

ANACONDA TIMES

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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 31

5-113 FA >>



Photo by Sgt. Kevin McSwain
A Humvee with a newly mounted CROWS system is guided into place to begin weapons testing.

Technology helps keep
Soldiers clear of danger
by Sgt. Kevin McSwain

Anaconda Times Staff Writer

LSA ANACONDA, Iraq - How would you like to be a gunner that doesn't have to eat dust, endure the heat, or wear dirty goggles? With the help of new technology, all these problems can be a thing of the past.

1st Lt. Jonatan Laton's National Guard unit, B Battery, 5th Battalion, 113th Field Artillery based in Winston-Salem, N.C., uses this technology even as it escorts units who are going out to train with the technology – the Common Remote Operator Weapons Station and Armored Security Vehicles.

"The new technology in these vehicles is vital on this continuously changing battlefield," Laton said speaking of the CROWS and ASVs.

The CROWS system takes the gunners out of the turret of a Humvee and provides them with more security because they are completely inside the vehicle. The station is mounted in the gunner's hatch, and the operator sits in the back seat and operates the system using a joystick.

The ASV, as it is commonly known, employs similar technology but is capable of controlling

see Convoy, Page 5

QUALITY OF LIFE>>

MySpace craze engulfs Anaconda's MWR

"Sometimes it's a pain, because too many people are on it at once, and so it's very slow," - Sgt. Aaron G. Reinsberg

- Page 6



Photo by Sgt. Rachel Brune
NCO inductees bow their heads for the benediction during the 101st Brigade Troops Battalion NCO Induction Ceremony July 19 at the Q-West MWR Theater.



"I serve the people of the United States"

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

Artists lend talents to transforming military amputees

by Donna Miles

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — Seeing his artistry on the big screen was a bit of a rush, but former Hollywood sculptor Chuck O'Brien said it's nothing compared to the satisfaction he gets using his art to help transform military amputees.

"You can't go wrong working with heroes," O'Brien said as he sat side by side with two colleagues in a broom closet of a room at Walter Reed Army Medical Center here.

The three artists, from Connecticut-based Alternative Prosthetics Services, travel to Walter Reed several times a month to create artificial body parts that are almost impossible to tell from the real thing.

During one recent session, Army Spc. Adam Standfuss looked on as O'Brien and Robert Rubino worked their magic on silicone molds of his left arm and damaged right hand.

The 24-year-old Minnesota Army National Guardsman was wounded in September when a rocket-propelled grenade pierced his Humvee in Baghdad. He lost his left arm just above the elbow and the pinkie and ring finger on his right hand.

Standfuss said his recovery is progressing well. He was strong enough in late November, just two months after being wounded, to welcome his fellow Guardsmen from the 151st Field Artillery Regiment home. Last month he made another milestone, checking out of Walter Reed to receive community-based care closer to home.

At first, the stares Standfuss got whenever he went out in public troubled him, but he said he's gotten used to them. "Now it's just a fact of life," he said with a shrug.

Yet he jumped at the chance to return to Walter Reed to have a realistic, custom-designed arm and hand to replace what he'd lost.

"Feeling whole again is what I'm looking forward to most," he said as he sat under a hot white light, watching Rubino paint a silicone "sleeve" to slide over his right hand.

Rubino described the painstaking process that goes into making a true-to-life prosthesis.

First the artists take initial impressions of servicemembers' remaining limbs and hands and residual parts of amputated limbs, using liquid silicone that dries in about five minutes and takes on the appearance of cake frosting. Next comes the most time-intensive part of the project, sculpting wax replicas of the missing



Photo by Michael Dukes

Spc. Adam Standfuss, a Minnesota Army National Guardsman wounded in Iraq, looks on as artist Robert Rubino paints a new artificial hand for him at Walter Reed Army Medical Center.

limbs. From that, the artists create a mold, then coat the inside of it with a thin layer of silicone to create a new silicone skin.

Once they're satisfied with the product, they begin painting, applying multiple layers of paint to the inside of the silicone so it won't wash or rub off.

Standfuss stretched his right hand out on a table under bright white lights as Rubino mixed blue, yellow and red paint to match his skin tone. Rubino ignored the suntanned forearms and focused on the undersides and palms, which more closely match Standfuss' year-round skin color.

"Extremities are always changing color due to sun exposure or exertion," Rubino explained. "So we go a little lighter and match the parts that don't suntan." He added slight dabs of pink to his paint canisters for the knuckle and nail areas of the hand and a hint of green

where veins would run.

Darker-skinned amputees are a bit more difficult to match, Rubino said. Sometimes he applies real hairs to the inside of the mold to add realism. Other times he adds freckles or moles or touches up tattoos. The result is so realistic that some people do double takes when they walk past the opened door to the workroom.

Creating such realism is a long process. "We started at about 10:30 this morning and we'll be at it until about 8 tonight," Rubino said. He estimated that the prosthesis would

take 36 hours to produce -- about 12 hours for each of the three artists.

The project gives plenty of other amputees at Walter Reed an opportunity to check on the artists' work. "A lot of people are interested and ask questions about what we're doing," Rubino said.

Among them was Ed Salau, a North Carolina National Guardsman who lost his left leg when an RPG penetrated the hull of his Bradley Fighting Vehicle during an ambush in Tikrit, Iraq.

Like many of his fellow amputees at Walter Reed, Salau wears his stump like a badge of honor. "I'm proud of the situation I'm in, and think it's important that it's known," he said.

Yet Salau said he looks forward the point where he, too, has healed enough to get a custom-made prosthetic leg at Walter Reed.

At Duke University Medical Center, where he receives his care, Salau's doctors had offered to create a Styrofoam likeness of his missing leg and paint it. "I told them to keep it," he said, watching Rubino paint Standfuss' new hand. "This is what I want."

Rubino never imagined he'd spend his career creating prostheses. He originally went to school to study architecture, then became a painter and sculptor. He said he "fell into" the prosthesis business six years ago. He figures he's probably worked with about 100 military amputees since the beginning of the war in Iraq.

O'Brien went to art school to study illustration but knew he "didn't want to design bank brochures for the rest of my life." He went to makeup school in Hollywood and ended up working for a Hollywood effects lab, creating

silicon cadavers and body parts for television programs like "CSI: Miami," "The X-Files," and movies, including "Charlie's Angels 2: Full Throttle."

He said two things drove him from the entertainment business: the "nasty chemicals" he worked with too regularly for comfort and the boom in animation he feared would cut his career short. His mother and wife saw a TV program about prosthesis artists and encouraged him toward his new career.

"It's pretty neat to see things you worked on on the big screen, but it's no comparison to what you get out of this," he said as he molded Standfuss' left arm. "This is way more rewarding."

"It's an exciting feeling to see the smiles on their faces," Rubino said of the reaction troops have when they see their new prostheses for the first time. "It's nice to see the reaction and know that you did a little something for them."

Sean Curtin, whose brother Michael founded the business, said he wishes everyone at the home office in Fairfield, Conn., could meet the Walter Reed patients they're helping. "It's so gratifying, especially when you see the final product and watch the final fitting," he said. "That's when it really hits home, when you see the patients' reactions and realize what it means to them."

"I'm really excited to have something on my arm and to be able to blend in a little better," Standfuss said. He's particularly pleased that he'll look good in photos to be taken at his wedding in August.

But even after being fitted with his new prostheses, Standfuss knows his recovery is far from over. More surgeries await him down the road, not only on his hand, but also on his eardrums and tiny bones in his ears that shattered when the RPG exploded in his Humvee.

Standfuss isn't dwelling on that. For now, he said, he's just feeling very lucky -- lucky that he wasn't killed in the RPG attack, that his fellow Guardsmen made it out alive, that he's now able to get medical care closer to home, and that three artists are creating a new lifelike set of prostheses for him. "I feel really fortunate to have them here," he said.

He admits he felt pretty depressed when he first lost his arm and fingers. "Your life is suddenly changed in a split second," he said. "But then you realize that there's always somebody worse off than you. That helps give you perspective."

The new prostheses will go a long way toward his recovery. "Being able to blend in a little more is going to be really great," he said. "In some ways, I think this is going to be life-changing."

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California Guard members at home on Border Patrol's range

by Sgt. Jim Greenhill

NGB Public Affairs Office

SAN DIEGO - When the U.S. Border Patrol officials needed range-safety officers to help agents qualify with their weapons, they turned to the California National Guard.

Guard members are supporting agents at the San Diego Sector Small Firearms Range as part of Operation Jump Start.

The arrival of Citizen-Soldiers lets Border Patrol agents return to enforce the law along the U.S. border with Mexico in four states from Texas to California.

"We sent several of our instructors back to their respective stations so that they could do their jobs on the line," said Guillermo Gomez, a senior patrol agent in the San Diego sector who is spending two years as a firearms instructor at the small-arms range.

"It's been great," Gomez said. "They've been helping us out with maintenance, packing up old guns and shipping them out, paperwork and cleaning up the range. Those things make a big difference."

As a way of saying "thank you" to Guard members who worked during a recent Saturday so that some agents could qualify on the range, the agents shared tuna they had caught during a deep-sea fishing trip with the Guard members.

"We just kind of jelled," said Sgt. Alonzo Bailon, 40th Special Troops Battalion. "We're both in a supportive role to the American people. It was very easy for us to step in and integrate."

Like many Guard members along the 1,300 miles of border, California Army Guard Spc. William Parker has a gung ho attitude about the mission.

After seven years in the military, including a stint in the active Army and a Guard deployment because of Hurricane Katrina, Parker finds himself on the southern border of his own state performing a mission which, he said, is as much of a learning opportunity as it is about national security.

Parker also said he likes Operation Jump Start because he can live at home and help his parents, who are both blind, while working full-time in uniform.

"I want to stay for two years," he said.

President, Iraqi prime minister visit Fort Belvoir Soldiers

by Richard M. Arndt

Fort Belvoir Public Affairs Office

FORT BELVOIR, Va. - "Hooah!" The word sprang from the throats of hundreds of servicemembers at Fort Belvoir July 26 as their commander-in-chief walked into the post's Community Club.

"I just thought I'd drop by for lunch," said President George W. Bush once the welcome died down.

Bush visited Fort Belvoir with Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki, and ate with about 250 servicemembers and spouses.

Bush expressed his pride in both the uniformed members and their spouses in attendance. "Our troops have sacrificed," he said, "and as they have done so, so have our military families... Today we pay respect to the men and women who wear the uniform and their loved ones. We're proud of you."

Speaking to the Iraqi prime minister, Bush noted that Fort Belvoir is home to 120 military commands representing the various services, all of which have played a role in fighting the war on terror.

"There's no place better to come than Fort Belvoir, Mr. Prime Minister," Bush said.

Bush relayed his confidence in al-Maliki's ability to lead the Iraqi government. "He wants the Iraqi people to enjoy the benefits that most people in other countries enjoy... This man will succeed if he cares first and foremost about the condition of the Iraqi people. If he's the kind of leader I know he is, who cares about generations of Iraqis to come, he will be successful."

Bush reaffirmed his resolve to stand behind the Iraqi government. "That's why we've sent some of our finest citizens to help you, Mr. Prime Minister," he said. "We want you to succeed. It's in our nation's best interest that you succeed. And I'm confident that you will succeed."

"I've told the Iraqi people that we stand with you, and that no matter how tough it gets, we will complete this mission. We owe it to those who have lost a limb. We owe it to those who have lost a life."

Bush noted that one life recently lost was that of Sgt. 1st Class Scott Smith of Fort Belvoir's 737th Ordnance Company, Explosive Ordnance Disposal. He was killed by an improvised explosive device in Iraq.

"He helped save lives," the president said.



President George W. Bush and Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki pose for photos with service members during a visit to Fort Belvoir, Va., July 26.

"He helped lay that foundation for peace."

Finally, Bush noted that by volunteering to serve, America's servicemembers set the example for generations to come. "And so I've asked you to come, Mr. Prime Minister, to be in the midst of those who have served our country," Bush said. "As you come up here and look at the folks here in uniform, you've got to know how proud their commander-in-chief is to be able to serve alongside them as we do our duty with honor for our country."

Al-Maliki addressed the assembled servicemembers and spouses through a translator, expressing his appreciation for their service and sacrifice.

"Iraq, because of what you have offered, because of what your sons have offered, your families have offered, has moved from dictatorship to democracy; from oppression, torture chambers, chemical weapons, into a state of freedom, liberty, and partnership."

The Iraqi prime minister affirmed his government's commitment to democracy, even in the face of daily terrorist attacks on civilians. "The terrorists want to kill democracy as they kill humans," al-Maliki said. "But they will fail... because we are committed to democracy. The daily killing does not prevent Iraqis from carrying on and going along with their daily lives."

Al-Maliki, who had been sentenced to death under the rule of Saddam Hussein,

expressed his appreciation and sympathy to families of service members killed in Iraq. Saddam, he said, executed 67 members of his family.

"I can feel the bitterness of loss when someone loses a dear member of his family, a son, or a spouse," al-Maliki said. "We feel pain and sorrow for every drop of blood that falls in Iraq. We salute you, and we thank you very much for all that you've offered Iraq."

Installation Command Sgt. Maj. Tracey E. Anbiya said the visit of the president and Iraqi prime minister motivated and reenergized the commitment of the service members in attendance to win the war on terror.

"In talking with the servicemembers, they told me how much they appreciated that the President took the time to thank us for our service," Anbiya said. "They came away with a new appreciation of how important every servicemember's job is to the mission, and they were glad to hear the President express his appreciation of the family members, who serve our country right alongside the service members."

Anbiya said the remarks that both men made about sacrifice struck a particular chord with the assembled servicemembers.

"It was good to hear them both say that they know of the sacrifices that our service members and families are making, and that they appreciate those sacrifices," Anbiya said.

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ARMY RESERVE

It's not your everyday job.

Obide tribes coming together to secure region

by Maj. Anna Friederich

4th Infantry Division Public Affairs

FOB KALSU, Iraq – The southern portion of Iraq is reaping the long overdue benefits of infrastructure, rebuilding, and trained security forces.

Although the areas in the Karbala, Najaf and Babil provinces still have their share of turbulence, some of the success the provinces are enjoying stems from the willingness of local tribes to work together to put their part of Iraq back together, said Capt. Dave Zaino, commander, A Company, 2nd Battalion, 8th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division.

“We are going into areas in the northern sector of our area of operations, finding a large population who are putting the pieces back together on their own,” Zaino said.

Last week, Zaino met with a community leader for the first time and found he and the surrounding tribes were working on a joint project on their own to improve the water system in their area. The leader solicited help from the Obide, Guerarie, Jabo, and Guernie tribes, along with his own tribe, to assist with the project.

“His initiative is a model of sincere leadership and accountability and is a positive step in boosting the idea of democracy and faith in the Government of Iraq,” Zaino said.

Zaino also met with another community leader for the first time and said he found him willing to discuss his tribe’s issues. This leader expressed his greatest concerns, which were also water and security in the region, and agreed to another visit a few days later.

“We organized a patrol to the region with elements of the 4th Brigade, 8th Iraqi Army Division, and pushed out to the Obide region early Saturday,” Zaino said. “As a good-faith gesture, the Iraqi army soldiers brought cases of bottled water and humanitarian supplies for the farmers in the surrounding areas as a way of showing their willingness to work with the tribes and also to win their trust and confidence.”

When the combined forces arrived, only the



Capt. John Skatoff, 402nd Civil Affairs Detachment, 101st Airborne Division, meets with project contractors at Tikrit University.

Photo by Maj. Anna Friederich

community leader and his family who received the Soldiers, but as the morning wore on, tribal members from the immediate area joined the gathering and listened. While the leader discussed the issues of his tribe with Zaino, the IA soldiers were busy handing out the supplies to the tribal farming community.

The community leader again said he was very concerned about the water supply, which was rapidly dwindling, due to a buildup of debris in the canals, and lack of adequate pumping systems and power generation. He said the water supply had steadily decreased since the original invasion in 2003 due to the lack of funding for upkeep of pumping equipment, generators and canal maintenance.

He showed Zaino and Staff Sgt. Samantha Mahan, team leader, 412th Civil Affairs Detachment, 2nd BCT, the small well in front of his home and a small outlet from the canal behind his home. Both water sources seemed to be contaminated, which required the family to boil their water to make it potable, Mahan said. “When we see problems like this, we evaluate

the water sources and determine short term and possible long term solutions.”

“As civil affairs Soldiers, it is our job to affect change in circumstances such as these. These changes don’t occur overnight, but with the cooperation of the unit and support of the command, we can certainly make a difference

to a community like this one,” Mahan said.

Mahan said the Saddam regime provided funding to the farmers much like our welfare system in the U.S. The farmers relied on the funding to run their farms and provided needed supplies. The concept of making their own decisions regarding the revenue generated by their efforts is very new to them.

“We are basically starting from the ground up, teaching them how to be businessmen and are experiencing great success,” Mahan said.

“The difference we make here is what we take home with us.”

-- Capt. Dave Zaino

“We found that starting with the younger generation, with the approval of the elders, has improved those chances of success.”

Zaino reiterated that the best weapon in his arsenal is talking directly to the tribal sheiks because he can influence a group of 200 rather than by talking to one person or family at a time.

“We win the trust of the tribe when we win the trust of the sheik,” Zaino said. “As we do this, the IA is also winning the trust of the tribe by showing they are the ones providing security and support to the communities.”

“We all benefit from our relationship; we promote the IA as a viable security force and a group who is truly supportive, providing the community the safety and stability they need. In turn, the communities help us by quelling terrorist activity in their areas,” Zaino said.

During a lunch of lamb, rice, and bread, the community leader addressed the security situation in depth, reiterating his concern for the safety of his tribe and surrounding tribes. He said he sees no difference in Sunni and Shia, and when coalition forces arrived in their region in 2003, he directed the people in the region not to resist. He seemed very proud of the fact that not one shot was fired from his tribe. He pointed out that he also encouraged his tribe to vote in every election because he believes in the democratic process.

“This is part of what makes my people great,” he said.

By the end of the visit, the room was full of tribal members. The noticeably respect they showed their leader made it apparent he was a strong leader,

seemingly admired by all.

Zaino said he was very pleased with the results of the meeting as was the community leader. “We both got what we wanted – the move toward security, stability, and prosperity in the Obide region, I can live with that. The difference we make here is what we take home with us,” Zaino said.

Q-West neighbors receive second donation of wheelchairs

story and photos by Sgt. Rachel Brune

Q-WEST BASE COMPLEX, Iraq - One week after delivering six pediatric wheelchairs to the local community, medical and civil affairs personnel from Q-West delivered four more to children of local nationals who work on the base.

Capt. Charles Roberts, a physicians assistant, from North Pole, Alaska, and Spc. Christopher McCuiston, a combat medic, from Ann Arbor, Mich., fitted the children for the chairs at the Civil Military Operations Center, July 17.

The 4th Battalion, 11th Field Artillery Regiment medics, an active duty unit from Fort Wainwright, Alaska, showed the parents how to make adjustments to the chairs using the provided tools, as well as how to collapse the chairs for traveling.

“It’s our pleasure to help,” Roberts said, when an interpreter translated one father’s thanks.

In addition to 12 wheelchairs the medics originally received as part of a larger donation by Wheelchairs for Iraqi Kids and ROC Wheels, the unit recently received 10 more to distribute in the community, Roberts said.

Marwan, 5, Abdul Rachman, 5, AbdulSalam Sbbar, 6, and Nawal Achmed, 2, all received wheelchairs at the CMOC. The 4-11th and the Q-West-based team from the 403rd Civil Affairs Battalion plan to distribute more at next Monday’s CMOC.

A community leader assisted the Soldiers, interpreting for the medics and the local nationals. AbdulSalam’s father expressed his thanks to all the people who sent the wheelchairs, the community leader said.

(Below) Capt. Charles Roberts, physician’s assistant, and Spc. Christopher McCuiston, combat medic, adjust a head-piece for a pediatric wheelchair for Abdul Rachman, 5. (Right) Capt. Charles Roberts, physician’s assistant, adjusts the harness on a pediatric wheelchair for Nawal Achmed, 2.



Engineers build smiles in Iraq

by Spc. Amanda Solitario

Anaconda Times Staff Writer

LSA ANACONDA, Iraq - With curious eyes, they watched the convoy roll down the street. When it came to a halt, the small figures ran from all corners of the village toward the vehicles. They jumped with joy as the Soldiers unloaded dozens of boxes. You could see the excitement on the children's faces.

Soldiers from the 84th Engineer Combat Battalion went to the town of Al Hatamia to hand out gifts to the kids on July 18. It made quite an impression on the town, as well as the Soldiers.

"I really enjoyed the mission," said Spc. Christopher Henry, a petroleum supply specialist with the 50th Engineer Company (Multi-Role Bridge) from Guthrie Okla. "It was important to me because it had a positive impact on the Iraqi children and their parents."

The unit's goal was to make a difference for the people of Al Hatamia while showing the Soldiers what they do changes lives, said Capt. Dot Browning, civil military operations officer for the 84th ECB.

"I want our Soldiers to have a vivid reminder of why they are here," she said.

Browning, who coordinated the mission known as Operation Helping Hands, said the purpose was to deliver shoes, toys, and candy to the children. Soldiers also presented a teacher at the girl's school with various supplies for the upcoming school year.

Many of the donations came from the families of servicemembers. The wife of Command Sgt. Maj. Dale Moran, command sergeant major of the unit, collected the crates of shoes. With the help of her church in Minnesota, she gathered all the footwear and mailed it to the unit for distribution.

The Soldiers handed out the items in the school courtyard. Boys and girls lined up at the gate and waited to receive a mark on their hands. The purpose was to ensure each child

only came through once. After getting their gifts, the children could see a medic who provided on-the-spot medical treatment.

The entire effort was a volunteer-based operation, Browning said. It was a chance for the Soldiers to go into the town and see the difference they are making in the country.

"One of the greatest aspects of the mission was that it wasn't mandatory," she said. "No one made our unit organize it, and no one forced the Soldiers to participate in it."

Missions like this are important for the overall success in Iraq, said Capt. Kelly Porter, chaplain for the 84th ECB, adding that it builds good rapport with the village and establishes a link between the military and the Iraqi people.

"What we did today does not necessarily stop the problems, but it creates relationships," he said.

The objective behind the operation was to give a little something to a child who has nothing, said Porter. By impacting the children, the Soldiers are having an influence on the next generation in Iraq.

"The children are the future of this nation, and we should proactively make a positive impression on them whenever possible," Browning said.

This was the first humanitarian project for the unit, she said. Their normal missions include force protection, construction work, and crater repairs.

The unit hopes to participate in similar missions in the future, Browning said. "Bringing joy and smiles to the people of the area is what it's all about."



Photos by Spc. Amanda Solitario
Cpl. Shkeila Milford, operations noncommissioned officer for the 84th Engineer Combat Battalion Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, organizes the shoes before handing them out to the children of a nearby village. Milford is from St. Stephen, S.C.



Children from a local village wait for the Soldiers from the 84th Engineer Combat Battalion to hand out shoes, candy, and toys. The troops donated numerous items to the kids in Operation Helping Hands on July 18.



A Soldier marks the hand of an Iraqi child. The children's hands were marked to ensure every child received a gift during Operation Helping Hands July 18.

Convoy, from Page 1

two weapon systems as opposed to one being controlled by the CROWS system.

B Battery employs the versatility of the ASV during their weekly convoy missions. Laton, convoy commander, said with every escort they become more confident in its abilities.

"We use a large number of ASVs on our security missions," Staff Sgt. Jason Marsh said. "And we constantly have teams training on the vehicle."

Marsh is the assistant convoy commander and noncommissioned officer in charge of recovery missions. He is also the convoy commander during the recovery convoys.

"These vehicles are better equipped to handle the attacks frequently experienced on convoys," he said. "They are capable of withstanding large explosions and staying functional."

Here, B Battery, which is attached to the 548th Logistical Task Force, has a considerably different mission than they are accustomed to.

"We had never done escorts until we deployed to Iraq," Laton said. "Even though our mission is not specific to our military occupation specialty, it is still essential to the success of the overall mission."

"Regardless of what we are doing here, there are people here and at home that depend on us," he said.

"Convoy movements are very similar to the way

we move our large field artillery equipment around ... communication is vital and practice is imperative," Laton said.

Units and teams travel from forward operating bases all over Iraq. During the last eight months, Laton and his team has escorted more than 300 vehicles to the range for training.

"The teams bring their vehicles to LSA Anaconda for the upgrades and we take them out to the range after they go through about 10 days of training to make sure the systems are functional," Laton said.

"We provide security for the convoy and also when the units are training on the range," Marsh said. "They are our responsibility until we get them back to LSA Anaconda."

One of the challenges B Battery faces during these missions is coordinating the movement when they are escorting teams that do this same job on different bases.

"Most of the teams we escort are escort teams themselves," he said. "The teams have to be the escorted for a while and it is hard for them to adjust."

The teams in B Battery have found a solution that has helped them throughout their deployment. "You have to adapt and change as the mission develops," Marsh said. "And due to their experience, our team has adapted to every situation without any problems."

Popular website connects deployed Soldiers, keeps MWR busy

Dedicated MySpace addicts endure long lines, slow connections at MWR computer labs to communicate with friends, family around the world

by Spc. KaRonda Fleming

Anaconda Times Staff Writer

LSA ANACONDA, Iraq -There is an addiction that many people don't even realize. A popular web site used here is currently ranked second among popular top web domains.

More than 95 million members have joined MySpace since it began in 2004. It currently averages 230,000 new members per day and more than six million new members every month, according to Rena Grant, a MySpace spokesperson.

"Originally, I didn't really think too much of it, but when I first got here, a lot of my friends were on it," said Spc. Jonathan Laureles, 2nd Battalion, 127th Infantry Regiment of the Wisconsin National Guard.

Laureles wanted a way to communicate with them, so he became a member of MySpace just after he arrived to Iraq in May 2004. He said he enjoys being able to see how his friends are doing.

Sgt. Aaron G. Reinsberg, B Battery, 5th Battalion, 113th Field Artillery Brigade said he has been a member since last year.

"It's easy to keep in touch with my friends and family. They are all over the world," Reinsberg said. "It's easier to keep everyone

centralized in one location on MySpace."

Many MySpace visits are to social networking Web sites.

Reinsberg was introduced to MySpace through a friend from his hometown of Richmond, Va. His friend told him that he should join MySpace "to pick up all kinds of ladies."

"Recently, I've used MySpace to get in touch with old friends I haven't talked to in six or seven years," Reinsberg said.

Spc. Deltonio C. Thompson, 404th Head Support Company, Area Support Group, from Fort Hood, Texas, said he didn't know about MySpace until he came to Iraq.

"Someone in my unit told me that a lot of people were on MySpace," Thompson said. "So, I typed my hometown area code of Virginia Beach, Va., and found all my cousins and friends up there."

The contents of MySpace include a user profile, blogs, instant messaging, e-mail, uploaded images, music streaming, music videos, and a search page, Grant said. There is a count of the user's friends, as well as a "Top Friends" list. Comments can also be added to user pages by friends from the user's friends list.

Once users join MySpace, they can cre-

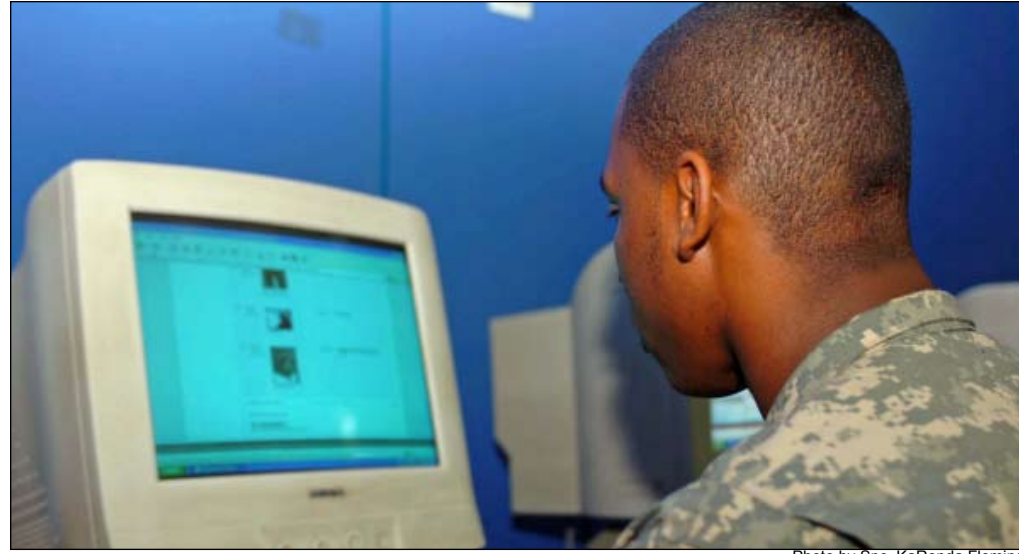


Photo by Spc. KaRonda Fleming

Spc. Deltonio C. Thompson, 404th Head Support Company, Area Support Group, from Fort Hood, Texas, views his MySpace messages at the Morale, Welfare, Recreation center east.

ate customized profile page layouts using hypertext markup language or cascading style sheets. There are also many MySpace editors available from other websites for people that don't know computer programming.

"I have a memorial on my page for two of my friends who have died while in the military," Reinsberg said. "I have the Iwo Jima statue as my background, and I have videos on my webpage, too."

Laureles said he has a couple of paintings as a background by Salvador Dali on his webpage. He also has a tribute to his friends and battle buddies that he has made since he's been in Iraq on his page as well.

There are various independent musicians and filmmakers who post songs and short films on MySpace. Due to the popularity, many of these thriving artists have joined the MySpace trend.

Many users are joining MySpace daily, which could result in the server being too busy.

"Overall I'd rate Myspace a nine on a scale of 1 to 10. Sometimes it's a pain, because too many people are on it at once, and so it's very slow," Reinsberg said.

MySpace was founded by Chris DeWolfe, chief executive officer, and Tom Anderson, president.

Internet offers potential dangers, credit card theft

by Spc. KaRonda Fleming

Anaconda Times Staff Writer

LSA ANACONDA, Iraq - Servicemembers are advised to be cautious when purchasing items over the Internet. The possible dangers rest on the computers and its connections.

There are 25 Spawar locations, which provide Internet connections to servicemembers and civilians 24 hours a day, seven days a week, said Lt. Col. Stephen D. Williams, garrison communications officer with the 35th Area Support Group, Garrison Command, from Lexington, Mo.

Some people are concerned that hackers can possibly get a credit card number or other personal information when items are purchased over the Internet.

Williams said the garrison logistics support center is looking into ways to prevent Internet fraud at Anaconda, including their business licensing process for Internet service providers. They are hoping to stop the hackers before they ever arrive on base.

"If a company is interested in coming in and offering services to military personnel, then they need to work through the garrison command and go through the business licensing process," he said.

Williams said this process allows the military to know who the entities are while offering preliminary background checks on the businesses and its employees. There is technology that enables hackers to tap into Internet services that are wireless or landlines.

"It is easier for the enemy using surveillance equipment to detect things (credit card transactions) over wireless as compared to being transmitted through wired lines," Williams said.

"Over here, I don't feel too safe about the Internet. I've had some viruses that have come through my computer...but back home I feel very safe," said Pfc. Kevin Kurth, Charlie Company, 6th Battalion, 32nd Field Artillery Regiment, Ft.

Sill, Okla.

Wired lines are more secured because of their ability to prevent of what you are doing over that link, Williams said. There are a few ways to protect yourself from the enemy.

On the wireless side, there is wireless encryption protection. This allows you to communicate without it being intercepted.

"Using your credit card to purchase items over the Internet could become risky when there are illegal storefronts scheming on innocent buyers like you and me," Williams said. "Their sole purpose is to get people to order something, just so they can have access to your credit card number."

Kurth said that he uses the Internet primarily to keep in contact with his family and friends as well as buy clothes for his wife.

"I purchase things regularly through eBay back at home, but here I don't," Kurth said. "I definitely will continue to use the Internet both in my room and at the Morale, Welfare, and Recreation centers."

Williams said the best thing is to use a separate credit card, specifically intended for Internet purchases. The reason for this is because a lot of people these days have ongoing bill paying that they do with their credit card company.

The garrison office suggests that you use a secondary credit card as well as your primary credit card. The secondary one will make it a little more difficult to upset your whole financial world, by potentially causing you to pay thousands of dollars that you never authorized.

Some Internet sites offer secured browsers with encryptions. An encryption scrambles your information, making it hard for a third party to transmit the information sent.

Some browsers use hypertext transfer protocol secured, or https, instead of the normal http, Williams said. This acknowledges that you are on a secured website.

People should take precautions when dealing with purchases over the Internet. One approach is to have some form

of virus protection. Be a smart shopper by checking everything out, and use Web browsers, Kurth said. You can actually save money by shopping on multiple sites to get the best deal.

The main function of the garrison logistics support center is to make sure everyone has housing, power, air conditioning, and similar types of support and business services. The garrison office is also in charge of the Armed Forces Network service, which is provided here in servicemember's living quarters, Williams said.

"We are very much like a signal communications shop, where we take care of the entire infrastructure; from computers, telephones, radios, and things of that nature," Williams said. The office runs its own internal helpdesk command. "We keep all the other command functions working in the city so that the city doesn't stop working."

Williams said there are different options available for servicemembers that want a personal Internet connection. In the desert; however, the only way to get it is through a satellite. There is not an Iraqi Internet Service Provider available to provide landline Internet and cable services.

Using satellite service providers with co-ops are the only real means for a private Internet service. A co-op is a cooperative exchange, or group of individuals that have come together to agree in the share of costs and liability of going through a contract for that type of service, Williams said.

Furthermore, servicemembers can set up limits of charges with their credit card company, Williams said. If your credit card becomes compromised, you would only be charged a few hundred dollars rather than thousands of dollars, he said.

Williams said, "If your credit card company offers an electronic means of looking at your account, then look at it frequently. When you buy something, look at it afterwards to verify that the transaction is correct."

If you need to, cancel that credit card, Williams said. You can cancel it without upsetting the rest of your world.

Q-West Soldiers cross bridge to NCO Corps during ceremony

by Sgt. Rachel Brune

101st Sustainment Brigade PAO

Q-WEST BASE COMPLEX, Iraq

Fourteen newly-promoted noncommissioned officers of the 101st Brigade Troops Battalion were inducted into the NCO Corps in a ceremony July 19 here.

The Soldiers inducted belong to Headquarters and Headquarters Company, A and B companies, 620th Movement Control Team and 55th Postal Detachment.

After viewing a musical slide show depicting NCOs in action around the battalion, Command Sgt. Maj. Stephen D. Blake, 101st Sustainment Brigade, led the inductees in the "NCO Charge."

Soldiers performed different skits, including the recitation of the Transportation, Signal and Ordinance Creeds.

Instead of simply reciting the "Soldier's Request," a staple of NCO induction ceremonies, junior enlisted Soldiers took turns reciting sections of the request, which were answered in turn by NCOs situated on the stage.

Spc. Lauren Witt, B Company, and Soldier of the Month, read her statement on the Army Values, which she presented at the board. She listed the values and described what they meant to her personally.

"We do these things not for public gratification but (to serve)," said Witt. "All the Army values are imperative to the mission."

Command Sgt. Maj. Lorria P. Anderson, 101st Brigade Troops Battalion, gave her remarks to the assembled Soldiers, speaking to them of the "leadership transition" they have completed by joining the NCO Corps.

Anderson encouraged all NCOs to train their Soldiers to the standard. "[Training] can make the difference between life and death," she said.

After lighting symbolic red, white, and blue candles, the first sergeants of each company took turns leading the inductees and audience in the NCO Creed.

Blake, Anderson, and the first sergeants then presented the inductees with plaques recognizing their achievement.



Newly-inducted NCOs recite the NCO Creed during the 101st Brigade Troops Battalion NCO Induction Ceremony July 19 at the Q-West MWR Theater.

Photos by Rachel Brune



(Above) 1st Sgt. Maurice Murray, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, lights a candle during the ceremony. (Right) The honor guard arrives with the Colors during the induction ceremony.



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

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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



by Spc. KaRonda Flem

210th Mobile Public Affairs Det

Mecha

LSA Anaconda - Mechanics
in the upkeep of many wheeled
Logistical Support Area Anaconda

Sgt. Troy A. Shumard a mechanic
quarters, Headquarters Company



Staff Sgt. Thomas E. Scales inspects the power steering pump prior to installing it onto an up-armored M1114 Humvee.

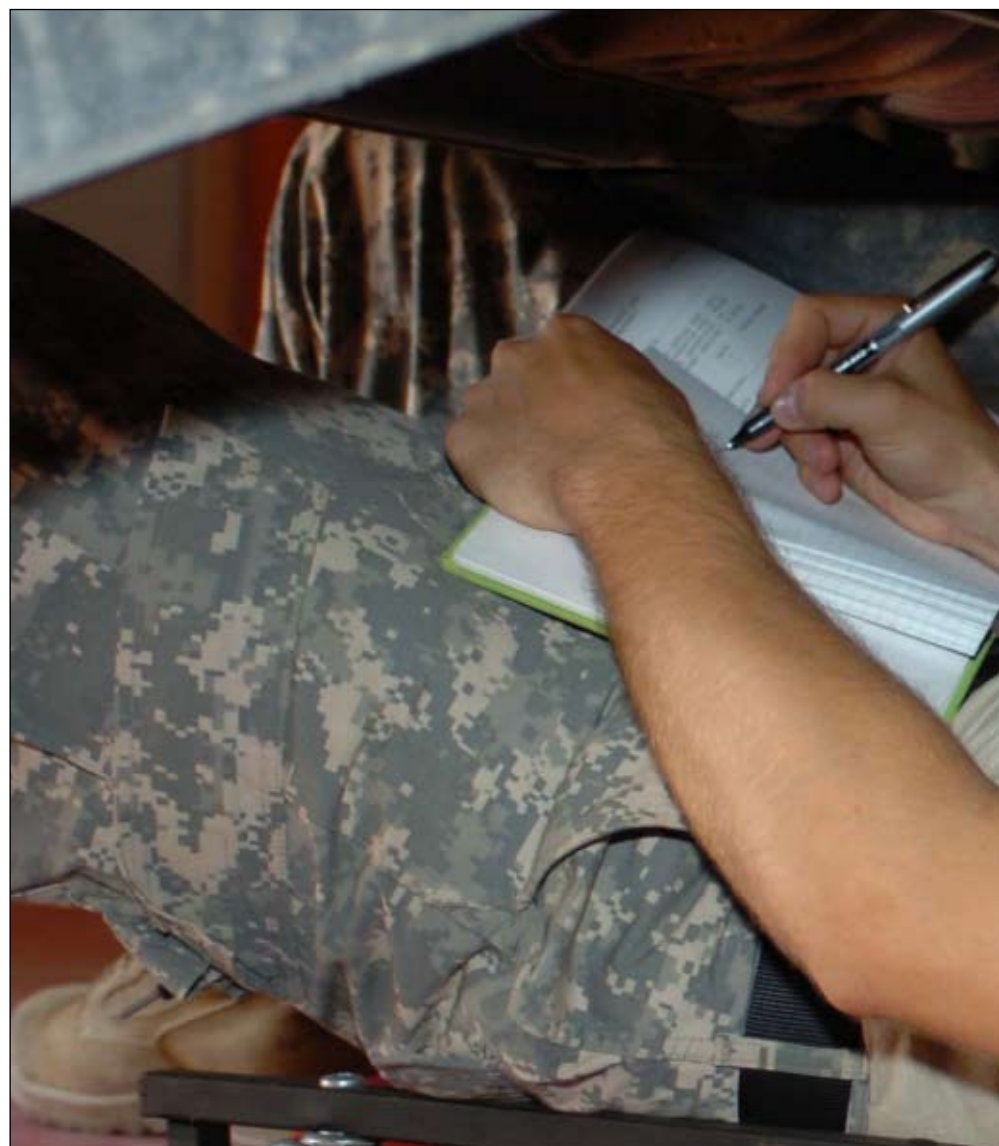


Sgt. Shawn D. Burton reattaches a fan onto an up-armored Humvee at LSA Anaconda.



Staff Sgt. Thomas E. Scales and Sgt. Shawn D. Burton replace a power steering pump.

A Soldier of the Headquarters, Headquarters Company
Humvee at Logistical Support Area Anaconda.



Sgt. Troy A. Shumard performs a monthly maintenance technical inspection on a wheeled vehicle.

mechanics keep Anaconda rolling

s play a critical role
d vehicles on Lo-
a.

mechanic with Head-
any, 3rd Corps

Support Command, said there are approximately 60 to 70 vehicles that the unit is in charge of. "We ensure that all the vehicles are running," he said.

"We have a really good job going on here."

The mechanics focus on keeping up the main-

tenance with weekly checks of all wheeled vehicles at LSA Anaconda. They support this through dispatches, Shumard said.

Servicemembers are advised to bring in their vehicles for a weekly maintenance check on Tuesdays, Shumard said.

"We do the best that we can. We try to help everyone out. If they can't come in on that day, they can come in a day earlier or later," Shumard said. "We aren't too strict. We'll be pretty flexible with your schedules, because that's what we are here for," he said.

The Transportation Motor Pool is responsible for the heavy and light vehicles, said Lester Lewis a maintenance supervisor from Glen Cove, N.Y. This includes buses, forklifts, non-tactical vehicles, small power washers, and generators.

Weekly maintenance dispatches are done on approximately 1,100 vehicles, Lewis said.

Overall, the most difficult task that the unit has is trying to order parts. There are shops and sister companies that must be contacted when parts are needed, Shumard said.

There are mechanics on LSA Anaconda for every type of vehicle. Mechanics are essential to personnel and equipment movement by means of transportation in and around Anaconda.



Company, 3rd Corps Support Command from Wiesbaden, Germany, replaces a part to an up-armored



Do you brag about your run time?

Do you go to the pool for show and tell?

it's time to shut up and show Anaconda
what you are made of during the...

Hotter than Hell Biathlon



1,000 meter swim, 4.1 mile run

Sunday, August 27

Sign-in: 5 a.m.

Start : 5:30 a.m.

Each participant **MUST** swim a timed 500 meter monitored by the Aquatic Staff prior to the Aug. 25 sign-up deadline at either the indoor or outdoor pools

for more information email:

Meredith.Waters@halliburton.com Bill.Pepper@halliburton.com John.Eoff@halliburton.com

Sponsored by the 21st Cargo Transportation Company



Capt. Jesse Ballenger, logistics officer, 153rd Field Artillery Brigade, squints into a dust storm as he plots a GPS point on the perimeter of the Hatra ruins July 14.



Soldiers and their Iraqi guides walk through the temple area of the Hatra ruins during a survey site visit July 14.

Arizona Guardsmen works to preserve Iraqi history

story and photos by Sgt. Rachel Brune >> 101st Sustainment Brigade

AL HADR, Iraq - Even as he is mired in the present concerns of coordinating logistics for Q-West Base Complex, Capt. Jesse Ballenger, 153rd Field Artillery Brigade, has one eye on the future.

Ballenger keeps another eye on the past, a consequence of his ongoing studies in archaeology as a Ph.D. candidate at the University of Arizona.

With his current project at the Hatra ruins, the Army National Guardsman and Norman, Okla., native is bringing together his military and civilian skills to facilitate the construction of a fence to protect and preserve the 2,000-year-old site.

Accompanied by a team of engineers from the 412th Engineer Command under the 130th Engineer Brigade, and the local Iraqi Army commander, Ballenger visited the site July 14 to complete the design for a protective fence that will encircle the entire site, including currently unexcavated areas.

"If all goes well in Iraq, energy and archaeological tourism [will be] the two big industries," Ballenger said. As one of the most famous ancient sites, Hatra could be a draw for the tourism industry in the area.

Col. Ra'ad, commander, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Brigade, 2nd Division Iraqi Army, gave his full endorsement to the project. As he and Ballenger traveled around the perimeter and through one of the few sites excavated in the 1970s, Ra'ad shared stories of the previous work of archaeologists in the area, as well as the ancient legend of how the fortified city-state fell to the invading Sassanids around 241 A.D.

Col. Daniel Prine, commander, Detachment 8, 412th EN-COM, made notes on the location and design of the fence, as Ballenger notated a series of global positioning system, or GPS, points around the perimeter.

Inside the site, amidst the rolling hills of sand covering unexcavated houses, streets, walls and civilization, Prine's team of engineers recorded a series of seven different possible sites for permanent markers.

Although a dust storm severely limited visibility, the satellite coverage enabling the GPS markers was good, according to Sgt. Roger D. Ashley, engineer technician, from Vicksburg, Miss. The next group of surveyors will be able to use this information to do a more precise survey and map of the site, which will be necessary before excavations can begin and will happen after the fence is built.



On the crest of an unexcavated mound, a survey team from the 412th Engineer Command plots a survey point in the Hatra ruins.

"You start with the map," Ballenger. Once archaeologists have a good topographical understanding of the site, they can understand it spatially, better conceptualize the site formation processes and address other archaeological concerns.

Ashley, a Vicksburg, Miss., reserve Soldier who is a railroad conductor/brakeman for the Kansas City Southern, said he did not expect the site surveyors to have too many problems with the GPS, and that they will hopefully have better visibility.

Although some parts of the fence in the area around the front gate might be salvageable, most of the old concrete posts have crumbled into the dirt, and the old barbed wire is twisted into a tangled mass. Prine, who as a civilian, works as a project manager for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Colombia, made careful notes about what might be usable.

In the coming weeks, Ballenger hopes that the fence design and funds for the construction will be approved by Multinational Coalition-Iraq.

"There's much work to do," Ballenger said.

Hatra is one of only two sites in Iraq inscribed on the World Heritage List, which recognizes natural and cultural sites that have outstanding universal value, according to Ballenger's memo to MNC-I. Conserving and excavating the site is a "big picture" step in Iraq, although right now the process is in the "baby step" stage, Ballenger explained.

Ballenger has been in contact with archaeologists in the international community who will be interested in contributing to

the excavation of the Hatra ruins, once the security situation has improved and archaeological activity is once again feasible.

In the meantime, a protective fence would go a long way toward protecting and conserving the artifacts and structures on the site. A brackish pond on the site that has seen recent treasure hunting may hold clues to everyday life due to the fact that "people have been tossing things in here for millennia," Ballenger said.

The rebuilt Temple of Shamash is an oft-visited site for Soldiers stationed in the Nineveh Province of Iraq. Saddam Hussein sponsored the excavation and reconstruction of the temple, leaving his mark in the form of bricks prominently imprinted with his initials in stylized Arabic script. Col. Ra'ad remembers trucks arriving and loading up hundreds of ancient statues of gods and goddesses for safe transport to the Iraqi National Museum.

In addition to international archaeologists interested in getting their hands dirty on the site, the big push is to enable Iraqi archaeologists to begin working at the site again.

"The Iraqi government has excellent antiquities laws on the books," Ballenger said. With the current security situation, the difficulty may be enforcing these laws.

Until that time, Ballenger, the engineers, the local Iraqis, and those with an interest in the site hope that a protective fence may preserve the history and culture until it can once again be uncovered for the world.

There's a new sheriff in town...

CAMP ADDER, Iraq - Soldiers of the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 34th Infantry Division, begin hitting the Iraqi roads this week with some of the Army's newest Humvees.

More than 75, M1151 Humvees were delivered to Camp Adder July 16. These Humvees came from the factory with armor installed and will provide the very best protection for the Soldiers.

Since the 1/34 BCT arrived in Iraq, it has received more than 153 new issue Level 1 vehicles like the M1151 and M1114. A Level 1 vehicle is the highest level of armored vehicle. The BCT's mission is providing theater security which means protecting convoys and bases.

The M1151s have newer radios, better air conditioning, three-point seatbelts, and an improved transmission compared to the M1114s.

Sgt. Maj. Sidney Bell, property book noncommissioned officer, said Soldiers also have told him that the M1151 is more comfortable than the M1141.

Maj. Bryon Studer, logistical officer for the 1/34 BCT, said this fielding is part of the continuing effort of the 1/34 BCT and 3rd Corps Support Command to update their aging fleet of M1025 Humvees. The M1025s are made up of factory manufactured "add on" kits that are made for a specific vehicle.

M

story and photos by
1-34 BCT

1151

Sgt. 1st Class Clinton Wood
Public Affairs Office



The M1151 Humvees were transported on several flatbed semi trailers.



Staff Sgt. Randy Smelser of Morristown, Minn., 1-34 Brigade Troops Battalion, 1/34 Brigade Combat Team, ground guides one of the new M1151 Humvees.



Spc. Brandon Zimmerschied, of Hutchinson, Minn., walks between several M1151 uparmored Humvees



More than 75 new M1151 Humvees were parked on this concrete slab at the 1-34 Brigade Troops Battalion motor pool July 16 on Camp Adder, Iraq.

Movie Schedule

Sustainer Reel Time Theater

(schedule is subject to change)

August 6

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

August 7

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

August 8

5 p.m. Just My Luck
8 p.m. The Ant Bully

August 9

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

August 10

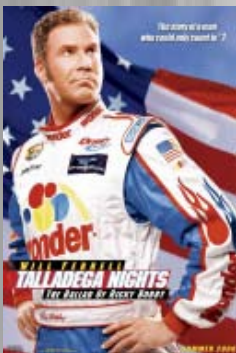
5 p.m. The Ant Bully
8 p.m. Just My Luck

August 11

2 p.m. The Omen
5 p.m. The Break Up
8 p.m. Talledega; The Balad of Ricky Bobby

August 12

11 a.m.. The Omen
2 p.m. Talledega; The Balad of Ricky Bobby
5 p.m. The Break Up
8 p.m. Talledega; The Balad of Ricky Bobby



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

Ensure proper hazardous waste shipment

by Sgt. Judith D. DaCosta

3rd COSCOM PAO

Members of the 3rd Corps Support Command Corps Distribution Center at Logistical Support Area Anaconda are concerned that Soldiers may not be following proper procedures for preparing hazardous material cargo for shipment, said Col. Joel W. Barber, the 3rd COSCOM deputy chief of CDC.

“There have been no recent incidents regarding the shipment of hazardous materials; however, it is our job to ensure that these incidents don’t occur,” said Barber.

Upon inspection of units throughout Iraq, Barber said he has noticed that hazardous materials such as ammunition and chemicals have not been labeled according to regulation, said Barber.

There are four main steps that must be completed prior to the shipment of hazardous materials, according to Army Regulation 700-141, that include proper documentation.

First, a HAZMAT certified technician should mark, label and package the cargo. Second, the technician must complete DD Forms 836 and 2781 certifying that the cargo was inspected. Third, the transporting unit must load and inspect the transporting vehicle using DD Form 626. Lastly, qualified drivers with proper licenses should receive a copy of the HAZMAT Material Safety Data Sheet and a briefing on potential hazards, public safety and emergency response prior to departure.

For additional information or training, Soldiers should contact their unit’s Environmental Compliance Officer, said Barber.

Approximately 60,000 tons of material is transported in theater on any given day, said Barber. Transportation is the business of the 3rd COSCOM, said Barber, and with several units preparing to redeploy, this information may prove vital in reminding Soldiers to be mindful of their actions by following procedures that can save lives and ultimately bring servicemembers and civilians home to their loved ones.



**Keep your exposure to a minimum in the turret.
Stay low.**

**If you can see it,
it can see you.**



STAY ALIVE

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.





Five comedians walk into a war zone, and...

story and photos by Sgt. Kevin McSwain

LSA ANACONDA, Iraq - C-130s bring in cargo daily, but it's not every day they get to bring in laughter.

That is exactly what one plane did when it brought comedians from the Comics on Duty World Tour to perform here July 26 and 27 at the West Recreation center and Sustainer Theater respectively. The comedians have performed at forward operating bases and military bases in Kuwait and Iraq.

James P. Connolly, a Desert Storm veteran, has been to Iraq on two previous comedy tours and said he comes back because he remembers how he felt during his 14 month deployment.

After graduating from Harvard, Connolly became a 2nd Lt. in the Marine Corps. While he was deployed, his commanding officer had him write jokes for a dinner he was hosting.

"I am probably the only comedian to start doing comedy with a direct order," he said, laughing.

Comics on this tour included Chris Alpine, Reno Collier, Dave Mishevitz, Tom Foss and Connolly who all brought side-splitting humor

with topics covering everything from British soldiers to sex.

Alpine, the veteran on tour, said the appreciation from the Soldiers after the show is what keeps him coming back. He has been on five tours since he joined and has performed in Sustainer Theater once before.

"I can actually see we are doing someone some good ... and in our line work that is few and far between," he said with pride.

Collier, who is on his second tour, said he joined the tour because he wanted to do his part to help Soldiers.

"I grew up around the military, my step dad was a helicopter pilot in Vietnam and my grandfather fought in World War II, and I felt it was my turn to make a contribution," he said.

Foss has been a part of the tour for three years and has recently finished touring Afghanistan. After the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001 he began donating a portion of the revenue from his stand-up comedy compact disc to help Soldiers. Then he heard about Davis and

what he was doing for Soldiers and sent in an audition tape.

"Since 1992, the Comics on Duty World Tour has entertained servicemembers," said Dave Mishevitz.

Mishevitz said the tour is produced by Richard J. Davis, owner of Davis Entertainment, and is made up of comics that are hand picked by Davis and his talent scouts.

This is Mishevitz's third time to Iraq with the tour and he doesn't plan to stop. He is also the liaison between the comics and the Morale, Welfare, and Recreation staff.

"I am responsible for making sure our comics are where they need to be on time and have everything they need to perform," he said.

After the show, the comics shook hands and took pictures with members of the audience to show how much they appreciated what they were doing for everyone.

"As a stand up comic, we use our freedom of speech more than anyone," Foss said. "And to entertain the guys that defend our freedom ... is a great honor."



Tom Foss acts out a joke during his performance at Sustainer Theater.



James P. Connolly shakes hands with an Air Force colonel he used during part of his act after the show.



Chris Alpine demonstrates how Polish Soldiers search for landmines during his standup on July 27.

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.

American's taking care of their own

CYPRUS -- More than 5,000 servicemembers performed its final scheduled evacuation of more than 15,000 U.S. citizens from Lebanon, a U.S. military spokesman in Cyprus said last week.

The military worked with the U.S. State Department and the governments of Turkey and Cyprus for more than 10 days to evacuate U.S. citizens from Lebanon, which has suffered extensive damage in 15 days of conflict between Israel and Lebanese Hezbollah militants.



A U.S. citizen calms a child while traveling in a U.S. Marine Corps CH-53 Super Stallion helicopter to Cyprus following their departure from the U.S. Embassy in Beirut, Lebanon, July 18, 2006. The helicopters are attached to Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 365. Photo by Gunnery Sgt. James H. Frank, U.S. Marine Corps.



U.S. Navy Hospital Corpsman Nicholas Hanhart helps an American citizen board a CH-53 helicopter at the U.S. Embassy in Beirut, Lebanon, that will fly into Cyprus July 24, 2006.



Anderson Cooper, 2nd from left, from CNN, and other American citizens in Lebanon prepare to depart the U.S. Embassy in Beirut, Lebanon, July 24, 2006, en route to Cyprus. (photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Robert J. Fluegel)



A U.S. Marine from the 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit carries an American child departing Beirut, Lebanon, July 22, 2006. At the request of the U.S. Ambassador to Lebanon and at the direction of the Secretary of Defense, the United States Central Command and 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit are assisting with the departure of U.S. citizens from Lebanon. (U.S. Marine Corps photo by Lance Cpl. Andrew J. Carlson)



U.S. Marine Corps Cpl. Rick Muston prepares an American child for his flight from the U.S. Embassy in Beirut, Lebanon, July 24, 2006, to Cyprus. U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Robert J. Fluegel)