

Joint Area Support Group-Central



IZ COLLECTIONS



News from the International Zone-Baghdad, Iraq

Volume II, Issue 4

April 2007

- **Commander**
COL Jesse Deets
- **Deputy Commander/Chief of Staff**
LTC Scott D. Niles
- **Command Sergeant Major**
CSM Craig T. Stoll
- **Security Director**
LTC Greg Davis
- **Support Operations Director**
LTC Bobbie A. Luba
- **Installations Director**
CAPT John H. Miller, II
- **HHC Commander**
ILT Cara Walters
- **HHC First Sergeant**
ISG Robert D. Reiner
- **Public Affairs Officer/Editor**
ILT Sharon R. Burns

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Commander's Corner



TO ALL JASG-C MEMBERS, FAMILIES AND FRIENDS

Under normal circumstances, comments for our newsletter come freely to me. This is not the case this month. MSG Sean Thomas was removed from our formation much too quickly, and is now serving alongside our Savior. We are still reeling from the loss of our brother. This tragedy has knocked us to our knees, but did not put us to the ground completely. We all knew Sean very well, and I know he would want us to continue on with this mission. All JASG members ask our friends and family members back home to be with his wife Carrie and their daughter, Alexa, during this most difficult time. For this, we must do!

Ambassador Crocker is now on board as the Chief of Mission (COM). We look forward to working with him over the next few months. The IZ Transition Team (IZTT), eventual footprint of Multi-National Force-Iraq (MNF-I) Forward and a "laundry list" of other initiatives will be our targets for the foreseeable future.

The Joint Strategic Assessment Team is on board here within the IZ. They arrived mid-March and will depart sometime this month. Their mission is to conduct a comprehensive review of the campaign plan and make recommendations and/or adjustments. Your JASG team has had a positive impact on improving their ability to perform this critical mission. Anything they required

such as vehicles, office supplies, and anything in between, the JASG was there to support them.

For the past 37 weeks I have seen this organization "take on" missions and tasks that were clearly not within our functional areas. Back in the world, you would translate this as "not my job" or "not in my lane". These Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen would not even think about those clichés as a response. They all recognize that we are in a combat zone, so you flat have to get it done. They never cease to amaze me.

Thank you all for your support, particularly during our darkest hour.

May God Bless you all.


COL D.





(pictured from left to right: Capt Wigglesworth, ISG Reiner, LTC McFadden, COL Graham and COL Deets) When not in uniform, COL Graham is Senator Lindsey Graham, U.S. Senator for South Carolina. COL Graham came to Iraq during a Congressional Delegation visit with Senator McCain and decided to stay and perform his military duty. It was indeed an honor to spend time with him.

April 2007



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Spring Forward March 30-31!!!! 	2 Peanut Butter and Jelly Day	3 Passover Begins	4 TSgt Danylchuk MSG Tubbs	5 SSgt Butler	6  Army Day Good Friday	7
8  Easter	9	10 SFC Dresel	11	12 MAJ Williams	13	14 International Moment of Laughter Day
15 SPC Below Medical Labs Week	16 Patriot's Day	17 Newspaper Columnist Day	18	19	20 Day of Volunteer Recognition	21
22 Earth Day Girl Scout Leader Day	23 	24 	25 	26 	27 Arbor Day 	28
29	30 National Honesty Day	Birthdays are in Blue  <div> National Humor Month Poetry Month International Guitar Month Keep America Beautiful Month </div> <div> Lawn and Garden Month National Pecan Month </div> 				

May 2007

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 Flag Flying Day at the US Embassy		1	2 1LT Belfi	3 CW5 Deaven	4 SSgt Butler III	5 PO1 Keys
6	7CPT Beamesder- fer	8 CPT Mellema	9	10	11	12
13  Mother's Day	14	15 SFC Lombard IV	16	17 MAJ Berrian	18	19 1LT Jay

History of Army Day

Army Day can be traced back to a little-known Defense Test Day, which was observed only twice: once in 1924 and once in 1925. Congress then disallowed any further observances of this day. In response, the Military Order of the World War under Colonel Thatcher Luquer established Army Day. Army Day was first celebrated on May 1, 1928. That date was chosen in hopes of dampening Communists' celebration of Workers' Day, which also occurs on May 1. But, starting in 1929, Army Day was changed to April 6, the anniversary date of the United States' entry into World War I.

Army Day was established as a nationwide observance to draw public attention to national defense and to acquaint the public with Army activities. In addition, the day was used to stress the need for military preparedness, which the nation had lacked as it entered earlier major conflicts. "The failure to make adequate preparation for the inevitable struggle, the consequent suffering from disease and death entailed upon the armies which were hastily raised, the prolongation of the conflict far beyond the time which sufficient and equipped forces would have required for victory, and the heavy costs of reconstruction" were caused by the lack of preparation of the nation.

On April 4, 1936, President Roosevelt issued a proclamation that Army Day be recognized by Congress as April 6 and observed nationwide. On March 1, 1937, Congress passed Resolution #5-75 which officially recognized Army Day.

Army Day was last observed nationally on April 6, 1949



Stress Awareness Month

By SSG NICHOLSON-I got the chance to sit down and talk with a Mental Health Specialist of the 113th MED Co (CSC). SPC Roberto D. Cruz Jr is the NCOIC of the Baghdad IZ Prevention Team and gave me some insight about stress. **Defining the threat:** Stress is a state of tension, which can be helpful if utilized properly as a motivator but has negative consequences if the stress becomes overwhelming. **Learning to recognize signals** of stress involves understanding what you are thinking and what your physical symptoms may be. This will prepare you to detect an early sign of high tension. Some physical signs may include muscle tension, increased sweating, rapid or short breaths. Noticing the signs early and dealing with them may save you a trip to the doctor. **Tips on dealing with stress** begin with getting enough sleep and rest and eating right. Maintaining a state of good physical fitness trains the body to better handle the physiological responses to stress. This means that exercise can minimize stress. Utilize coworkers, friends and family to accomplish tasks or get through situations that may be tough for one person.

COMMANDER'S CALL - 29 March

The Commander's Call is a time to acknowledge and reward achievements, congratulate and announce promotions, meet and greet new Service members and to say farewell to those who are leaving.



WELCOME!!
Glad to see you!

Installations :
LT Gray BU1 Broehm
PO2 Medlock
Security: SrA Milstead



FAREWELL.
You will be missed.

Security: Capt Mellema
Support Ops: Maj Williams
Cmd/Ministry: Fr. Lim



DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD



"The Distinguished Service Award is presented monthly to eligible junior Enlisted, junior and senior Non-Commissioned Officers (NCO) and company grade Officer members of the JASG who have demonstrated outstanding service and devotion to duty in support of the US Embassy-Iraq and the International Zone. Selection is based on significant individual contributions and achievements in regards to job performance during the award period. Each winner will receive a Distinguished Service Award certificate and a one-day pass!

CSM Stoll introduced the Enlisted & NCO winners.

Enlisted:

AiC Sean Dalgarn

Junior NCO:

SSgt Tracey Delton

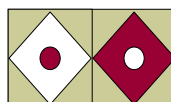
SSgt Ryan Delaney

Senior NCO:

SFC LaSaundra Stuckey



CSM Stoll SFC Stuckey CPT Beamesderfer Lt Col Smith



LTC Davis introduced the Junior Officer:

Officer:
CPT Brett Beamesderfer



CSM Stoll AiC Dalgarn SSgt Delton CSM Stoll SSgt Delaney

Fun Stuff

PUZZLED (submitted by CAPT Miller) A blonde calls her boyfriend and says, "Please come over here and help me. I have a killer jigsaw puzzle, and I can't figure out how to get it started." Her boyfriend asks, "What is it supposed to be when it's finished?" The blonde says, "According to the picture on the box, it's a tiger." The boyfriend decides to go over and help with the puzzle. The blonde lets him in and shows him where she has the puzzle spread all over the table. He studies the pieces for a moment, then looks at the box, then turns to her and says, "First of all, no matter what we do, we're not going to be able to assemble these pieces into anything resembling a tiger." He takes her hand, and says, "Let's relax, have a nice cup of tea..." He sighs, "Then, ... We'll put the Frosted Flakes back in the box."

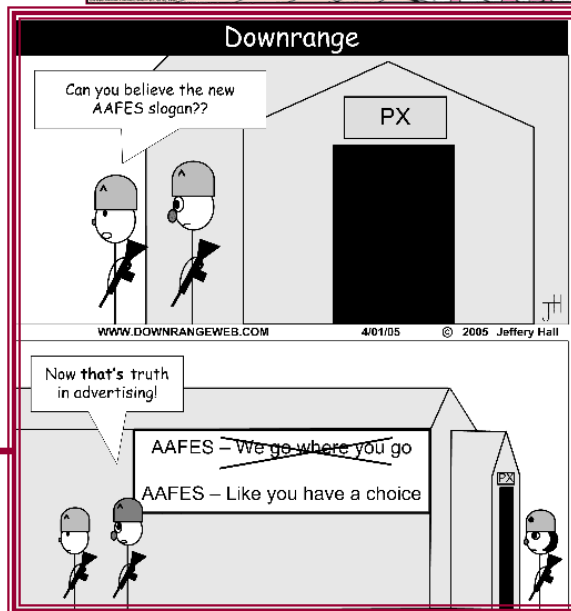
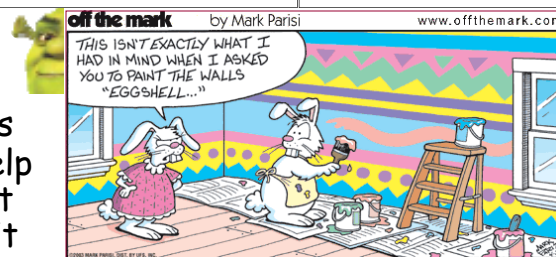
Homeless (Submitted by Sharon Sweeney) A woman was walking down the street when she was accosted by a particularly dirty and shabby-looking homeless woman who asked her for a couple of dollars for dinner. The woman took out her bill fold, extracted ten dollars, and asked, "If I give you this money, will you buy some wine with it instead of dinner?" "No," I had to stop drinking years ago, the homeless woman replied. "Will you use it to go shopping instead of buying food?" the woman asked. "No," I don't waste time shopping, the homeless woman said. "I need to spend all my time trying to stay alive." "Will you spend this on a beauty salon instead of food?" the woman asked. "Are you NUTS?" replied the homeless woman. "I haven't had my hair done 20 years!" "Well," said the woman, "I'm not going to give you the money. Instead, I'm going to take you out for dinner with my hubby and myself tonight." The homeless woman was astounded. "Won't your husband be furious with you for doing that? I know I'm dirty, and I probably smell pretty disgusting." The woman replied, "That's okay. It's important for him to see what a woman looks like after she has given up shopping, hair appointments, and wine."

6		4		8		9		2
	1		5					
		2		3	4	7	8	
4					2	5	9	3
8								7
1	2	9	3					4
	4	5	1	9		6		
					8		3	
3		6		7		1		9

Sudoku Fill in the grid so that each of the 9 rows across, 9 columns down and every 3 x 3 box contains the digits one (1) through nine (9), with no repeats. Good Luck!

Answer to March puzzle in April newsletter.

Solution: Last Month's Puzzle								
2	3	5	7	4	8	1	6	9
4	1	9	3	5	6	7	2	8
7	8	6	2	1	9	5	3	4
3	2	4	6	9	5	8	7	1
6	5	8	4	7	1	2	9	3
1	9	7	8	3	2	6	4	5
5	7	3	1	6	4	9	8	2
9	6	2	5	8	3	4	1	7
8	4	1	9	2	7	3	5	6



Thanks M.A. Cordova for the "funny" above!

Sexual Assault Awareness Month

-By SSG NICHOLSON,
Equal Opportunity NCO

Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM) is observed in April in the United States, and is dedicated to making a concerted effort to raise awareness about and prevent sexual violence through use of special events and public education.

SAAM provides commands/installations an annual opportunity to highlight Department of Defense (DoD) and Service policies addressing sexual assault prevention and response. DoD policies address sexual assault prevention and seek to establish a climate of confidence in which:

- education and training create an environment in which sexual assault and the attitudes that promote it are not tolerated;
- victims of sexual assault receive the care and support that they need; and, offenders are held accountable for their actions

The first observation of Sexual Assault Awareness Month occurred in 2001, where the **National Sexual Violence Resource Center** provided resources to advocates nationwide to help get the word out about sexual assault

This directed effort for national awareness and education about sexual assault brings attention to the all too prevalent reality of this heinous act. Sexual Assault

is defined as any kind of sexual activity that is unwanted, enacted by one person on another without consent? It may include the use of physical force (but many sexual assaults do not), and it involves some combination of coercion, threats and intimidation.

According to the National Criminal Victimization Study (2001), 248,000 people over the age of twelve reported being raped. An American is sexually assaulted every two minutes. However, only 38% of sexual assaults are reported to the police and even more horrifying, less than half of those arrested for sexual assault are convicted. In an attempt to help prevent sexual violence through education and media literacy, the Media Education Foundation (MEF) has created several videos dealing with the gender-related issues of sexual violence and harassment in conjunction with the way mainstream media powerfully manipulates our culture. Our society is flooded with images on a daily basis, which promote stereotypical masculinity, objectify women and normalize violence in relationships. Videos, such as Tough Guise, Wrestling with Manhood, force viewers to recognize this phenomenon and reflect on the 15-18,000 hours of television watched daily by children between the ages of 2 and 17. These media images have a damaging effect on the way our young people develop relationships with others and how they come to understand themselves and their role in

society.

Sexual assault awareness means increasing public awareness of this "silent" crime. It means asking ourselves and our communities how we can work together to eliminate sexual violence and respond to survivors in a way that enables them to heal and regain control of their lives. Approximately 683,000 women and 93,000 men in this country are forcibly raped each year. And the numbers are rising. Sexual assault awareness means recognizing that rape is real, and lives in our own backyards.

Rape, the "silent crime," is the least reported of all crimes. In fact, fewer than twenty percent of rapes and attempted rapes are ever reported. Some victims are silent because they are ashamed. Others are afraid - of their attacker, of being judged. Some are simply too hurt or too angry to speak out.

Education is power, and with that we make a difference but it doesn't end there. Stop, look around you and tell me what do you see? You may be thinking or have thought this: How can I make a change? I am only one person. And I tell you that one drop of water isn't much but 10,000 drops can make a change. The more drops you add, the more mountains you will be able to move.

<http://www.sapr.mil/>

<http://www.nsvrc.org/saam/military.html>

The national sexual violence resource center is a project of the

[Pennsylvania coalition against rape](http://www.penncoalition.org/rape)

Hotline Number - Contact Military One Source 24/7 for Restricted/ Unrestricted Reporting, Local SARC/VA Points of Contact, and Established DoD Sexual Assault Services. 1-800-342-9647

<http://www.militaryonesource.com/>

Relocation of water lines at the New Embassy Compound

By SFC ZOHNER-In February JASG/Department of Public Works (DPW) received a request for help from the Department of State's Overseas Building Office, builders of the New Embassy Compound (NEC). As usual, DPW was being called in to provide its technical expertise with a "small" utilities relocation project. For security reasons, the Project Director from the NEC needed to reroute two water lines that ran through the NEC. As it turned out, this was not a small project. Twenty-four inches may not seem like much when you are judging the height of the average three year old, but when relocating an 8" and 24" water line, 24" seems a lot bigger.

The new lines had already been laid into place outside the compound walls. DPW conducted a site survey of the existing and

proposed water lines. It became clear immediately that coordination with the Iraqi government was a must. As an initial step, DPW made contact with the Department of State's Iraq Reconstruction Management Office (IRMO) to coordinate the proposed project with the contractor and determine the effort that would be required to complete this project without delaying the overall NEC construction. A letter was written detailing the contractor's plan of action and the im-



(Continued on page 6)

JAG/Legal

Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act

—By SGT KNAPPENBERGER

This month's JASG Newsletter article is especially important to all of us that are Reservists and National Guardsmen. It deals with the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA). USERRA prohibits discrimination and acts of reprisal against a service member when they deploy or have a military commitment.

An employer, whether it is federal, state or local government, or a private business, regardless of size, may not deny a person initial employment, promotion, or any benefit of employment because the person performed or is obliged to perform service in a uniformed service.

Uniformed service, by definition, means performing duty on a voluntary or involuntary basis in a uniformed service. This includes active duty, active and inactive duty for training, initial active duty for training, full-time National Guard duty, and a period for which a person is absent from a position of employment for the purpose of an examination to determine the fitness of the person to perform any such duty.

Certain criteria must be met before USERRA applies. The service member must have held a civilian job, which may include temporary jobs; given advance notice to the employer that they were leaving the job for service (unless such

notice is impossible or unreasonable); the period of active duty service can not exceed five years; must be released from service under honorable conditions; and, report back to the civilian job in a timely manner.

If the service member meets all the criteria, they are entitled to prompt reinstatement, accrued seniority (as if the person had been continuously employed), immediate reinstatement of civilian health insurance coverage, and other non seniority benefits.

USERRA also requires employers to make reasonable efforts to qualify the returning person for work (whether disabled or not), including training on new equipment or methods.

USERRA also prohibits being fired, except for cause, within one year of reemployment if the service was over 180 days. If the service was between 31 – 180 days, termination without cause can not happen within a 180 day window from being reemployed.

If a service member has a problem with an employer, they can call the Office of



**Employer Support of
the Guard and Reserve**

1-800-336-4590

www.esgr.org

Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA) Title 38 U.S.C. Chapter 43

1. Prohibits discrimination against those who choose to serve in the "uniformed services."
2. Entitles uniformed service members to a leave of absence from their civilian employment for the period necessary to perform military service, whether that service is voluntary or involuntary, for up to 5 years of cumulative voluntary service. (They are not required to use their personal vacation during the period of service.)
3. Protects the right to continued company benefits for those who serve for up to 30 days. These include: Medical, Retirement, Insurance Plans, and Profit Sharing. (An employee may elect to continue COBRA-like health coverage for up to 18 months.)
4. Entitles uniformed service members returning from military service to prompt reinstatement of employment, with seniority, status, and rate of pay as if continuously employed.
5. Enables uniformed service members to seek relief, through the Veterans' Employment and Training Service, U.S. Department of Labor, if a conflict cannot be worked out.

Employer Support for the Guard and Reserve (ESGR), who are trained to help service members in this matter. The phone number for ESGR is 1-800-336-4590.

Or for more information:

<http://www.dol.gov/elaws/userra.htm>

Relocation of water lines

(Continued from page 5)

pact on the NEC. After that, the contractor needed to get approval from the Baghdad Water Authority. A meeting with the Baghdad Water Authority, Project Director, IRMO and DPW was conducted in the Palace. This meeting laid the ground work for the water isolations, identifying which valves would have to be shut. To minimize the effect of shutting off two large water lines, a 48 hour schedule was established. With the brunt of the coordination completed, the work was ready to begin. The game plan was to shut the water off, remove the old lines and connect to the new lines. The Baghdad Water Authority was notified to shut off the water, starting the 48 hour time limit. Carbon blade electrical saws cut away at

the large water pipe. Cranes were used to position the new pipe segments into place allowing the workers to begin connecting the massive mechanical joint. Although not an easy effort, the new pipes were connected and water was restored on time. To finish the project, "Thrust Blocks" had to be installed at all bends of 45 or more degrees. The thrust blocks are used to keep the pipes in place. If they are not properly placed, the joints will come apart over time causing water leaks. The contractor installed the forms and cement blocks and completed the installation in accordance with the Baghdad Water Authority's specifications. This last phase of the project took approximately 18 days, and could not have been accom-

plished properly without the tremendous effort from everyone: DPW - Maj Berrian, SFC Zohner, and UT2 Patneade; IRMO - Dr Linda Allen and Stephen Pulsford; Baghdad Water Authority - Mr. Mudafar Ghulam Ali; and OBO - Mr. Ben Downs.



Security Directorate

Utilizing Biometrics to Catch the Bad Guys!

-By MAJ SEIP

One of the main responsibilities of the Security Directorate is to produce Multi-National Force-Iraq (MNF-I) Badges for the International Zone. What is the purpose of badge? The badges are produced to ensure that the right person has access to facilities in the International Zone and/or Iraq-wide facilities..

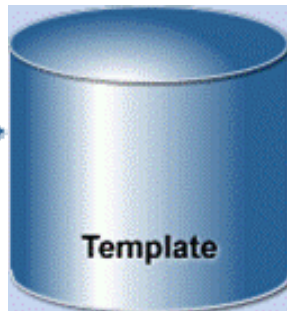
In order to give an applicant the correct level of access, we collect their biometrics. What are Biometrics? Biometrics that we collect for badges contain the following physical aspects: Iris, Fingerprints, Facial, and Retinal. There are other biometrics that can be collected but are not currently being used for badging purposes. The other biometrics that also can be collected are: Hand (including knuckle, palm, vascular), DNA, Odor, Earlobe, Sweat Pore, and Lips. Even behavioral signatures like Keystroke, Voice and Gait can be useful. I have attached some pictures below on the various biometrics

The primary route to determine if an applicant is clear for a badge is by using the applicant's biometrics. We collect iris scan, fingerprints and a picture on each badge applicant to positively identify the individual. The biometrics are then stored in a database and are compared to previous biometrics to identify the individual and track the individual for past crimes.

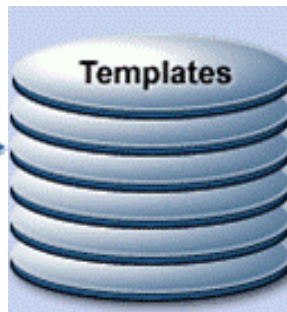
There are several systems and organizations that utilize fingerprints, iris scan and pictures to look at an applicant's background and track the applicant to determine if they have been arrested for committing any crimes or even if they were detained for suspicious activity. After reviewing recommendations from interviews, performing name background checks, and analyzing biometrics results, a determination is made for recommendation of approval or disapproval for issuing a MNFI badge. As the adjudicator, I ensure the backgrounds are properly investigated for the badge level application. One nice bonus that comes from all the investigative work is that sometimes we do get to catch a few bad guys and have them detained for further investigation

BASIC TERMS:

Enrollment: User provides sample(s) by means of a scan.



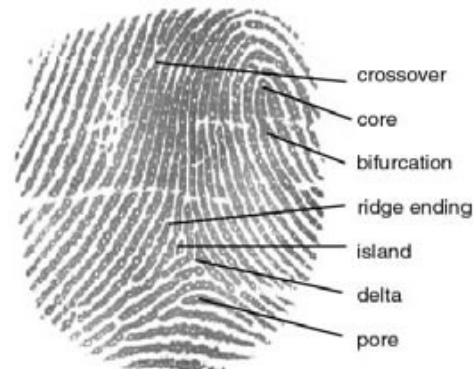
Identification, or 1-to-Many: The biometric system identifies a person from the entire enrolled population.



Authentication, or 1-to-1: The biometric system matches a person's claimed identity to his/her biometric and one or more other security technologies (password, PIN, Token).

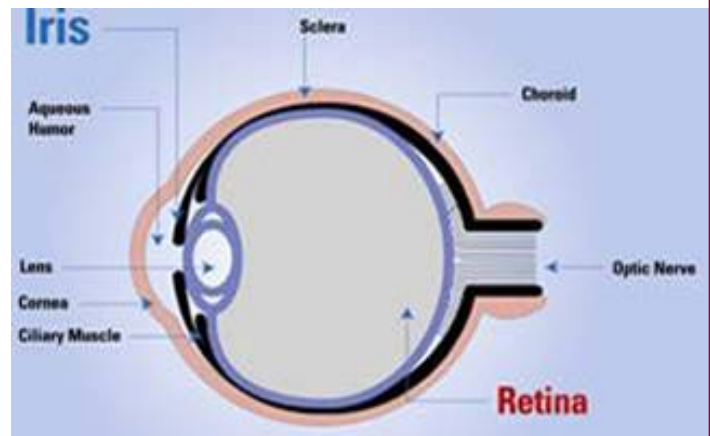
Fingerprint Technology

Local Features (Minutiae)
Characteristics
Type
Orientation
Spatial Frequency
Curvature
Position



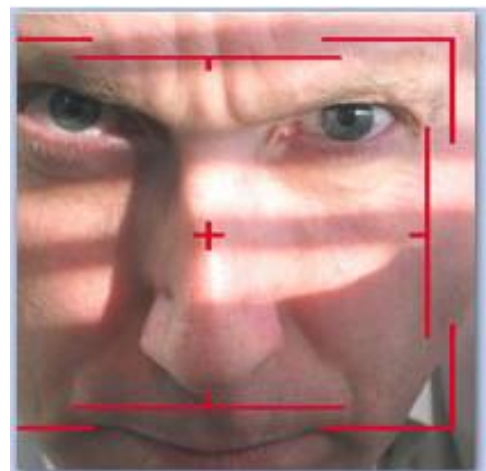
Iris Technology

Based on visible features, i.e. rings, furrows, freckles and the corona
Iris essentially formed by 8 months of age and remains stable through life
Each iris has 266 unique spots versus 13-60 for other biometrics



A Little Science Face Technology

Uses low cost off-the-shelf camera at low speed, low resolution (3-5fps, 320x240)
Several pictures taken at enrollment to allow for more accurate searches
All technologies emphasize facial features that are less susceptible to alteration such as eye sockets, cheekbones, sides of mouth



Support Operations Directorate

Supporting the "SURGE" -By LTC LUBA, Director of Support Operations

The "SURGE" is on and supporting the increased number of forces in the International Zone (IZ), here in Baghdad, is the current focus of the Joint Area Support Group Support Operations section. As the numbers of coalition forces, Department of State employees and contractors grow, the requirements for support continue to increase proportionally.

We have a unique mission here in the IZ, which is unlike a traditional Support Operations section. It is our duty to ensure that the tenants of the International Zone, to include both Multi National Force – Iraq (Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines), and Department of State personnel, and civilian contractors are logistically prepared for every challenge. Prudent planning and analytical thinking has helped our team to deliver efficient and effective support to the Chief of Mission and Multi-National Force-Iraq (Forward), throughout the SURGE.

With the SURGE, we have applied the Combat Service Support Characteristics (responsiveness, simplicity, flexibility, attainability, sustainability, survivability, economy, and integration) to continue to provide unparalleled support within the International Zone.



Responsiveness is providing the right support in the right place at the right time. As we received confirmation of the SURGE, it was crucial for the logistics team to anticipate the needs and forecast requirements. The most critical of the needs was billeting, but MAJ Cortellessa, MSG White and SGT Masker implemented plans based on their forecasts and have been able to meet the needs of the force.



The transportation section (Lt Col Langston, 1LT Belfi, SFC Pena, MSgt Curl, TSgt Davis and SSgt Johnson) have had added stressors with the SURGE operations. Everyone wants to travel. Everyone wants to fly. And everyone wants to get there NOW. The 'trans' section finds the most efficient means to provide the required rotary and fixed wing support to the large and demanding population.



Our FOB Mayors and Deputy Mayors (FOB Blackhawk-MSG Tubbs and SFC Dresel; FOB Freedom-SGM Comrey and SSG Taylor; and FOB Freedom Compound-1LT Jay and SFC Folk) have effectively economized and reallocated resources to synchronize their efforts to support the SURGE. The Governor, MAJ Cortellessa, utilized sustainability to adapt to the ever-changing requirements and ensure that support was seamless.



The SURGE has placed additional burdens on our Human

Resource Management (HRM) section, which includes the post office; as civilians and military come to the IZ to get their Common Access Cards there is also an increase of incoming and outgoing mail. MAJ Williams, CPO Fiveash, SSG Devine, SSGT Reed and TSgt Hawkins provide the pleasant and courteous service to a large number of satisfied customers. While maintaining efficiency and professionalism, our post office personnel: TSgt Balanon, SrA Bailey, A1C Evans, SSgt Sehm IV and SSgt Gooden deal with many more patrons as well!



With our Information Technology (IT) team (SFC McConnell, SSG Winkey and SGT Witherow), survivability is the key to success. The extreme temperatures and never ending sand and dust, makes their jobs even more difficult as they attempt to keep our computer systems and phone systems operational. Additionally, they integrate with all levels of IT support to ensure that the JASG needs are met, so we may in turn support the growing needs of those we support.



CW5 Deaven and SSG Behney maintained their "Git 'r done" attitude with simplicity and attainability. Abandoned vehicles, conex, and office furniture don't stand a chance with Mr. Deaven around. He has been able to recover \$250,000 in non-tactical vehicles and return them to the JASG fleet. Without their resourcefulness, the SURGE requirements for vehicles and equipment would be difficult to meet.

As you can see, even with the SURGE our Support Operations team continues to plan, coordinate, resource and provide responsive support for tenants throughout the IZ. We help them to be logistically prepared for every challenge that may come their way. With each mission accomplished we contribute greatly to the overall success of the Multi-National Force – Iraq strategic goals.

Directors of Each Section within Support Operations Directorate (left to right): SFC McConnell, Lt Col Langston, CW5 Deaven, LTC Luba, MAJ Cortellessa, and Maj Williams



Installations Directorate

Staff Sergeant Devin L. Sephus

By TSgt BROWN- SSgt Devin L. Sephus has served 8 years in the United States Air Force, a multi-skilled SSgt with his specialty as an Engineering Assistant. He is happily married and the father of 4 wonderful daughters. His expertise is greatly needed here in the International Zone. His professional attitude and "can do" work ethic has been noticed and applauded here in Iraq. Some of the interests that are close to his heart are family, music and accomplishing the mission.

When you talk to SSgt Sephus he will tell you that his life is pretty boring. But at home having 4 daughters is an adventure. Being the only guy in the house can be difficult at times, especially when it comes to bathroom time and getting his point across when he has to compete with the female gender. Winning battles in the house is truly a labor of love. He will tell you, "spending time with family is truly important."

You will also hear SSgt Sephus before you see him, due to his great passion for music and singing. He can be found at the Chapel using the piano or singing in the 'Praise Choir' on Sunday, honing his musical skills. He has aspirations of one day pursuing a career in music and has also completed a CD with self-composed music and lyrics. With a smile, he is always ready to render a selection from his vast array of musical interests.

SSgt Sephus is currently involved with the Al-Kindi street repaving project that will greatly enhance the infrastructure of the International Zone. He is also involved in developing plans that will affect restructuring within the next 2 years by surveying and documenting mission critical facilities and infrastructure.

SSgt Sephus is currently involved with mentoring the Baghdad Amanat Waste Disposal Company, as they provide much needed trash service in the International Zone. Mission assignments are completed with expertise and as quickly as possible. He can also be found on the basketball court and on the flag football field where he is a pretty good wide receiver and an even better tailback.

SSgt Sephus can be heard laughing at most jokes and having fun teasing others; especially SSgt Delton. He is truly a joy to be around, a credit to United States Air Force and a valued member of JASG and critical part of MNF-I.



Al Rasheed Renovation Project

By BU1 FEATHERSTON- The Al Rasheed Hotel renovation is a project that was deemed necessary by the United States Government to restore a sense of pride to the people of not only Baghdad but Iraq as well. The hotel was first built in 1982 and played host to dignitaries from many different countries. The hotel was subsequently damaged during the war (this is where CNN stayed) and with coalition forces staying at the hotel it was attacked causing a lot of damage to it. The United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) undertook the challenge of restoring the hotel to its once prominent position as a grandstand hotel, the place to stay if you came to Baghdad.

The contract was given to the United Contracting Group (UCG) to renovate the hotel. Since beginning the project, in mid February of 2005, the hotel has seen dramatic improvements. Within the JASG-C, the DPW office oversees the Quality Assurance/Quality Control. The project consisted of repairing all 338 rooms in the hotel. This includes upgrading the room door locks to the more reliable SAF-LOK system and installing three computers to code and issue keycards to the guests. Although, an upgrade of new chiller units and boiler units were needed to bring the hotels infrastructure into the 21st century, most of the renovation is concentrated on the rooms. The room renovation consists of replacing the fan coil units in each room, installing new wallpaper, carpeting, repainting the rooms, fixing the closet doors and also repairing any bathroom items that were

deemed in need of replacement. In all suites, the windows will be replaced with bullet proof (BP) glass. This renovation project, with all included, has a price tag of almost \$10 Million US Dollars.



Installations/IZTT

Sergeant First Class Antonio Collins

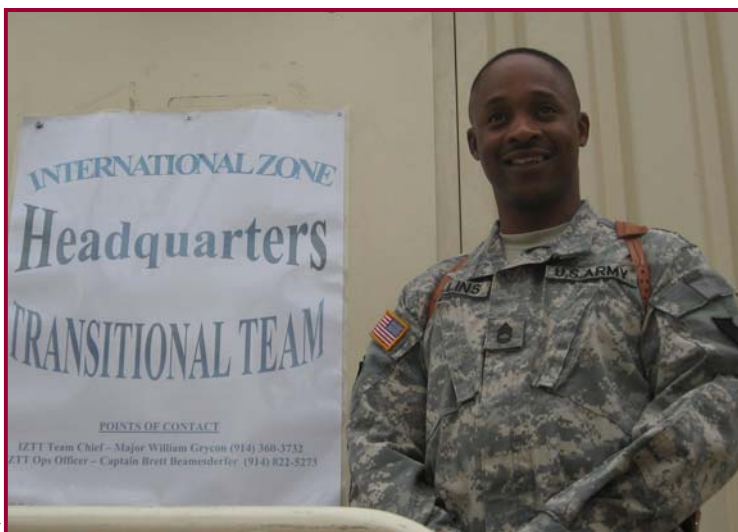
Fort Indiantown Gap.

SFC Collins has recently been assigned to the International Zone Transition Team (IZTT) where he now acts as the IZTT Operations NCOIC. While his primary duty is to supervise and ensure that all aspects of office related duties are carried out; he also has the distinctive job of assisting the IZTT in development of a comprehensive, engineering and logistical plan for the relocation and consolidation of MNF-I in the IZ.

Keeping in shape has been one of his greatest priorities. Consequently, SFC Collins has stayed active in many events to include Dodge Ball, Basket Ball, and Flag Football. He has been showcased in the December 2006 issue of Sports Illustrated, and is committed to the gym at least three times a week. To add to his many conquests, he is a one-time spades and pinocle champion, and has recently started taking step aerobic classes.

In his civilian life SFC Collins works as an Auditor for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and is regarded by his peers as a wonderful person to work with. When he is not hard at work, his hobbies are golfing, fishing, and spending time with his family. One of his greatest pleasures in life is, watching the gleam in his wife's eyes and the smile on her face, as they dance the night away during an evening out on the town.

By CPT BEAMESDERFER- Sergeant First Class (SFC) Antonio T. Collins hails from Harrisburg, Pennsylvania and weighs in at approximately 175 lbs of all muscle. At the start of this deployment, SFC Collins had no idea of what his role in the International Zone (IZ) would be. SFC Collins began this tour of duty as the Operations Non-Commissioned Officer (NCO) for the Real Property Section of the Installations Directorate. His daily duties consisted of accounting for properties controlled and leased to military units and contractors in support of either Multi-National Force Iraq (MNF-I) or the United States Department of State (DOS). Part of his responsibilities was to prepare the necessary documents required to transfer properties over to the Iraqi Government. Through his hard work and dedication, he was able to grab the attention of his chain of command and was nominated Junior NCO for the month of January. In the month of February, then SSG Collins was promoted to the rank of SFC. He was selected for a Fuel and Water Platoon Sergeant Position, with the 628 Aviation Support Battalion (ASB) Company A, stationed at



International Zone Transition Team (IZTT)

We are all proud to contribute and be a part of this important effort .

By SGT RUHL- JASG soldiers, under the direction of Lt Col Ken Smith, are getting a hands-on opportunity to participate in making a profound impact on future plans of the International Zone. The team known as the "IZTT" is comprised of personnel with a versatile mix of backgrounds: two (2) NCO, five (5) Officers, an Iraqi interpreter, and several engineering contractors from the firm CH2MHill. The primary objective of the IZTT is to develop engineering and logistical planning for the relocation and consolidation of MNF-I in the International Zone and to liaison with the State Department, Multi-National Security Transition Corps-Iraq (MNSTC-I), and all other parties associated with an enduring presence in the IZ.

The team began transitioning to its new location at Forward Operations Base (FOB) Blackhawk in late January. After a brief settling in period, IZTT members have begun to effectively put the wheels in motion and lay the groundwork for the future of the International Zone in Baghdad.

The mission of the IZTT is an important one and will contribute greatly to the coalition force's cause. Our mission will help to achieve one of the number one goals in Iraq: the transition of Coalition control over to a sovereign Iraqi Government.

Pictured below left to right, Top row: Lt Col Smith, SGT Ruhl, CPT Beamesderfer; middle: Brock Childers (CH2MHill), SFC Collins; bottom: MAJ Grycon, Bob Taverna (CH2MHill), SGM Zappasodi, Capt Sargent, MAJ Harting (interpreter not shown)



ONE SMALL CAMP CAN MAKE A BIG DIFFERENCE

-By LT BURNS

In a country where violence is common-place and young Iraqis are drawn in to a life of terrorism and attacks, whether victim or perpetrator, there still are those who wish to protect them and instill good values. All over the world, Scouting as been used to reinforce the core values and instill morals to lend guidance for boys and girls. We respect the men and women that these children will become. Adult leaders are the role models to whom these young people look for guidance. The leaders here are amazing! The life skills they teach are invaluable.

There are some who are amazed to discover that there are still Boy Scouts and Girl Guides here in Iraq. The Iraqi program was once a template for others to follow. They led the way in the Middle East, among scout programs. And although the program was crippled during Saddam's regime, it was not destroyed. It is still a part of the education system and supported by the Ministry of Education and aided by several other ministries within the Iraqi government.

We, the members of the Green Zone Council, and many coalition members came together to help the Boy Scouts of Baghdad to prepare a place that they may come together and meet and plan for a future in Iraq of which they will be a part and perhaps one day be leaders.

What started out as a run down piece of property strewn with shrapnel from past explosions by mortars and rockets, will soon be transformed into a lush, developed camp for young boy and girl scouts of Baghdad. Due to current security situations, the scouts are limited in the opportunities available. But hopefully we will be able to use this land as a retreat for the kids to come and escape, if only for a short while, the devastation of this war-torn land.



JASG Chaplain Words of Encouragement

In times like these we find ourselves reaching out to those who are key figures in our life, examining our priorities, and tapping into our Spiritual resources. Those are all positive things, those are all good things that can come out of a bad situation. We have all experienced a bad thing and we must work to recover and hopefully experience something positive in the journey.

Grief is a journey. It takes time to say "good-bye." Sometimes it a journey that has two steps forward and one step backwards. We may successfully travel the dark valley and come out the other side. But then, we may look at a picture, hear a sound, have a thought and we are suddenly transported once again back to that painful time. Hopefully the return visit to that place of emotional hurt is a short one. Some of the places we may visit in our journey in the valley are denial, anger, bargaining, and depression. Our final destination is acceptance as we adjust to the loss and strive to move on. It is at this point that we integrate what we have experienced into our life journey.

The Psalmist in the 23rd Psalms reminds us that we are not alone in our journey and that God travels with us to the end of the valley. We read "even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me." As one reaches deeper to find strength and stability in our lives as a result of our loss, we tap into our faith roots. Roots for plants provide stability in the storms and nourishment for growth. Our Spiritual roots do that for us as well. Perhaps these past few weeks of storminess will allow for a time of Spiritual growth for you. In your journey, use the resources available to you as I pray God's peace is upon all of us.



Chaplain Furman



Father Lim and 1LT Burns (photo by LTC Luba)

Holy Days in the Holy Land By LT BURNS-
Easter is a special time, but celebrating in Iraq it seemed an even more profound experience for me. We are as close to the holy land as I have ever been. Serving here on my second tour in Iraq and my second Easter as well, I am now nearer to Babel and the Garden of Eden. Even though we witness death and destruction, the Lord's love and influence is also visible every day. There are many wonderful people here. We were even fortunate to have several members who are Chaldean Catholics to be present at mass. Father Lim (LtCol, USAF) our Catholic Priest, has tended to our spiritual needs, here in the IZ, with enthusiasm and great care. Unfortunately he will be leaving us soon. You will be missed; we wish you God Speed back home, Sir. Thank you.

PRAYER FOR Serenity
God, grant me serenity to accept the things I cannot change, courage to change the things I can, and wisdom to know the difference. Living one day at a time, enjoying one moment at a time; accepting hardship as a pathway to peace; taking, as Jesus did, this sinful world as it is, not as I would have it; trusting that You will make all things right if I surrender to Your will; so that I may be reasonably happy in this life and supremely happy with You forever in the next. AMEN
REINHOLD NIEBUHR

THIS MONTH IN HISTORY

April 2, 1792 - Congress established the first U.S. Mint at Philadelphia.

April 3, 1860 - In the American West, the Pony Express service began as the first rider departed St. Joseph, Missouri. For \$5 an ounce, letters were delivered 2,000 miles to California within ten days. The famed Pony Express riders each rode from 75 to 100 miles before handing off to the next rider. There were a total of 190 way stations located about 15 miles apart. The service lasted less than two years until the completion of the overland telegraph.

April 4, 1949 - Twelve nations signed the treaty creating NATO, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

April 6, 1896 - After a break of 1500 years, the first Olympics of the modern era was held in Athens, Greece.

April 8 - Among Buddhists, celebrated as the birthday of Buddha (563-483 B.C.). An estimated 350 millions persons currently profess the Buddhist faith.

April 10, 1942 - During World War II in the Pacific, the Bataan Death March began as American and Filipino prisoners were forced on a six day march from an airfield on Bataan to a camp near Cabanatuan. 76,000 Allied POWs including 12,000 Americans were forced to walk 60 miles under a blazing sun without food or water to the POW camp, resulting in over 5,000 American deaths.

April 12, 1981 - The first space shuttle flight occurred with the launching of *Columbia* with astronauts John Young and Robert Crippen aboard. *Columbia* spent 54 hours in space, making 36 orbits, then landed at Edwards Air Force Base, CA.

April 14, 1828 - The first dictionary of American English was published by Noah Webster as the *American Dictionary of the English Language*.

April 19, 1775 - At dawn in Massachusetts, about 70 armed militiamen stood face to face on Lexington Green with a British advance guard unit. An unordered 'shot heard around the world' began the American Revolution. A volley of British rifle fire followed by a bayonet charge left 8 Americans dead and 10 wounded.

April 19, 1995 - At 9:02 a.m., a massive car-bomb explosion destroyed the entire side of a 9-story federal building in Oklahoma City, killing 168 persons, including 19 children in a day care. A Gulf War veteran was later convicted for the attack.

April 22, 1864 - "In God We Trust" was included on all newly minted U.S. coins by an Act of Congress

April 23 - Established by Israel's Knesset as Holocaust Day in remembrance of an estimated six million Jews killed by Nazis.

April 24, 1800 - The Library of Congress was established.

April 30, 1789 - George Washington became the first U.S. President as he was administered the oath of office on the balcony of Federal Hall, corner of Wall and Broad Streets in NY.

SAFETY SHORTS

SPRING HAS SPRUNG

-By MSG WHITE

Safety NCO:
SGM Stephen Zappasodi

Safety and Nutrition
Consultants

CW5 Lynn Deaven
MAJ Starr Seip
MSG Terry White

April already! Time does fly by. TIME? The clocks have been turned ahead one hour and the batteries in the smoke detectors and carbon monoxide monitors should be replaced.

Spring cleaning is a much anticipated TIME of the year. This year, the U. S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) is encouraging consumers to spring clean for safety. The CPSC has set a goal to sign up at least 1 million consumers to receive life-saving information electronically through CPSC's e-mail notification project. Consumers can sign up at www.cpsc.gov -signing up is free, fast and could save your life or the life of a family member.

As closets, garages and other storage areas are cleaned out, CPSC is asking consumers to keep safety in mind and be on the lookout for hazardous recalled products. CPSC recalled 466 products last year. Not everyone gets the word. Some product recalls may have been announced after products were stored for the season. CPSC's Web Site is extremely user friendly. Products can easily be searched by category.

Deaths, injuries and property damage from consumer product incidents cost the nation more than \$700 billion annually. The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission currently has more than 15,000 types of consumer products under the agency's jurisdiction. The CPSC is committed to protecting consumers and families from products that pose a fire, electrical, chemical, or mechanical hazard or can injure children. The CPSC's work to ensure the safety of consumer products, such as toys, cribs, power tools, cigarette lighters and household chemicals, contributed significantly to the 30 percent decline in the rate of deaths and injuries associated with consumer products over the past 30 years.

Categories of recalls on the CPSC's Web Site include:

- Outdoor products: grills, outdoor furniture
- Equipment: air compressors, gas pool heaters
- Power Tools: pressure washers, circular saws, nail guns
- Children's products: toys, clothing, pacifiers.
- Household products: fans, candles, space heaters
- Electronics: computer batteries, remote controls



For more information, go to CPSC's Web Site at www.cpsc.gov, or call the hotline at (800) 638-2772 anytime.

NUTRITION "Food For Thought"

-By MAJ SEIP



"Why should I eat healthy?" I get this question daily. Who cares if I eat Twinkies and TastyKakes, daily. So, what if I eat a ton of trans fats everyday. It is my body and I can do what I want with my own body. I could get hit by a bus tomorrow and the healthy eating will be all for nothing.

I am here to educate the person on what to eat to stay healthy to live a longer life. Sure we all may get hit by a bus tomorrow, but lets look at it as if we will not. I would like to quote the following: "Man becomes what he thinks about"

Healthy eating is only a part of a healthy lifestyle. We need to exercise, communicate with others and take care of ourselves daily. Our bodies are fine oiled machines and we need to treat it as such. We need to feed it the right fuel to have it run longer with more efficiency. If we feed it junk on a daily basis it is going to break down more often and need more repair stops along the way. This entails time and money. This may even take time away from family and

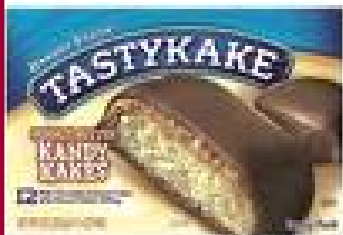
friends. We need to look at the big picture. If we continue to abuse our body, are we willing later in life to depend on our family to take care of us? We need to take time out of busy lives to take care of ourselves first, so our families have more quality time with us later.

Sure, healthy eating 100% of the time is not a realistic goal, but if we take a few steps everyday to pick a healthier food over one not so healthy, we may have higher quality life in the end.

When we eat healthy foods and do not skip meals, we feel better that day because our blood sugar is more regulated. When our blood sugar is regulated, it has been proven our mood and our thinking abilities are improved during the day. This is a trickle effect on job performance. If we feel better, we think better and we then make better decisions; thus, we take care of each other and save lives.

So, I leave you with this "Focus on what you want, not on what you do not want".

FOCUS



Command Sergeant Major

This has been a trying time for all of us here. I would like to express my deepest heart-felt sympathy to MSG Sean Thomas' family for their loss. This loss has greatly affected us all. We know that Sean is looking down upon us with his great smile and expects us to pick up our bootstraps and continue with the mission. I would also like to express our appreciation to all of those that supported us here and at home through these trying times. We are entering the final phase of our deployment. There are

many things to do here with both supporting the surge and getting things ready to hand over to our follow-on unit. Our Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen have done an outstanding job and I thank them for their professionalism. I welcome the new Air Force Security Detachment and all of the new Sailors and Airmen that have come on board the last month and look forward to working with them. I cannot say enough how rewarding it is to be in this command with the mix of services.



CSM Craig Stoll

Medal of Honor Recipient - 2LT Van T. Barfoot

Rank and organization: Second Lieutenant, U.S. Army, 157th Infantry, 45th Infantry Division **Place and Date:** Near Carano, Italy, 23 May 1977 **Entered Service at:** Carthage, Miss. **Born:** Edinburg, Miss. **G.O. No.:** 79, 4 October 1944 **Citation:** For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of life above and beyond the call of duty on 23 May 1944, near Carano, Italy. With his platoon heavily engaged during an assault against forces well entrenched on commanding ground, 2d Lt. Barfoot (then Tech. Sgt.) moved off alone upon the enemy left flank. He crawled to the proximity of 1 machinegun nest and made a direct hit on it with a hand grenade, killing 2 and wounding 3 Germans. He continued along the German defense line to another machinegun emplacement, and with his tommygun killed 2 and captured 3 soldiers. Members of another enemy machinegun crew then abandoned their position and gave themselves up to Sgt. Barfoot. Leaving the prisoners for his support squad to pick up, he proceeded to mop up positions in the immediate area, capturing more prisoners and bringing his total count to 17. Later that day, after he had reorganized his men and consolidated the newly captured ground, the enemy launched a fierce armored counterattack directly at his platoon positions. Securing a bazooka, Sgt. Barfoot took up an exposed position directly in front of 3 advancing Mark VI tanks. From a distance of 75 yards his first shot destroyed the track of the leading tank, effectively disabling it, while the other 2 changed direction toward the flank. As the crew of the disabled tank dismounted, Sgt. Barfoot killed 3 of them with his tommygun. He continued onward into enemy terrain and destroyed a recently abandoned German fieldpiece with a demolition charge placed in the breach. While returning to his platoon position, Sgt. Barfoot, though greatly fatigued by his Herculean efforts, assisted 2 of his seriously wounded men 1,700 yards to a position of safety. Sgt. Barfoot's extraordinary heroism, demonstration of magnificent valor, and aggressive determination in the face of pointblank fire are a perpetual inspiration to his fellow soldiers.



Sergeant Van Barfoot, later promoted to second lieutenant, earned the Medal of Honor while serving with L Company, 157th Infantry Regiment. (Courtesy of 45th Infantry Division Archives)

www.medalofhonor.com/VanBarfoot.htm

**

Submitted by SGM Peiffer

**

<http://www.army.mil/cmh-pg/mohiia1.htm>

**March
Photo**



"GIT 'R DONE...NOW!" -LTC Luba

"Someone stole my Snickers

Candy Bar!" -**Janet Duvall**

"Son, you have run into the wrong man." -**SGT Masker**

"License and Registration, please." -**MAJ Parrish**

"I am from the Government. Don't worry, I am here to help." -**COL Celeste**

"Be Aware-Big Brother is watching you." -**Nima**

"I told you I'd be back." -**COL Deets**



**Photo Caption
Contest**

CREATE A
CAPTION
FOR THE
PHOTO-
e-mail to the
editor

?(Your Creative Caption)?



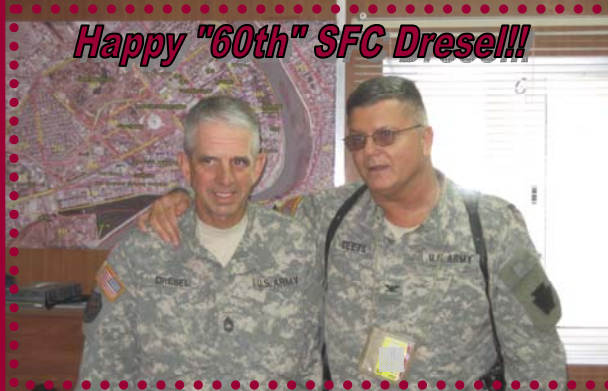
Members of the JASG are appreciative of everyone who send the wonderful gifts and care packages! Thank you!!



Brigadier General Kookhan Kim (S. Korea), Director of Civilian-Military Operations (STRATOPS) left us to re-deploy home, this month. Farewell, Sir.



LTC Luba, having fun?!



Happy "60th" SFC Dresel!!!



Birthdays!



SGT Knappenberger and SSG Winkey play ping-pong.



Mail Call

Information is intended for the Service members of the JASG-C, their families and friends. Content is not the official views of the United States Government, DOD, CENTCOM, nor MNF-I. Comments or questions should be directed to the PAO/Editor, 1LT S. R. Burns.

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*To all who contribute to the newsletter; To everyone who helps with mail/packages and of course to all those who send Care Packages to the troops...**THANK YOU!!***



CAROLYN CATRINA EDWARDS

September 2, 1968-March 27, 2007

**You will live in our hearts forever,
you will never be forgotten...**

SEAN MICHAEL THOMAS

December 28, 1973-March 27, 2007



"The bond that links your true family is not one of blood, but of respect and joy in each other's life. Rarely do members of one family grow up under the same roof." Richard Bach

American Writer, Illusions [1977] (1936-)

Quote of the Month

"Weakness of attitude becomes weakness of character."

-Albert Einstein, Theoretical Physicist (1879-1955) (from MAJ Stanbery)

"Those who Expect to Reap the blessings of Freedom must, like men, undergo the fatigue of supporting it."

-Thomas Paine, Pamphleteer and revolutionary (1737-1809) *Battle of Brandywine* (from MSG Dowling)

"Those who enjoy such freedoms as we enjoy, forget in time that men died to earn them."

-Franklin Roosevelt, 32nd President of the US (1933-1945)

"Be not angry that you cannot make others as you wish them to be, since you cannot make yourself as you wish to be."

-Thomas à Kempis, Renaissance Roman Catholic monk and author of Imitation of Christ, one of the best known Christian books on devotion (1380 - 1471) (from MAJ Anderson)

"He who kills a person without reason is like he who kills all humanity"
—a passage from the Holy Koran.

We Salute Our Fallen Warrior

