

ANACONDA TIMES

JANUARY 31, 2007

PROUDLY SERVING LSA ANACONDA

NUTS AND BOLTS

15th SB team gives Baghdad Soldiers extra protection

Page 7

Game Day

Illinois Guardsmen ready for another Super Bowl Shuffle this week

Page 13

Vol. 4, Issue 5

LSAA's 2-82 visits Al Jamiah during medical assistance visit

See Page 10



Photos by Capt. Chuck Williams

The Honorable Robert Gates, Secretary of Defense, and Col. David Elicerio, Commander of the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 34th Infantry Division, visit the Ziggurat of Ur and the birthplace of Abraham on Jan. 19.

Gates, Casey visit Adder as part of Mideast tour

Defense Secretary, MNF-I commander discuss troop surge, status of progress

by Spc. Dustin Perry

1/34th BCT Public Affairs

CAMP ADDER, Iraq – Defense Secretary Robert Gates and Gen. George Casey met Friday with military leaders from U.S. and coalition forces and later held a joint news conference to address recent developments in the Iraq war.

While at Camp Adder, Gates and Casey also had the opportunity to talk with Col. David Elicerio, commander of the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 34th Infantry Division.

This week, the brigade received official notice that they would be extended for 125 days past its original mid-March homecoming. The extension is part of the recently announced troop surge designed to bring more stability to the Iraqi capital and provide better security to the people of Iraq.

“The determination of the men and women in uniform, Active and Reserve, has been very successful – and I’ve seen it firsthand,” Gates said. “We mustn’t forget that each one of these Soldiers has family back home. I just hope that Americans won’t forget each one of these [Soldiers] and their loved ones.”

When asked how the Iraqi government was doing to meet its commitment of creating self-sufficient police and military forces, Casey said, “So

See Gates, Page 3



An Iraqi interpreter keeps a sharp eye for trouble during a recent medical assistance visit to the nearby village of Al Jamiah with the 2nd Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery Regiment.

Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Mark Bell

“I will never leave a fallen comrade.”

Sgt. Jose Green from Brooklyn, N.Y.

264th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion >> Supply Sgt.



IA Detains 3 Members Of Insurgent Cell During Raid

BAGHDAD – Soldiers of the 3rd Iraqi Army Division detained three suspected members of an insurgent cell during operations with coalition advisors Jan. 22 in the village of Ibrat As Saghriah, in northern Iraq. The insurgent cell is responsible for coordinating and carrying out mortar and small arms attacks against Iraqi civilians.

The insurgent cell is also suspected of being linked to al Qaeda in Iraq and supports them in their violent attacks against Iraqi security forces by providing them with weapons and supplies. Additionally, the cell has conducted numerous improvised explosive device and small arms attacks on Iraqi security checkpoints.

There was minimal damage done to the objective. There were no Iraqi civilian, Iraqi forces, or Coalition Forces casualties.

New Combat Outpost Built to Thwart Crime in Ghazaliya

BAGHDAD – Concrete walls and concertina wire roughly outline an area including six houses and a large open area in central Ghazaliya. Once this small area is completely encased it will be the new home for 1st Cavalry Division's Company C, 2nd Battalion, 12th Cavalry Regiment.

Command Outpost Wildcard is under construction to allow Soldiers to quickly respond to violence and crime in the area. The former residents of the homes were paid to vacate the area homes and have relocated.

Joint Security Operation Launched in Adhamiyah

FOB LOYALTY, Iraq – Multi-National Division – Baghdad Soldiers and elements from the Iraqi Army launched "Operation Wolf" in eastern Baghdad Jan. 22.

Soldiers with the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division, together with troops from 2nd Brigade, 6th Iraqi Army Division began the security operation in the Adhamiyah section of the city.

The mission is aimed at bringing more security to the area by denying safe haven to insurgents. It is further intended to reduce sectarian violence and is part of an ongoing U.S.-Iraqi effort to transition security in the Iraqi capital to Iraqi security forces.

Four suspects seized, linked to Karbala attack

KALSU, Iraq – Iraqi Army troops, Multi-National Division – Baghdad

Soldiers and a special Iraqi police unit from Hillah teamed up to detain four insurgents suspected of involvement in the Jan. 20 attack at the Karbala Provincial Joint Coordination Center.

Paratroopers with the 2nd Battalion, 377th Parachute Field Artillery Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team (Airborne), 25th Infantry Division, and Iraqi security forces detained the four suspects Jan. 22 following a tip from a Karbala resident.

The suspects were found in a house near the area where the vehicles used in the attack were abandoned after insurgents made their get away from the scene.

Marines discover 14 caches in Al Anbar province

CAMP FALLUJAH, Iraq – Marines from 2nd Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment, Regimental Combat Team 5 uncovered 14 large caches during Operation Northern Venture in Al Anbar Province last week.

"The discovery of such caches is extremely important as it provides the Iraqi civilians a better sense of security," said Lt. Col. Kenneth M. DeTreu, battalion commanding officer. "When we take these weapons away, we lessen the ability of the enemy to terrorize and intimidate civilians."

While conducting patrols North of Fallujah, Marines discovered seven heavy machine guns, one small machine gun, six AK-47 assault rifles, one bolt-action rifle and two Iranian assault rifles. The cache also included 23 82 mm high explosive mortars, five 60 mm high explosive mortar rounds, one 120 mm high explosive mortar round, 4,263 rounds of 14.5 mm ammunition, 2,427 rounds of 7.62 mm ammunition, 87 rounds of 9 mm ammunition, 110 rounds of Z3 precision munitions, 131 Soviet rocket fuses, two hand grenade bodies, 12 hand grenade fuses, three gas masks with filters and a large assortment of weapons related equipment.

"The caches that we found were a mix of all sorts of ordnance from mortars to heavy machine guns," said Maj. Sean M. Riordan, battalion executive officer. "There's no doubt that the rural areas in Iraq contain numerous weapons caches, and the things we took away from the insurgency help to chip away at their tactical capabilities."

The Marines discovered the stockpiles in a combined cache hunt designed to interrupt insurgent activity in the area. Intelligence reports led the Marines to the area, and an immediate operation ensued to uncover the buried caches.

All explosive materials were destroyed on site while the machine guns, rifles and ammunition were brought to Camp Fallujah.

Search yields ammunition, two suspects

FOB LOYALTY, Iraq – Multi-National Division – Baghdad Soldiers seized thousands of rounds of ammunition and detained two suspected insurgents during a security operation in eastern Baghdad Jan. 21.

Troops with 1st Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, attached to the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division, recovered approximately 7,000 rounds of 7.62mm ammunition during a neighborhood search.

The Soldiers were acting on a tip when they uncovered the cache. Two suspects were detained following the search.

Transition of Authority ceremony marks progress of Iraqi battalion

AR RAMADI, Iraq – The 2nd Battalion, 1st Brigade, 7th Iraqi Army Division officially took charge of independent operations in west Ramadi during a ceremony at Camp Ali Jan. 22.

This is the third battalion in the 1st Brigade, 7th Iraqi Army Division to assume authority over another area in the city during the past five months, signifying the continued progress of the brigade.

The 2nd Battalion commanding officer, Col. Khalid, said after the ceremony the transfer of authority was

the result of the cooperative effort with the Coalition Forces' Military Transition Team.

"They are serving our country in a great way and I am very grateful to them," he said.

The Coalition Forces Military Transition Team under 1st Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment, acted as advisors to the Iraqi battalion staff in training and operations.

Marine Lt. Col. William Journey, battalion commander for 1st Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment, spoke during the ceremony and praised Col. Khalid's leadership as well as the ability of the Iraqi soldiers.

"We are proud of the progress this unit has made," Journey said after the ceremony. "I believe they are capable of conducting security operations against those Anti-Iraqi Forces who want to do further harm to the people of their country."

Marine Lt. Col. James Bailey, the Military Transition Team leader for 1st Brigade, 7th Division, said the Iraqi battalion is very capable and will continue to work with Coalition Forces and Iraqi Police.

"They've been performing magnificently ... We're already seeing positive things happen in the battle space," he said. "It means progress for the city of Ramadi and Iraqi security forces."

One, two, three, four....



82nd Sustainment Brigade deputy commander, Lt. Col. William B. Hughes (far right) and 40th Quartermaster Company first sergeant Jeffrey Moses, inspect their hits on target during a recent live fire exercise with a range safety NCO at Camp Adder, Iraq.

Photo by Pfc. Robert H. Baumgartner

ANACONDA TIMES

Anaconda Times is authorized for publication by the 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) 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 13th SC(E), 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

13th SC(E) Commanding General, Brig. Gen. Michael J. Terry

Chief of the Anaconda Consolidated Press Center

Maj. Jay Adams
jay.adams@balad.iraq.centcom.mil

210th MPAD Acting Commander

Maj. Robert W. Catlin
robert.catlin@balad.iraq.centcom.mil

Print OIC

Capt. Perry Jarmon
perry.jarmon@balad.iraq.centcom.mil

Editor

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

Copy Editor

SpC. Alexandra Hemmerly-Brown
alexandra.brown@balad.iraq.centcom.mil

Staff Writers

Staff Sgt. Angela Archie
angela.archie@balad.iraq.centcom.mil
Sgt. Gary A. Witte
gary.witte@balad.iraq.centcom.mil
Sgt. Joel F. Gibson
joel.f.gibson@us.army.mil
Sgt. Kevin McSwain
kevin.mcswain@balad.iraq.centcom.mil
Sgt. KaRonda Fleming
karonda.fleming@balad.iraq.centcom.mil
SpC. Amanda Solitario
amanda.solitario@balad.iraq.centcom.mil

Contributing Public Affairs Offices

332 Air Expeditionary Wing	1/34 Brigade Combat Team
36th Combat Aviation Brigade	45th Sustainment Brigade
402nd Army Field Support Brigade	82nd Sustainment Brigade
411 Engineer Brigade	593rd Corps Support Group
164th Corps Support Group	15th Sustainment Brigade
657th Area Support Group	



Detachment Two Airmen wait as servicemembers walk toward their C-130 for a scheduled flight from FOB Q-West.

Airmen help keep troops off roads

by Spc. Kyndal Hernandez

45th Sustainment Brigade PAO

FOB Q-WEST, Iraq – The Air Force Detachment at Q-West has moved more than 1,100 pallets by air since arriving in September, taking about 333 trucks off the road and keeping 778 Soldiers out of harm’s way.

The 332nd Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron, Detachment Two deployed to Iraq faced with a specific mission of reducing the number of supply convoys. It has done so successfully, according to Maj. Lametra Slade, detachment commander.

“We deployed with a mission to mitigate convoys. The Army traditionally moves cargo by ground and that puts a lot of Soldiers’ lives in danger,” Slade explained. “We are here to alleviate that and send as much cargo as we can by air to keep these Soldiers off the road,” she

said.

Q-West supports three other FOBs in Northern Iraq with bottled water and the 332nd started an initiative to mitigate water sustainment convoys. This initiative of moving water by air will take about 76 vehicles and 178 soldiers off the dangerous roads in Iraq each week.

“The key to us being successful in our mission is educating the Army on the capabilities that we have in the Air Force,” Slade said. “We are working very closely with our counterparts to educate them on our transportation systems. My counterparts in the 142nd MCT and the 45th Sustainment Brigade have been very supportive in trying to push the units to send their cargo by air instead of ground.”

Master Sgt. Ferdinand Oben, operations superintendent of Detachment Two, said, “It makes me feel satisfied when we receive cargo

from the Army because we are contributing in mitigating convoys. Ultimately, the more cargo we airlift, the more soldiers we keep off the roads.”

“When I talk to some of the Soldiers about our mission here, they seem to really appreciate the job that we are doing for them,” said Senior Airman Sonny Goot. “It makes me feel like we are making a difference out here. Hopefully, we will start to receive more cargo from the Army so that we can maximize our airlift capability to the fullest,” Goot added.

Slade said they are always looking for opportunities to mitigate convoys.

“Right now we are researching the possibility of mitigating mail convoys,” he said. “There are a few issues with mail, but I hope we can work them out. We feel very passionate about what we are doing to keep Soldiers safe.”

Gates, from Page 1

far, so good.”

The visit to Iraq was Gates’ second since replacing Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld last month. It came in the midst of President George W. Bush’s announcement last week to send a surge of 21,500 additional troops to help quell violence and increase security in Baghdad.

“Ultimately, our goal is that Iraq can [eventually] defend itself, sustain itself and govern itself,” said Gates at the conference. “Whatever one’s views are on how we got to this point here in Iraq, at this pivotal moment there is widespread agreement here that failure would be a calamity for American national interests and those of many other countries as well. Given what is at stake, failure is not an option.”

The current security challenges in Baghdad cannot be dealt with purely by military means, said Gates, referring to the more than 20 countries that are providing “valuable aid and support” in Iraq. Gates said he was grateful for their contributions and mentioned seeing the results of their work in the

Basra area earlier that morning.

“There are instigators of violence who are working against these efforts in Iraq, but many Iraqis recognize this destructive influence and they’re taking steps to eliminate it,” said Gates. “The United States is fully committed to aiding them in this effort.”

“We’re seeing them come through on those commitments. You’re going to see some progress gradually over the

“The determination of the men and women in uniform, active and Reserve, has been very successful – and I’ve seen it firsthand.”

– Defense Secretary Robert Gates

next 60 to 90 days,” said Casey. “I think it’s probably going to be the summer, late summer, before we get to the point where the people in Baghdad feel safe in their neighborhoods.”

Those commitments, Casey said, include the Iraqi government giving its security forces the authority needed to accomplish the mission, keeping political influence out of the process, not providing safe havens for terrorists, and allowing security forces to prosecute or go after anyone who breaks the law.

When asked to respond to recent comments in which Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki said the threat of insurgents has lasted longer than

it should have because the U.S., specifically, has been slow in arming Iraqi forces, Casey said it was important to remember how far that effort has come since 2003.

“The training and equipping of the Iraqi military that has taken place

over the last three years started from scratch, started from zero – no bases, no units, no equipment,” Casey said. “At the end of 2006, we completed the building of what we call the objective counterinsurgency – the Iraqi army that we promised three years ago. The com-

pletion of equipping them ... will take place throughout 2007.”

Gates’ overseas tour began in London and continued to NATO headquarters in Brussels, Belgium and Afghanistan before he arrived in Iraq last week.



The Honorable Robert Gates, Secretary of Defense, and the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 34th Infantry Division Security Detachment stand in front of the Ziggurat of Ur.

How do you prefer to spend your free time?



Spc. Johnny Pillow

“I spend it mostly at the phone center talking to my wife.”



Spc. Chas Grieve

“Climbing the post water tower. Seriously though, sleeping helps my time go by faster.”



Capt. Eric Janski

“Working on my master’s degree and going to the gym.”



Staff Sgt. Rikkieta Jones

“I haven’t been here that long, but going to the gym to work out is the plan.”

\$4 million proposal brings long-term benefits to one local Iraqi community

by Spc. Amanda Morrissey

5th MPAD

AL ZAHRAH, Iraq-- It is a small neighborhood about 12 blocks long and five blocks wide, just a few miles away from Balad. The main street is roughly paved; the rest are just dirt tracks filled with trash and mud, teeming with kids. All in all, there is nothing remarkable about Al Zahrah.

It has, however, managed to capture the attention of the U.S. forces at Forward Operating Base Paliwoda. "The people in this neighborhood have been good to us here. We'd like to do something in return for them," said 1st Lt. Anthony Fazio, the projects purchasing officer for Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 3rd Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment.

The unit is proposing a \$4 million renovation project that includes installing an underground sewage system with connections to each house in the area, drain culverts, sidewalks, and paved roads.

The long term benefits of this project would be numerous. The construction project would provide about 150 people employment for at least six months, as well as create other jobs, such as garbage disposal, in the effort to maintain the neighborhood, Fazio said.

Neighborhood improvements might also catch the attention of the provincial government, potentially resulting in additional funding for other projects. The result would be an all-around economic improvement for the town, said Fazio.

The greatest benefit, however, would be the improved health of the local citizens.

"The old sewage system backs up here, especially when it rains, causing dirty water and debris to rise to the surface," said Fazio. "The kids go out and play in this stuff, and people are getting sick."

The new sewage system and drain culverts will remove the dirty water and debris from the streets, greatly improving the living standard for the Al Zahrah residents.

"We hope that people will see the improvements made in this neighborhood, how it looks and how it works, and want the same for their neighborhoods. Then they would be willing to work with U.S. forces to stabilize the violence in their area so we can go in there and do it," said Staff Sgt. Sean Cummins, the 404th Civil Affairs Battalion team leader.

The civil affairs team works as the eyes and ears for Fazio to provide information on what projects are most



1st Lt. Anthony Fazio (third from left), the projects purchasing officer for Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 3rd Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment speaks with Ahmed Omran (left), a local civil engineer, and Amir ab Dalhide Morhon (second from left), the mayor of Balad, through an interpreter (far right), while on a patrol through the Al Zahrah neighborhood on January 4, 2007. Fazio was assessing the area for a proposed \$4 million renovation projects that would include a new sewage system, drain culverts, sidewalks, and paved roads.

wanted and needed by the people, said Cummins.

The Al Zahrah renovation is actually a continuation of a project begun by a previous unit at FOB Paliwoda, but was not completed before they were redeployed back to the United States. Fazio and his team did not hesitate to

take up the challenge of its completion when they arrived to the area.

Amir ab Dalhide Morhan, the mayor of Balad, is working with Fazio on the project.

"Even though there is a change in the commands [at FOB Paliwoda], the policy always remains the same -- to work with

the people of Balad," said the mayor.

Fazio patrols with the 404th Civil Affairs team to gain a better understanding of what improvements have been completed and to determine what developments still need to occur. He talked with the locals about the problems they are having, and explained how the proposed project will help to alleviate those issues.

With the mayor's cooperation, Fazio has established several mandates to ensure the project will move forward with minimal disruptions. He intends to hire a local contractor who actually lives in Al Zahrah because the contractor will have a vested interest in making sure the project gets done, and gets done the right way.

Included in the proposal is a stipulation that locals must clean up garbage in the area before the project can get started, and that they must keep it clean once it is completed.

"I'm trying to change the mindset of the people. If they have to earn something, then maybe they will take pride in it and maintain it," Fazio said.

The approval process for the Al Zahrah renovation project could take up to two months. Once approved, the project is scheduled to be finished within six months of its start date.

3-8 Cavalry troopers help train Iraqi Army in Ad Dujal

by Spc. Amanda Morrissey

5th MPAD

AD DUJAYL, Iraq -- Iraqi police officers stand at attention, straight and proud in their crisp uniforms while the platoon leader inspects the ranks. These men will enter the Iraqi police force in two weeks as the first graduating class from a new Iraqi police training school, located near the city of Ad Dujayl.

This police training school is a joint endeavor undertaken by the Iraqi Army, U.S. military and civilian contractors, set up to train new police recruits in weapons skills and maintenance, medical training, checkpoint tactics, and more.

Training all of the Iraqi security forces has always been an important goal for coalition forces. Since the coalition strategy has been to start with the larger force, the Iraqi Army, the Iraqi Police have not had the same amount of attention focused in their direction, said Capt. Patrick Blankenship, the company commander for C Company, 3rd Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment.

Blankenship helped to establish the school.

"Now we are shifting our effort to the Iraqi Police, and we are using the Iraqi army, using their expertise ... to assist as trainers and to work side by side through the training process with the Iraqi Police," added Blankenship.

The Iraqi soldiers were eager to help out the police recruits, patiently teaching them techniques in emergency medical care such as evaluating casualties and inserting IVs, as well as drill and ceremony.

"We are working together, and now we're training the IP," said Capt. Maieed Mohammed Hussain of the 4th Iraqi Army Company. "Now, we have the motivation to be one hand against the enemy, which is the one goal for Iraqi Police, the Iraqi Army and the Coalition Forces."

The class has been called a success despite the two weeks left till completion due to the progress demonstrated by the students, and because it has helped to inspire trust and confidence between the

Army and police.

"The combined training is going to give us (the Iraqi Police and Army) more benefit because, without the cooperation in the training, there is going to be no cooperation in the mission," said Iraqi Gen. Muzhir Aubed Dharfir, the police chief for the Salad ad Din province.

This sharing of knowledge and training is a step forward for both the Iraqi Police and Army, helping each to work towards the common goal of security for their country.

"Building up the Iraqi army and the police is important because the United States can't stay here forever," said Dharfir. "Iraqis must be responsible for security in the area."

The school is unique because it doesn't follow the traditional method of accomplishing the Iraqi Police development mission. Each police station is normally assigned one Police Transition Team (PTT), comprised of U.S. military police and Iraqi Police Liaison Officers (IPLO), who are civilian police officers from the United States. The PTTs normally go to police stations to help evaluate and identify their weak areas, then assist in strengthening those areas.

"Given that I have only one PTT team and 23 stations in our area, there's no way we can cover all those effectively. That's what caused us to start looking into developing (a school) where we can have them come to us, which is a lot easier to facilitate," said Capt. Robert Tindall, the PTT chief with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 3rd Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment.

The Iraqi compound proved to be the perfect place for this school because of the Iraqi soldiers available to assist with the training, the existing buildings on the

site which were able to be converted into classrooms, and its close proximity to Forward Operating Base O'Ryan.

Besides the buildings already on site, someone found and repaired a generator, and several people donated items such as uniforms and helmets, said Blankenship. These combined efforts resulted in a school that many believe shows a promise to bring about a positive change for both the Iraqi Police and Army.

"I think that this school has the potential to do the things that the American people expect us to do here, which is train the security forces to be something that wasn't here before ... which is trained and in the lead," said Blankenship. "The end result is that the Iraqi people have a competent Iraqi Police and army that will serve and protect their needs."

"Now, we have the motivation to be one hand against the enemy, which is the one goal for Iraqi Police, the Iraqi army and the Coalition Forces."

- Capt. Maieed Mohammed Hussain



Sgt. 1st Class Andrew Smith, the platoon sergeant for E Company, 3rd Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, talks with a group of Iraqi army soldiers through an interpreter at a checkpoint near Balad during a sphere of influence meeting. The sphere of influence meetings are intended for meeting key military leaders in the area and gathering information on the type of training the Iraqi soldiers have received in the first phase of a new plan for training Iraqi soldiers near Forward Operating Base Paliwoda.

DCS BRIEFINGS FOR R&R AND REDEPLOYMENT

HELD at the MWR EAST

SIGN-IN at 7:30 a.m.
BRIEFING WILL START
at 8 a.m.

MONDAY-WEDNESDAY
open to R & R ONLY
THURSDAY & FRIDAY

open for REDEPLOYMENT
ONLY

DCS VALIDATION OFFICE
HOURS

Monday through Saturday
9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

CLOSED ON SUNDAYS
DCS VALIDATION OFFICE

located

BEHIND FINANCE
in BLDG 4140
829-2725/1768

come support your fellow
American Soldiers

Feb. 11 at 2 p.m.

**U.S. Naturalization
Ceremony**

Sustainer Theater

Combat Stress Control

13th Medical Company (CSC)

829-1402

- individual counseling by appointment or walk-in
- command referrals
- services for combat and operationally stressed soldiers

RELAXATION TECHNIQUES
MONDAY TO SATURDAY
3:30 TO 4 P.M.

STRESS MANAGEMENT
MONDAY AND THURSDAY
10 TO 11 A.M.

HOME FRONT ISSUES
MONDAY AND THURSDAY
5 TO 6 P.M.

CONFLICT RESOLUTION
WEDNESDAY AND SATURDAY
11 A.M. TO NOON

ANGER MANAGEMENT
TUESDAY AND FRIDAY
11 A.M. TO NOON

ANXIETY AWARENESS
WEDNESDAY
3 TO 3:30 P.M.
SATURDAY
10:30 TO 11 A.M.

SLEEP HYGIENE
MONDAY AND THURSDAY
6 TO 6:30 P.M.

GOAL SETTING
MONDAY AND THURSDAY
11 A.M. TO NOON

DEPRESSION AWARENESS
WEDNESDAY
2 TO 3 P.M.
SATURDAY
10 TO 10:30 A.M.

COMMUNICATION SKILLS
TUESDAY AND FRIDAY
10 TO 11 A.M.

RELATIONSHIP SKILLS
WEDNESDAY
9 TO 11 A.M.

for more information, email:
melissa.kale@us.army.mil

829-1402

Airmen help restore sullied cemetery

by Senior Airman Josh Moshier
332nd Air Expeditionary Wing Public Affairs

CAMP HABBANIYAH, Iraq -- The Golden Rule is "do unto others as you would have them do unto you."

A group of Airmen assigned to the 732nd Regional Support Unit at Camp Habbaniyah, Iraq, have apparently taken that rule to heart.

732nd RSU Habbaniyah Airmen have volunteered close to 200 hours with the clean-up and maintenance of a British cemetery located on the camp. The cemetery dates back to the early 1940s and is a remnant of when the camp was known as Royal Air Force Habbaniyah.

British forces were forced from RAF Habbaniyah during an Iraqi uprising in 1941. That's when, according to 732nd RSU Habbaniyah officials, the proper care and upkeep of the cemetery ended and random acts of vandalism began. Tombstones, grave sites and religious symbols were desecrated and destroyed, and the grounds were neglected for more than 60 years. Close to 300 British and Commonwealth servicemembers and civilians are buried at the cemetery.

Coalition forces reclaimed control of Camp Habbaniyah shortly after the start of Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2003. Still, the cemetery remained untouched until earlier this year when a British citizen working at the base recognized the sorry state of the cemetery and determined something needed to be done to return honor to those buried there.

When members of the 732nd RSU Habbaniyah learned of the project, they quickly volunteered to assist.

"This is a sacred area," said Tech. Sgt. John Thompson, 732nd RSU Habbaniyah base defense unit. "You can see all the young soldiers who died here. We felt we had to do our part to pay our respect."

According to Thompson, the Airmen have performed such chores as cleaning up trash, debris and grass, and propping up tombstones that were knocked over or broken. The simple act of cleaning up wasn't as easy as it sounds.

"It was a daunting task," Thompson said. "It had been more than 60 years since anyone even thought of taking care



To the right of the wall is a British cemetery located at Camp Habbaniyah, Iraq, as it looks today following the clean-up and maintenance efforts of Camp Habbaniyah personnel, including members of the 732nd Regional Support Unit Habbaniyah. To the left is a similar scene of what the volunteers faced when clean-up work began.

of this place, but we were very passionate about what we were doing."

Now that the site is cleaned up, officials hope to refurbish and rebuild the cemetery.

According to Thompson, that task will be completed by a British war cemeteries committee. However, work will not begin until the region is considered safe enough for a civilian group to enter.

Until then, 732nd RSU Habbaniyah Airmen plan to continue doing their part.

"We want to keep the cemetery in as good a shape as possible until (the British committee) gets here," Thompson said. "We're going to keep on it. If our roles were reversed, we know they would do the same for us - just look at all our cemeteries in Europe."

Brigadier Gen. Robin Rand, 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing commander, expressed pride in the efforts of the Airmen.

"What a solemn but dignified gift," he said. "These men and families buried here deserve better, and I'm pleased to know our Airmen are doing their part to provide that."



Airman 1st Class Francisco Garcia briefs his responsibilities as a civil engineer technician to Brig. Gen. Robin Rand the 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing commander at Camp Habbaniyah, Iraq. Airman Garcia is with the 732nd Expeditionary Regional Support Unit.

Military Channel broadcasting servicemembers' stories

by Gerry J. Gilmore
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON -- The Military Channel is asking servicemembers across the armed forces to submit videotaped stories about their service in the global war on terrorism for broadcast on television, company officials said.

"We want to give a voice to the troops to allow them to tell their stories," Jill Bondurant, Military Channel publicist, said during an interview with American Forces Press Service.

The Military Channel plans to use servicemember-submitted video for broadcast during nightly one-hour blocks of programming starting in early February, Bondurant said. The dates and times haven't been specified yet, she said.

Video can be in digital or taped format, Bondurant said, and can be submitted via the following methods:

- Online: www.mywardiary.com;
- E-mail: mywardiary@discovery.com; or
- Mail: Military Videos, care of Discovery Productions, 8045 Kennett

Street, Silver Spring, Md. 20910.

All submitted video will be screened for appropriate content, Bondurant noted.

The initiative seeks to illustrate some personal stories of military service during wartime, Military Channel spokesman and former soldier Pat Lafferty told the Pentagon Channel in a recent interview. Most evening news programming on the military these days shies away from the personal and focuses on "big picture" events, he said.

"There's only so much that the 'normal media' can get out as far as the stories (and) what's going on," Lafferty said. "And, oftentimes, that really isn't the story about individual servicemembers and what they're doing on a day-to-day basis."

A component of Discovery Communications, the Silver Spring, Md.-based Military Channel was the first television media outlet to partner with America Supports You, a Department of Defense program connecting public and corporate support for the troops to servicemembers and their families.

TALENT SHOW

Feb. 7 at 8 p.m.

MWR East Recreation Center
sponsored by 49th MCB
African/American/Black
History Month

13th SC(E) Soldier expert on command systems

by Sgt. KaRonda Fleming

Anaconda Times Staff

LSA ANACONDA, Iraq - A native of the island of Guam, one 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) Soldier is known for his radiant smile and leadership characteristics.

Spc. Vincent M. Castro, a 23-year-old operations administrator, based out of Fort Hood, Texas, holds a positive reputation.

Before deploying to Iraq, Castro helped his NCOs prepare conexes (large metal containers that are transported into theater), and vehicles that needed to be loaded onto a ship, said Sgt. 1st Class Anthony R. Keane, force generation NCOIC.

"When something had to be done, he saluted and moved out. He wasn't a complainer at all," Keane said, who is a native of Cross, S.C.

He said that Castro's background of being from Dededo, Guam, makes him a unique and interesting Soldier.

"Specialist Castro is the subject matter expert on any of the command systems that we have," said Master Sgt. Joseph R. Martinez, the day shift operations NCOIC from Albuquerque, N.M.

Castro has a big role in the various programs used within the Joint Operations Center, and is basically the visual audio administrator for the JOC, Martinez said.

"He is the go-to person, especially when you have five minutes and the commanding general is there waiting to get started on a briefing and the slides aren't in, or something goes wrong," he said.



Spc. Vincent M. Castro, a 23-year-old operations administrator, based out of Fort Hood, Texas

"The first thing I do is a shift change," Castro said. "I usually get to work around 8:30 a.m. and do a shift change at 9:45 a.m."

He said the night shift prepares the slides for the 8:30 a.m. Battle Update Assessment, and he is responsible for the 4 p.m. BUA, followed by a Multi National Corps - Iraq BUA.

Castro handles the pressures of his job, working for the commanding general very well, Martinez said.

Being in the military has given Castro the opportunity to meet new people, he said. He was born in Guam and because it is such a small island, he said everybody knows each other there.

Due to Castro's childhood, he said he joined the military when he was 19 in order to start a new life.

"I just wanted to get away from the island and decided to turn to the military," Castro said.

As the oldest of two younger brothers and a baby sister, Castro said that he inspired both his brothers to join the Army too.

"My brother, who's in Baghdad, was actually taken down to the recruiters by me. I helped him to take the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) and helped him to pick his job (field artillery)," Castro said.

"Castro is a motivated Soldier," Keane said. "(He) strives to do the best at his job and he always tries to give out a good product, because over here his daily tasks involve preparing slides to present to the commanding general for briefings."

Castro said his father always encouraged him and his two younger brothers to join the military. His father taught them to follow their hearts.

His uncle, who was a sergeant major at Fort Hood always discussed the advantages of joining the military as well, Castro said. He said his uncle told him that the military would take care of his family.

Castro said both his brothers and sister all say he is a positive role model, and his parents agree.

"It's the things you do in the past that actually catch up with you in the future," Castro said when explaining how his past is what made him the person he is today.



Spc. Anna Cain

Photo by Pfc. Robert H. Baumgartner

Cain takes 82nd SB Soldier of the Quarter

by Pfc. Robert H. Baumgartner

82nd SB Public Affairs Office

CAMP ADDER, IRAQ - The 82nd Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) held a Soldier board here Wednesday to determine which young Soldier deserves the title, Brigade Soldier of the Quarter.

After a grueling, day-long process the Soldier emerging victorious was a petite, self-assured communications and electronic production control clerk named Spc. Anna Cain, 23, 546th Maintenance Company, from Ft. Polk, La.

Cain, who is from Seattle, won out among stiff competition, and considered the whole process to be quite challenging.

"Nobody was ready for it. We just didn't know what was going to be expected of us. I did not even have a letter of instruction until the day prior," Cain said.

"It was just one thing to the next," she continued.

Despite the difficulty, Cain said it was well worth it. She was inspired by the process as well as the outcome.

"This type of board is good because it is an indicator of how much you've learned in the Army up to this point. I've learned a lot more than I realized," she said.

Sgt. Maj. Bruce D. Lewis, 82nd SB S-3 Sgt. Maj., explained to the Soldiers that anyone can memorize information out of a book, but for the Soldier of the Quarter Board, he and the other Non-Commissioned Officers that are judging will be looking for the all-around Soldier that can think instead of merely recite.

"One of the most difficult parts of the board was the fact that everything was so impromptu, which I think is good because you have to be able to think on your feet, especially if you want to be a leader," Cain said.

Staff Sgt. Jeffrey Baker, a platoon sergeant in Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 82nd SB, was one of Cain's drill sergeant's in basic training.

"It makes me proud to see any of my former Soldiers excel. It makes me think that I have made a difference," Baker said.

"I am extremely proud of specialist Cain," he continued.

"I would like to think that I played a small role in her winning. I took my job as a drill sergeant very serious. I knew being a drill sergeant meant I was charged with ensuring the Soldiers that passed through my sight picture had to be disciplined, motivated and lived the seven Army values. Its obvious specialist Cain has done that," Baker said.

This is only the beginning for Cain. She has big plans for the Army.

"I definitely want to reenlist while I'm deployed. I also want to re-class while I'm out here as well," Cain said.

"But what I'm really looking forward to is becoming an NCO. I go to the promotion board next month, and I'm pretty sure it will be cake compared to this," she beamed proudly.

"I love the Army, and I want to move up in it," Cain said.

EAST REC MWR
DANCE
LESSONS

COUNTRY SWING
SALSA CARRIBEAN

COME FIND OUT WHAT'S THE HYPE ALL ABOUT

Army Reserve Affairs
Building 4135
DSN: (318) 829-1113

LTC Russell D. Rogers
russell.rogers@balad.iraq.centcom.mil

SSG Brandon D. Fambro
brandon.fambro@balad.iraq.centcom.mil

SSG Annette Tyler
annette.tyler1@balad.iraq.centcom.mil

U.S. ARMY RESERVE

SHOW me the MONEY

LSA Anaconda Tax Center
Consolidated Legal Center (Bldg 9103)

Opens Feb. 19
Through May 15

Hours of Operation

Mondays 9 a.m. to noon
Wednesdays Noon to 8 p.m.
Fridays 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Please be sure to bring any related documents (W2s, interest statements, spouse and/or childrens' SSNs, etc.) We will assist with preparation of Forms 1040a or 1040EZ. The Form 1040 and any kind of business ownership are outside the scope of our program and we will not be able to assist customers with these issues.

If you have any questions, contact Sgt. Bethany Becker at 829-1838 or email her at:
bethany.becker@balad.iraq.centcom.mil.

15th SB Soldiers saving Soldiers one bolt at a time

by Spc. L.B. Edgar
7th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

VICTORY BASE, Iraq - For Soldiers traversing the streets of Baghdad, there is no such thing as too much protection. Whether it's safety in numbers, cover from enemy fire or even armor on their vehicles, Soldiers, who routinely serve outside the wire, possess an insatiable appetite for life-saving commodities.

To feed Soldiers a hearty helping of armor for their Humvees, Army Materiel Command (AMC) enlisted the expertise of Soldiers to help put armor between troops and enemy attacks.

The 98th Maintenance Company, 393rd Corps Support Battalion, 15th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), lent 24 of its Soldiers to AMC to expedite the enhancement of humvees in the Baghdad area, which are regularly exposed to enemy threats. The Soldiers work at the Baghdad International Airport Vehicle Enhancement Site, said Capt. Cedric Harris, the shop officer.

The Soldiers with 10 months of experience repairing, fabricating and most importantly, armoring vehicles jumped onto one of two assembly lines, which convert two to three vehicles each day,

said Staff Sgt. Thompson, noncommissioned officer in charge for vehicle enhancement, 1st Maintenance Company, 541st Corps Support Sustainment Battalion, 15th Sustainment Bde.

The assembly lines outfit humvees, with safety features, communication systems, the latest enhancements and of course, new-improved armor, said Thompson, who hails from Las Vegas, Nev.

A vehicle set to be enhanced visits five stations on the assembly line. At the first station it is stripped down and prepared. The second is door supports, followed by additional armor and then new doors, which have safer, easier-to-use combat locks. Then it receives a new electronic turret and shield at the fifth station. Finally, every Humvee is inspected for quality assurance and quality control before departing, Thompson said.

The only other modification to the Humvee is increased air pressure in the tires to compensate for the added weight, Thompson added.

Thus far, the site has enhanced more

than 460 vehicles in approximately two months, Thompson said.

The troops working on the assembly line do what they can with their tools to keep Soldiers as safe as possible, Thompson said. "We want to keep Soldiers safe. That is what we preach every day: keep the Soldiers outside the wire safe."

The light-wheel vehicle mechanics as well as combat engineer mechanics of 98th Maintenance Company were easily incorporated into the assembly line because they were also concerned with the safety of their comrades in

"We know we are making a difference and have helped save Soldiers' lives. They told us, without a doubt, because of the work we did, it helped save their lives."

- Capt. Cedric Harris

arms, Harris said.

"We know we are making a difference and have helped save Soldiers' lives," said Harris, who hails from Chicago. "We have a belief that the work we're doing will save lives. A couple of units came back to our site and praised us for the work we had done on their vehicles because they were hit by IEDs (Improvised Explosive Devices) or ambushed. They told us, without a doubt, because of the work we did, it helped save their lives."



Photo by Spc. L.B. Edgar
Spc. Robert Maloney, heater and air conditioner repair mechanic, 289th Quartermaster Company, grinds down the door frame of a Humvee at the Baghdad International Airport Vehicle Enhancement Site, Iraq.

LSAA Cable Dawgs ensure Soldiers are able to communicate 24/7

by Sgt. Kevin McSwain
Anaconda Times Staff

LSA ANACONDA, Iraq—There is a unit here that you never think about until your telephone goes down or your network connection is not operating.

They are the Cable Dawgs of A Company, 67th Signal Battalion, and they handle base communications on LSA Anaconda.

This Army version of AT&T works around the clock to ensure servicemembers are able to communicate throughout Iraq and with family members back home.

"We rewire buildings, patch cables, as well as reroute wires," said Sgt. Billy L. Taylor, cable section sergeant for the cable dawgs. "We also ensure information assurance in all structures here."

Taylor, the senior fiber optics specialist, said an average work cycle can last from 10 to 34 hours.

"We stay on call at all times and some Soldiers have to respond to multiple calls after their work day has ended," he said.

The unit is responsible for the operating and maintaining of all communication cable lines on base.

"We are the ones you call to fix your network connections when they go down," said 1st Lt. Gregory Van Bemden, officer in charge of the technical support facility and the help desk.

Van Bemden said in addition to providing on site service, the 38-Soldier unit provides technical support for the LSA.

"We are responsible for communications from the satellite to the



Photo by Sgt. Kevin McSwain
Spc. Christopher McKelvey checks network cables for connectivity during a routine maintenance check of the systems around LSA Anaconda.

phone or internet line in your office," he said.

The Cable Dawgs use each platoon in the company as a specialist in a particular field of their job.

"We have one platoon that runs the help desk, one platoon that handles special projects, and another handles the Balad domain," he said. "And we have one platoon tasked out to specifically

help with special projects."

Van Bemden said the remainder of the battalion was tasked out to large operating bases in Iraq and Afghanistan.

"We are currently attached to 160th Signal Brigade, based in Kuwait," he said. "And our battalion is split up throughout theatre, operating all over Iraq and Afghanistan."

With less than 20 percent of the unit

military occupation specialist qualified, the Cable Dawgs have used the first three months of their deployment to train other Soldiers in the unit to be proficient in their jobs.

"Everyone has become proficient in their tasks," Van Bemden said. "The Soldiers we trained are able to complete tasks our school-trained Soldiers are able to do."

Organization has been a key component for success for the Cable Dawgs. As calls come into the office; they are distributed to the correct team in order to keep communication flowing as smoothly as possible.

"We keep our operation organized with the use of a ticket system," said Staff Sgt. Cedric T. Carney, special projects noncommissioned officer. "This allows us to prioritize each work order and make sure the critical issues are handled first."

Carney said this also helps keep the leadership in the unit informed on what the Soldiers are doing around Anaconda.

"I try to keep the Soldiers balanced so no one is working longer than someone else," he said. "This helps keep them mission effective and ready for anything."

With the 67th Battalion's headquarters based at Camp Victory, they were partnered with other Signal Battalions to ensure everything is done properly.

"We have partnered with the 324th Signal Battalion here," Van Bemden said. "They are responsible for wiring new buildings and we come in after them and connect the building to the network."

The mission the Cable Dawgs are responsible for plays a key role in the day-to-day life of all servicemembers here.

As a servicemember sends an email or makes a morale call, they should know there is a Cable Dawg somewhere making sure that information makes it to its destination without delay.

visit us on the web at www.dvidshub.net
read all your stories, browse thousands of images and videos



Spc. Noel Beck, 24, from Chicago, Ill., watches his ground guide while driving an M1A1 onto a flatbed truck.



doing time at the CRSP yard

LSAANACONDA, Iraq – At night, it looks like a scene from Close Encounters of the Third Kind with its bright lights hovering 30 feet in the air and awkwardly looking mechanical claws reaching down for its seemingly unsuspecting prey. But everything isn't what it seems. Instead Soldiers and contractors are busy moving large shipping containers, vehicles and other vital supplies onto flat-bed tractor trailers with undisclosed locations to forward operating bases supporting coalition forces in Iraq. With the paperwork triple checked, electronic tracking tags operating properly and the cargo securely fastened to its awaiting chariot, hundreds of pieces of cargo enter and leave the LSA Anaconda's Central Receiving and Shipping Point, or CRSP, 24 hours a day,

seven days a week. "The CRSP yard here receives, stages, documents, and coordinates the upload and download of cargo for theater & corps assets," said 2nd Lt. Heather Schmitt, the CRSP yard officer in charge. "It is the central logistical hub for unit equipment, empty containers, and retrograde parts." Schmitt said the yard facilitates onward movement for cargo moving within the Iraqi theater, as well as cargo being pushed back down to Kuwait. "The top priority is deployment and redeployment of unit equipment, to include containers and rolling stock," she said. "We are the largest of nine CRSP yards in theater, so we move quite a bit of cargo." She said the mission of the LSA Anaconda's CRSP yard is important because it helps

control the flow of cargo by maintaining accountability and providing in-transit visibility. "This central location minimizes the risk of cargo being lost during transit to its final destination," she said. As combat logistics patrols come and go, the Soldiers and Kellogg, Brown, and Root personnel working at the CRSP always stand ready with a variety of Material Handling Equipment (MHE) to load and unload anything that comes through the yard. "We are the center point in Iraq for everything coming in and out of this area," said Pfc. Thomas S. Vasquez, 20, from Oklahoma City. "It feels good knowing you are making a difference for other Soldiers and units waiting for their cargo."

368th Cargo Transfer Company keeps 13th SC(E) cargo hub the pulse of logistics missions in Iraq



Pfc. Antonio Robinson, 23, a cargo handling specialist from Racine, Wis., works with a civilian contractor to locate, document and process large cargo containers at the CRSP yard.



Sgt. Calvin Edwards, a transportation management coordinator from Chicago, Ill., carefully guides an M1A1 Abrams Main Battle Tank onto a truck.



Pfc. Antonio Magana, 24, from Chicago, Ill., ground guides a Humvee onto an awaiting flatbed truck.



Pfc. Krishonna Lehman, 26, from Denver, Colo., ground guides an M1A1 Abrams Main Battle tank to an awaiting truck for delivery to a nearby forward operating base. Lehman is a cargo handling specialist assigned to the 368th Cargo Transfer Company, from Fort Story, Va.



Using heavy equipment movers, large shipping containers are loaded onto military flat bed trucks.



A Humvee is driven onto a flatbed truck for transportation to Kuwait.



Sgt. Rosy Hart, a native of Manheim, Germany and an administrative assistant with the 13th SC(E), plays with an Iraqi infant in Al Jamiah Jan. 15 to try and get him to crack a smile. (Below) Pfc. Daren C. Ruby from Sand Springs, Okla., a combat medic with the 2-82 takes an Iraqi man's blood pressure before he is diagnosed in Al Jamiah, Jan. 15.



1st Lt. Wayne Wilson of Cleveland, Texas, a physician's assistant with the 2-82 speaks with an interpreter while recommending care for an Iraqi infant's cut foot Jan. 15.

STORY AND PHOTOS BY SPC. ALEXANDRA HEMMERLY-BROWN

MEDICS WITH a MISSION: administering aid in

Task Force 2-82 Soldiers assist Iraqi doctor, medical staff during recent visit to

AL JAMIAH, Iraq—Iraqi citizens stood in line holding their numbered tickets, and children trudged barefoot through the cold, ankle-deep mud anticipating a chance to be seen by U.S. and Iraqi doctors.

They were waiting for members of 2nd Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery

Regiment, who rode to the nearby town of Al Jamiah to conduct a medical day-clinic Jan. 15 for the residents there.

The clinic was a pre-cursor to the medical facility's projected grand opening in a few months. "The ultimate goal is to get this to be a fully-functioning clinic," said Capt. Andrew T. Short,

battery commander for the 2-82 FA.

Al Jamiah does not currently have a clinic, or any facility in which its residents can receive medical assistance. Most small towns have a clinic, but they fight to stay open because the people do not trust government-run establishments, and they are often unable to pay for medical services. It is the Army's intent to empower the local Iraqi doctors, and help them gain the citizen's trust through these kinds of missions, Short said.

"We are trying to ... legitimize their span of control through missions like these," Short, a Detroit native said, referring to the Iraqi doctors and the Iraqi government, who sponsor these clinics.

Short said clinics usually have three major problems; security, doctors willing to work, and a reliable supply chain. He said the concept is to get Iraqi citizens used to coming to a clinic, so they will trust their own health-care givers.

"We are trying to put an Iraqi face on the help," said 1st Lt. Wayne Wilson of Cleveland, Texas, a physician's assistant in the 2-82.

Wilson, the Army doctor on this mission, said they try to put these types of projects in the Iraqi's hands, and let the Sheiks take credit for heading them.

"It's good to help the Iraqi people," Wilson said. "We work with their doctors, see how they treat people, and we learn from each other."

Medical missions are unadvertised in the towns for security reasons. When a convoy arrives in a town, they will set up a perimeter, tell children to go and spread the word of the day-clinic, and wait for villagers to line up.

It doesn't take long for town residents to rush to the day-clinic for their chance to have their health concerns addressed. Soldiers on the Jan. 15 mission gave the patients in line tickets depending on their level of urgency, and they were ushered





An Iraqi boy takes a small bite out of a candy sucker during a recent visit by American Soldiers.



Soldiers from 2-82 FA carry in medical supplies during a recent medical assistance visit outside of LSA Anaconda.

nearby villages

LSA Anaconda's close neighbor of Al Jamiah

into the clinic to visit the four stations set up there.

The building used was built by coalition forces and had not been in use. Soldiers inside set up an initial check-in station where two U.S. medics spoke with patients and diagnosed their ailments. Each adult had their blood pressure taken as a precaution.

for the U.S. doctor, and one for the Iraqi doctor. Patients were divided up evenly between the two doctors, and those with serious problems went in to see one, while others moved on to the "pharmacy."

We work with their doctors, see how they treat people, and we learn from each other.

- 1st Lt. Wayne Wilson

At the "pharmacy," patients received antibiotics and other medication for their illnesses. The medical supplies were donated by the U.S. Army, and arrived at the clinic via a trailer on the

back of a Humvee. Which medicines to bring were simply chosen by which illnesses are most common in the area, and what the doctors expected to treat, said Spc. Hubert Sowizral, a combat medic.

On their way out the door, patients could pick up some dental hygiene items at the last station, as well as get a little education on keeping their teeth clean.

There was also a room designated for civil affairs donation items such as clothes, shoes, toys, and candy.

Wilson said most of the patients he sees on these types of missions have only minor illnesses such as colds and infections, but occasionally he gets to assist in medical emergencies.

He said a few weeks prior, he was on a medical mission where an infant was brought in who was choking on a zipper and starting to turn blue. Wilson said he was just at the right place at the right time to help the child, and was luckily able to save the baby.

"As a father and husband, you'd rather be doing these jobs," Short said of the medical missions compared to his usual security-based missions.

An integral part of these missions is that Iraqi forces assist in the security, Short said. He said these missions are only temporary fixes, until the Iraqi people are

managing things on their own.

"It's a non-standard mission," Short said. "We hope to continue these until we get the clinic up and running."



(Above) Master Sgt. Tessie Coe from Bethlehem, Pa., a chaplain's assistant for the 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), slips a shoe on an Iraqi boy Jan. 15 to see if it fits. (Left) Sgt. Rosy Hart, a native of Manheim, Germany and an administrative assistant with the 13th SC(E), gives an Iraqi infant candy to stop her crying at a day-clinic in Al Jamiah, Jan. 15.



January 31**Aerobics**

6 a.m. and 5:30 p.m.
East MWR Fitness Center

Yoga

6 p.m.
East MWR Fitness Center

Boxing

7:30 to 9 p.m.
East MWR Fitness Center

Rock Climbing Class

8 p.m.
East MWR Fitness Center

8-Ball Tourney

8 p.m.
West Recreation Center

Madden '05

8 p.m.
West Recreation Center

9-Ball Tourney

8 p.m.
East Rec Center

DJ Classes

8 p.m.
East Rec Center

February 1**Tae Kwon Do**

7 to 8:30 p.m.
East MWR Fitness Center

NOGI Jiu-Jitsu

9 p.m.
East MWR Fitness Center

Level 2 Swim Lessons

7 p.m.
Indoor Pool

Level 1 Swim Lessons

8 p.m.
Indoor Pool

ANACONDA ACTIVITIES

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

Battlefield Ground

8 p.m.
East Rec Center

February 2**Aerobics**

5:30 p.m.
East MWR Fitness Center

Boxing

7:30 to 9 p.m.
East MWR Fitness Center

Chess Tourney

8 p.m.
West Recreation Center

4-4 Volleyball Tourney

8 p.m.
West MWR Fitness Center

Caribbean Dance

8 p.m.
East Rec Center

February 3**Aerobics**

noon to 1 p.m.
East MWR Fitness Center

Open Court Volleyball

6 p.m.
East MWR Fitness Center

500m Fins/Kickboard

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

Texas Hold'em

8 p.m.
West Recreation Center

Aerobics

8 p.m.
West MWR Fitness Center

Salsa Dance

8 p.m.
East Rec Center

Tae Kwon Do

7 to 8:30 p.m.
East MWR Fitness Center

NOGI Jiu-Jitsu

9 p.m.
East MWR Fitness Center

Level 2 Swim Lessons

7 p.m.
Indoor Pool

Level 1 Swim Lessons

8 p.m.
Indoor Pool

Command & Conquer

8 p.m.
West Recreation Center

Dodgeball Tourney

8 p.m.
West MWR Fitness Center

Texas Hold'em

8 p.m.
East Rec Center

February 4**Aerobics**

5:30 p.m.
East MWR Fitness Center

Boxing

7:30 to 9 p.m.
East MWR Fitness Center

100m Butterfly

10 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.
Indoor Pool

Spades Tourney

8 p.m.
West Recreation Center

4-4 Volleyball Tourney

8 p.m.
West MWR Fitness Center

Caribbean Dance

8 p.m.
East Rec Center

February 5**Aerobics**

noon to 1 p.m.
East MWR Fitness Center

Open Court Volleyball

6 p.m.
East MWR Fitness Center

One-Mile Swim Race

10 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.
Indoor Pool

Texas Hold'em

8 p.m.
West Recreation Center

Aerobics

8 p.m.
West MWR Fitness Center

Salsa Dance

8 p.m.
East Rec Center

February 6**Open Court Volleyball**

6 p.m.
East MWR Fitness Center

Tae Kwon Do

7 to 8:30 p.m.
East MWR Fitness Center

Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu

9 p.m.
East MWR Fitness Center

Green Bean Karaoke

8 p.m.
Green Bean Coffee Shop

5-5 Basketball Tourney

8 p.m.
West MWR Fitness Center

Poker

8 p.m.
East Rec Center

February 7**Aerobics**

6 a.m. and 5:30 p.m.
East MWR Fitness Center

Boxing

7:30 to 9 p.m.
East MWR Fitness Center

Rock Climbing Class

8 p.m.
East MWR Fitness Center

One-Hour Swim-A-Thon

Two-Person Teams
5:30 a.m.
Outdoor Pool

Jam Session

8 p.m.
West Recreation Center

Aerobics

8 p.m.
West MWR Fitness Center

BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

Feb. 12 to 17 at 7 p.m. at Sprung Gym

EAST MWR FITNESS CENTER

for more information, contact Capt. Janaia Nash at 829-1015 or email at [janai.nash@balad.iraq.centcom.mil](mailto:jania.nash@balad.iraq.centcom.mil)

Illinois Soldiers follow 'Da Bears' to the big game in Miami



Spc. Kyle Hollingsworth, second from the left, enjoys the NFC championship game between the Bears and Saints with fellow unit members recently.

by Staff Sgt. Glenn Chrisman
1744th Transportation Company

LSA ANACONDA, Iraq - Many Soldiers from the 1744th Transportation Company weren't alive the last time the Chicago Bears won the Super Bowl in 1986.

But about half of the unit's nearly 170 Illinois Army National Guard Soldiers still follow the Bears from year to year in hopes of seeing another Super Bowl title come to the Windy City.

The unit based near Chicago, in Streator, currently supports logistics missions for the 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) near Balad, Iraq.

For one Soldier, the annual big game brings a life-time of memories.

You could say Spc. Kyle Hollingsworth of Marseilles, Ill. was destined to be a Bears fan from birth. Hollingsworth was born on Jan. 26, 1986 just hours before the kick-off of Super Bowl XX.

"I guess you could say it was the first game I ever watched," Hollingsworth said with a smile. "I have always liked the Bears. It might be because my family are Bears' fans or maybe it was because I was born on Super Bowl Sunday."

Hollingsworth said he has been looking forward to seeing the Bears going back to the Super Bowl but never thought it would happen while he was deployed to Iraq.

"I always envisioned a great 21st birthday present but never thought it would be the Bears headed back to the Super Bowl for the first time since I

was born," he said.

Many Soldiers in the unit stayed up late to watch the conference championship game which didn't start until 11 p.m. here.

"It was bittersweet," Hollingsworth said. "I only got about two hours of sleep before having to get up for the day."

Although he wasn't watching the game in the comfort of his own home, Hollingsworth said he was just glad to get to see the NFC Championship game.

"I wish I was at home with my family and friends, but I feel fortunate that we have access to TV's and were able to see the game," he said. "It's a big morale booster that's for sure."

While the Bears go into Super Bowl Sunday as the underdog, the burning question remains whether quarterback Rex Grossman will help led Chicago to their first championship in 21 years or help Indianapolis and Peyton Manning to get the monkey off their back.

"I'm glad Chicago stuck with Grossman," Hollingsworth said. "He's a young quarterback and just needs some fine-tuning to take him to the next level." Hollingsworth was pretty optimistic of the outcome and said, "They're both good teams, but I like Chicago's chances to come out on top."

The 1744th TC was mobilized in June for Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The unit is comprised of Soldiers from all parts of Illinois, including many from the Chicago area. The Soldiers are expected to be home sometime early this fall.

Raw Materiel's LSAA Schedule

Feb. 1 H6 Recreation Center at 8:30 p.m. – Full Show Band

Feb. 2 West Recreation Center at 8 p.m. – Full Show Band

Feb. 3 East Recreation Center at 7 p.m. – Full Show Band

**Feb. 4 Contemporary Church Service
East Recreation Center at 9 a.m.**

(Schedule is subject to change)

Wednesday, Jan. 31

5 p.m. Casino Royale (PG-13)
8 p.m. Déjà Vu (PG-13)

Thursday, Feb. 1

5 p.m. Freedom Writers (PG-13)
8 p.m. Happy Feet (PG)

Friday, Feb. 2

2 p.m. Casino Royale (PG-13)
5 p.m. Catch And Release (PG-13)
8:30 p.m. The Messenger (PG-13)

Saturday, Feb. 3

2 p.m. Déjà Vu (PG-13)
5 p.m. The Messenger (PG-13)
8 p.m. Catch And Release (PG-13)

Sunday, Feb. 4

2 p.m. The Messenger (PG-13)
5 p.m. Deck The Halls (PG)
8 p.m. Turistas (R)

Monday, Feb. 5

5 p.m. Casino Royale (PG-13)
8 p.m. Catch And Release (PG-13)

Tuesday, Feb. 6

5 p.m. The Holiday (Pg-13)
8 p.m. The Messenger (PG-13)

SUSTAINER REEL TIME THEATER

Jenny, the Military Spouse



<http://jennyspouse.com>

Pvt. Murphy's Law



<http://www.pvtmurphy.com>

Back of the Formation



SHOUT OUTS FROM HOME

Ina Mctavish,
I just wanted to tell you that the kids and I miss you very much and we can't wait for you to come home! We pray for you everyday and we love you so very much!
LoveAlways, Chelsie, James and Carelen

Hey Major Yummy,
Your little peanut and Rosa Love and miss you very much.
Bubba says Hi. Can't wait to hang with you on the Islands Roy.
Your Wife and Kid.

To Minerva Dunn from your husband and kids.
We really miss you and can't wait for you to arrive back home. Its been fun playing the "stay at home dad" but the kids are starting to complain about my baking skills so hurry back home and remember we love you for what you are doing.
Love Darrell,Sidney,Darionne and Mikhail.

Dearest Jeremy Pindell,
I wish you could know how my heart is there for you. And I will be there for you in any way I can if you will only let me. I love you, miss you and am so very proud of you.
Missing you more than you will ever know,
Mom

Dear Christopher Griffin,
I am very proud of you. You have become a fine young man. I Love and Miss you.
Love Mom

Hey Babe(Arturo Garza)
Texas sure is lonely without you. Can't wait for you to come home on R&R! We love you & miss you so much! Be careful and rest up now because you will need all that energy to chase after our son.
Love you always and forever, Dru

Jeremy McBryar
We love you and miss you so much. We are counting down the days until we can all be together again.
Rebecca, Michael, and Izzy

Jeremy Bell,
Just to let you know I'm missing you every day,and have faith in you and our fellow soilders, that you are doing a great job for us all.Be safe,
Loveing wife, Rhonda

My Darling Nick,
The most important things are the hardest to say, because words diminish them.
So I'll just say Happy Valentine's Day, I love you and I always will!
Yours Always,
Heather

To Gabriel K. Morgan, son, brother, uncle,
Everytime I look at the moon, I remember that you are looking at the same moon and stars that I see. It makes the world seem much smaller and the distance between us much closer. We are missing you so much and at the same time, we are so proud of you. Savannah took her first steps yesterday!! How clear I remember your first steps. We love you son,

Mama, Pat, Marcos, Krystle Adam, Daniel ,Lilly, Savannah and Raymond.

My Loving Chrisman Miller,
I miss you and love you bunchies. I just want you to know that everything here at home is going good,but it would be better with you. Keep your head up high and remember I will always be here waiting for you. I am so proud of you and all of the soldiers. Come home soon and be safe. God Bless you sweetheart.
Hugs, Kisses, and Lots Of Love,
Your Wife Shannon

To my Love Ron Harris,
Hope your doing well, miss you, Ginger and Abby love their daddy very much. Keep up the good work. Take care and talk with you soon.
Love and kisses from your wife and the girls!!!!!!

Hello Honey Bunny!
I love you and miss you so much! Can't wait to go on our honeymoon!
Love always, Your Kate!

Hi franco,
This is coming from your family here in Kansas we all love you very much and pray god keep you safe until your return can't wait to see you in a week love lil franco jr, brandon, caleb.
And most of all your loving wife Iris Cooper.

To my hubby, Stephen Harward,
I love you so much. I am so grateful for you and your service. I hope these months of service go by quickly so we can see each other soon.
Your Faithful and Eternal Wife,
Renee Harward

Hello! Nephew Chris T!
Hope all is safe for you and all your fellow soldiers. You, and all of the troops, are doing a great job in a situation that is definately not ideal. Your cousins, Stephanie and Brianna send their love and support, as I do as well.
Hope to see you soon!
Keep the faith!
Uncle Marty

Daniel Armstrong,
Miss ya like crazy and love ya lots! Garfield, our fatso cat, misses attacking you!!! Take care of yourself babe.
Love ya, Amanda

Dear Travis Little
Hey babe, I just wanted to tell you how proud we are back home of you and how much Jordan, Amadues and I miss you. You are our hero and we love you a lot and miss you tons. Counting down the days till we get to see you.
Love Nan, Jordan and Amadues

To Jason Lovett:
To the best Husband and Dad in the whole

world. Jennifer, Ashlee, and Rique just wanted to say hello and let you know how much we love and miss you. I'm counting the days until I can look into those big green eyes of yours and tell you how much I love you. You all are in our thoughts and prayers everyday and night take care of yourself and stay safe.
Love your,
Sweetbitches, Babycakes, and Stinky

To: Hubby/Daddy Vince,
Ali and I miss you very much and know you are having a hard time right now just know we are always here for you and love you with all our hearts. Keep your head up and be safe.
Love Wifey Sara & Lil Angel Alexandria

Greeting of the Week



Daddy - It's Brianna. I lost my first tooth...See. I pulled it out myself when with pliers when mommy was not looking. I love you and miss you!
Kelly

Hey, Bubba Hull!
We miss you much and we are still counting the days. Jenna and Kevin miss you as well, and they have had your birthday presents waiting for you when you get home! (as well as the welcome home sign that you promised I could put in the yard!) :-)
Love you always,
Mom, Dad, Jenna & Kevin (& Alena)

To my one and only, Neal P. Roberts,
I thank God every day that I have you in my life. You make me so proud. I love you so much! Please be safe.
Your loving wife forever and ever, Sarah Jo Roberts

Dear Mark Mendiola,
We really miss you. it's not the same without you. Take care and be safe. Love and miss you lots, Geraldine, markie and michael

Hi Nathan Dameron,
Sending my love and prayers your way! I'm so proud of you!
Love, Mother

Hi Susie Bradshaw!
Just wanted to say that we miss you tremendously and are so proud of you! We are counting the days until you come home!
Love, mom & dad, Katie, Peter, JR,

Genevieve, sophie, and Ryan & also Pickles, pepe & misty.

Christine Kmiecik,
Yo Momma just made the best manicotti ever. The only ingredient missing was You. Love you Baby. Yo Momma.

To Brett Graveline,
We Love You More Than Anything, We Are So Proud Of You. Miss You So Much!
Love Kimberly, Mike, Brynn And Sarah

Hey Love (aka Rob Lawton)
It's me ... your adoring spousal unit and Love Bug Ava. We miss you so much and are anxiously awaiting to see you again during R & R!! It is snowing like crazy (again), but we are doing well. I hope to have some more projects done around the home by the time you come back, you'll be pleasantly surprised to see how I've added some new color to our lives.

Wee Bug is getting more of a personality every day. She throws food simply because it drives me crazy. When I reprimand her for something she jerks her head to the side and refuses to look at me. Wonder who she takes after???

The other day she took 14 steps all on her own. She has since gone back to crawling. Oh well, two steps forward, one step back.Please stay safe, know that we love and cherish you and are praying for you every day. You are a key part of this little family ... and we look forward to when you are back with us safe and sound.

All our love,
Mama and Ava Lawton

Barry Urtel,
31 weeks and counting - we couldn't love you more!
Terrie and Zoe

To my sweet brother Michael Fosness,
Just wanted to let you know we are all thinking of you, and wishing you the best!
Lots of love, your sisters and brothers,
Amanda, Mykayla, Preston, Sabrina, JJ, and Kevin

Dear Dad(Gary Kriesel),
We miss you so much, and cannot wait for you to come home! We love you very much, and are praying for you to have a safe and good time wherever you may be. Thank you for always involving us in your life, even though you are so far away. We look up to you, and take all your advice to heart... You are our hero!
Love,
Jacob and Chrissy

Hello Mark F,
Happy New Year! Your pic from redbullweb is on the screen saver now. It's snowing like crazy in Blaine. Peter's bd is coming up. Love U. Hang in there. We're thinking about you.
MOM

Dear Jeremy,
Just a note to let you know you are in our prayers & we love and miss you. We think of you often & always smile.
Keep your spirits high & know we are with you & support you-always.
Big hugs-mom, dad and Vince

Dear Larry,
You are the greatest brother any girl could ask for! Thank you for always pushing me to be the best person that I can be. You are my hero and I will always look up to you just as you will always watch out for me. We all love you and you are missed greatly!
Love your little sis,
Chrissy

To Curt Sedlacek,
We are so proud of you for the job that you are doing. The willingness to serve so others may benefit is a true giving of self. You and all other soldiers have much to be proud of. We treasure you as our son. Be safe Love you, miss you.
Mom and Dad

Martin Apprich
They say that military life and love is like climbing a mountain. It isn't easy, but it's worth while when you reach the top. I'm glad I have had the opportunity to climb to the top with you Baby! I love you so much! You are a wonderful husband and a perfect Daddy! We are so proud of you! Hugs & Kisses! Love and Happy Valentines Day from Your "Cricket" Ginger, "Dude" Matthew and "Lissie" Alyssa Apprich!

HOUND DOG!
HEY HONEY!!! I LOVE YOU! I just wanted to let you know I'm thinking of you 24-7 and Thank God for bringing such a STRONG MAN into my LIFE, I am so blessed! I LOVE YOU with all of MY HEART and know you will be home before We know it! Lucky and Sham A Lamb are growing by the minute! We are so Proud of YOU and Your MEN! I can't wait to give you another pedicure Baby! Make sure your brushing your bucks! Your Strongest Soldier, Katie F. Baby! x0x0x0x0x0x0x0x0's in a Note From HOME!

To My Love David Fagan
We miss you so very much and could not be more proud of you. We love you and are thinking of you every second of the day. Be Safe!
Hugs and Kisses,
Tina, Jack & Ethan

My Love Roger Davis,
hi honey Baileigh,Reid and I love and miss you so much and can't wait to see you again.
Love always,
Tonia,Baileigh,and Lt Man xoxoxo

Sending love to Daniel Collier Jr.
We are so proud of you and we miss you terribly! We can't wait for you to complete your mission and come home. Lots of love from Minnesota!!!
Mary, Rachel & Angie

"Once Upon a Time"

A Celebration of Black History Month

FEB. 16 AT 7 P.M. AT THE EAST MWR RECREATION CENTER

singers, dancers, musicians, poets, actors and artists

for more information, contact Capt. Janaia Nash at 829-1015 or email at jania.nash@balad.iraq.centcom.mil

Anaconda's joint-service "First Responders" ready for any mission

by Sgt. Kevin McSwain

Anaconda Times Staff

LSA ANACONDA, Iraq—Whenever there is an emergency, a small group of servicemembers is ready to respond and provide assistance to anyone who needs it.

This special group of servicemembers is known as the first responders, which consist of a variety of military specialties.

"A first responder consists of anyone who is on-call to handle any emergency situation," said Chief Master Sgt. Kevin Remedies, fire chief with the 332nd Expeditionary Engineer Squadron. "Our role here is to respond and provide command and control for emergencies."

The Squadron, which is comprised of Soldiers and Airmen, responds to all emergency calls and takes control of the area to ensure the safety of the victims and the crews working on the site.

"We continually coordinate with

different emergency units on base so we will understand what is going on in the area," he said. "This helps cut down on confusion between different groups on the scene of any emergency."

Remedies said his teams, which operate on 24-hour shifts, continually train in order to be prepared for whatever situation arises.

"You can never be prepared for every emergency, but with proper training, servicemembers will be able to react to a situation and neutralize the problem," he said.

In addition to the fire fighters here on base, the ambulatory team from the 206th Area Support Medical Center here is ready to respond to any emergency and provide emergency transport for victims.

"I am one of the first responders on scene to help provide command and control and triage," said 2nd Lt. Edward Ecklund, ambulance officer in charge.

Ecklund said all his Soldiers are constantly training in the emergency response center.

"We prepare them for any emergency and work around the specific situation," he said.

Ecklund attributes their ability to work with different components to the numerous mass casualty exercises that are held on the LSA.

"Working with the Air Force has been a great experience," he said. "We communicate with each other so well, and we are able to work so well together because of the mass casualty exercises. We take what we learned there and apply it to real-life situations."

Ecklund said during specific emergencies, Soldiers from the 1st Squadron, 167th Cavalry Regiment (Reconnaissance, Surveillance, Target Acquisition) secure the victims and the ERC team transports them to the hospital.

"We generally respond to emergencies which happen on LSA Anaconda," he said. "Medics and physicians from 1/167 RSTA respond to emergencies off base."



Photo by Sgt. Kevin McSwain

2nd Lt. Edward C. Ecklund and Sgt. Justin Hunsperger, of the 206th Area Support Medical Center, ensure the medical bag in one of their emergency vehicles is stocked and ready to be used on the next emergency they respond to.

Ecklund said that during one particular emergency, the medic from 1/167 RSTA helped perform triage and prepared victims for transport to the hospital.

"We transport the victims to the hospital so the Soldiers at the scene can continue to help other injured personnel," he said.

After the victims have been transported to the hospital, the first responder's mission is over but a second set of special responders go into action.

Soldiers from the 111th and 209th Quartermaster Company wait to process casualties and when death occurs, they prepare the remains for future processing.

"We process the remains of casualties and handle the remains with honor," said Staff Sgt. Daniel Davenport, mortuary affairs noncommissioned officer in charge with the 111th Quartermaster Company. "We also begin to attempt to identify the individual."

Davenport said their direct role is to process, preserve, and store the remains to a state where they will not deteriorate.

"You can not train for every type of emergency, but if you learn the basics you will be able to handle anything," he said. "We also build a relationship with the direct links during a mass casualty. We communicate with other services to ensure there is no confusion about how a job should be done."

All these different components and others not mentioned, came together Jan. 7 here and responded to a mass casualty situation after a civilian airliner crashed outside of LSA Anaconda.

Within minutes of the accident, servicemembers from the 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and the 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing deployed to the scene and began emergency procedures.

Davenport said his 20-Soldier team was very well prepared for their job

due to the communication with the servicemembers on the scene.

"With this being our first mass casualty everything went very smooth, we actually finished the mission in almost half the time we expected," he said.

During this process there is one final team that is not as visible as the others. They are the chaplain and his assistant.

"We care for the wounded, nurture the living, and honor the dead," said Chaplain (Maj.) Charles Yost with the 164th Corps Support Group.

Yost said a chaplain is not just there for the injured, he is also there to be available to the Soldiers providing care.

"We are there to help Soldiers cope with the situation," he said. "We give them a chance to talk about what is bothering them so they can continue on with their mission."

Yost said in addition to his duties, he is there to make sure the dead are treated with respect and are honored.

"We will pray for the victims," he said. "This helps give the family members peace of mind to know they were treated with respect. We even have prayers from different religions to make sure we are able to do this with as many different people as possible."

The chaplain is also responsible for ensuring all Soldiers affected go through a debriefing to help relieve stress.

"We help coordinate a critical incident stress debriefing," he said. "We are trained to administer the session but we usually coordinate it with the combat stress office."

During this recent emergency with the crash of a civilian aircraft, the chaplain and his assistant were not needed immediately. But they must always be ready to respond during this type of situation.

We must be physically, mentally, and spiritually fit, said Sgt. James Blount, chaplain's assistant about the readiness of a chaplain and his assistant.

And with careful coordination and execution, one victim was provided life-saving surgery and treatment.

news.peel anaconda

watch it on the Pentagon Channel

BE ALERT DURING WET WEATHER

WATER HAZARDS CAN CAUSE SERIOUS INJURY AND DAMAGE TO VEHICLES. USE EXTREME CAUTION WHILE BREAKING.

LSA ANACONDA RELIGIOUS SCHEDULE

Religious schedule subject to change

Roman Catholic Mass Saturday 5 p.m. Tuskegee Chapel Saturday 8 p.m. Provider Chapel Sunday 7:30 a.m. Freedom Chapel Sunday 9 a.m. Tuskegee Chapel Sunday 5:30 p.m. Provider Chapel Sunday 11 a.m. Air Force Hospital Monday - Friday 5 p.m. Tuskegee	Church of Christ Sunday 2 p.m. Tuskegee Chapel	Islamic Prayer Friday 12:30 p.m. Provider Chapel	Sunday 11:30 a.m. Freedom Chapel Sunday 2 p.m. Air Force Hospital Chapel Sunday 7 p.m. Provider Chapel	Sunday 5:30 p.m. Tuskegee Chapel Sunday 8:15 p.m. Air Force Hospital
Sacrament of Reconciliation 30 minutes prior to each mass	Samoa Congregational Service Sunday 4 p.m. Provider Chapel	Protestant-Gospel Sunday 7:30 p.m. Eden Chapel Wednesday 7 p.m. Freedom 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	Non-Denominational Sunday 9 a.m. Signal Chapel
Protestant-Contemporary Sunday 10 a.m. Town Hall	Friday Shabbat Service Friday 7 p.m. Tuskegee Chapel	Protestant-Liturgical Sunday 3:30 p.m. Tuskegee Chapel	Protestant-Traditional Sunday 9:30 a.m. Air Force Hospital Sunday 9:30 a.m. Provider Chapel Sunday 10 a.m. Freedom Chapel	Protestant-Gospel Sunday 11 a.m. Tuskegee Chapel
Latter Day Saints	Protestant-Gospel Sunday, 11 a.m. MWR East Building			



Sgt. Rusty Lansford, a crew chief with C Company, 1st Battalion, 131st Aviation Regiment, performs post flight checks on the tail of his UH-60 helicopter.

by Master Sgt. Charles A. Wheeler

36th CAB Public Affairs Office

LSA ANACONDA, Iraq— The duty day starts at 4:30 a.m. for the flight crew of today's Delta mission, from C Company, 1st Battalion, 131st Aviation Regiment, 36th Combat Aviation Brigade.

Anyone who has ever thought that being a pilot or a crew chief aboard an Army helicopter was all glamour might reconsider after watching these Soldiers working in the cold, two hours before daylight and following them through a very long day.

There is a lot of work and special requirements that are involved in being part of a flight crew. Aside from the long days spent flying, with pre and post-flight checks to do and maintenance to perform, there are the stringent flight physicals each Soldier must pass on a regular basis to remain on flight status. These Soldiers chose this life and love almost every minute of it.

First thing on the agenda is a pre-flight brief which covers everything pertinent to the mission.

After this very detailed brief, the crew loads their equipment onto a small trailer attached to a Humvee in the dark and makes final preparations to move to the flight line.

After a short ride in the back of a Humvee they ground their gear and begin pre-flight checks. The push crew brings breakfast and stands by in case of communication or mechanical problems.

The Pilot In Command (PC) Chief

Warrant Officer Jerry Fryar, from Ozark, Ark., gathers his co-pilot, crew chief, and door gunner together for the flight briefing and again covers every detail, both flying this aircraft and today's mission.

Aboard the aircraft they begin communications through the headsets. The PC reads from his checklist and one by one the systems are checked and ready to go.

The whine of the engines and the slow heavy turning of the rotor blades quickly change into a rhythmic blend of noise and blurred motion.

The pilot radios the control tower and after receiving permission to do so, they lift off and hurtle over the wire and the wet farmland beyond.

So why do these Soldiers go through so much to do a potentially dangerous and exhausting job?

Fryar sums it up in four words, "because we love it." Fryar is a former enlisted member of the Air National Guard and wanted to become a helicopter pilot, so he joined the Army National Guard as a Warrant Officer Candidate (WOC) and started flight training as soon as he graduated WOC School.

Fryar is proud to be serving his country, and he is very happy that his primary duty here is something he long dreamed of doing, flying.

Sgt. Rusty Lansford is a crew chief and like his PC, he loves to fly. In fact, he passes other National Guard units on his hour and a half drive from his home in Clarendo, Ark., to his monthly drill at Camp Robinson because they are not aviation units.



Chief Warrant Officer Joshua Martin, a pilot with C Company, 1st Battalion, 131st Aviation Regiment, from Mayflower, Ark., moves Soldiers from base to base around Iraq.

Arkansas aviators work long hours to keep troops off of the roads

"This experience will put us ahead of pilots who have not flown at this operational tempo or under the different mission sets we perform."

- Chief Warrant Officer Jerry Fryar

"I could change my military occupational specialty and drill in a unit closer to my house, but I am doing what I always wanted to do," he said.

Lansford continued by saying that he enjoys his work as an auto mechanic in his civilian job, but nothing gives him as much satisfaction as working on an aircraft and then flying in it.

Sgt. Terry Evans, of Searcy, Ark., is the other crew chief on today's flight. During the first landing of the day, he is looking out of his window as the aircraft rolls forward to assist the pilot in stopping the bird in exactly the right spot by relaying his view of the runway markers.

This is one of many ways the pilots rely on the crew chiefs. Every

crew member must maintain constant awareness of what is going on around them and communicate with each other what they see. This gives the PC a complete picture of his aircraft's current status.

Evans is on his third deployment. This is his second time in Iraq, and he served in the Sinai Desert as an Infantryman. He was a scout sniper his last tour in Iraq, and he occasionally misses the action and excitement of that duty. However, this deployment offers him a change of pace and adds helicopter door gunner to his military resume.

Chief Warrant Officer Joshua Martin of Mayflower, Ark., is the co-pilot and discusses this particular type of mission, which calls for the aircraft to be in several

places geographically close together with a specific time to make each stop.

"A day with several take-offs and landings, with short flights in between, is much more taxing physically and mentally than long flights," Martin said.

The good news is there are many types of missions for this crew and others in the 36th CAB. At the end of this deployment they will have a lot of experience with different types of flying, which will serve them well in their aviation careers.

"The hours we are flying here far exceed what anyone would be able to get back home," Fryar said. "This experience will put us ahead of pilots who have not flown at this operational tempo or under the different mission sets we perform."

Today was a good day for the Soldiers from C Company.

All of their passengers got where they needed to go, and they had some daylight left to do their post flight checks and maintenance. After a long day of flying around northern Iraq, the Delta mission crew is back where it started, climbing into the back of a Humvee in the dark.

Tired but happy, they move to the orderly room for an after action review and to file their paperwork for the day. Later they are off to a hot shower and a meal before going to sleep with the knowledge that what they accomplished today may well have saved the lives of the servicemembers they transported by keeping them off of the roads of Iraq.

After a good night's rest, tomorrow will bring another opportunity to do, or prepare to do, what they love best... fly in service to their country.



C Company, 1st Battalion, 131st Aviation Regiment UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter crews fly through cities similar to this every day while deployed to Iraq.