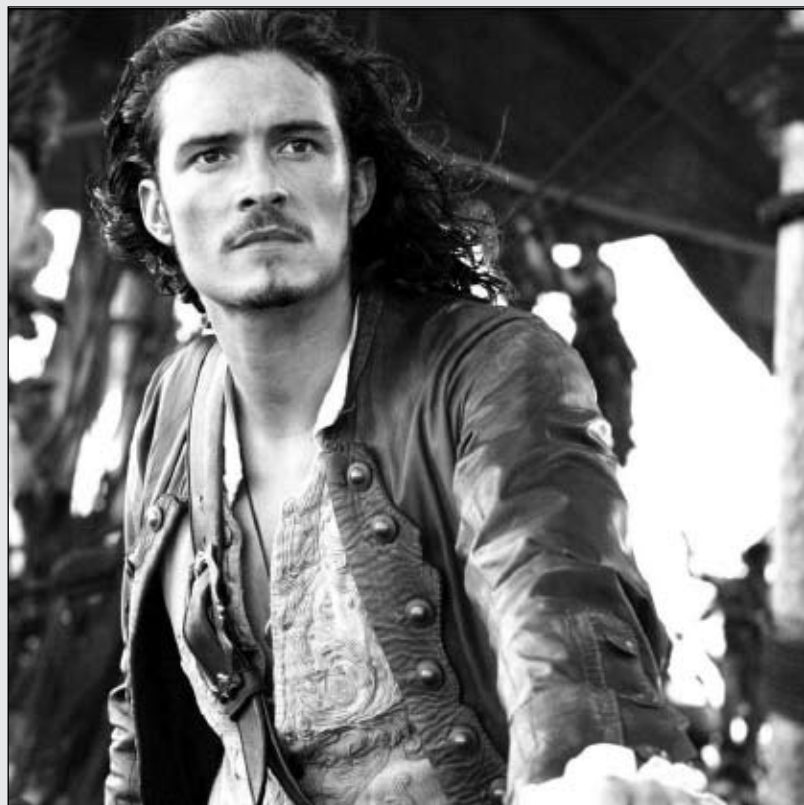
The discussions in the movie about what exactly is going on usually don’t make a lot of sense, but you’ll be just fine if you don’t pay much attention to them.

Even the plot is not above poking fun at itself, although you may not understand most of the in-jokes if you’ve never seen the original.

“Dead Man’s Chest” does a fine job of creating two new hissable villains, including an evil English lord (Tom Hollander) and a monstrous sea captain (Bill Nighy) whose appearance made me rethink my love of calimari.

Some of the fun goes out during points when the movie decides it needs to be serious, particularly as things become dire for our heroes. You should keep in mind, however, that the film is simply the middle chapter for a story expected to wrap up with “Pirates of the Caribbean 3” scheduled to arrive at theatres in May.

In the meantime, I would suggest you put your brain on hold and enjoy this latest voyage offered by Captain Jack and friends on DVD. They’re good company.



Orlando Bloom appears in the Pirates of the Caribbean sequel, “Dead Man’s Chest.” (Photo courtesy of Disney)

July 30

Hip Hop Dance Class
8 p.m.
East Recreation Center

Poker Tournament
6 p.m.
East Recreation Center

July 31

8-Ball Tournament
8 p.m.
East Recreation Center

Karaoke
8 p.m.
East Recreation Center

100m IM and 50m Backstroke Competition
9 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.
Indoor Pool

August 1

Table Tennis Tourney
8 p.m.

ANACONDA ACTIVITIES

Your one-stop connection to activities around LSA Anaconda to add your activity to the event calendar, email mark.bell@balad.iraq.centcom.mil

East Recreation Center

Swing Dance Lessons
8 p.m.
East Recreation Center

Foosball Tournament
8 p.m.
West Recreation Center

Swim Lessons
Level 1 – 8 p.m. (indoor)
Level 2 – 9 a.m. (outdoor)
Level 2 – 7 p.m. (indoor)
Level 3 – 9 a.m. (outdoor)

August 2

9-Ball Tournament
8 p.m.
East Recreation Center

Ballroom Hustle Class
8 p.m.

East Recreation Center

August 3

Country Dance Class
8 p.m.
East Recreation Center

Texas Hold'em Tourney
8 p.m.
East Recreation Center

Halo 2 Tournament
8 p.m.
West Recreation Center

Swim Lessons
Level 1 – 8 p.m. (indoor)
Level 2 – 9 a.m. (outdoor)
Level 2 – 7 p.m. (indoor)
Level 3 – 9 a.m. (outdoor)

August 4

Chess Tournament
8 p.m.
East Recreation Center

Caribbean Class
8 p.m.
East Recreation Center

Salsa Class
8 p.m.
West Recreation Center

25m Doggy Paddle/ 25 meter beginner swim
7:30 p.m.
Indoor Pool

August 5

Salsa Class
8 p.m.
East Recreation Center

August 6

Texas Hold'em Tourney
8 p.m.
West Recreation Center

Country Dance Class
8 p.m.
West Recreation Center

500m Breaststroke
9 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.
Indoor Pool

August 7

Hip Hop Dance Class
8 p.m.
East Recreation Center

Poker Tournament
6 p.m.
East Recreation Center

Magic Tournament
1 p.m.
West Recreation Center

BEAT the HEAT
End of Summer

TALENT SHOW

Tuesday

August 29, 2006

@ 2000

EAST RECREATION CENTER

You may sign up in the office at the East Recreation Center beginning July 26 through August 22. Don't wait, space is limited.



COSCOM Soldier takes body building to new level

LSA ANACONDA, Iraq — It is more than flexing your muscles for the crowd. It goes deeper than dieting. For those who participate in the sport, it is a way of life.

Bodybuilding requires long-term dedication and self-control. In order to do well in the competitions, you have to focus your efforts in other aspects of your life, said Maj. Patrick B. Howard, the deputy civil affairs officer for 3rd Corps Support Command.

"I want to be disciplined," he said. "I like setting goals, and I like challenging myself. This discipline permeates throughout other areas of my life. It's a lifestyle."

As a devoted participant in the sport, Howard has to map out his entire day. He needs to find time to exercise in between his work schedule. He cannot go through the day haphazardly wondering what to eat, so Howard plans all his meals ahead of time.

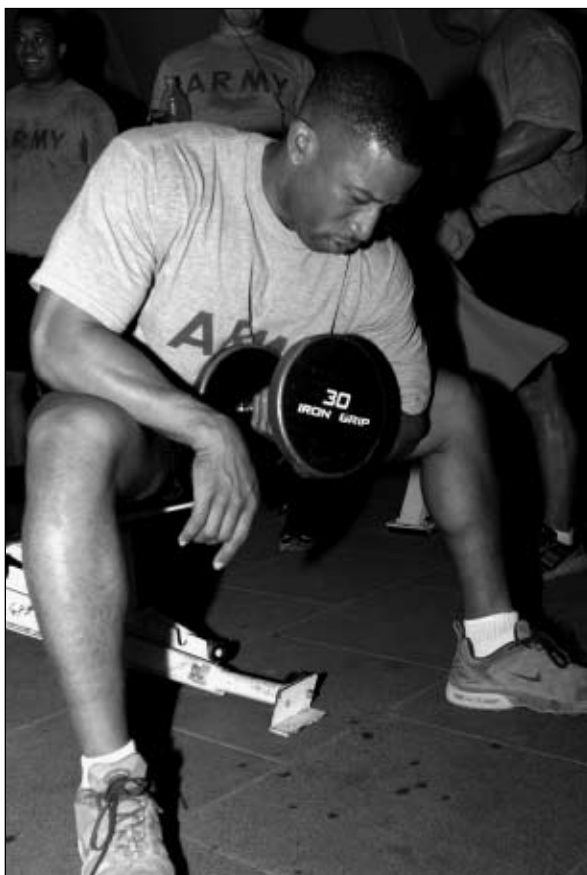


Photo by Spc. Amanda Solitario
Maj. Patrick B. Howard, the deputy civil affairs officer for 3rd Corps Support Command, takes time out of his daily schedule to lift weights.

Bodybuilding has helped Howard get into the mentality of getting on schedule and sticking to a regimented way of living.

"This part of my life helps all other parts fall into place," he said. "You have to organize yourself and think about things in an organized fashion."

Although Howard kept himself in good shape most of his life, about 10 years ago, he realized he met most of his strength goals. Howard said he wanted a bigger physical challenge for his body.

He saw a poster in a local fitness center in Virginia and thought he would try it out. Howard lost the competition, but took a lot away from the experience. He received great advice, built relationships, and has been hooked ever since, he said.

"Bodybuilding is a sport," Howard said. "I like the competition. I like being on the edge. It's quite a rush."

Since that time, this Youngstown, Ohio native has learned about the sport by reading magazines and listening to experienced bodybuilders. He has performed in 15 amateur shows and is able to share his knowledge with others.

"Maj. Howard is the kind of person that would see you doing something wrong in the gym and be able to instruct you on the best way to perform the exercise, as well as give you pointers on other options for the muscle group," said Sgt. 1st Class Patrick Stanton, equipment readiness division operations sergeant for the 19th Support Center and Howard's workout partner.

Exercising is a huge element leading up to a competition. It builds the muscles and creates the stamina needed to hold the poses, said Howard. Despite its importance, he said there are always days that are harder than the rest.

"Fortunately, during this deploy-

ment, I have a workout partner," Howard said. "I know he is there counting on me to show up, and I don't want to let him down."

Howard and Stanton are grateful to have each other for support on those mornings they do not feel like getting out of bed, Stanton said. When they get to the gym, they push each other by saying, "Come on, let's get big."

"On days when neither of us wanted to be in the gym at three in the morning, he managed to find a way to get us through the workouts," said Stanton.

For Howard, it is imperative to stick to the routine. If he misses a workout session, he knows he will not feel quite right the rest of the day.

After weeks of dieting and countless hours at the gym, it all comes down to competition day. It is a little nerve wracking, admits Howard. He finds himself backstage, sizing up the competition, wondering if he ate the wrong thing the night before, or how the lighting is going to make him look.

At the same time, Howard gets excited to be on stage performing for the crowd. He is able to show off his style and creativity while accentuating different parts of the body. "It is a sport and an art form," he said.

When the curtain closes and the results are tallied, Howard normally ends the day by in-

dulging in some of his favorite treats.

"At home, I usually try to find the nearest IHOP for pancakes and an omelet or a Blizzard from Dairy Queen," said Howard. "You know, after crunch week, you have to do a little celebrating."

Even though he is deployed and not able to compete as often as he would back home, he finds it a little easier to work out. With plenty of free time and less distractions here compared to home, Howard said, it is actually easier to workout while deployed.

On the other hand, he has to pay particular attention to what he eats. The key is to eat in moderation and plan accordingly.

"You have Baskin-Robbins at your disposal every day so you can potentially gain weight here," Howard said.

With his deployment coming to a close, Howard will be going home to his wife, Angela, and son, Hunter. He will fall back into his job as director of development for a housing authority in Ohio. One thing is certain; he has no plans of giving up bodybuilding.

"Your body is a temple, so you have to treat it right."

by Spc. Amanda Solitario

What's going on around Anaconda

Annual talent show kicks off Aug. 25

Get your dance shoes ready, clear your throat, and get your "yo' mama" jokes dusted off for the Beat the Heat End of Summer Talent Show.

The event will be held Friday, Aug. 25, at the Morale, Welfare, and East Recreation Center here and will take place in the lounge, said Hoku Bradley, coordinator of the show.

Bradley said that each of three competition categories will have a winner: dance, comedy, and vocalist.

The overall winner will be picked based on performance, audience participation, and other criteria the judges feel are important, Bradley said.

"There will be three judges: one servicemem-

ber, one civilian, and the last judge will be picked randomly from the crowd just before the show begins," she said. "This will help create a fair judging system for all contestants."

The winner of each category will receive a trophy and a prize not yet determined. In addition, the top vocalist will receive a special prize from Lifetyme Productions here, Bradley said.

"We want the units that are preparing to re-deploy to leave with something they can remember," she said. "And during this transition, with Soldiers leaving and others coming into Iraq, we want them to know there are all kinds of events going on at Logistical Support Area Anaconda."

Sign up now for Relay for Life

The fight against cancer has made it to Logistical Support Area Anaconda and all servicemembers are invited to participate in next month's Relay For Life.

The overnight event, designed to raise money for research through the American Cancer Society, is scheduled to begin at 9 p.m. Aug. 18 and end at 9 a.m. the following day.

Captains of each team can register any time before Aug. 18 and everyone is encouraged to donate even if you do not participate.

Relay For Life represents the hope that those lost to cancer will never be forgotten, those who are affected by cancer will be supported, and that one day cancer will be eliminated.

T-shirts for the event are \$10 per participant, with all the money going towards the LSA Anaconda Relay For Life fund.

For more information contact 1st Lt. Carolina Castle at carolina.castle@balad.iraq.centcom.mil.



Members of the Radical Praise Dance Ministry ended their performance with music by Kirk Franklin's "Now Behold the Lamb" at Logistical Support Area Anaconda's Morale, Welfare, and Recreation center Westside on July 16.

A Summer's Night of Joy

story and photos by
SpC. KaRonda Fleming

Joy

An evening of joy through melodies and song filled the Morale, Welfare, and Recreation Center west on July 16 as servicemembers fellowshiped together.

The concert was hosted by the Logistical Support Area Anaconda Mass Choir. The Sustainer Tabernacle Radical Praise Dancers also performed selections through mime, using facial expressions and emotions with dance to illustrate the lyrics of the songs that played.

The dancers accompanied some songs, including Kirk Franklin's Now Behold the Lamb.

But I'm standing here, In the midst of my tears

Lord, I claim you to be the Lamb of God ...

Thank you for the Lamb, the precious Lamb of God

Because of Your grace I can finish this race

Following the selection, the audience stood to their feet. Cheering, clapping, and praises filled the room.

"This will impact their lives not only here, but when they get back home," said Maj. Kevin L. McGhee, Head Chaplain of LSA Anaconda, 35th Area Support Group, a National Guard unit out of Lexington, Mo.

"It is important for servicemembers to attend these functions. This is a means by which people have the ability to cope with certain stressful situations," he said. "This is a relief for them. It is a haven to get away from the craziness of the deployment, especially after going outside of the wire."

The choir formed in May with approximately 75 members, said Sgt. 1st Class William S. Mills, choir director, a reservist from Brevard, N.C., here with the 400th Quartermaster unit out of Lexington, Ky. He said there are about 83 members now.

"I think that everybody can have their spirits lifted by coming to a concert or coming to a worship service," McGhee said.

Following the concert, McGhee allowed everyone to manifest their love for the Lord. Some asked for prayer and rededicated their lives to God. There are 25 different worship services offered for eight different denominations on Sundays throughout LSA Anaconda.

"The choir does make an impact here, along with the

various worship services offered. I am a pastor on the east side, and these services allow servicemembers to experience the same thing," McGhee said.

Mills said the choir practices at either Provider Chapel or at Freedom Chapel on Friday each week.

"I have been here since September, and this is the third concert since then," McGhee said. "We have had 'The Original Night of Joy,' 'A Christmas Night of Joy,' and now, 'A Summer's Night of Joy Concerts.'"



Spc. Bennie Johnson, from Charlotte, N.C., a National Guard soldier with B Battery 5-113 Field Artillery out of Winston-Salem, NC., is a keyboardist for the Logistical Support Area Anaconda Mass Choir.



The Logistical Support Area Anaconda Mass Choir sings the praises unto the Lord at "A Summer's Night of Joy" concert at the Eastside Morale, Welfare, and Recreation center July 23.