


HOOP DREAMS

Free Agents pull out last-minute basketball championship game
Page 15



Used books come to life

STATESIDE ORGANIZATIONS DONATE BOOKS TO IRAQI LIBRARY
Page 10

Vol. 3, Issue 29

ANACONDA TIMES

JULY 23, 2006

PROUDLY SERVING LSA ANACONDA

19th SC >>

NEWS >> VOICE FROM THE TOP

Rumsfeld quiet on prediction for 2006 Army/Navy game

“As someone once said, I’m plucky, but I am not stupid. I’m not going to answer that one.” - Page 5

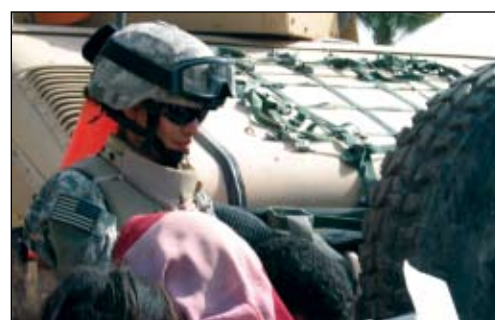


Photo by Sgt. Kevin McSwain
Spc. Melissa Esparza-Mathis interacts with a group of Iraqi children during a mission in northern Iraq. Esparza-Mathis speaks four different languages, including Farsi.

Soldier spends free time educating peers

by Sgt. Kevin McSwain

Anaconda Times Staff Writer

LSA ANACONDA, Iraq -- Her mother spoke nine different languages. She knows three and is learning her fourth.

Spc. Melissa Esparza-Mathis, who works as a supply clerk for the 19th Support Center, 3rd Corps Support Command, said her 9-year-old sons have already learned five languages.

“They speak German, Farsi, Spanish, English and Arabic ... I want my children to be better than me,” she said. “You make yourself an asset by learning all you can and teaching others.”

When she isn’t working as a supply clerk, Esparza-Mathis is a translator and language teacher for servicemembers at Logistical Support Area Anaconda. She teaches Farsi, which is the language spoken in Iraq, as well as psychology, at the Education Center here.

Her first language is Spanish and she learned English after starting school. She is now learning Arabic.

see Peers, Page 11



photo by Spc. Amanda Solitario
Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld enjoys a few laughs with more than 600 Soldiers, airmen, and sailors during a recent visit to LSA Anaconda.

“I am a Warrior and a member of a team”

I am Spc. Somphone Sihavong, from Manteca, Calif.
525th Movement Control Transport >> China Grove, N.C.



Operation Warrior Trainer lets Soldiers train Soldiers

by Staff Sgt. Lesley Newport

Atterbury Crier Staff

EDINBURGH, Ind. - Within the past three years, 30,000 Soldiers have been trained at and deployed from Camp Atterbury, Ind.

According to Command Sgt. Major James Howell of Third Brigade, 85th Division (Training Support), the Army has learned a lot.

"We believe Theater Immersion training is the key to our success," said Howell. "Our goal is to provide an environment that puts the Soldier in-country before he gets there.

Theater Immersion involves training Soldiers in an environment that, as closely as possible, replicates the area to which they will deploy.

Units occupy the Forward Operating Base, an austere simulated training area modeled on operating facilities overseas.

Scores of civilian contractors, many of Middle Eastern descent, engage units in an ever-evolving list of realistic training scenarios.

Units receive up to 30 Improvised Explosive Device attacks on the Ground Assault Course and Convoy Situational Training Exercise range.

As training facilities and exercises have evolved, so too has the face of the typical trainer. The number of trainers who have themselves been deployed in the last several years has risen dramatically, and the value they add to the training is being felt in operation theaters thousands of miles away.

In an effort to make a good thing better, First Army at Fort Gillem, Ga., has initiated Operation Warrior Trainer, an official program to enlist qualified returning citizen Soldiers as instructors for the remainder of their active service.

Staff Sgt. Julio Reyes is an Observer Controller for 2/338 Battalion, a U.S. Army Reserve training unit. He follows the progress of deploying Soldiers as they train their way to validation, a designation that declares units

ready for deployment.

As Reyes recently held a class tasked with crafting an operations order to respond with humanitarian aid to a simulated earthquake, he emphasized the need for Soldiers to practice an appropriate degree of tolerance while dealing with local leaders and authorities.

"I can't overemphasize the value of patience," said Reyes, especially when dealing with national security forces. "A lot of them are not trained to our standard yet, but that's the goal, to give them that confidence so they can take over."

"We must have an understanding of the people that we are expected to support as well as an understanding of our common enemy. The Theater-Immersion training gave us that edge."

-Lt. Col. Tim Lavery

Reyes, a native of Chicago, Illinois, spent most of 2005 as an Embedded Team Trainer with an Iraqi Special Forces unit based in Mosul, Iraq. As the lone American Soldier, Reyes spent most of his time mentoring the Iraqis in combat operations and security measures.

The number of missions Iraqi forces have led and executed has dramatically increased in the last year, among them the first successful hostage rescue by the Special Forces group under Reyes' leadership.

"They are more than capable of doing their job," said Reyes as he recounted a story of how his unit was eventually confident enough to take the lead and even coach him on their increasingly sophisticated tactics.

Reyes is using the same philosophy with the American Soldiers he is training now. But he cautions that his store of knowledge will eventually become less relevant.

"This is current events I'm teaching," said Reyes. "That's why Operation Warrior Trainer can be so effective. It should be an ongoing process, bring (deployed Soldiers) back here and let them be trainers at Camp Atterbury."

Sgt. 1st Class Rian Bass reported to Camp Atterbury under the Operation Warrior Training program. Third Brigade is drawing on his experience as a combat logistics patrol commander, a frontline operator in the extensive logistic supply system throughout Iraq.

Bass, a U.S. Army Reserve Soldier, was

transferred and deployed with the 180th Transportation Company for year-long deployment. His original unit, 6/100th Transportation Training Battalion made him a prime candidate for Warrior Trainer.

Bass describes deploying Soldiers as having a training mindset.

"A majority of [Soldiers] have been deployed, recently completed Independent Ready Reserve refresher training or are coming straight from basic and advanced individual training schools," said Bass. "They are eager and they want to know to what to expect, what they are going to see."

Bass is more interested in what they are going to do, and he has some fairly strong opinions on what that should be. "So many of our casualties and injuries are preventable," he said. "If I can make the difference of saving just one life by being here, then it's worth it."

Soldiers interested in becoming Warrior Trainers must have their unit contact their mobilization station. A Soldier's military occupational skill must be in demand at the initial mobilization station (e.g. if you mobilized at Camp Shelby, Miss. and were accepted into the Operation Warrior Trainer program, you

would be an OWT at Camp Shelby). The final determination will be based on the needs of individual Training Support Brigade commanders. Soldier's eligible for the program must be:

Non-commissioned officers ranks Staff Sergeant through Master Sergeant (Sergeants who have completed the Basic Non-commissioned Officers Course are also eligible).

Chief Warrant Officer One through Chief Warrant Officer Three.

Lieutenants, who have attended the Officer Basic Course, through Major.

Soldiers may apply while in theater in Iraq, Afghanistan or in support of Operation Noble Eagle. Soldiers who have been released from active duty (REFRAD) have 60 days to apply after returning from theater.

All information, including the submission packet, is available on the internet at the First U.S. Army website: www.first.army.mil. From the menu on the left, choose First Army Portal>G3/5/7 Ops>shared docs. (Note that if you do not already have a user name and password, you will have to request one before getting access to the site.) Scroll down to RC_Extension_Documents and open the file. The Warrior Training packet is titled OWT.



Photo by Spc. George Welcome

Pvt. Jon Anderson, A Company, 2/136th Combined Arms Battalion, assumes a defensive position after a simulated ambush on his unit during theater immersion training at Mobilization Camp Shelby, Miss. First Army assumed responsibility for training and mobilization of all reserve-component units in the continental United States and two territories.

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

ANACONDA TIMES

Anaconda Times is authorized for publication by the 3rd COSCOM for the LSA Anaconda community. The contents of the *Anaconda Times* are unofficial and are not to be considered the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, including the Department of Defense or Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Anaconda Times is a command information newspaper in accordance with Army Regulation 360-1.

Anaconda Times is published weekly by the *Stars*

and *Stripes* central office, with a circulation of 5,000 papers.

The Public Affairs Office is on New Jersey Ave. in building 4136, DSN 318-829-1234. *Anaconda Times*, HHC 3rd COSCOM, APO AE 09391. Web site at www.mnf-iraq.com/publications_theater.htm

Contact Sgt. 1st Class Mark Bell at mark.bell@balad.iraq.centcom.mil

3rd COSCOM Commanding General
Brig. Gen. Rebecca S. Halstead

Chief of the Anaconda Consolidated Press Center
Lt. Col. Brian McNerney

Deputy Public Affairs Officer
210th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment Commander
Maj. Kirk Slaughter

Editor
Sgt. 1st Class Mark Bell

Copy Editor
Sgt. Gary Witte

Staff Writers
Sgt. Judith DaCosta
Sgt. Kevin McSwain
Spc. Mary Ferguson
Spc. David Chapman
Spc. Alexandra Hemmerly-Brown
Spc. KaRonda Fleming
Spc. Amanda Solitario

History Channel, Third Army tell Soldiers' stories

by Spc. Tanya Van Buskirk

Third Army Public Affairs Office

ATLANTA – Producers from The History Channel's "Mail Call," a one-hour weekly show highlighting military history and events, arrived to an enthusiastic reception at Third Army's Digital Video and Imagery Distribution hub in Atlanta, Ga., last week.

The television series is filming its 100th episode on the DVIDS mission and how Third Army Public Affairs tells servicemembers' stories around the world through DVIDS and satellite technology.

"Third Army's DVIDS and 'Mail Call' are trying to do the same job," said R. Lee Erme, host of "Mail Call."

DVIDS has provided Erme and his team numerous video clips produced by military journalists capturing Soldiers' hard work in Iraq, Afghanistan, Kuwait, and Qatar. Video and photos arrive at the DVIDS hub in Atlanta via satellite technology. Once there, products are marketed to news outlets by a team of media relations specialists.

Both DVIDS and "Mail Call" present constructive views of the war to the American people, said Erme, who has firsthand knowledge of the importance of balanced reporting.

The former Marine staff sergeant served 11 years on active duty, with one tour in Vietnam and two years as a drill instructor. Erme is also a Golden Globe nominee, and Boston Society of Film Critics award winner for best supporting actor in director Stanley Kubrick's "Full Metal Jacket."

But "Mail Call" is no Hollywood production.



R. Lee Erme, "Mail Call" host, former Marine and award-winning actor visited Third Army's Digital Video and Imagery Distribution hub in Atlanta June 30. Erme was in Atlanta filming the 100th episode of the History Channel's "Mail Call" program, which will highlight DVIDS' contribution to telling service member's stories.

"Our show is not a fictitious story," said Erme. "It is based on realistic situations that people can learn from."

"We at 'Mail Call' want to feel as though we are part of the military," said Erme. "We want people to know how squared away, honorable, and respectable the military is, and that modern technology is available to help them get the job done."

The show seems to be making the desired impact on the viewers. Erme said he has learned from military recruiters that enlist-

ment is up because of "Mail Call." And for the first time ever, 14-year-olds are walking into recruiters' offices to ask how they can prepare to join the military when they turn 18.

More information, videos, and photos need to be made available to the media, said Erme. "And that is what DVIDS is here to do."

Third Army and other military units use DVIDS to engage the public through mass media and to keep them informed about what is happening around the world in the fight against terrorism.

"We are excited and think it's an interesting idea that they would use DVIDS as a narrative framework," said Lt. Col. William Beckman, DVIDS director of operations.

Six vignettes from across Iraq will be rolled into a one-hour program to highlight "some of the great things the Soldiers and Marines are doing, and how Third Army is supporting the war on terror," Beckman said.

The 100th episode featuring DVIDS will air on The History Channel in early fall. For air times, check www.historychannel.com.

'Mama' ready to deploy like her children

by Spc. Eliamar Trapp

Third Army Public Affairs Office

REDSTONE ARSENAL, Ala. – Having volunteered with the Red Cross, Cindra Smith knew there was something wrong when she arrived home from work late one night and had a message from the organization on her machine.

"When I called them back I was told to wait by the phone and expect a call," she said. "When I got the phone call they said my daughter had been shot in the back during an improvised explosive device attack in Iraq."

Pvt. Tracy Branton, Smith's oldest daughter, was a heavy wheel mechanic on a convoy in Iraq when it was hit by IEDs. When Branton and her fellow Soldiers got out of the vehicles to inspect the area, she was shot in the back. Now 21, Branton is 70 percent disabled and has a slight paralysis because of the injuries caused by the shooting.

"I remember being angry," Smith said. "As parents, we always try and look for someone to blame. But knowing that she was doing something she believed in, and wanted to do, helped me get over that."

After Branton was injured, Smith's 20-year-old son, James Pritchard, decided to join the Army to become an infantryman. He attended basic and advanced individual training at Fort Benning, Ga., and is serving in Iraq with the 1st Infantry Division.

When the Army raised its acceptance age from 35 to 40 and then to 42, Smith made a life-changing move. Two weeks away from her 40th birthday, she is now known as Pfc. Cindra Smith, a Soldier in C Company, 832nd Ordnance Battalion, 59th Ordnance Brigade, where she is attending advanced individual training to become an explosive ordnance disposal specialist.

"If I can save another parent from getting the same phone call I did, then I would have done everything I came in to do," Smith said.

Smith said joining the Army has given her a better understanding of what her children have been through. Her journey through initial entry training, however, was harder than it is for most. While attempting to rappel off Victory Tower, a 65-foot obstacle, Smith fell and fractured her hip in five places.

"I only missed one training event after I fell," she said. "I completed all the road marches and ran with my company for physical training. I might not have been the first one in, but I finished all the company runs."

But the biggest obstacle Smith faced was an emotional one – after fighting cancer for more than two years, Smith's mother died.

"I had been taking care of my mother for more than two years before I came into the Army," Smith said. "When the time came for me to join, my mother and I had a long conversation and she supported my decision. We made the agreement that I would not be called if she passed away while I was in basic, so my training would not be interrupted."

Smith learned about her mother's death during a call home a week and a half afterward.

"You aren't guaranteed anything in life," she said. "So if you have the opportunity to do something you like and believe in, then go for it."

As the oldest Soldier at C Co., Smith has received the nickname "Mama" from her fellow Soldiers. Smith said she doesn't mind after having been called "Grandma" at basic training.

"She is a mother to everyone around here," said Pfc. Kim Schoonover, C Company. "She gives us advice when we need it and she scolds us when we're doing something wrong. If we're messing around in formation she'll tell us to straighten out, and everyone listens to her because she's older and because we know she's right."

Smith's determination to succeed in the military in the midst of all that has happened in her life and the lives of her children has drawn respect and inspiration from many who have met her.



Pfc. Cindra Smith of C Company clears her weapon before entering the barracks after physical training. She joined the Army to become an EOD specialist after her daughter was injured in Iraq during an IED attack.

Saving Samarra...

Local Iraqi leader moves forward without family, friends to make positive changes in his community

by Staff Sgt. Nikki Prodromos

133rd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

SAMARRA, Iraq - One man is trying to improve every aspect of life for the people of Samarra, no matter what the personal sacrifice.

Samarra's City Council President, Asaad Ali Yaseen, has taken a holistic approach to healing his hometown. The 53-year-old businessman has become a viable link between Coalition Forces, Iraqi Security Forces, local and provincial governments, and his constituents by serving in the local leadership position and providing goods and services to the town -- at his own expense.

"I have a big heart... I'm almost like a bank for the city," said Yaseen. "I try to provide them with whatever they need."

His contributions to this predominately Sunni city read like a laundry-list. When Samarra's hospital needed climate control and ambulance repairs, Yaseen paid for them.

With monies earned from construction and imports, Yaseen has been able to publish a local newspaper: the first post-Saddam era publication the city has seen.

The list doesn't stop there. In an era when traveling in Iraq means taking your life into your own hands, Yaseen has

made multiple trips to the Sulaymaniyah province in northern Iraq, attempting to establish a city welfare system.

He also makes regular trips to Tikrit to work with the provincial council, ensuring Samarra receives funding for slated reconstruction projects like upgrades to the city's water, sewage, and electric systems.

As part of his plan to give the urban youth an alternative to the violence in the streets, the legislator plans to sponsor 3,000 children by providing them with soccer balls, uniforms, and shoes.

Teams will compete on one of 20 soccer fields he plans to construct, fields that his own family won't be able to enjoy—at least not yet.

"I had to send my wife and children away," explained Yaseen, "There were just too many death threats and assassination attempts."

He said his family will return to Iraq when he feels they are free from danger.

Yaseen is often the target of slanderous graffiti, death threats, and assassination attempts.

None of these factors seem to deter the city council president. He says he will continue forging ahead with the 12 main projects coalition forces are helping complete, as well as planning new opportunities for economic growth.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Nikki Prodromos

Asaad Ali Yaseen, Samarra, Iraq's city council president, greets Maj. Steven L. Delvaux, Executive Officer, 3rd Battalion, 187th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division, outside the President's downtown home.

Operation Helping Hands Brings Gifts to Children

by SGT Rachel A. Brune

101st Airborne Division PAO

DAHUK, Iraq - Soldiers from across the 142nd Corps Support Battalion brought smiles and toys to children in one of Iraq's northernmost provinces during a humanitarian assistance drop here.

"The 142nd enjoys this just as much as the kids enjoy it," said Lt. Col. Ronald Green, battalion commander. "This will stay in the minds and hearts of my Soldiers."

Soldiers handed out Beanie Babies, sports uniforms, soccer balls, teddy bears and candy, donated by a variety of American organizations, said Capt. John Smith, battalion chaplain.

Lake Zurich High School, in Lake Zurich, Ill., sent the school uniforms, as well as "boxes and boxes" of teddy bears, Smith said.

Green's mother coordinated with a Dayton, Ohio, radio station in a charity drive which netted more than 4,000 Beanie Babies for Iraqi children.

In the town, the Soldiers dismounted from their vehicles holding plastic bags full of toys. As the children caught sight of the items, they quickly began to gather in the courtyard of the school building.

Two lines of neatly-dressed girls sang a song with clapping motions for the Soldiers, as the mayor of the town presented Green with a Kurdish flag.

After the preliminary ceremonies were over, the Soldiers lined up to hand out the toys. The children came on in a rush, hoping for one of the soccer balls, or perhaps a certain Beanie Baby or teddy bear.

Each child was to receive one toy. After receiving his or her Beanie Baby or other item, the Soldiers marked the child's left hand with a smiley face.

Once all the gifts were given out, the Soldiers snapped a few last photos, said their last goodbyes and headed back to vehicles.

"I believe we've made an impression on this village," Green said "I think we were able to do a great thing."



Photo by Sgt. Rachel Brune

Maj. Richard Lazik, battalion support operations OIC, 142nd Corps Support Battalion, hands a piece of candy to a child during a humanitarian assistance drop in northern Iraq June 21.

Coalition force helps community build water treatment facility and pave roads

by Spc. Michael Pfaff

133rd MPAD

BAQUBAH, Iraq - A groundbreaking ceremony was held today marking the beginnings of several construction projects in the village of Mukhisa on the outskirts of Baqubah.

Teaming up with local Iraqi leadership, coalition forces have started to build a water treatment facility, pave many of the roads in the village and refurbish a soccer field.

"Today was a chance to reward a community that is friendly to coalition forces," said Maj. Patrick Creed, a Havertown, Pa., native and civil affairs team leader with B Company, 404th Civil Affairs Battalion, attached to the 1-68 Combined Arms Battalion, 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, Task Force Band of Brothers.

"We've often neglected the quiet villages, focusing our attention on the more violent regions for obvious reasons," he said. "This particular town has been cooperating with coalition forces, and this is our way of showing gratitude."

Originally reported as a problem area, where tribal disputes were allegedly escalating, the region was billed as "the next Fallujah." Rather than storming the village and kicking in doors, Lt. Col. Thomas Fisher, commander of the 1-68 CAB, decided to take another approach.

"We moved into the neighborhood," Fisher, a Sioux Falls, S.D., native said. "For two months we lived in the area and found that our neighbors were mostly just God-fearing farmers -- regular people."

Soldiers from the 1-68 moved into a house on the outskirts of the village, reinforced it as a secure base of operations, and essentially lived with the people of Mukhisa for two months.

While living in the area among the people, the Soldiers built a relationship with the community. At one point, when a man tried to throw a grenade into the complex, citizens from the community tackled the man and stopped him.

"We got to know them, and they got to know us," Fisher said. "Now they don't hate Americans."

The community began to work with coalition forces, and as repayment for the community's continuing efforts, the construction efforts have been started.

The largest project, expected to take four months to complete, is the water treatment facility. Creed explained that a water treatment facility was the most requested proposition for construction by local sheiks and leaders.

"We listen to what the Iraqi people want," Creed explained. "Something like 70 percent of illnesses in Iraq are caused by dirty, polluted water."

The water treatment facility is intended to lower health problems in the area and provide drinking water for the population.

The next project will be the paving of many of the roads in the villages.

"Paving the roads has two purposes," Creed said. "It allows commerce to flow freely into and out of the community, and it also makes it harder to hide improvised explosive devices on the roads."

The last project, while seemingly innocuous, has specific intentions.

"While a soccer field may not seem important, it keeps the young men busy," Creed said.

"A lot of the younger men, with nothing to do, are the most likely to become terrorists. The soccer field will give them something to do, and they'll hopefully remember Americans gave them something down the road."

Rumsfeld visits Anaconda troops during mideast trip

by Spc. Amanda Solitario

Anaconda Times Staff Writer

LSA ANACONDA, Iraq -- Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld made a surprise visit to meet with the troops and respond to their questions at Logistical Support Area Anaconda July 12.

Rumsfeld, accompanied by Gen. George Casey, commanding general of the multinational force in Iraq, walked into the Morale, Welfare, and Recreation building and received a standing ovation by an estimated 600 servicemembers. Following a short speech, Rumsfeld heard from troops in a town hall-style question and answer session.

When 1st Lt. Kenneth S. Ola, 909th Quartermaster Company, Guam National Guard, asked his assessment of Iraqi forces, Rumsfeld said raising the skills of the Iraqi police to the level of its army is a priority for the coming year.

Training the combat forces in Iraq is going very well, but the support elements are lagging behind, he said. "It is important that we close that gap."

Rumsfeld did not set a deadline for the withdrawal of troops in Iraq and said coalition forces would have to supply logistical aid to the Iraqi forces for an unspecified time.

"They are going to end up with an Iraqi army and Iraqi police force," he said. "They are not going to end up with an American police force or an American army."

Rumsfeld said victory would be achieved by helping the Iraqi people take the fight to the enemy. He noted he sees progress every time he comes to Iraq and said the majority of the people support the new government and cooperate with coalition forces.

"This effort, ultimately, will be won by the Iraqi people over a period of time," Rumsfeld said. "They are invested in this, let there be no doubt."

Despite the successes made in Iraq, the enemy will not quit, he said, adding that a free state is certain defeat for the terrorists.

"Their goal is to kill those who disagree: free people," said Rumsfeld. "We are the very essence of what they oppose."



Brig. Gen. Rebecca S. Halstead, 3rd COSCOM commander, presents Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld with a joint-service windbreaker during his visit here.

The question and answer session was not limited to political business. When one Soldier asked who would win the Army-Navy Game this year, Rumsfeld chuckled and said, "I'm plucky, but I am not stupid."

The Secretary of Defense expressed gratitude and appreciation to the troops for their dedication to the mission. He also shook hands with servicemembers afterward, posing for photographs with individuals.

"Each of you is playing an important role in this critical effort. You are making history every day, and I thank you for it," Rumsfeld said. "One day, you will look back with a great deal of pride on what you have accomplished, on behalf of our country, and on behalf of human freedom."



Gen. George Casey, commanding general of the multinational force in Iraq and Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld greet Brig. Gen. Rebecca S. Halstead at the air base located on LSA Anaconda.

Use it Wisely or Lose it !!!

Air Conditioners consume the majority of our power. Take the following steps to conserve our available power.

Work Areas

- Around 3 p.m. every day, set AC thermostat to 85°F (30°C) (as high as you can stand it and still be able to work). Increase fan speed to FULL to circulate more air and feel cooler.
- Clean filters once a week, more if necessary.
- Make sure there is adequate space around outside compressor unit; 3 feet in front and 18– 24 inches in back.
- Keep doors & windows to air conditioned rooms closed.

Housing Units

- Settings should correspond to 80°F (27°C) & AC LOW when you go to work in the morning; see photo's.
- When you get back to your room and until 7 p.m., leave thermostat on 80°F and turn to AC HIGH.
- Keep fresh air recirculation vent CLOSED.
- Clean filters once a week.
- Set to 85°F (30°C) & AC LOW if away for more than a week.
- Keep windows and doors closed.



Your AC Unit should look like these when you leave your rooms in the morning



Sports bars, smoothie machines invade Anaconda DFACs

by Spc. Amanda Solitario

Anaconda Times Staff Writer

LSA ANACONDA, Iraq -- With sports memorabilia lining the walls and chairs set in front of the television, servicemembers are now able to chill in the new Carter's Sports Bar while sipping smoothies at Dining Facility 1.

Following a presentation that honored the Soldiers who work at DFACs 1 and 2, a ribbon cutting ceremony marked the official opening of the sports bar on July 14.

"I had a dream and a vision that I wanted to change something to make it better for the thousands of troops that come to both DFAC's," said Sgt. Maj. Bobby Nelson, the noncommissioned officer in charge of DFAC 1 and 2.

The Carter's Sports Bar will serve many purposes, said Nelson. The servicemembers can go to the back to watch sports and hang out with friends in a relaxed environment. In addition, the room can be reserved for classrooms, special events, and meetings.

The sports bar was originally going to be dedicated to Sgt. Matt Maupin. Since Maupin already had many things named for him, they decided to recognize another Soldier. They chose to honor Sgt. 1st Class Edward Carter for his service in World War II, said Col. Jan-

nette Jackson, commander 40th Command Support Group.

It was thought that Carter's story could be an inspiration to the servicemembers at Logistical Support Area Anaconda, said Jackson. Carter was an African-American Soldier who was discriminated against based on his race. It took 52 years for him to be awarded the Medal of Honor.

"All of us, it doesn't matter if you are black, if you are white, if you are Muslim, if you are Christian, if you are atheist," said Jackson. "Whatever your beliefs are, there have been times I am sure, that you have felt that maybe you were discriminated against."

Nelson personally thanked all the sergeant majors who had a hand in donating the necessary equipment to get the room up and running for the servicemembers. Together, they came up with televisions, a surround sound system, and the blenders for the smoothies. Jackson said they are working to make the same amenities available at DFAC 2

The sergeant majors were not the only people to receive recognition. Various other Soldiers were awarded a coin for their role in making the dining facilities enjoyable for everyone at Anaconda.

"What you do has a direct influence on the morale of the Soldiers, and when you feel good, you can fight good," said Jackson.



Photos by Spc. Amanda Solitario
Sgt. 1sr Class John Gonzalez, G-1 operation supervisor for 3rd Corps Support Command, tries out a chocolate smoothie. Dining Facility 1 opened up 2 smoothie tables July 14.



Col. Jannette Jackson (middle left), commander 40th Command Support Group, and Col. Lee T Wight (middle right), 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing, cut the ribbon to the entrance of the Carter's Sports Bar while Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Baker (far left), 40th CSG, and Chief Master Sgt. Scott Dearduff, 332nd AEW, assist in the process.

What improvements would you like to see at the DFACs?



Staff Sgt. Leticia Smalls

"The DFACs have been doing an awesome job and there have already been a lot of improvements."



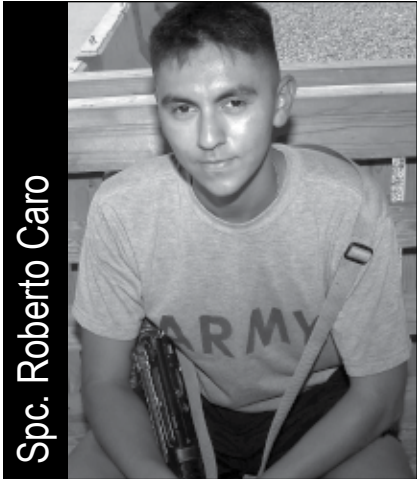
Sgt. Joshua L. Tucker

"There is nothing that I want to change at the DFACs."



Spc. Nathan R. Gordon

"I'd like to see a banana split with a cherry on top, because I LOVE banana splits!"



Spc. Roberto Caro

"I just get tired of the same short orders every day. Everything seems to be chicken: fried, jerk, baked, and chicken wings."

3rd COSCOM Soldier wins top journalism award

by Sgt. Marshall Thompson

207th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

LSA ANACONDA, Iraq -- When Spc. Mary Ferguson was honored as the U.S. Army's best new print journalist in 2006, her friends and coworkers said they were not surprised. This public affairs specialist from Headquarters and Headquarters Company of the 3rd Corps Support Command seems to put her all into everything she does.

"Ferguson is one of the most motivated and talented Soldiers I've seen in my 15 years in the military," said Staff Sgt. Pamela Smith, the public affairs noncommissioned officer in charge for HHC 3rd COSCOM. "She wants to tell the 3rd COSCOM story and she wants to do it in the best way possible."

Ferguson didn't always know that she wanted to tell the Soldiers' story. After graduating from high school, Ferguson majored in pre-med at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

"I thought if you did well in school, you were supposed to do pre-med or pre-law," she said.

However, she soon found that she wanted to express her creative side as well. Ferguson was a good artist, but didn't want to make it a career.

"I didn't want to become one of those starving artists that can draw really well but can't feed themselves," she said.

Instead, Ferguson changed her major to visual communications in the department of journalism. In the program, she learned graphic design and layout skills.



Spc. Mary Ferguson was honored as the U.S. Army's best new print journalist in 2006.

Later, when she joined the Army as a print journalist, she was able to hone her writing skills as well. Her first assignment was with the 3rd COSCOM in Germany. While there, she created the Sustainer magazine from scratch.

"The first [issue] was incredibly hard. I had to fill 44 pages," Ferguson said. "I'm biased because I do it, but I think it gets better every time."

Her coworkers agree with her assessment of the Sustainer and credit Ferguson with being a first-class editor.

"As an editor she is fantastic," said Spc. David Chapman, a public affairs specialist from HHC 3rd COSCOM. "She's corrective without being condescending. She can fix a mistake without making you feel like an idiot."

When asked about the secret to her success, Ferguson defers to her mother, Beth Ferguson.

"She's been supportive of all the crazy stuff I've done," Ferguson said. "I've kind of modeled myself after her and her work ethic."

Smith has noticed the positive affect that Beth Ferguson has had on Spc. Ferguson.

"Ferguson really looks to her mother as a role model," Smith said. "She gives her mother a lot of credit for pushing her to get her education and make the most out of life."

Ferguson's education and work ethic show in the pages of the Sustainer magazine, now recognized military-wide. She said she was glad to win the award because it has improved readership of the Sustainer.

As she continues to put other Soldiers in the spotlight, one lesson she learned from her mother is readily apparent.

"When I look back on my whole life," Ferguson said, "I cannot think of a single time when she was selfish."

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





Air Force civil engineers hoist a roofing beam for one of the housing units being built near Dining Facility 1 on LSA Anaconda.



The grinding and
metallic sounds
attracted attention when v

From pouring
around the door,
hours in more than
1 deadline.

The buildings
roughly 30-40 se
Soldiers needing
of solid walls and

Army B Comp
Barracks, Hawai
midnight until 11



The lumber lying here will soon be transformed into walls with a little help of the 84th ECB(H).



Sgt. Hooper D. Thornton, a carpentry and masonry specialist, gets some lumber ready to be used.



Sgt. Hooper D. Thornton, a carpentry and masonry specialist with B Company 84th, makes precision cuts in wood beams for the barracks project.

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

GOING UP ...



noise of power saws ripping through two-by-four planks and the sound of hammers slamming into roofing nails, catches nearly everyone's attention at the new LSA Anaconda's Dining Facility 1. The facility, made of numerous yards of cement, to fine-tuning the little touches of paint and trim, several dozen Army and Air Force construction workers work long hours in over 100 degree temperatures to build 12 new barracks before a Sept.

The barracks, which take about three to four weeks to construct, will house servicemembers when completed. The structures will allow transitional housing for temporary housing to move from the old "tent cities" to the comforts of solid floors -- away from the harsh Iraqi environment. The 84th Engineer Construction Battalion (Hard), from Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, along with their Civil Engineering Air Force counterparts work from 5 a.m. to get the job done.



84th Engineer Construction Battalion (Hard), from Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, uses a power saw to make



Senior Airman Angela L. Dines, a structure specialist with Detachment 6 from Eglin Air Force Base, Fla., hammers some nails in on the roof frame of a housing unit.

Books donated, delivered for a good cause

by Spc. Karonda Fleming

Anaconda Times Staff Writer

AD DUJAYL, Iraq - The people of Ad Dujayl, were not allowed to read certain books when they were under the power of Saddam Hussein. Now, books of all types are being handed to them for free.

Soldiers of B Company, 404th Civil Affairs Battalion, a reserve unit from Fort Dix, New Jersey, recently delivered hundreds of books to the Abraham Bin Alashter Library in Ad Dujayl.

"This is a very unique mission for us," said Staff Sgt. Magda R. Khalifa.

Typically, the unit attends governmental meetings with the Shi'ite city council members, said Khalifa. Soldiers discuss ways of helping the community at those meetings.

The unit's book donation efforts were part of a project begun by 3rd Corps Support Command. A diverse group of veterans, Boy Scouts, and other volunteers in America assisted with the project.

Plans are in progress to donate more than 10,000 books, including Arabic children's books, to the civilian population, said Capt. Banks, B Company, 404th Civil Affairs Battalion.

The donation to Ad Dujayl included a

variety of English-language items, such as science books, mathematics texts, fiction novels, non-fiction works, children's books, crossword puzzles, and National Geographic magazines.

Several leaders in the city expressed their enthusiasm for the gifts.

"A large number of Iraqis who stood up against Saddam Hussein ... were from Ad Dujayl," said Sgt. Alexander Valencia. "They were subsequently slaughtered. This city is very pro-coalition and anti-Saddam."

One community leader said when Saddam Hussein had power over Ad Dujayl, the community was in fear every day.

The people were afraid they would be arrested, and many were already in prison, said the community leader. Once Hussein's reign fell, the people created an 11-member city council.

The community leader said during the first year of Operation Iraqi Freedom, the Iraqis enjoyed playing football with the service-members. He said that the people of Iraq want to be very close to Americans.

"The Ad Dujayl people feel lucky," said the community leader, adding the books being donated will definitely impact the children of Iraq and that the most important work starts with them.



Photos by KaRonda Fleming

An Ad Dujayl youth helps soldiers carry books into the Abraham Bin Alashter Public Library in Ad Dujayl, Iraq. The hundreds of books were donated from Vietnam Veterans in the United States.



(Above) A soldier of the 404th Civil Affairs Battalion, a reserve unit from Fort Dix, New Jersey unloads books that will be donated to the Abraham Bin Alashter Public Library in Ad Dujayl, Iraq. (Right) A Soldier from Company D, 1-8 Combined Arms Battalion, 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, carries books to the Abraham Bin Alashter Public Library in Ad Dujayl, Iraq.



Personnel office offers beneficial services

by Spc. KaRonda D. Fleming

Anaconda Times Staff Writer

LSA ANACONDA, Iraq -- Let's say you need to update your personnel file with an important document. If you need help and guidance, then go to the personnel services office on the east side.

The personnel services office is co-located with the Red Cross building, 4141-A, on New Jersey Avenue.

Servicemembers are able to update evaluation reports, promotions, enlisted and officer review board updates, and send or receive postal mail. Identification cards may also be updated from 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday through Fri-

day, and 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Sundays.

"They are very professional," said Sgt. Lise P. Tia, 394th Adjutant General Company (Postal), a reserve unit out of Long Beach, Calif., as she updated her personnel files at the office. "There is never a time when you are in here that you don't know what's going on. They are very helpful."

The military identification office has processed more than 6,000 cards, said Chief Warrant Officer Patricia Winfrey, human resources technician, C Detachment, 502nd Personnel Services Battalion.

Servicemembers can also have their non-commissioned officer or officer board packets updated at the personnel office. However,

promotion packets can only be sent through the unit's personnel officer. Soldiers are not allowed to bring in their own promotion packets, said Winfrey.

Emergency noncommissioned officer evaluation report forms, DD form 93, can also be completed at the personnel office, said Winfrey.

Not only does the personnel office handle soldiers' promotions and identification cards, they also play a role in the mail process.

The postal mail service is a joint services system with an inbound and outbound department. This includes the Air Force, Army, Marines, and contractors, said Lt. Col. Kevin R. Kensinger, 376th Personnel Support Battalion

Command, reserve unit out of Long Beach, Calif..

"The inbound department has about 150 different post offices at LSA Anaconda, Camp Taji, and Forward Operating Base War Horse combined," said Kensinger. The office has about 60,000 soldiers receiving and sending mail from 307 different units at this point, he said.

Packages that are lighter than 16 ounces will be mailed free of charge in the outbound mail service department, said 1st Lt. Lisa J. Christensen, 376th PSB.

The hours for the personnel customer service are 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Saturday, and 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday, DSN numbers are 829-2883 or 829-2878.

Pallet programs opens opportunities

by Spc. KaRonda Fleming

Anaconda Times Staff Writer

LSA ANACONDA, Iraq -- A small thing like recycling can now potentially save a life under a new program started this month.

The pallet recovery program will reuse the wooden storage platforms that come with the water bottles distributed throughout the area. Servicemembers can bring the empty pallets to the Class I Yard.

Tom Edwards, Program Manager for Al-Morrell Development, said the pallet recovery program will save money, due to costs of lumber and fuel, yet it can also save the lives of truck drivers.

The drivers have to bring the lumber in from Kuwait to Iraq, and the less they have to ship will help limit explosive device attacks or gunfire, he said.

Logistical Support Area Anaconda and Camp Victory are currently participating in the recycling program. There are plans to expand the program to other locations, including Al Asad, Camp Speicher, Q-West, and al Taqaddum.

Approximately 2,100 kilograms of resin, the pellet-like material used to form plastic bottles, are shipped on a single pallet from Kuwait. It only takes 27 grams to make a single water bottle, Edwards said.

This translates to more than 77,000 water bottles shipped in on a single pallet, once the water bottles are formed.

“This program will create a significant savings,” said Edwards. “On average, 120 to 150 pallets are shipped in per week. After the manufacture of the water, one pallet will hold a total of 720 one liter water bottles,” said Edwards.

Logistical Support Area Anaconda, Camp Victory, Al Asad, Camp Speicher, Q-West, and al Taqaddum all manufacture the water supply within their base, said Capt. Mark G. Keisler, 40th Corps Support Group.



Graciun C. Dan, a civilian contractor for the Al-Morrell Development/Oasis International Waters is turning over the pallet to complete the bottom layer which, when complete, will hold 720 one liter bottles of water.



Jim LaLonde, a foreman at the water bottling facility holds a “pre-form” which will be transformed into a one-liter bottle using ultraviolet radiation and heat.



More than 240,000 pounds of water bottles are manufactured each day at Logistical Support Area Anaconda. These bottles travel across the filler just before being capped, packaged, and distributed across LSA Anaconda.

Peers, from Page 1

“It’s imperative that we know these languages because we can’t defeat what we don’t understand,” she said.

In addition to her multiple language skills, Esparza-Mathis has multiple military occupational specialties – supply clerk, linguist and journalist. She said that here at LSA Anaconda, about 40 percent of her time is spent on missions as a translator.

“The military is a passion for me; the ideals that coincide with the military have always been something to be proud of,” said Esparza-Mathis.

She said she was influenced by her military upbringing to join the Army.

“I was surrounded by the military and I believed in it, and

when you believe in something so great, you just have to be a part of it,” she said.

Before Esparza-Mathis was an active duty Soldier, she was in the Army Reserve.

She said she was a part of the 211th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment in Walker County, Texas, and when an opportunity arose she volunteered to go on active duty.

In her civilian life, Esparza-Mathis said she worked as a counselor and ran for public office, becoming the first Hispanic woman to be appointed county chairwoman for Walker County.

“I counseled male offenders in the penitentiary and also worked with the youth,” she said. “But the area I really want

to work in is women’s advocacy.”

Esparza-Mathis’ family has been a great source of support throughout her life.

“My family made this achievable,” she said.

She said she prepares before every mission to ensure she is safe and ready to learn from her experiences. “Going outside the wire is a very different experience, but if you are aware of the dangers, and pay attention. You can gain a wealth of knowledge,” she said.

Esparza-Mathis teaches psychology 7 p.m. Wednesdays and Farsi 7 p.m. Thursdays.

“Anyone who has the desire to learn has 90 percent of the battle won,” she said speaking of learning Farsi.

Idol finalist jump starts rock concert

Jessica Sierra entertained small crowd with mixture of covers and originals



Photo by Sgt. Kevin McSwain
Jessica Sierra performs for a small crowd at Sustainer Theatre during a July 5 concert.

by Sgt. Kevin McSwain

Anaconda Times Staff Writer

LSA ANACONDA, Iraq -- American Idol finalist Jessica Sierra was a singer on a mission.

"I love my country and I believe we should support our troops as much as we can," she said just before her July 5 live concert at Sustainer Theater here.

Sierra was joined by alternative rock group OSB in a tour of military camps in places such as Kuwait and Baghdad. Logistical Support Area Anaconda was the fourth stop of five performances.

Sierra, a native of Tampa, Florida, was a finalist on the fourth season of the American Idol. Before American Idol, she was a contestant on Star Search.

"The experience I gained from Star Search was a big help for me when I competed in American Idol," she said.

Since then she has been concentrating on finishing her album and writing songs for future release. Sierra entertained the crowd with a mixture of melodies, ranging from cover tunes to songs she wrote herself.

The pop/rock group OSB, who took the stage after Sierra, has been together for five years. All the members are from Worcester,

Mass.

The group said they came to let the troops know that everyone is still supporting them.

"Everyone is still hanging their flags out and wearing their ribbons for the soldiers," said Brendan Mohoney, the lead vocalist of the group.

The band performed songs from many different genres, adding short jam sessions in between each performance.

Mohoney, who was sick, said he would not have missed this tour for anything. During a break in the performance he took a picture of the crowd so he could post it on his "MySpace" account.

Sierra and OSB said they felt a strong bond with the Soldiers as they talked with them during their visit. When they are not on tour, OSB is working on an album they hope to release later this year.

After the performance, Sierra and OSB took the time to take pictures and sign autographs for all the servicemembers in attendance. If a service member did not have a camera, the Morale Welfare, and Recreation staff took a picture for them.

"I am only able to do what I do because the Soldiers do what they do -- and that is protecting us," said Sierra.

Q-West cranks volume for talent show

Q-WEST BASE COMPLEX, Iraq -- Soldiers from the 71st Corps Support Battalion, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 101st Sustainment Brigade, showed off their talents at the 71st CSB Talent Show July 3 here.

The acts included the Latin dance troupe "Ritmo Latino," which means "Latin Rhythm," the comedic dance skit "She Can't Dance," a trumpeter, a spoken-word artist, and several guitarists and singer-songwriters who performed original pieces of music and poetry.



Sgt. Manuela Ramirez, HHD 71st Corps Support Battalion, and Spc. Carlos Patino, HHSB 4-11th Field Artillery, dance in the 71st CSB Talent Show July 3 as part of the Latin dance troupe "Ritmo Latino."

story and photos by Sgt. Rachel Brune



Spc. Terrell Sykes, of Brooklyn, N.Y. plays a trumpet solo during the 71st Corps Support Battalion's Talent Show July 3. Sykes, a truck driver with the 773rd Transportation Company, has played the trumpet since the sixth grade. He performed "I Believe I Can Fly."



Soldiers perform a comedic dance skit "She Can't Dance" during the 71st Corps Support Battalion Talent Show July 3 in the battalion's new amphitheater.

**Swing Dancing
Lessons
Tuesdays
8 p.m. to
10.p.m.
East MWR**



Movie Schedule

Sustainer Reel Time Theater

(schedule is subject to change)

July 23

2 p.m. Pirates of the Caribbean 2
5 p.m. Goal! The Dream Begins
8 p.m. RV

July 24

5 p.m. Poseidon
8 p.m. Pirates of the Caribbean 2

July 25

5 p.m. RV
8 p.m. Goal! The Dream Begins

July 26

5 p.m. Pirates of the Caribbean 2
8 p.m. RV

July 27

5 p.m. Mission Impossible 3
8 p.m. Pirates of the Caribbean 2

July 28

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

July 29

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



Religious Schedule

Roman Catholic Mass

Saturday 7 p.m. Eden Chapel (bldg. 4148)
Saturday 7:30 p.m. Tuskegee Chapel (vigil mass)
Sunday 8:30 a.m. Freedom Chapel
Sunday 9 a.m. Tuskegee Chapel
Sunday 11 a.m. Provider Chapel
Sunday 2 p.m. CJSOTF Chapel
Sunday 3:30 p.m. JSOAO-AP Chapel
Monday - Friday 7:30 p.m. Tuskegee Chapel
Sacrament of Reconciliation
30 minutes prior to each mass

Church of Christ

Sunday 11 a.m. 1/245th ATS Conference Room

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 7 p.m. Tuskegee Chapel

Jewish Prayer

Friday 6:30 p.m. Eden Chapel (bldg. 4148)

Lutheran

Sunday 8 a.m. Provider Chapel

Protestant-Gospel

Sunday 11 a.m. Sustainer Indoor Theater
Sunday 12:30 p.m. Freedom Chapel
Sunday 7 p.m. Provider Chapel

Protestant Praise and Worship

Sunday 9:30 a.m. Sustainer Indoor Theater
Sunday 9:30 a.m. Freedom Chapel
Sunday 5:30 p.m. Tuskegee Chapel

Protestant-Contemporary

Sunday 10 a.m. 299th FSB Tent Chapel
Sunday 11 a.m. Town Hall

Protestant-Traditional

Sunday 9 a.m. Air Force Hospital Chapel
Sunday 9:30 a.m. Provider Chapel
Sunday 11 a.m. Freedom Chapel
Sunday 11 a.m. Eden Chapel (bldg. 4148)

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

Religious schedule subject to change

Movie Synopsis for July 23 - 29

You, Me and Dupree

PG-13, sexual content, nudity, crude humor, language, drug reference 108 min

Carl and Molly Peterson are just starting their new life together--complete with a cute house, boring neighbors, stable jobs and the routines of newlywed existence. There's just one unfortunate hitch in their perfectly constructed new world. And his name's Dupree. Randy Dupree, Carl's oldest friend and perpetual bachelor, has found himself with nowhere to go after being fired.

Goal! The Dream Begins

PG, sexual content, language, drug reference, 117 min

As an underprivileged Mexican-American immigrant growing up in the poor section of Los Angeles, Santiago Munez seemed destined to follow his father's path in life: laboring at menial jobs to earn just enough money to support his family. Naturally gifted, his amazing talent on the soccer field was wasted in recreation league games while he could only dream of playing on the world stage of professional soccer.

RV

PG, crude humor, innuendo, language, 98 min

An overworked Bob Munro, his wife Jaime, their 15-year-old daughter Cassie and 12-year-old son Carl are in desperate need of some quality time together. After promising to take them on a family vacation in Hawaii, Bob abruptly changes plans without telling them. Instead of a week in a tropical paradise, they're going on a road trip to Colorado in a recreational vehicle. Dragging his wife and kids kicking and screaming into the RV, Bob's togetherness plan almost immediately hits a major speed bump.

Mission Impossible 3

PG-13, Violence & menace images, sensuality, 126 min

Super-spy Ethan Hunt has retired from active duty to trains new IMF agents. But he is called back into action to confront the toughest villain he's ever faced - Owen Davian, an international weapons and information provider with no remorse and no conscience. Hunt assembles his team - his old friend Luther Strickell, transportation expert Declan, background operative Zhen, and fresh recruit Lindsey - to travel the globe pursuing Davian and rescue Hunt's love, Julia.

Pirates of the Caribbean 2

PG-13, Adventure violence 145 min

Once again thrown into the world of the supernatural, Captain Jack Sparrow finds out that he owes a blood debt to the legendary Davey Jones, Captain of the ghostly Flying Dutchman. With time running out, Jack must find a way out of his debt or else be doomed to eternal damnation and servitude in the afterlife. And as if this weren't enough, the Captain's problems manage to wreck the wedding plans of a certain Will Turner and Elizabeth Swann, who are forced to join Jack on yet another misadventure.

Poseidon

PG-13, sexual references, 103 min

Ashley is a young professional just out of college. She also happens to be the luckiest woman in the world, who has lived a super-charmed life and has always taken her good luck for granted. When she kisses a handsome stranger at a costume party, Ashley accidentally swaps her good fortune for his horribly bad luck.

July 23

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

Green Bean Karaoke
8 p.m.
West Recreation Center

July 24

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

9-ball Tournament
8 p.m.
West Recreation Center

Karaoke
8 p.m.
East Recreation Center

Apollo Night
8 p.m.
H-6 Fitness / Rec Center

July 25

Table Tennis Tournament
8 p.m.
East Recreation Center

Swing Dance Lessons
8 p.m.
East Recreation Center

Foosball Tournament
8 p.m.
West Recreation Center

Combat Scavenger Hunt
8 p.m.
H-6 Fitness / Rec 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)

July 26

9-Ball Tournament
8 p.m.
East Recreation Center
Ballroom Hustle Class
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

100m Butterfly Race
7:30 p.m.
Indoor Pool

July 27

Country Dance Class
8 p.m.
East Recreation Center

Battlefield Ground Tourney
8 p.m.
East Recreation Center

Caribbean Class
8 p.m.
East Recreation Center

Salsa Class
8 p.m.
East 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)

July 28

Salsa Class
8 p.m.
West Recreation Center

July 29

Salsa Class
8 p.m.
East Recreation Center

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

Sports Day w/ Pizza Hut
7 p.m.
H-6 Fitness / Rec Center

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

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 Tournament
8 p.m.
East Recreation Center

Swing Dance Lessons
8 p.m.
East Recreation Center

Foosball Tournament
8 p.m.
West Recreation Center

"So you think you can dance?"
8 p.m.
H-6 Fitness/Rec Center

Tuskegee Airman B-Day Bash
8 p.m.
H-6 Fitness / Rec 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

Sidewinders
8 p.m.
H-6 Rect Tent

Unit Feud
8 p.m.
H-6 Fitness / Rec 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
Popeyes Chicken
8 p.m.
H-6 Fitness / Rec 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

Green Bean Karaoke
8 p.m.
West Recreation Center

August 8

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

9-ball Tournament
8 p.m.
West Recreation Center

Karaoke
8 p.m.
East Recreation Center

Apollo Night
8 p.m.
H-6 Fitness / Rec Center

August 9

Table Tennis Tournament
8 p.m.
East Recreation Center

Swing Dance Lessons
8 p.m.
East Recreation Center

August 10

Foosball Tournament
8 p.m.
West Recreation Center

Combat Scavenger Hunt
8 p.m.
H-6 Fitness / Rec 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 11

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

4th of July Weekend Tournament	
Round One	
Slow Motion	34
Team Roc	14
400th QM	
State 2 State Boyz	17
Free Agents	
God's Son	9
Los Pajoro's	14
Chosen Few	36
Hustle and Flow	
Dragons	11
27th	22
Get Money	23
Round Two	
Slow Motion	19
Legendz of the Game	13
400th QM	winner
Dem Boys	
Hoopaz	
R-Block	32
	9
Free Agents	
3rd Herd	winner
	Forfeit
Chosen Few	
Southern Smoke	35
	21
ELRS	25
No Daks Warriors	27
Round Three	
Slow Motion	26
Hustle and Flow	19
400th QM	
Hoopaz	12
	11
Chosen Few	
No Daks Warriors	37
	23
Free Agents	
Get Money	winner
	Forfeit
Round 4	
Slow Motion	35
400th QM	22
Free Agents	
Chosen Few	40
	37
Finals	
Free Agents	
Slow Motions	33
	31

From Soldiers to hoop stars

Free Agents clinch tournament championship with 33-31 win

by Sgt. Kevin McSwain
Anaconda Times Staff Writer

LSA ANACONDA, Iraq — The score was tight, 31-30, with less than two minutes left to play. The teams were beginning to feel fatigued after a complete game of “run and gun” offense.

Spc. Betrand “Big Ticket” Hawkins, the power forward for the team Free Agents, committed a turnover and hustled back on defense to make the key stop to preserve their lead.

There were more than eight free throws shot within the last 50 seconds of game time. Spc. Larry Carter stepped up and made a crucial free throw with seven seconds left on the clock to clinch the Free Agents’ first tournament championship.

“This game could not have been any closer,” said Hawkins afterward. “And that is what championship games are all about.”

Hawkins, who is with 25th Signal Company here, has been playing in similar tournaments for nine months.

The contest was held July 7-11 in the East Side Recreation Center. The brackets consisted of 20 teams playing for the title of tournament champion. When the smoke cleared, it was the Free Agents taking on team Slow Motion.

Hawkins led the charge in the final game with 10 points followed by Sgt. Will Maniaci with seven. Team Slow Motion kept the game close with the efforts of Spc. Vernon Gray, 57th Medical Company, who had 10

points and numerous defensive stops.

“This guy was a monster,” said Turner, speaking of Gray after the game. “We had to change our strategy just so we could contain him.”

The Free Agents chose their name, for the most part, from the way that the team was formed.

“All the players are from different teams that came together to form our own squad,” said Hawkins. “We were all picked for this team while playing in the gym.”

Sgt. George Turner, team manager, added, “We do not belong to anybody. Just like free agents in the NBA.”

Turner is a member of the personal security team with the 50th Engineer Company.

“I got my start just like them, they saw me in the gym and asked me to be their manager,” he said.

The team was founded by Spc. Larry Carter, a land engineer surveyor with the 84th Engineer Company and Pfc. Lee Smith, a bridge crew member with the 50th Engineer Company here.

“I picked half the team and Carter picked the other half,” said Smith. “We just wanted to have a team of good players that just love to play basketball.”

Hawkins had the most tournament experience, winning two previous championships with team Crunk. He also has experience at the college level, playing two years at Delta College in Michigan.

“I have been playing in tournaments here for about nine



Photo by Sgt. Kevin McSwain
Spc. Vernon Gray extends for one of his eight blocked shots during the championship game. Gray added ten points in a losing effort against the Free Agents.

months,” he said during pre-game warm-ups.

The team met for practice about twice a week in preparation for the tournament.

“We all have played together in the gym, so we knew everyone’s ability,” said Turner. “We

just wanted to know how different combinations would work,” he added.

This was the Free Agents first appearance in a tournament and Turner said they look forward to repeating their results in competitions to come.

Wooden ice makes debut here

by Sgt. Kevin McSwain
Anaconda Times Staff Writer

LSA ANACONDA, Iraq — Imagine playing basketball on ice. Now imagine playing hockey in the desert.

A group of players made the latter possible by putting together the first ever hockey tournament at Logistical Support Area Anaconda on July 12.

For “Floor Hockey,” players use a small ball instead of a puck. Instead of skates, the players use athletic shoes. The games take place on the hardwood floor inside the east side fitness center.

The tournament consisted of nine teams competing for the inaugural floor hockey tournament. The Balad Bruins became the first champions after they defeated the East ECP Chiefs by a score of 6-4.

Last year, after watching the National Hockey League on television, a group of ser-

vicemembers began to talk about how they could bring the sport to Anaconda. They began to take the basic rules from ice hockey and adapt them to their own game.

“We are all primarily from the North East, so we grew up around hockey,” Staff Sgt. Phillip Burke, 883rd Medical Company, said. “And bringing the sport to Anaconda could help make the time here pass a little faster.”

Sgt. 1st Class Sean Tafoya, along with Sgt. 1st Class Michael Gifford of 548th Core Support Command Battalion, began the push to make hockey a part of Anaconda life.

“We needed equipment so we all starting bringing gear back when we went home on leave,” Tafoya, 548th Logistical Task Force, Fort Drum, N.Y., said.

The nets and barriers, all made of wood, were built by the Soldiers, he said. The remainder of the equipment that was not purchased or built was donated by various spon-

sors.

The goalies are the only players wearing traditional equipment for safety reasons, he added. The other players wore shorts and a T-shirt because the rules don’t allow for hard hitting, Tafoya said.

Tafoya and others informed other hockey players across Anaconda by posting flyers and talking to anyone that would listen.

“People would see us playing pick-up games in the fitness center and we would tell them about our tournament,” he said. “Since this was our first tournament, we just listed the teams in order and played until there was only one team left.”

Next month, they plan to organize the brackets to make the games more exciting, Tofoya said, noting that this tournament was more of a learning experience.

“The tournament gave us all a chance to have fun and compete in a sport we all love,” Burke said.



Capt. Dave Lauer, 221st Military Intelligence Battalion, exits the pool after an 800-meter swim during the biathlon on July 16. Lauer was the overall fourth place finisher.



Capt. Brenda McCabe, 40th Corps Support Group, enters the water and prepares to begin the 800-meter swim. McCabe finished fourth place among the females.



Capt. Eli Adams, 84th Engineer Battalion, begins the final stretch of the 5-kilometer run. Adams finished tenth overall.



Pfc. Torey Lasater, 159th Aviation Brigade checks the water temperature before the beginning of the race. Lasater finished fifth among the females.

Take your mark

Patriot Biathlon kicks off with a splash

LSA ANACONDA, Iraq — The sun had not yet made its appearance. The competitors were standing around talking as if with old friends on a Saturday morning.

The pool was just as calm; not even the slightest ripple could be seen. Its edges were dry as the sand outside. It was hard to tell this was the start of the Patriotic Biathlon here.

The July 15 biathlon, sponsored by 21st Cargo Company, 548th Logistical Task Force, consisted of an 800 meter swim followed by a five-kilometer run, said 1st Lt. Brian Furber.

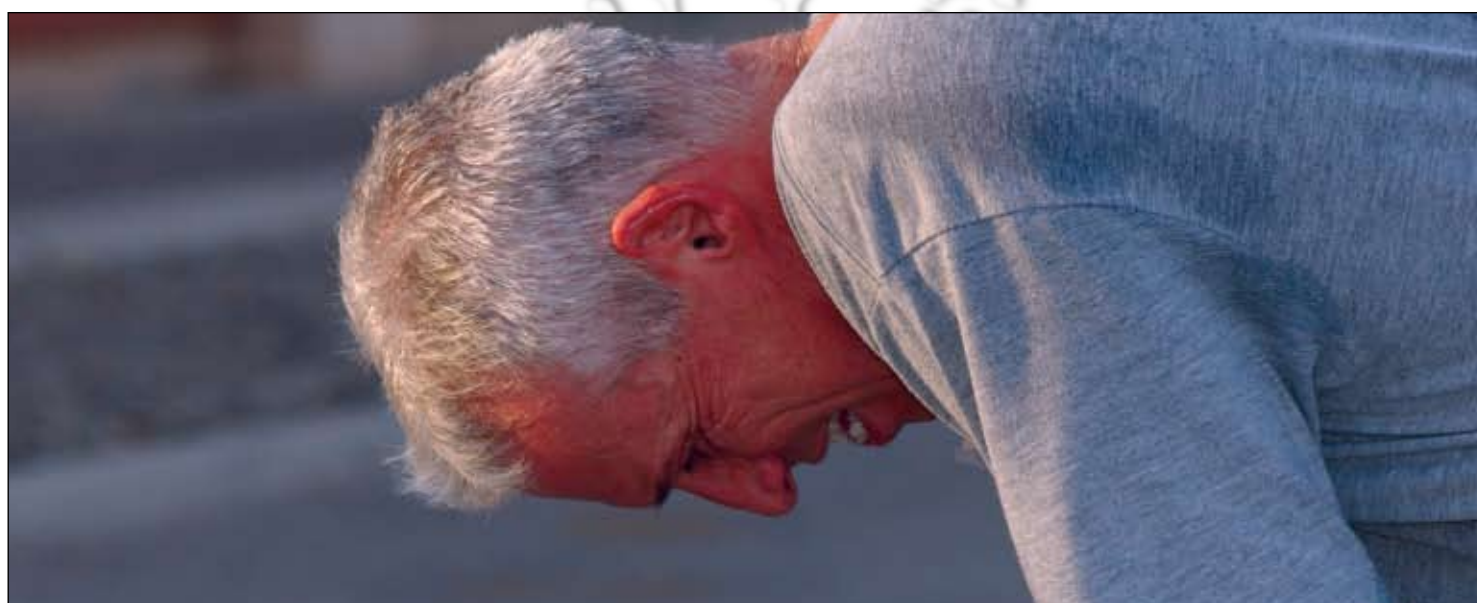
Servicemembers raced the clock instead of each other.

"Participants are staggered into the race, with one Soldier leaving every 60 seconds," he said.

Servicemembers competed for overall titles as well as the top three male and female finishers. The top three overall finishers were: Joe Kodnovich, 0:33:22. John Ryan, 0:38:11. Ted Hammond, 0:38:49.

The top three female finishers were: Emily Steinfort, 0:40:41. Shannon Faber, 0:41:56. Brenda McCabe, 0:46:06

story and photos by Sgt. Kevin McSwain



Col. Ted Hammond, 502nd Dental Company, catches his breath after finishing the 5-kilometer run. Hammond was the third overall winner.