

# ANACONDA TIMES

FEBRUARY 7, 2007

PROUDLY SERVING LSA ANACONDA

## United Together

45th SB, Q-West Soldiers work together to improve one community

Page 8

## GOING UP

36th CAB aviation Soldiers trade their flight gear for binos during tower watch

Page 16

Vol. 4, Issue 6



An F-16 Block 50 aircraft sits on the flightline. The 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing announced the opening of a third assigned fighter squadron in a ceremony here Jan. 16.

# 60th Ordnance Company keeps Coalition Forces in the fight

See Page 10

## LSAA's Wing stands up third fighter squadron

by Senior Airman Josh Moshier

332nd Air Expeditionary Wing Public Affairs

**BALAD AB, Iraq** -- The 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing announced the opening of a third assigned fighter squadron in a ceremony at Balad Air Base Jan. 16.

The 14th Expeditionary Fighter Squadron "Samurai" from Misawa Air Base, Japan, is the first Block 50 F-16 squadron deployed to Iraq.

According to Lt. Col. Ken Madura, 14th EFS director of operations, the purpose of adding a third fighter squadron to the 332nd AEW is to increase the capability of the wing's mission.

"We bring precision employment, new and advanced aircraft, and an increased ability to pass and receive information with command and control assets," he said. "We offer additional support to the ground commander."

The Block 50 system provides newer technology to the wing's arsenal. Its helmet-mounted queuing system increases pilot awareness and allows pilots to quickly get weapons on target. It also includes an improved data link that provides awareness on the entire air picture.

The 14th EFS and 14th Aircraft Maintenance Unit is comprised of roughly 250 Airmen and gives the wing the ability to fulfill more requests for air support.

Madura said the 14th EFS and future squadrons assigned to the wing will benefit from a strong commitment by the wing.

"The facility the 332nd AEW built for us here is pretty phenomenal," he said. "They've given us everything we asked for. Every squadron that's assigned here in the future will appreciate this world-class facility and the work that's been done."



Sgt. 1st Class Dorothea Goodson and Sgt. 1st Class Angenette Washington, from the 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), sing "Lift Every Voice and Sing" during a prayer breakfast that kicked off Black History Month celebration for LSA Anaconda Feb. 1.



"I am disciplined, physically and mentally tough."

I am Spc. John Brown, from Highland, Ill.

134th Long Range Surveillance Detachment >> infantryman

## Iraqi Village Builds Women's Center in North Baghdad

**BAGHDAD** — A small town in north Baghdad Province provides a positive glimpse of Iraq's future. Assriya Village, located outside Camp Taji, has about 4,600 residents representing all groups.

"Assriya" in Arabic means "modern" and its name exemplifies the way residents treat each other. They worked together to build a Women's Center that officially opened in August and today that facility is producing apparel for children.

The \$230,000, 400-square-meter facility includes 12 sewing machines and 12 computers to encourage female business opportunities. Local residents have sewn dozens of dresses, sold many in the local market, and are now looking to expand their business enterprise.

They are working with Camp Taji to open a store there. They also are contacting Baghdad merchants about the possibility of selling their apparel.

Col. Debra Lewis, commander of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Gulf Region Central District, recently visited the facility and talked to those operating it. "It's great to see the community's positive outlook and pride in what the Center represents," she said.

Lewis brought with her 16 boxes of fabric, thread and other sewing items donated by Americans wanting to help. (The Daughters of the American Revolution and Seattle churches are among those supporting the effort.) Six of the local women who are part of the work force expressed their sincere appreciation.

Lewis plans to continue seeking stateside support for this facility, and doing whatever else she can, after seeing the impact this is having on the community, she said.

## Security Meeting Raises Hopes for Peace

**BAGHDAD** — The issues were pressing during a meeting where American and Iraqi leaders sat side-by-side to try and solve some security issues for the people of the Karkh District.

Coalition forces and the Iraqi army met with local leaders of the Karkh District during a security council meeting to discuss security issues that have been highlighted during recent events on Karkh District's Haifa Street.

"The meeting was held for the locals to express their concerns to the Iraqi army and the Iraqi Police," said Lt. Col. Avanas Smiley, battalion commander for 1st Battalion, 23rd Infantry Regiment, 3rd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division.

Another vital reason for the meeting, Smiley said, was for Karkh leaders to meet the new Iraqi army commander who is in charge of the district's area of operation.

The 1st Battalion, 1st Brigade, 6th Iraqi army Division commander made it very clear to the local leaders during the meeting that he was in charge and is responsible for peace in the district, Smiley said. It was his first security council meeting and it was important for him to meet the districts leaders face-to-face.

During the meeting Smiley made local leaders aware that terrorists would be weeded out of all neighborhoods. He told them it didn't matter whether they were Sunni or Shiite.

The Iraqi commander doesn't claim to be Shiite or Sunni. He told the local leaders he's simply an Iraqi who wants to support everything toward the rebuilding Iraq, Smiley said.

"Since I am a partner with him, I can say that's how he is on a daily basis," he added, noting this as a key to bringing peace to the Karkh District.

When Smiley was discussing equal treatment of all terrorists, Shiite or Sunni, he said he wasn't able to gauge a reaction to his words, but he was able to see acknowledgement.

"The local leaders understand our purpose," Smiley said.

Iraqi security forces, along with Smiley's troops are working together to secure the Karkh District. They assured the Karkh leaders that they would work their hardest to eliminate the threat of terrorist in their area, Smiley said.

Smiley said the security situation is mostly in the hands of the Iraqi security forces, with coalition forces behind them if needed.

"The responsibility of security hinges upon Iraqi security forces with their understanding of the people and their demographics," Smiley said. "I think that the locals will see increased amount of security in the coming weeks because of the Iraqi security forces presence and the transition of some coalition forces."

## Iraqi-Led Team Finds Torture House, Weapon Caches

**CAMP FALLUJAH, Iraq,** — Iraqi police and Marines completed Operation Three Swords in an area south of Fallujah, Jan.23. The purpose of the operation was to detain members of murder and intimidation cells within the rural area of Zaidon and the villages of Abu Hawa, Fuhaylat and Hasa. It was led by the Iraqi police with support from the Marines of Regimental Combat Team 6 and Marines and soldiers of I Marine Expeditionary Force (Forward) Headquarters Group.

"The Iraqi police led this mission with confidence and it demonstrated their desire to provide a more secure mindset for the civilians within these areas," said Capt. Chip R. Rankin, Company B commanding officer

During the operation, members of the Fallujah police department and Coalition Forces discovered a torture house and rescued three individuals. Two of the hostages were transported and treated at Camp Fallujah. The third hostage was transported by helicopter to Camp Taqqadum for further treatment. Torture devices were found and confiscated. The house was demolished by Coalition Forces in order to remove the reminder of such violence from the landscape. Also, one of the victims asked that it be destroyed so that no one will ever be taken there and tortured like him.

Additionally, Coalition Forces uncovered numerous weapons caches during the operation. Among the caches, two 14.5 mm anti-aircraft guns, high explosive mortar sights, rocket propelled grenade related materials, a sniper rifle with scope and four assault rifles. Two vehicles were also discovered. One was rigged as a car bomb and the other with an anti-aircraft gun mounted. The explosives were destroyed on scene by coalition forces and the weapons were returned to Camp Fallujah.

The Iraqi police and Marines detained 21 individuals suspected of coordinating insurgent attacks against Iraqi security forces or coalition forces.

"This operation was successful in the fact that coalition forces were able to free three hostages and seize weapons used for murder and intimidation away from insurgents," said Capt. Chip R. Rankin, B Company commanding officer, 2nd Battalion, 136th Infantry Regiment. "The Iraqi police led this mission with confidence and it demonstrated their desire to provide a more secure mindset for the civilians within these areas."

Our joint operations demonstrate the interoperability of the Marines and the Iraqi police to remind the terrorists that their presence will not be tolerated," said Coalition spokesperson 1st Lt. Barry L. Edwards.

## Operation Turki Bowl dismantles terrorist group south of Balad

**BAGHDAD** — Do you remember your first day of school? It was one of the first times you'd be away from your family, and you were probably a little nervous. Now, imagine walking through one of the worst neighborhoods in Iraq just to go to school.

"So, if we can empower these people maybe they can overcome the situation they live in and actually run the terrorists out of their neighborhoods," said Capt. Eric Fedak, team leader from Company B, 414th Civil Affairs Battalion

More than 3,200 young Iraqi boys made the trek down one of the dangerous Al Doura streets to go to class. A new classroom, new books and computers

awaited them thanks to some hard work from their local leaders and some American soldiers.

Soldiers from 1st Battalion, 14th Cavalry Regiment, attached to the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, members of the "Black Jack" Brigade and soldiers from the 414th Civil Affairs Battalion went to the Al Nahraen High School for boys to celebrate its grand reopening.

Although it was in one of the area's more dangerous neighborhoods, thousands of young Iraqi boys, locals and community leaders were on hand for the celebration and ribbon-cutting ceremony.

Capt. Eric Fedak, a team leader from Company B, 414th Civil Affairs Battalion, said that reopening schools like Al Nahraen gives the young men in the community pride in their neighborhood and themselves.

The school project took a little more than 90 days, more than \$140,000, and dozens of local workers to complete the renovation. Fedak said that having locals perform most of the work helps bring the community closer.

"Most of the people who worked on this project were from that neighborhood," he said. "So, we employ people from the neighborhood to give them something they can be proud of."

Fedak said that everything but the structure itself was replaced to include the plumbing, wiring, desks, computers, and even a new science laboratory.

## I want some too..



*Maj. Alberto Rodriguez, 45th Sustainment Brigade, harnesses the power of candy canes to move children away from an Iraqi Army supply truck on a humanitarian mission in the village of Ad Walla near FOB Q-West. The truck was loaded with pallets of bottled water, clothes, blankets and toys for more than 25 families.*

# ANACONDA TIMES

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

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82nd Sustainment Brigade  
593rd Corps Support Group  
15th Sustainment Brigade

# Senior paratroopers visits 82nd Sustainment Brigade

by Pfc. Robert H. Baumgartner  
82nd Sustainment Brigade PAO

**TALLIL AIRBASE, Iraq** – The Commanding General of the 82nd Airborne Division, Maj. Gen. David Rodriguez and the 82nd Airborne Division Command Sgt. Maj. Thomas Capel visited the troops of the 82nd Sustainment Brigade at Camp Adder recently as part of a battlefield circulation on their way to Afghanistan for a yearlong deployment in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Both Rodriguez and Capel toured the camp and spoke with soldiers from the wide range of units that comprise the 82nd Sustainment Brigade. From mechanics in the Army Reserve, infantrymen in the National Guard, and gun truck crews

from active components, Rodriguez and Capel wanted to let the soldiers know that their courage and sacrifice is recognized.

One of the first stops was the motor pool, where Rodriguez commended the mechanics for their hard work and creativity in improvising battlefield survival techniques and equipment.

“The magic you are doing here keeps America’s men and women safe on the roads of the battlefield and ensures they come back alive to their loved ones back home,” Rodriguez said.

While eating lunch with the soldiers, he allowed them to chat freely and ask him questions. He responded to their inquiries candidly, and let them know he is very proud of their accomplishment and encouraged them to continue

their efforts.

After lunch, Capel and 82nd Sustainment Brigade Command Sgt. Maj. Nathan Hunt visited a classroom where a combat lifesaver course was being taught by 82nd Sustainment Brigade medics. After watching the instructions the students were getting, Capel volunteered to receive a saline lock from one of the students.

“I like to participate in this kind of training because if they can stick me, a division Command Sgt. Maj., they can stick anyone,” Capel said.

For the last stop of their tour, Rodriguez and Capel boarded a British Merlin helicopter with 82nd Sustainment Brigade commanders and flew to the ancient Ziggurat of Ur, just outside Camp Adder. On top

of the historic structure, Rodriguez praised the commanders for keeping the peace and establishing good relations with the local Iraqis. It is imperative that you promote America’s role here to rebuild the country, and make life better for the Iraqi people, he said.

“The magic you are doing here keeps America’s men and women safe on the roads of the battlefield and ensures they come back alive to their loved ones back home.”  
- Maj. Gen. David Rodriguez



Photo by Staff Sgt. Felix A. Figueroa

Maj. Gen. David Rodriguez inspects a component from an up-armored Humvee while touring a frag-5 yard at Camp Adder.

# Geocaching keeps Anaconda Soldiers on the hunt

by Spc. Walton McJordan  
Anaconda Times Staff

**LSA ANACONDA, Iraq**—The high-tech hobby that has swept the globe is available throughout most areas of Iraq, Kuwait, and Afghanistan for members to enjoy.

When the term geocaching is used, the general reply from a non-cacher is, “geo what?” and of course, an explanation of the word follows. The hobby has been available in Iraq for some time now.

Geocaching is what people do when they get a set of grid coordinates of a specified location where a cache is hidden, input the numbers into a global positioning system receiver and find the hidden cache.

On May 2, 2000, the government made it possible for civilians to use the 24 GPS satellites positioned around the world, which increased the accuracy of GPS technology tenfold, according to the geocaching website.

On May 3, a GPS enthusiast, Dave Ulmer in Beaver Creek, Oregon placed a bucket containing books, videos, and software into the woods. He marked the location of the “stash” on his GPS and

shared the waypoint online. Within days of the posting several readers used their own GPS receivers to find the container and shared the experience online.

The use of the internet began a domino effect that swept the entire world. The original name for this hobby was the “GPS Stash Hunt.” The word stash was eventually replaced with cache and finally the name geocaching was born.

Many newcomers to the hobby find themselves hooked after their very first outing. The idea of treasure hunting and using high tech gadgets for today’s population was a match made in heaven.

Staff Sgt. Brian A. Heitman, 1-506th Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division served in Ar Ramadi under the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division for over a year and was able to continue with one of his favorite past times.

“Getting back outside and enjoying the outdoors with your family is what it’s all about,” Heitman said. “My wife and daughters hit the woods with me with their own GPS receivers and get to the cache first a lot of the time.”

Heitman said he has been geocaching



Tools of the trade for Geocaching on LSA Anaconda.

since 2003. With the ever evolving face of technology, the hand receivers have gone through transformations from the difficult to use black and white screens to today’s full color touch screen models that have been incorporated into Personal Data Assistant.

Before deploying to Iraq, Heitman checked to see if there were any caches that would be close enough to him that he could find.

“Checking the area where I was going to be at I found over 50 caches in the surrounding areas. I wanted to find at least one because it would be an interesting footnote to have found a cache in a combat zone,” Heitman said.

The actual cache itself may be as small as an Altoids mint can and may be as large as a .50 cal ammo can. Most all caches contain goodies (depending on the size of the cache) consisting of local items of interest, phone cards, pogs, trading coins and if a cacher is lucky, a Travel Bug.

Travel Bugs come in all shapes and sizes and are registered as a trackable item. Each Travel Bug is issued a dog tag with a tracking number. When a cacher finds a Travel Bug, it is picked up and placed in the cacher’s online inventory and travels to the next cache where it is then placed.

The cacher then places the Travel Bug in that cache’s inventory for the next person to find. All trackable items histories can be viewed from their first

placement as well as who the owner is. The log shows everywhere the Travel Bug has been and how many miles it has traveled. Pictures may also be posted with the log.

Heitman said he found several caches while in Ar Ramadi during his deployment.

“I now have 560 finds and have stepped up to a Garmin Rino 130 GPS receiver, which has made caching more pleasant,” Heitman said.

“I brought several Travel Bugs from the states with me that weren’t found. I sent them to LSA Anaconda with a fellow cacher I met while at Camp Ramadi. I understand there are several caches there,” he said.

Heitman’s geocache name is SDAJumpmaster and his information can be viewed along with information about caching at home or while deployed at [www.geocaching.com](http://www.geocaching.com).

Geocaching can be fun for the entire family, reacquainting the cacher with the outdoor environment. Servicemembers may also take advantage of this to help take their mind off work and relax while being deployed and away from family members.

## What has surprised you most about winter conditions in Iraq?



Sgt. Carlos Cole

“I was deployed before to Afganistan and I didn’t expect the brutal, bitter cold winter. Iraq is warm compared to that.”



Sgt. Jonetta Benefield

“I never thought coming to the desert, I would freeze to death and need a canoe for the rainy season.”



Staff Sgt. David Mendez

“Winter in Iraq is like Texas, it can go from extreme cold to nice all in the same day. Glad I brought all the gear they issued.”



Staff Sgt. Chad Surface

“I had no idea that it got this cold. The cold wind and temperatures in the 30’s was a surprise.”

# Coalition Forces help train Iraqi police

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 Dujal.

This police training school is a joint endeavor undertaken by 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, 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,”

Blankenship said.

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



An Iraqi police recruit performs a push up during a physical training session at an Iraqi police training school, located near the city of Ad Dujal. The school is a joint effort between the Iraqi army, U.S. military and civilian contractors to train new Iraqi police recruits.

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, Blankenship said. 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,” Blankenship said. “The end result is that the Iraqi people have a competent Iraqi Police and army that will serve and protect their needs.”

## Yusufiyah residents get potable water in their community



Loretto, Pa., native Sgt. Adam McDermott, a heavy equipment operator with the 2nd Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division (Light Infantry) drills holes into the cement in Yusufiyah, Iraq Jan. 23 in order to get to water lines. McDermott participated in an operation designed to help the residents of Yusufiyah get potable water within their homes.

by Staff Sgt. Angela McKinzie  
2nd BCT, 10th Mtn. Div. (LI)

**YUSUFIYAH, Iraq** — In most American communities it is common to have clean water available to drink and for recreational use. Often one can go through a neighborhood on any given day in the summer and see people watering their plants, washing their cars or playing in the sprinkler – all of which require running water.

But in Yusufiyah, Iraq citizens are lucky if they have enough water to survive a hot, summer day.

Soldiers of the 2nd Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division (Light Infantry) teamed up with Soldiers of the 4th Battalion, 31st Infantry Regiment, 2nd BCT, 10th Mtn. Div. (LI) to assist the people of Yuufiyah in repairing water pipes Jan. 23.

“The city services and the water minister asked for assistance in breaking the concrete above the pipes since they do not have a jack hammer,” said Capt. Chris Sanchez, a native of Los Angeles, Calif., who serves as the 4-31 civil affairs officer. “The people of Yusufiyah are served well by civil servants like the water minister.”

In order to help repair the pipes, holes had to be made in the concrete.

“We are making four holes in the ground so that the water can be tested to see if it is potable,” said Pfc. Shawn Armstrong, a 2nd BSTB heavy equipment operator and native of Lewistown, Penn. “So far the mission has been great. It is good to help people and show them what we can do for them.”

As the BSTB Soldiers drilled holes in the ground, the 4-31 Soldiers and Iraqi

Army soldiers from the 4th Brigade, 6th Iraqi Army Division secured the area.

“The Iraqi Army led the way and coordinated the security and worked with the residents to accomplish the mission,” Sanchez said.

City officials were pleased the project helped the community.

“The sewer system is very old and it is a priority to reinstall it,” said Bilal Abdul Kareem Mohammed, the Yusufiyah Minister of Water. “I am happy to help my people, but they need to be healthy. Being healthy includes having potable water.”

As the team worked to drill holes in the ground, residents and Iraqi children gathered to watch. As the people stood

around, one mother showed the Soldiers scars that were on her daughter’s body from an improvised explosive device detonation. The small girl only had four fingers, as well – also from the IED blast.

“At one time the people of Yusufiyah could not come out to the streets because of the terrorists,” Mohammed said. “That is why it took so long to get the water pipes fixed. Yusufiyah’s area is secure enough to be able to do projects like this.”

Mohammed said the long-term plan was to build a water plant in the area. When all the projects are complete the citizens of Yusufiyah should have potable water in their homes.

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.

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## 829-1402

# EOD takes on big responsibility, dangerous duty

by Maj. Richard C. Sater  
332nd Air Expeditionary Wing Public Affairs

**BALAD AIR BASE, Iraq** -- It's either an initial success or total failure!

That's not only a true statement but also a suitable rallying cry for the Airmen assigned to the 332nd Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron's Explosive Ordnance Disposal Flight here.

The flight consists of approximately 40 Airmen deployed from 10 different EOD units to fill two distinct missions, one on base and one outside the wire.

The Air Force EOD mission is unique from the other services in that respect, according to flight commander Capt. Kristy Youngpeter, deployed from the 49th Civil Engineer Squadron, Holloman Air Force Base, N.M.

The on-base mission is more traditional Air Force EOD - responding to unexploded ordnance on the flightline, providing damage assessment following indirect fire attacks, deconflicting any hung munitions or flares on an aircraft.

That's critical to the 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing's providing combat airpower in support of national objectives.

"The faster we can clear the runway of a UXO or clear hung ordnance on an aircraft, the sooner we can get back in the fight," she said.

The non-traditional mission takes them off base for an "in-lieu-of" mission - Airmen standing in for Soldiers, who traditionally manage the response to improvised explosive devices. Though administratively assigned to the Air Force, ILO Airmen are tactically controlled by another branch of service - either Army or Navy. The 332nd's EOD flight reports to a Navy unit which, in turn, answers to an Army Task Force - emblematic of the joint operating environment in this theater.

Approximately 15 members of the 332nd's EOD flight are slotted against the airfield support positions, and about 25 against ILO billets, but "they're interchangeable, trained to the exact same level and fully capable of doing either mission," Youngpeter said.

That's important, because those specifically tasked to support the airfield also augment the outside-the-wire forces simply because the need is so great, she says. "One day, we might respond to a UXO on the flightline and the next day, a VBIED (vehicle-borne improvised explosive device) on a main supply route" outside the base, she says.

As such, EOD Airmen are a force provider for the entire air and ground mission, here and at other bases in country, including Kirkuk Regional Air Base and Sather and Ali Bases.

It's a big responsibility, and dangerous, particularly since the biggest part of the work involves the response to improvised explosive devices, the biggest threat on Iraq's roads today.

Thus, EOD capability is in high demand.

"The counter-IED fight is a huge fight," Youngpeter said. "The insurgents have it down to a fine science."

The EOD personnel here also have it down to a fine science. They're well-trained to respond to explosive hazards of any kind, whether IED, weapons cache, or a bomb in a basement. In most cases, the team detonates the stuff in place to get rid of it.

The team also responds to blast sites after the fact to clear hazards from the area and conduct post-blast assessments to see what can be learned. Each one makes the team smarter, better able to respond and react. The flight also conducts route-



Tech. Sgt. Dave Larriva, 332nd ECES Explosives Ordnance Disposal Flight, works in a home filled with material used to make improvised explosive devices.



Senior Airman Kyle Preece, 332nd Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron Explosive Ordnance Disposal Flight, works on the F6A robot as a vehicle borne improvised explosive device burns in the background.

reconnaissance missions as well, clearing off-base roads for safe traffic.

For all "outside the wire" taskings, the EOD teams are accompanied by U.S. Army-led security forces.

Inside the base, the teams conduct the controlled detonations that take place regularly to get rid of munitions or other explosive devices collected by Soldiers during off-base missions.

The EOD flight also works with the provost marshal to monitor the "amnesty" boxes placed on base, into which troops are invited to drop ammunition or other objects they should not have in their possession.

Finally, the team provides assistance at the Air Force Theater Hospital to de-arm incoming patients before they're taken into the facility.

It's a 24-hour operation, and the flight keeps three teams on duty at all times to respond to on-base and off-base requirements, and one for back-up if necessary.

As the largest EOD unit in Iraq, the flight has its hands full, working for all branches of the service to provide requested capability.

"It's a balancing act," Youngpeter said, ensuring all requirements are met through the various chains-of-command through which the team reports.

The team members are fully committed

to their unique mission, and the captain is proud of them.

"As long as they get to do EOD work, they're happy," she said.

Team members agree one of the perks of EOD response is "we get to do our job," according to Staff Sgt. Eric Adams, deployed from the 96th CES, Eglin AFB, Fla.

"This is stuff we've trained and trained and trained on, and now we have a huge theater to do it in."

The work is inherently dangerous, and no amount of training can remove that potential threat.

"We're very aware of the sacrifices and the impact on the families," Youngpeter said. But faith in their training, their equipment - and most importantly, each other - ensures that the job gets done.

In addition to personal protective gear, the teams drive fortified vehicles including the Joint EOD Rapid Response Vehicle., commonly referred to as the "JERRV." Teams responding to threats carry "robots" like the Talon-3 that are specially designed to de-arm unexploded

munitions by remote control.

"You feel safe riding in the JERRV," said Senior Airmen Ben Clement, also deployed from the 775th Civil Engineer Squadron EOD unit, Hill Air Force Base, Utah. And when the situation becomes tense, "you keep going. You're geared on what you're doing. You don't get complacent, but you expect" something to happen. And, of course, built into the work is "that constant adrenaline rush!"

Adams is on his second deployment here, and he feels much more prepared this time. "We're better equipped now," he says. "We didn't have the robots last time."

Technology changes constantly, making the team better equipped to deal with the inherent hazards of the job.

So far, the skill and training and equipment have held the team in good stead. And no one will discount a little luck. "When a mission goes off without a hitch, it's a good feeling," Sergeant Adams says.

"I was nervous at first," says Staff Sgt. Corey King, deployed from the 52nd Civil Engineer Squadron, Spangdahlem Air Base, Germany. "But I learned to accept that something might happen. I have respect for the possibility that something could go off, but I don't fear it."

"I've been blown up four times," Clement said cheerfully - and his

**"But I learned to accept that something might happen. I have respect for the possibility that something could go off, but I don't fear it."**

- Senior Airmen Ben Clement

enthusiasm remains intact. This is his first deployment, but "I'd do it over again. I'd rather stay here. It's the life."

"We're filling a vital role here," he continues. "We're stopping coalition forces

and civilians from being wounded" by IEDs. Local townspeople help them out sometimes, leading them to weapons caches or pointing out hidden explosives. "They get tired of it," he says, and their thanks afterward make him feel good.

"We need to be patient," he said. "Things don't change automatically."

In the fight, on base and off, the 332nd ECES/EOD Flight is doing what it can to bring about that positive change.

# LSAA women fellowship together, get peer advice

by Sgt. KaRonda Fleming

Anaconda Times Staff

**LSA ANACONDA, Iraq** – Today's women are revolutionizing the world by having executive jobs and being the fore-front of many occupations that were previously run by men.

Nowadays, women work side-by-side in America with men.

With the added job titles, women may often find themselves stressed out or struggling with a particular situation.

Therefore, the Provider Chapel Annex holds group meetings every Monday night at 7 p.m. Females are invited to attend the Women's Fellowship Group, which is located at the Provider Chapel Annex, and males are invited to attend the Men's Fellowship Group at 7 p.m. inside of the Provider Chapel. The men's group discusses the same types of topics as the women.

Women here at LSA Anaconda have a place to go to in order to get godly advice about various issues they may have, said Sgt. Tammy A. Morgan, a protocol noncommissioned officer with the joint visitors bureau for the 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary).

She said the group addresses issues concerning women and encourages them to cultivate their character. Discussions at these groups are confidential and are not discussed outside of the group meetings. This confidentiality makes the members feel comfortable about discussing their issues with one another.

"It is a blessing to be able to have such a group here," Morgan said, who is a native of Mobile, Ala. "Each of these events will serve to equip us, en-



Females participate in a birthday celebration during the Women's Fellowship Group at LSA Anaconda, which meets every Monday night at the Provider Chapel Annex at 7 p.m. The women discuss a range of topics dealing with stress, patience, marriage, and any other issues that the ladies may deal with in order to cultivate their character to be positive.

courage us, sharpen us, and draw us nearer to each other."

The group meets in order to lift up, not to tear down, she said. Not a single person will be frowned upon because of a particular issue they may be facing or concern they may have.

"Women will be able to find encouragement by fellowshiping with each other," said Chief Warrant Officer Belynda A. Lindsey, a legal administrator with the judge advocate general for the 13th SC (E).

"What ever you have been through, someone else has been there through it, they have a testimony, and it's so encouraging to know that it's not going to be this way forever," Lindsey said, whose hometown is Los Angeles, Calif.

"You never know what is going to take place until you get there," Morgan said. "It's like the unexpected, where you have to come every week. We desire to provide a place where women can connect, learn, serve, and be encouraged in their unique journey of faith."

The women discuss a range of topics dealing with stress, patience, impatience, marriage, and any other issues that the ladies may deal with in order to cultivate a positive character and outlook on life.

Morgan said this month the group is discussing music. They watch video series that explains in detail the origins of music and how it is very influential in today's society. During the video, if someone has a question about

a particular part of the series, the tape is paused and the question is answered through discussion.

The women's groups started before the 13th SC (E) arrived to LSA Anaconda. Lindsey and Morgan were led to continue the group during their deployment here in Iraq.

Morgan said "God led us to continue the group because of the women. We know women have issues and deal with different things, especially not being able to be at home with their home church to supply their needs. So, now we are here for them."

"There is such a comfort and growth in fellowshiping and getting to know the Lord even more so," Lindsey said.

Women can now talk to one another and fellowship with each other because of the Women's Fellowship Group.



## Why I Serve:



Capt. Leah Pettitt

Photo by Spc. Karly Cooper

## JAG Helping Soldiers In The Combat Zone

by Spc. Karly Cooper

15th Sustainment Brigade PAO

**CAMP TAJI, Iraq** – Many Soldiers coming into combat often find that legal issues have a way of following right along behind them. Whether they need guidance or legal advice, they can go talk to a Judge Advocate General officer; Army-talk for a lawyer.

Capt. Leah Pettitt works as the command JAG for the 15th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), helping Soldiers who need legal assistance and advice.

"It feels good when you run into a Soldier and they say "Thanks Ma'am" you really helped me," said Pettitt.

She grew up in Fresno, Calif. and, between her second and third year at law school, started talking with a JAG recruiter. She didn't know much about the military and how things worked but she made an appointment and found out what the military had to offer. In 2004, Pettitt decided to join the Army.

"I liked the thought of how in the military you can work on a variety of different issues and in civilian law you generally work on one," Pettitt said.

She went to Officer Basic Course at Ft. Lee, Va., learning what it takes to be a Soldier, then spent another two and a half months in Charlottesville, Va. Within four months of pinning on her gold bar as a second lieutenant, she deployed to Camp Liberty with the First Cavalry Division as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom IV.

"My family lives vicariously through me; they call me all the time and ask "What did you do today?" They get very excited," she said.

She offers legal assistance in administrative law and her skills allow her to provide guidance when dealing with divorce, powers of attorney, wills, notary service, and immigration and naturalization.

"It's great to be giving our service to Soldiers over here with their personal issues so that they can focus on their mission."

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## 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.

# 15-minute sick call decreases time Soldiers are away from LSAA mission

by Sgt. Kevin McSwain

Anaconda Times Staff

**LSA ANACONDA, Iraq**—Service-members are now able to go to sick call and take care of minor ailments almost faster than they can clear their weapons at the entrance.

Soldiers with the 206th Area Support Medical Company here, help service-members treat themselves through the self-medication program.

“Our 15-minute sick call is for Soldiers that have minor complaints,” said Maj. Marie Wright, clinical officer in charge. “We help treat things that Soldiers would be able to buy over-the-counter to treat if they were back at home.”

Wright, a native of Cape Girardeau, Miss., said the program was implemented to help treat Soldiers that didn’t need to see a physician for a solution to their sickness.

“This program compliments the actual sick call procedure so that Soldiers don’t have to wait more than 20 minutes to sign in and see a physician just to get minor medication,” she said.

Wright said the process takes between five and 15 minutes depending on how busy the pharmacy is.

“The patient would come to the front desk and talk to the patient administra-



*Spc. Kenneth Bennett, pharmacy medic here, hands medication to a patient at the Phipps Clinic. Servicemembers also receive their supply of over-the-counter medication from the 15-minute sick call program from the pharmacy.*

tion division noncommissioned officer and inform them that they need a self-medication program slip,” she said. “Then, the patient would fill out the form, choosing the medication that will help treat their ailments, and hand the slip to the pharmacy technician to have the order filled.”

Wright said the program not only

benefits the Soldier, it benefits the unit as well.

“It actually decreases the time spent here, which also enables the Soldier to return to their unit and continue to help accomplish their unit’s mission,” she said.

A patient can check off up to three different types of medication to help al-

leviate the discomfort felt from their ailments.

“The slip explains what each different type of medication is for,” Wright said. “So if a patient is confused about what to use, they can just read each item until they find their symptoms.”

Servicemembers are not just given medication blindly. They are able to receive advice about what medicine to take while they are there.

“What is good about this program is the fact that the patient is still talking to a medic,” she said. “So they are getting sound advice from someone with knowledge of treatments.”

Servicemembers are reminded this program was formed to treat minor ailments and major problems should be seen by a physician.

“We advise patients to return to the clinic if their symptoms do not begin to clear up after three days,” Wright said. “There may be a more severe problem that a physician will need to diagnose and treat.”

Another advantage for servicemembers using the 15-minute sick call is the hours of operation.

“Patients don’t need an appointment to use the program,” said Sgt. 1st Class Brian Jones, clinical noncommissioned officer in charge. “They can come in 24

hours a day to receive treatment, unlike regular sick call.”

Jones said since the clinic and pharmacy is open 24 hours a day for emergencies, patients are able to get nonprescription medication.

Wright also encourages servicemembers to take advantage of the program while they are deployed.

“This program is for deployed servicemembers,” she said. “Any Soldier that is feeling sick or has minor aches and pains should come to the clinic and get their medication for free as opposed to paying for it.”

The program is only for uniformed personnel who live on or are visiting LSA Anaconda.

“This is a benefit for servicemembers. The only exception to the rule is the Ugandan security forces personnel here, Wright said as she explained that they also may take advantage of the program.”

As the weather begins to change and more servicemembers feel that “bug” attacking their body. Don’t spend your money on medicine, just go to the Phipps Clinic here and ask about the self-medication program. You can have your medicine and be on the road to recovery faster than it would take to stand in line to purchase the same thing.

## Transportation group directly controls the roads from Kuwait to Mosul

by Sgt. KaRonda Fleming

Anaconda Times Staff

**LSA ANACONDA, Iraq**—Convoy commanders face many stress factors on any type of mission, for example improvised explosive devices, direct or indirect fire, or vehicle break downs; the last thing the CC needs is to have to worry about what’s next, when they reach LSA Anaconda en route to their next destination.

“All theater convoys that come through the area here, whether their destination is LSA Anaconda or they are just transitioning through here, we basically do everything you can think of to support them,” said Capt. Matthew B. Newman, the 336th Transportation Group Convoy Support Team Anaconda commander.

Newman, whose hometown is Kalamazoo, Mich. said his unit helps convoy commanders’ by coordinating maintenance, life support, medical, or any other issues that may arise.

Sgt. Ben W. North, non commissioned officer with the 336th TG, said he talks with the approaching convoys to LSAA. He preps any parts needed for a particular maintenance problem before the convoy even enters the wire.

“This type of service helps them out a lot,” the Phoenix, Az. native said. “They have a lot on their plate when they come here to download. They have what they are bringing to us as well as uploading what they are taking back.”

Communicating with the commanders is only a small portion of the big picture of everything that the 336th TG does.

North said, “Without communication, the job would be much more difficult, and the tasks at hand would take a lot longer to complete.”

The 336th mainly helps coordinate back-hall and front-hall types of convoys, Newman said.

Back hall is the process of sending equipment from LSA Anaconda down to Kuwait through the



*A CRSP Soldier keeps a close eye during the unloading of Bradley Fighting Vehicles from heavy equipment transport systems at LSA Anaconda recently.*

49th Movement Control Battalion. Front hall is the process of bringing supplies to Iraq from Kuwait through the 39th Movement Control Battalion.

“The loads are allocated for back hall through the 49th MCB, which is a unit that falls under the 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary),” he said. “We coordinate with all the customers here on the ground, set up appointments when the convoy arrives, and make sure the customers are there to link up with the convoy commanders”

1st Lt. Scott M. Poznanski, the theater coordinator for the highway division with the 49th MCB said that once units submit their transportation movement requests, he then submits them to the area control teams

Once the distribution management center processes and allocates them, they are then placed on convoys, based on the convoys arriving to LSAA en route back to Kuwait, he said.

This process ensures that both the customer and the convoy commanders will have a smooth upload and download of equipment.

Out of the ten classes of supply, the 336th TG primarily deal with Class VII items and occasionally Class I items, Newman said.

“My biggest goal is to make it so that once the convoy commander comes inside the wire, he doesn’t have to worry about anything at all,” he said. “He (the convoy commander) can just take care of getting his trucks where they need to be and getting

his Soldiers the rest that they need, decompress, and relax before they all have to get back on the road again.”

With the motto of ‘Up front when it counts’, the 336th TG play a vital role in the ground movement of vehicles and various other equipment from Kuwait to as far north as Mosul, Iraq.

Under the 377th Theater Support Command, whose headquarters is in Arifjan, Kuwait, is also the 24th Transportation Battalion, which supplies the Heavy Equipment Transport Systems (HETS), the 57th Transportation Battalion, which supplies the civilian-like 18-wheelers (M915), and the 1/121st Field Artillery which provide force protection for convoys from Kuwait to Iraq.

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(Center) In a remote area less than 30 miles from Q-West, an Iraqi woman in the village of Ad Walla waits to be seen by a U.S. Army doctor visiting from the nearby base. (Left) Pfc. Theresa Colvin forms a chain with other Soldiers to unload care packages for more than 25 village families. (Below) Soldiers and village residents take a group picture during a recent humanitarian mission.



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class David E. Gillespie

As boxes of supplies are distributed to more than 25 families in the village of Ad Walla, children flock to Maj. Edward Ray, 2nd Battalion, 123rd Armor Regiment, as he hands out bags of candy.



Photo by Spc. Kyndal Hernandez

# Q-West troops unite together to aid village



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class David E. Gillespie

Before departing the base, Maj. John Treufeldt, from 2/123 Armor Regiment, and troops from seven units at Q-West take notes as they are briefed on the humanitarian mission to Ad Walla.

by Spc. Kyndal Hernandez  
45th Sustainment Brigade

**FOB Q-WEST, Iraq** -- Troops from Forward Operating Base Q-West continued the holiday spirit, delivering gifts and medical care to more than 25 families in a nearby village.

Organizers said this mission was designed to bring Soldiers from seven different units together and promote base wide camaraderie, as well as provide much needed humanitarian assistance for the Iraqi people. The troops visited Ad Walla, a small village often neglected because of its remote location.

"One of the main reasons that we are here is to win the hearts and minds of the local community and this is one of the events that we do in order to achieve that goal," said Command Sgt. Maj. Benjamin Ramos, 45th Special Troops Battalion command sergeant major.

Soldiers, including Iraqi Army troops, arrived with truckloads of gifts and water to give to the local people of the villages. They gave away 54 boxes filled with things such as clothes, candy, personal hygiene products and school supplies.

The village of Ad Walla does not have running water, so troops



A woman, along with two children in the village of Ad Walla, waits in line for medical supplies.

Ad Walla rarely ever get new things. They usually get used, or second hand items from other families.

"The stuff that we brought them was all new. So seeing the expressions on their faces and making the children happy is just a good feeling," Ramos said.

"News media covers a lot of the negative things that happen here [in Iraq]," he said. "Well this is some of the good stuff that Soldiers are doing to help the Iraqi people and to ensure a good relationship with them."

Ramos said that it is a great feeling to know that these troops are doing a small part in achieving such a big goal.

"I think its important that we do stuff for the Iraqi villages not based on what they have or what they don't have," said Pfc. Theresa Colvin, personnel clerk with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 45th Sustainment Brigade.

"It isn't about their poverty level. This is about just establishing a report between Iraqis and Americans. It is about getting to see first hand what Americans are willing to do for people and getting them to trust us.

That's what wins the war -- people trusting you and being on your side instead of being against you," said Colvin.

also brought five pallets of water for residents. Medics from Q-West's Troop Medical Clinic provided basic medical care as well as medicines and antibiotics to treat colds and other ailments.

"Anything we get out here is a big help to us," said Ahmed Ashab, a resident of Ad Walla. "The people here do not have a lot of stuff. We don't have running water; the children

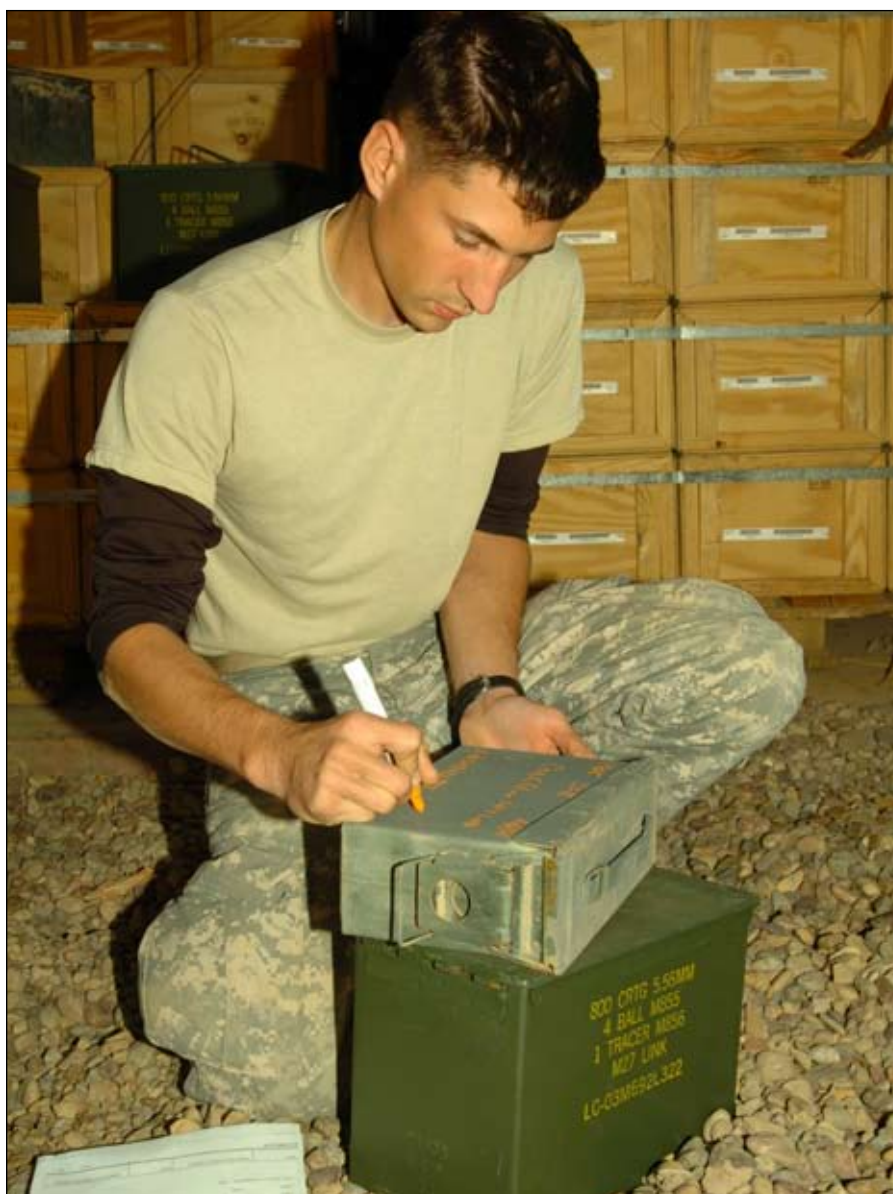
can't even go to school because there is not electricity and no heat, so we are very thankful for whatever we can get." Ramos said people in villages like



# 13th SC(E) Soldiers keep Coalition

Pfc. Eric J. Jones, from, Petersburg, Va., an ammunitions specialist with the 60th Ordnance Company prepares to unload ammunition from a conex using a forklift.

1034TH CSSB



Sgt. Adam C. Streblov, a second shift non commissioned officer in charge, from Oshkosh, Wis., labels an ammunitions container with the appropriate stock number and identification code that easily distinguishes what type of ammunition is enclosed inside.

**LSA ANACONDA Iraq** – With one of the busiest missions in Iraq, one company provides ammunition to each and every Soldier.

“My unit provides every bullet to every Soldier either directly or indirectly that serves in Iraq,” said Chief Warrant Officer Mark S. Parr, 60th Ordnance Company. “They have to come through me no matter what location they are at.”

He said the company is like the cog in the wheel for Iraq because it is the hub that everything is centralized around within Iraq.

With the motto of ‘Service with a bang,’ Parr, the accountable officer for the Corps Storage Area said it signifies how the company deals with ammunition in a war zone. They handle anything from 5.56 mm rounds up to the 298 mm multiple launch rocket system.

Within the CSA, the company has four teams that work together to supply ammunition to various units. There is the receiving, turn-in, residue, and mini-berm (issue and shipment prep).

The receiving team receives all ammunition that arrives from Kuwait and physically counts each shipment to verify the calculations matches exactly. There is a 72 hour turn around time to ensure the counts are recorded correctly and are checked. Both Kellogg, Brown, and Root employees and Soldiers with the 60th work side by side to complete the two separate counts, Parr said.

He said the turn-in team stores the ammunition in appropriate facilities according to the lot number (number that distinguishes one bullet from the other, based on manufacture), and is

responsible for pulling ammunition and taking to the mini berm when unit requests are received.

The mini berm is where shipments go out directly to either the requesting units or to the trucks that must ship the ammo on a convoy.

If a unit needs bullets, they must submit their request through the 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) through the Total Army Munition Information System. Once that information is put in and is approved, then a request for issue or turn in of Class V items is sent directly to the company.

With such a vital role in the overall operations here, communication plays a huge factor in the success of the company.

“Everything comes into the light of how important it is for us to work together,” said Sgt. Adam C Streblov, 2nd shift pull team non commissioned officer in charge, from Oshkosh, Wisc.

“We always have to be communicating information back and forth. If I do

something and I get it to the mini berm, and they don’t know what page we are on, then we are going to have some errors down the line,” Streblov said.

Mathematics skills are needed all the time, said Pfc. Cory L. Bennett, an ammunitions specialist from

**“If your math is not correct and you come up short on ammunition, then that means that Soldiers are out in a possible fire-fight and is short on ammo, which could possibly cost them their life.”**

- Pfc. Cory L. Bennett

Selma, Ala.

“If your math is not correct and you come up short on ammunition, then that means that Soldiers are out in a possible fire-fight and is short on ammo, which could possibly cost them their life,” Bennett said.

Ironically, weather doesn’t affect the



Chief Warrant Officer Barry W. Speer, the storage officer of the Corps Storage Area explains the variety of 7.62mm ammunition.



Sgt. Thomas R. Harper (standing), the receiving team's noncommissioned officer in charge from Dallas, and Spc. Shaun A. Dixon, an ammunition specialist from Portland, Ore., with the 60th Ordnance Company, inventory a shipment of ammunition that was recently delivered to LSA Anaconda from Kuwait. There are 72 hours in which two counts must be done for everything that arrives.

# Forces in the battle against terrorists

60th Ordnance Company is the cog in the wheel for munitions delivery in Iraq

story and photos by Sgt. KaRonda Fleming



7.62 mm ammunition rounds are inspected before being redistributed to Soldiers in Iraq.

storage of the ammunition, Parr said, even though temperatures can reach more than 130 degrees and go down to freezing.

Parr said for the most part ammunition itself is subjected to many tests in places like Fort Drum in the cold weather testing centers and they also take them out to the desert, fire them up, and submerge it under water.

"Ammunition is tested from one end to the other and it usually passes the tests," Parr said. "Every once in a while we may get a type of ammunition that has been restricted."

Parr said the higher command storage area is the Theater Storage Area, which is located in Kuwait. The 13th SC (E) tells them directly what is needed here and puts in requests through the 377th Theater Support Command and then it is sent here.

Ammunition is transported here on



A Soldier checks his mathematical count of total ammunition and verifies it using a calculator.

convoys and through air, depending on its priority and the type of ammo that is being transported, he said. Sometimes air is the best way using truck movement requests, army movement requests, or joint movement requests.

Parr said "On a typical day, we have units coming to pick up ammunition

directly. We have trucks showing up with ammunition from Kuwait, and more trucks leaving out the gate with ammunition for convoys headed to other locations."

"On top of that, there could be two or three units coming in to bring in the residue (used up brass) that is left over as well. We turn in, receive, issue, ship, and accept turn ins from various unit's on a daily basis, which is so fast paced," Parr said.

Streblov said "As a whole, we have a job to do here in Iraq. This is my job, and if I don't do my job, then somebody else can't do theirs."

"Mainly, it's a safety thing," he said. "You don't want the guys outside the wire to be stuck somewhere without the resources they need to stay alive. On my end of it, I only deal with one resource that they need (ammunition) and they are going to have it, I guarantee it."



Pfc. Cory L. Bennett, an ammunition specialist from Selma, Ala., moves crates of ammunition.

**February 7****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 8****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

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**Battlefield Ground**

8 p.m.  
East Rec Center

**February 9****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 10****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 11****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 12****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 13****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 14****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:janai.nash@balad.iraq.centcom.mil)

# SHOUT OUTS FROM HOME

My husband Dustin Peterson, I want you to know that I am thinking about you all the time. Not a day, hour or second goes by where you are not on my mind. Thank you for always being optimistic and holding you head high during such a hard time. You give me strength to carry on. I love you more than anything in this world!  
Your loving wife, Cassie

To J.WUNDER  
The best Husband and Daddy anyone could EVER have. Gracie and Mo miss you more than you will ever know. Tons of Hugs, Kisses and Prayers to you. BE SAFE ALWAYS.  
LOVE... MO AND GRACIE

although we are so proud of all you are accomplishing over there we just can't wait for you to come home soon! We love you the mostest errrrr!  
Love, Sara, Travis, Bryen, and Nibbles Freeman

are looking forward to seeing you again! we love you!!! \*kisses!!!!\*  
love tori, mikey and baby tessa!

Hey Clayton Yielding,  
We are sending you hugs and our love as always. We are so proud of you!!  
We will keep the boxes rolling in, no worry there mate!! Head Down..... you know the rest!  
Love Randy and Lisa Sutton

Birthday!! We Miss you dearly, but I'm Happy that you have your E-Troop Family there to share it with, guys take care of my son.. Hugs and Kisses Love You Forever!!  
Your Momma & Roy

Hey there Steven Givan,  
Just wanted to let you know we are proud of you! With our love, hugs, and kisses your wife, Jen, Javen, and they boys, Stevyn & Xevyn.

Richard Crichton  
Hello Sweetheart,Happy Valentine's Day from Amellia and I,we miss and love you. Your loving wife, Mrs Crichton

Hello Anthony Housey  
I just wanted to tell you how much I love you and I miss you tons and tons more. Thank you for everything you do, here and away. You are always in my heart and I am happily waiting for you to come home. I love you!

Hey Boss,  
I still wait by the door for you everyday. I know one day soon you will come back home and we can play ball together. I will continue to count down the time - in dog years - until we can be together again.  
Your ever faithful best friend, Phanty

Dear Uncle Dan Collier,  
I miss you very much and am very proud of you! Keep up the good work. My mom says hi and stay safe.  
Love, taylor

My SUN...Ethan and I are so PROUD of you for all the courage you show through your daily sacrifices. We LOVE You So Much! We are ANXIOUSLY counting down the days until you are safe in our LOVING arms where you belong! For an Eternity...your wife, MOON.

Dear Dean,  
We miss you and can't wait to have you at home with us again. We are very proud of you.  
LOVE, Juliza, Baby Henry and Guapo

Hey Johnny T  
Your the BEST!!!!!!  
Guess Who

Love Always and Forever~ Shannon

My dearest michael fosness we really missing you and want you to know that myself,and all the kids send there best luck and we know you guys are doing great things there,we all love and support what you are doing  
love ya  
lisa, kevin,cree,brina, tj, and preston

Joseph Lynes  
We love and miss you and can hardly wait till you get back home!  
Love, Mom and Tom (Tom & Mary Faulkner)

To Tracy Werdehausen,  
We all miss you and love you so much. You are thought of every day and we can't wait to see you again. Take care of your self.  
Your loving family, Susan, Travis, Austin, Victoria, and Hunter

Mr. Jason J. Lockett,  
Love of my life. You are truly missed. I am anxiously awaiting your return, soon to be the best 15 days of my life (SMILE). You are constantly in my prayers and I'm wishing you the best. I Love You Baby!  
Hugs & Kisses, Mrs. Tasha Lockett

Dan,  
We love you Dan and we are so proud of all you do.  
Love, Betsy, Cass, Grace & Nick

Hugh  
I just thought I would drop you a note to let you know I am thinking about you and miss you. I Love You  
Love Always, Your Wife Deb

Hey Clayton (Big Daddy)  
BeBe, CoCo and I love you and miss you more than you will ever know! We are trying to keep the deer fought off until you get home. Be safe!

Roger Upton,  
The love of my life, happy valentine's day, i am proud of you, miss you bunches. Devin, red, coco & girls send their hello's and love.  
All my love, hugs and kisses Janice

To My Valentine, Jason Greskoviak  
I love you and miss you more than words can say! Happy Valentines Day, sweetheart! Brittany and Colin say they love you Daddy and we can't wait until you come home! Hugs and Kisses  
Amanda, Brittany, and Colin Greskoviak

Dear David,  
Izzy and I miss you so much! Thank you for being such a great Husband and father even though you are far away. I love you with all my heart baby! I think about you every day. See You soon! xoxo  
Love Always, your wife Alana

Dearest Casey Franks,  
Not a day goes by that your're not in my thoughts and prayers. Our babies are growing everyday. Words just can't express how much you're missed. Jeremy and Ethan send baby hugs & kisses. I look at them and I see you. Can't wait to have you back home.  
Love Always, Missy L.K. Franks

Vince Tomasino,  
I am so proud of you! I want to thank you for all that you have done. I know being away is very difficult since having the new baby. Just hang in there and look at is everyday is one step closer to coming home. I miss you.  
Tara Romanowski

To my dearest Jason Carnathan,  
I just want you to know that we love you! Ally and Tripp miss you and cant wait to see you!  
Hope you are doing well. Remember... I love you... Always and Forever!  
Love your wife, ashley

To My Little Adopted Brother Shaun Duncan,  
Hey! Just wanted to let you know that we up here in KY! wanted to send a "Good Day" wish, and to let you know that we are thinking of you. "BIG" hug from KY!  
Pam

To my sweetheart Greg Morales,  
I love you very much and i miss you like crazy!! You mean the world to me and to your three daughters. We can't wait to have daddy back home again .  
Thinking of you always, Valerie, Destiny, Emerald & Jaidenn

Dear Cory (Nick) Schmaltz,  
Kenya, Matata and I all think you're doing great work out there, appreciate the e-mail updates, and can't wait to have you back home. After all, what is bar-hopping without ya?  
I love ya, kiddo, Erin

Ruben Sanchez,  
Hey Babe!! Just know that I am thinking about you all the time. I miss you and cant wait to see you again. You are all doing great things out there. Take care and be safe!! XOXOXO Lots of love from Korea!!  
Nikki

Dearest Gabriel Morgan,  
We are so very proud of you!! You are an inspiration and a wonderful man! We love you and miss you. We pray for you everyday!  
With Love,  
Chanda, Halie, Breezy, and Johnny

To My Wonderful Husband, Jerry"Wayne" Wade,  
I just wanted to tell you how much I love and miss you and am so ready for your safe return. I am very proud of you and everything that you do.  
Your Loving Wife Samantha

Hey Little Brother,  
Just wanted you to know that I'm thinking of you and miss you and that I am proud of you and I'm counting down. Much love and many hugs, your sister Pam

To my beautiful daughters, Lacy & Morgan,  
We really miss you and can't wait to see you two again. We are so proud of the really wonderful people you have grown up to be.  
LOVE MOM, DAD, BRANDON, SAM, KELLY& BEAR

**SUSTAINER REEL TIME THEATER**

(Schedule is subject to change)

**Wednesday, Feb. 7**  
5 p.m. Catch And Release (PG-13)  
8 p.m. Déjà Vu (PG-13)

**Thursday, Feb. 8**  
5 p.m. Turistas (R)  
8 p.m. Deck The Halls (PG)

**Friday, Feb. 9**  
2 p.m. Unaccompanied Minors (PG)  
5 p.m. Turistas (R)  
8:30 p.m. Norbit (PG-13)

**Saturday, Feb. 10**  
2 p.m. Jackass 2 (R)  
5 p.m. Norbit (PG-13)  
8 p.m. The Marine (PG-13)

**Sunday, Feb. 11**  
2 p.m. Norbit (PG-13)  
5 p.m. Unaccompanied Minors (PG)  
8 p.m. Flyboys (PG-13)

**Monday, Feb. 12**  
5 p.m. Jarhead (R)  
8 p.m. The Guardian (PG-13)

**Tuesday, Feb. 13**  
5 p.m. The Holiday (Pg-13)  
8 p.m. Norbit (PG-13)

**the "Land of Base Housing" Board Game** Copyright©2007 Julie L. Negron, all rights reserved

**RULES**

- ALL PLAYERS START WITH ZERO POINTS AND IMMEDIATELY FORFEIT 75 POINTS PRIVACY, 25 POINTS SELF-RESPECT, AND 100 POINTS BAH. TOTAL POINTS TO START: - 200.
- A PRE-SELECTED "MOVING COMPANY" WILL DISTRIBUTE THE FURNITURE CUT-OUTS AS GAME PIECES.
- IF A GAME PIECE DOES NOT FIT ITS CORRECT SPACE ON THE PLAYING BOARD, IT MUST BE ELIMINATED.
- GAIN 25 POINTS FOR EACH GAME PIECE THAT IS DAMAGED OR DESTROYED BY THE MOVING COMPANY AND CAN NOW FIT ONTO THE PLAYING BOARD.

Note: Players are not allowed to store game pieces in neighbor's game space or on the sidewalk. You can, however, store them in your car if they fit.

http://jennyspouse.com

**Pvt. Murphy's Law**

http://www.pvtmurphy.com

**Back of the Formation**



Staff Sgt. Edwin Agregaard checks the landing gear of the C-23 Sherpa aircraft during his preflight checks. The flight engineer must check every part of the plane for cracks and defects which could cause problems while in flight.

## Sherpa flight engineer goes extra mile to solve daily aircraft puzzle

by Sgt. Kevin McSwain

Anaconda Times Staff

**LSA ANACONDA, Iraq**—Just as the 49th Transportation Battalion solves the daily Space-A Sherpa puzzle, this next unit solves the Sherpa equivalent of a Sudoku puzzle.

They are the flight engineers of Company I, 185th Theatre Aviation Company here, and they ensure the cargo and passengers meet the safety requirements for the C-23 Sherpa aircraft.

“We make sure the weight distribution throughout the aircraft stays balanced,” said Staff Sgt. Edwin Agregaard. “That is one of the most important parts of our job.”

The Mississippi native said a lot of preparation and planning is done to complete a mission.

“We must take into account what we will be picking up later during the mission and what we will be dropping off,” he said. “We have to constantly check the weight of the cargo on the aircraft.”

Agregaard said a flight engineer has to be able to calculate the center of gravity for a C-23 Sherpa within a 16-inch margin. And with an aircraft that is longer than 50 feet, there is little room for error.

“The center of gravity on the aircraft is the point at which the aircraft tilts forward or backward during flight,” he said. “If it is calculated wrong, the pilot will have a hard time controlling the aircraft.”

The responsibility and performance of a C-23 flight engineer does not go unnoticed.

“We would not be able to fly this aircraft without the expertise of our engineers,” said Chief Warrant Officer James R. Oliver, a C-23 Sherpa pilot. “They own everything from the back of our seats to the tail of the aircraft.”

Oliver said the Sherpa pilots rely on their engineers to make sure there is enough fuel to complete each mission.

“Fuel has to be factored into the calculation of the aircraft’s center of gravity,” he said. “Too much and we may be too heavy, too little and we may not make it to our destination.”

Even during flight, the engineers have to ensure they have compensated for the weight of the aircraft.

“As the fuel is burned off, the weight



Staff Sgt. Edwin Agregaard looks on as Spc. Robert Stadalink calculates the total weight of the C-23 aircraft to ensure the safety of everyone aboard. Flight engineers must constantly calculate the weight of the aircraft, even while in flight the weight changes as fuel is burned.

of the aircraft changes,” said Agregaard. “We have to calculate the amount that will be used during any given flight and factor that into the center of gravity equation.”

In addition to the weight distribution, the engineers have to conduct all the pre-flight checks, input information into their log books and load the cargo safely.

“We prepare our aircraft for a mission more than two hours before it ever leaves the ground,” he said. “Once the pilots are ready to fly, they already know their aircraft is ready also.”

To ensure the safety of everyone on the Sherpa, the crew conducts a briefing lead by the flight commander.

“We want to make sure all personnel are prepared for the mission and we are on the same sheet of music,” said Chief Warrant Officer Ty Blasingame, C-23 pilot.

After the crew is thoroughly briefed on the mission, one engineer loads the passengers while the other performs the final checks and conducts the engine crank procedures.

“We constantly communicate with each other to make sure everything is taken care of,” said Spc. Robert Stadalink, flight engineer.

The importance of communication is evident when the aircraft takes flight and the engineers stand behind the pilots to ensure the wings are clear of all possible hazards.



Staff Sgt. Edwin Agregaard puts the cargo jacks in place before loading the C-23 Sherpa aircraft. The jacks provide added stability while the flight engineers load and unload cargo.

“We make sure the aircraft doesn’t come too close to power lines and other hazards as we take off and land,” Stadalink said. “We give the pilots an extra set of eyes to ensure the safety of the aircraft and everyone aboard.”

The versatility of the C-23 Sherpa also is used constantly on different missions. With the help of the flight engineers, they continue to keep the aircraft safe and ready for any mission.

## Hockey? Kinda

### Floor hockey popular at Circuit Gym’s wooden ice

by Sgt. Joel Gibson

Anaconda Times Staff

**LSA ANACONDA, Iraq** -- Iraq is no stranger to competitive sports. LSA Anaconda has been home to dusty ballparks and soccer fields for years now. Soldiers have played basketball indoors, and now those basketball courts must share time with the North American pastime of hitting rubber with sticks, or hockey, as the Canadians call it.

Every Monday and Wednesday, Soldiers, and one civilian, from a myriad of units get together at the circuit gym here to work off calories and blast an orange rubber ball all over the place.

The experience level of hockey players varies from as little as never having played, to as much as learning to skate before learning to walk.

“I’ve played hockey my entire life,” said Spc. Nate Garland, an armored security vehicle driver/gunner with C Co. 2nd Battalion, 136th Cavalry Regiment. “I am from Eveleth, Minnesota which is known as ‘Hockey Town USA’”

Spc. Jay Sachetti, a class II Stock Control Clerk, 758th Maintenance Company, 1034th Combat Service Support Battalion, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) said, “Playing floor hockey here is great.”

Sachetti continued, “I’ve gotten to meet other hockey players and not feel like I’m the only crazy person on Anaconda who would love to jump on a sheet of ice and run around. Meeting a bunch of the guys from the Minnesota National Guard has been great too. Playing here gives me a chance to stay active, enjoy one of my passions, and brings a bit of home here to Iraq.”

Some of the guys play at home and have continued playing in Iraq.

“I play hockey almost every week, mainly pick-up games,” said Sgt. Andrew Shonitsky, awards NCOIC,

from Headquarters, 411th Engineer Brigade, “I have played since I was 5 years old.”

“I played in different leagues, my high school didn’t have a team,” said Spc. Todd Reed, with the Postal Inspection Training Team, 111th Postal Co, “I mainly just played when ever I could whether it was ice hockey, deck hockey, or floor hockey.”

The reasons the participants play vary from maintaining a sense of normalcy to just getting a really good workout.

Shonitsky said, “I play floor hockey here because it makes me feel more at home. It’s good [physical training], and a way to have fun with your friends.”

“[Floor Hockey] is something to do to take your mind off work, and to have something to look forward to every week,” said Spc. Ryan Zezulka, a loader with C Co., 2/136 Infantry, 1/34 Brigade Combat Team.

“I started playing] at first to lose weight, but since I have started I can’t stop, I lost between 40 to 50 pounds, I made new friends and it breaks that civilian military barrier,” said Israel M. Martinez Jr., a Frag-5 kit installer here under the 402nd Area Forward Support Battalion, “Also there is no rank on the floor when we are playing, it’s just a group of guys getting together Mondays and Wednesdays having fun playing some hockey. I wish we could go back to 3 times a week but for some reason they cut out Saturday, but I take what I can get.”

Martinez concluded, “When I tell people I play hockey out here they think I am lying, there like ‘Hockey in Iraq, what are you smoking’, well I never played Ice hockey, but roller hockey and floor hockey to me are the same, we played with the same rubber ball back then as we do know, the only difference to me is you get a much better work out running versus skating.”



Photo by Spc. Adryen Wallace

Spc. Jay Sachetti, a class II Stock Control Clerk, 758th Maintenance Company, 1034th Combat Service Support Battalion, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) scores on Spc. Chad Fritz, an engineer with G7, 13th SC(E) during a floor hockey game Jan. 24 at the circuit gym here.

## “Once Upon a Time”

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

# Squadron's refresher training keeps Soldiers first responder skills sharp

by Sgt. 1st Class Douglas A. Schultz  
1/167 RSTA

**LSA ANACONDA, Iraq** - Medics with the 1/167 RSTA trained every Soldier within their Squadron on lifesaving skills Jan. 23 through 25.

Staff Sgt. Brock Johnson said "We need to make sure everybody is proficient in rescue breathing."

Rescue breathing is one of the tasks that were taught, along with training on open chest wounds, needle chest decompression, bleeding control, tourniquet application, casualty evaluation, and radio procedures on sending up a 9-line medical evacuation requests.

There were new tools used on casualties, as well as Soldiers administering intravenous fluids, he said.

For most Soldiers, this was refresher training. However, many learned new techniques and procedures. The medics also passed along lessons learned and used a power point presentation that illustrated actual wounds received during combat.

The Army has provided Soldiers with new forms of lifesaving equipment, Johnson said.

"The Combat application tourniquet and the Chitosan Hemostatic Dressing are two of the newest tools in the medic's tool bag," he said. "The CAT is a belt-like strap with a hardened plastic or metal stick. This tourniquet is a viable means to control bleeding very quickly in a tactical environment. The Hemostatic Dressing, when applied to a bleeding area, quickly forms around the wound to stop the bleeding."

Johnson said Soldiers were able to apply some hands on training and testing. All who attended were required to read a

scenario of a battle scene and then report up a 9-line medivac radio request.

The 9-line is a standard format in which Soldiers on the ground can call a helicopter in order to send wounded comrades to the closest hospital.

Basic information on the 9-line is location of the wounded, who is calling, and the number of patients wounded. This fast radio transmission allows the medical community to put their birds in the air and quickly asses the situation.

Johnson said "Soldiers need to be practice this method at night as well as during the day. It is important to be

able to display your location by various means so the helicopters can find you at night."

Soldiers were sticking each other with IV's toward the end of the training day, he said. This method, fluid resuscitation, quickly re-hydrates the Soldier. 1,000ml of Ringers Lactate (2.4lbs) will expand the intravascular volume by 250ml within 1 hour.

He said this was by far the highlight of the training event and it is so ever important on the battle field to master this task.



Staff Sgt. Brock Johnson of Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 1/167 demonstrating rescue breathing on a training dummy



Staff Sgt. Lucas Mitchell gives Staff Sgt. Matthew Svoboda an IV during CLS training. Photo by Master Sgt. Dan Armer

**Where's McNab?**  
If you see that man with those funky glasses, email us your McNab sighting to: [anaconda.times@balad.iraq.centcom.mil](mailto:anaconda.times@balad.iraq.centcom.mil)

**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

<p><b>Roman Catholic Mass</b> 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</p> <p><b>Sacrament of Reconciliation</b> 30 minutes prior to each mass</p> <p><b>Protestant-Contemporary</b> Sunday 10 a.m. Town Hall</p> <p><b>Latter Day Saints</b></p>	<p>Sunday 1 p.m. Provider Chapel Sunday 4 p.m. Freedom Chapel Sunday 7 p.m. Tuskegee Chapel</p> <p><b>Church of Christ</b> Sunday 2 p.m. Tuskegee Chapel</p> <p><b>Islamic Prayer</b> Friday 12:30 p.m. Provider Chapel</p> <p><b>Samoan Congregational Service</b> Sunday 4 p.m. Provider Chapel</p> <p><b>Friday Shabbat Service</b> Friday 7 p.m. Tuskegee Chapel</p> <p><b>Protestant-Gospel</b> Sunday, 11 a.m. MWR East Building</p>	<p>Sunday 11:30 a.m. Freedom Chapel Sunday 2 p.m. Air Force Hospital Chapel Sunday 7 p.m. Provider Chapel</p> <p><b>Protestant Praise and Worship</b> 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</p> <p><b>Protestant-Traditional</b> Sunday 9:30 a.m. Air Force Hospital Sunday 9:30 a.m. Provider Chapel Sunday 10 a.m. Freedom Chapel</p>	<p>Sunday 5:30 p.m. Tuskegee Chapel Sunday 8:15 p.m. Air Force Hospital</p> <p><b>Non-Denominational</b> Sunday 9 a.m. Signal Chapel</p> <p><b>Non-Denominational Spanish</b> Sunday 2 p.m. Freedom Chapel</p> <p><b>Protestant-Gospel</b> Sunday 3:30 p.m. Tuskegee Chapel</p> <p><b>Protestant-Liturgical</b> Sunday 11 a.m. Tuskegee Chapel</p>
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# Soldiers watching over Soldiers

STORY AND PHOTOS BY STAFF SGT. LORIN T. SMITH

**LSA ANACONDA, Iraq** – From high up in a guard tower, Pfc. Richard Faith squinted his eyes from the sun, trying to see what he thought was a possible threat in the Balad, Iraq farmlands below.

He radioed to the sergeant of the guard that he saw something in the fields that maybe shouldn't have been there. After receiving confirmation that LSA Anaconda's security element had "eyes on" the suspicious activity, Faith went back to scanning his sector, looking out at the vast green expanse from the concrete tower.

Faith, of Company E, 1st Battalion, 108th Aviation Regiment, from Ozawkie, Kan., is one of many Soldiers within the 36th Combat Aviation Brigade (CAB), who routinely perform one of the most important missions on LSA Anaconda – tower guard.

On a post with more than 20,000 servicemembers and civilians, protecting the base from insurgent attacks is a very important job.

Each day, young warriors await their chance to get into the concrete and metal towers to do their duty – protect and observe.

Sgt. Christopher Tetrault, C Company, 2nd Battalion, 136th Combined Arms Battalion, clarified that performing the tower guard duty is not a punishment or a detail, but a vital mission necessary to keep the LSA operational.

"The towers are the first and last lines of defense, and I don't take that lightly," he said. "Soldiers in the towers are performing the most important job in the camp. If they don't do their job properly, a lot of people are at risk here."

Before each guard shift departs to the towers, Commander of the Relief sergeants update the Soldiers on what the current rules of engagement are and remind each Soldier of their special orders.

The CORs then inspect the Soldiers to ensure they have all of the required equipment for this duty, and that it is in good condition.

An example is the inspection to ensure each Soldier has a clean weapon, and full ammunition load. After driving the guards out to their respective towers, the CORs inspect those structures for the presence of drinking

water and the proper equipment.

Sgt. Timothy Gernhardt, a COR with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 135th Aviation Regiment (2nd Bn., 135th Aviation Regt.), a 24-year-old native of Aurora, Colo., said he puts inexperienced guards with seasoned mentors.

"We always try to match up 'first-timers' with Soldiers who have been on tower guard five times or more," Gernhardt said.

A Soldier's time in a guard tower can bring with it possible stressful situations.

The Soldiers are entitled to protect themselves or LSA Anaconda against hostile threats or intents, but only within the legal boundaries of Army-approved rules of engagement. They listen attentively to a radio while scanning their sector's field of fire.

It can be a stressful job, but several 36th CAB Soldiers said they liked the duty.

"Tower guard breaks up the day-to-day routine, which is sorely needed in the 24-hour operational environment we work here," said Spc. Walter Wood, a wheeled vehicle mechanic with Company E, 2nd Battalion, 135th Aviation Regiment.

Wood, a native of Grand Junction, Colo., said, "The local nationals are supportive, friendly and often give us valuable information."

Once a shift is over, the guards clear their weapons before leaving the tower. The clearing process involves both Soldiers checking the other's weapon, with the COR NCO checking them as well.

Double-checking everyone is important when the safety of the Soldier is involved, Gernhardt said.

When the Soldiers get back to the guard shack, they saunter into the room, drop their body armor and other gear on green Army cots, and head to chow. They have to eat fast, though, so that they could get some rest before the next shift starts.

A few hours later, the COR NCOs move the vigilant Soldiers back to their assigned towers, where they stand another watch, scanning the Balad farmlands, this time in the dark, for signs of insurgent activity.



Specialist Jennifer Cole, Company D, 1st Battalion, 108th Aviation Regiment, helps Spc. Jared Ingham, Company E, 1st Battalion, 108th Aviation Regiment, into the tower at LSA Anaconda, Iraq.

Soldiers from the 36th Combat Aviation Brigade listen attentively to a briefing about tower guard duties and responsibilities by the Commander of the Relief noncommissioned officer before heading out to the towers at LSA Anaconda, Iraq.