

# ANACONDA TIMES

MAY 23, 2007

PROUDLY SERVING LSA ANACONDA

## GIVING BACK

Volunteer instructors help other Soldiers during free time

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## Helping Hands

Al Asad team assists local nationals during convoy stops

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Vol. 4, Issue 21

## Soldiers lose big in competition

by Sgt. Alexandra Hemmerly-Brown

Anaconda Times Staff

LSA ANACONDA, Iraq—In combat, Soldiers are required to carry several pounds of gear, and while this gear may not be optional, Anaconda Soldiers are finding other ways to lighten their load.

Modeled after the NBC reality show with the same name, the 49th Transportation Battalion held its own "Biggest Loser" competition here which started Feb. 14. With teams of two, Soldiers had three months to drop as many pounds as possible in a healthy way.

There was an incentive other than simply getting in shape; the team with the most combined weight-loss won an extra four-day pass to Qatar.

"It was a great idea," Sgt. Curtis M. Moe, a transportation management specialist with the 657th Movement Control Team, said of the contest. "It's amazing what competition will do to people."

At the event's end, a total of 13 teams participated with a combined weight loss of 269 pounds. Moe, along with his partner, Spc. Justin Orme of St. Charles, Mo., also with the 657th MCB, took first place with a total weight loss of 54 pounds.

The contest was coordinated by Staff Sgt. Pamela J. Casson of Panama City, Fla., a transportation non-commissioned officer with the 946th Transportation Detachment. Casson said she came up with the idea from a prior deployment in Kuwait.

"I wanted to do this program in hopes of getting Soldiers more fit," Casson said. "It's not always easy for some people to lose weight."

She said in Kuwait she was part of a group who took part in a 'Biggest Loser' competition, and it really made a difference in the Soldiers there. This year, she wanted to bring the same opportunity to the Soldiers in her unit.

"The Soldiers needed a push in the right direction ... Having a contest with an extra incentive is a good motivation," she said speaking of the contests' prize.

Casson said the event didn't require extensive planning, but she researched healthy weight loss on the Internet.

See **Weight Loss**, Page 11

## Remembering the Past

*"As we look at the ever-increasing light of these candles may we remember the victims."*

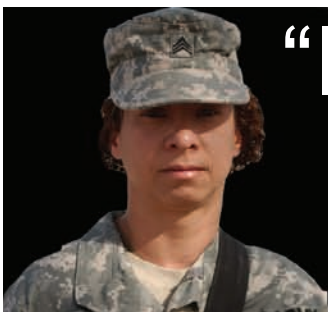
- Capt. Tonja M. Ochanma, during the LSAA Holocaust remembrance candlelight vigil

See Page 7



Participants in the Holocaust remembrance candlelight vigil May 12 stand for a moment of silence on Logistical Support Area Anaconda. The vigil was held in memory of the victims and survivors who suffered under the hands of the Nazis during WWII.

Photo by Sgt. Alexandra Hemmerly-Brown



**"I am an expert and I am a professional."**

I am Sgt. Dialma E. Aponte, from Fort Bragg, N.C.  
248th Medical Detachment >> personnel administrator

# What *our* leaders think: Lt. Col. Ivery J. Taylor

13th SC (E) Officer, Human Resource Manager, G1

(The Anaconda Times Staff will provide its readers weekly interviews with experienced officers and sergeants major to explain their role within the senior logistics headquarters in Iraq.)

Lt. Col. Ivery J. Taylor is the G1 for the 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary). Taylor calls Waco, Texas home, where he resides with his wife and two children.

A graduate of Paul Quinn College and Tarleton State University, Taylor is a prior recipient of the Gen. Douglas MacArthur Leadership Award as company grade officer. He joined the 13th SC(E) in May 2006.

## What is your job with the 13th SC (E)?

I am the G1 for the 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) (SC(E)). As the lead human resource manager for the 13th SC(E), I have the overall responsibility of personnel accountability, awards processing, R&R Leave/PASS Program, Casualty Operations, Special Programs and MWR for units under the 13th SC(E).

## What affect does the surge have on S1 operations?

Overall the surge will mostly impact mail operations, award processing, casualty reporting and personnel accountability. For the 13th SC(E) the surge impacts our logistical support mission more so than my personnel mission.

My focus is on the units assigned to the 13th SC(E). Very little impact to me as the G1 unless surge units are task organized under the 13th SC(E). The surge will impact personnel operations more at MNC-I-C1 level.

## Can you speak on the reason why we don't keep an official track of the enemy killed and wounded?



Lt. Col. Ivery Taylor, the 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) G1, reviews paperwork handed to him by the deputy G1, Maj. Cassandra Miller.

Not in the personnel lane. This is operational.

Last summer, congress ordered a reinvestigation of all our fallen Soldiers to ensure an accurate account. Can you speak about the role S1 plays to ensure the accounts are accurate in the first place?

We have a system, called DCIPS (Defense Casualty Information Processing System) which tracks all

categories of casualties (KIA, WIA, MIA, etc.)

A report is required for every casualty and the report is monitored from lowest level to highest (lowest being the unit sustaining the casualty and the highest being the Casualty and Mortuary Affairs Operations Center (CMAOC) in DC. Every Human Resource Manager (Brigade/Battalion S1) is responsible for accurately accounting for personnel in his or her unit.

We recently completed a 100 percent DA Directed Personnel Asset

Inventory (PAI) in which units had to account for every Soldier in their respective commands and correct deficiencies on their manning rosters.

This was a large undertaking and the units of the 13th SC(E) equals a division-sized element.

Sir, how does the award process differ in times of combat as opposed to peacetime?

The processing of awards is really the same. The main difference is in combat Soldiers may earn combat awards such as Congressional Medal of Honor, Silver Star, Bronze Star w/Valor or Army Commendation w/Valor. Also depending on the level of award the approval authority is usually a General Officer. Our CG now has approval authority for the BSM — an authority this HQs did not have when we first started our tour.

Also Soldiers may also earn one of three combat badges in theater if meeting established criteria while performing their mission and being engaged by the enemy. Those badges are the Combat Action Badge, Combat Infantryman Badge and the Combat Medic Badge.

What has been your greatest success while deployed?

It's not my greatest success but our greatest success is that we received approval authority for the Bronze Star and the Combat Badge for our Commanding General.

It was a team effort and with those authorities, BSMs and badges are now approved in our HQs without having to sent to MNC-I. This has

streamlined the processing time and Brig. Gen. Terry's goal is for every Soldier to depart this theater with their proper recognition.

I am also proud of the fact that six of my G1 Soldiers reenlisted during this deployment. Some of those same Soldiers were promoted to either sergeant or specialist during this deployment.

I also had the honor of promoting one officer to captain. I feel whenever the Soldiers succeed the mission will succeed and then we all succeed.

How would you rate the overall morale of Soldiers in Iraq?

The overall morale of 13th SC(E) Soldiers is high. All Soldiers under the 13th Command and Control make things happen every day despite the dangers they face.

They deliver all classes of supply on time all over this theater whether by air or ground. If you want a true picture of morale look at our reenlistments while here in combat. Soldiers are staying.

Is there anything you would like to add?

The AG Corps doctrine has changed. The new concept being taught in the AG Schoolhouse is Personnel Services Delivery Redesign (PSDR). Our new Human Resource Doctrine is FM 1-0.

The Personnel Services Battalions (PSB) will inactivate and Human Resource Companies/Cells (HRCs) will stand up. Each Sustainment Brigade will have an internal HRC capable providing the same HR support as a PSB.

The Human Resource community must transform as well to keep pace with our changing Army.

## ANACONDA TIMES

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

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

# Rain doesn't stop Iraqi Army from training

by Sgt. Michael Tuttle

*5th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment*

**KIRKUK, Iraq** – Having already waited in the cold and driving rain, the jondis (Iraqi Army privates) lay in the mud to finally take turns firing their AK-47s at targets, which are fighting the wind to stay upright. The Iraqi Army basic trainees are required to qualify on their weapons and their packed training schedule doesn't allow them to wait for prime conditions.

This kind of dedication, despite the day's nasty weather at the K-1 Iraqi Army Base, hasn't always been the case for the IA.

"Back in the old army, the soldiers would probably stay inside and the whole day would have been wasted," said IA Command Sgt. Maj. Mubrad Sarheed Abed, the Regional Training Center command sergeant major. "Now the jondis have to be ready to deal with anything because the training will go on."

The current cycle of basic trainees are entering the last of eight weeks of basic training at K-1's RTC, the IA's largest basic training site.

Unlike most cycles in which soldiers are assigned to various units after they graduate, the soldiers that are training together now will stay together to help form a new brigade that will be stationed in Samarra, 125 kilometers north of Baghdad.

"We told them (the Iraqi army) early on that they had to train like they're going to fight," said 1st Sgt. Jeffrey Morris, Coalition Military Transition Team noncommissioned officer in charge.

The CMATT is a U.S. Army team of four Soldiers that works with the RTC as advisors and mentors. In their 11 months here, they have helped the IA standardize their training program of instruction.

"They have really learned how to be flexible and stick to the training schedule," Morris said. "They're dedicated to the mission so they make it happen."

Formations of jondis high stepped down K-1's mostly paved roads during an early morning run while the strong winds blew the rain into their faces. They pressed their soaking uniforms off the damp ground while pumping out pushups and avoided jumping into puddles while performing calisthenics.

RTC officials hope that struggling through these hardships of basic training together will

help the new IA soldiers form a strong unit in Samarra.

"These guys are close to my heart, more than my own brothers," said Pvt. Najah Hassan Kathim about his fellow basic trainees. "We've had enough time to train together, we know each other and we'll go to battle together."



(Above) Iraqi Army privates, or jondis, run the rain-soaked streets of the K-1 Iraqi Army Base near Kirkuk. The soldiers are entering the last of eight weeks of basic training at the Regional Training Center here. (Right) Iraqi army basic trainees perform calisthenics during their daily physical training hour at the K-1 Iraqi Army Base.



Iraqi Army basic trainees wait in the wind and rain for their turn to fire their AK-47s on the qualification range at the Iraqi Army Base near Kirkuk. After graduating basic training, the new soldiers will help for a new Iraqi army brigade in Samarra.

On the street with Sgt. Alexandra Hemmerly-Brown

## "What's your favorite summer activity at home?"



Sgt. Edward Newell

"Playing basketball."



Pfc. Jillian Linn

"Going to my grandmother's lake."



Sgt. Tim Harper

"Grilling. Just drinking beer and hanging out with my friends."



Senior Airman Edward Gaitan

"Water parks. They are a lot of fun."

# Iraqi Army receives M-16, M-4 rifles

by Sgt. 1st Class Nicholas Conner  
15th Sustainment Brigade PAO

**CAMP TAJI, Iraq** – At the start of May, Iraqi Army recruits at the Regional Training Center here began receiving new M-16 and M-4 rifles.

The Iraqi government made the decision to cross over from standard AK-47 assault rifles to the American rifles as part of the reshaping of their military and security forces.

Under the program, Coalition Military Assistance Training Teams issue enlisted IA troops the M-16A4, while officers receive the M-4. With 200

basic training recruits per rotation, CMATT officials estimate that 1,600 IA soldiers will receive the new weapons by the end of May.

According to Lt. Col. Walter Easter, Military Transition Team commander and senior advisor to the RTC, the exchange is as much a symbol of the new IA as it is an upgrade to the individual soldier's capabilities.

"The M-16 has long been considered the world's best rifle," Easter said. "There's a high percentage of [Iraqi Army recruits] who can shoot more accurately than we expected just because of the better weapon system that they

have."

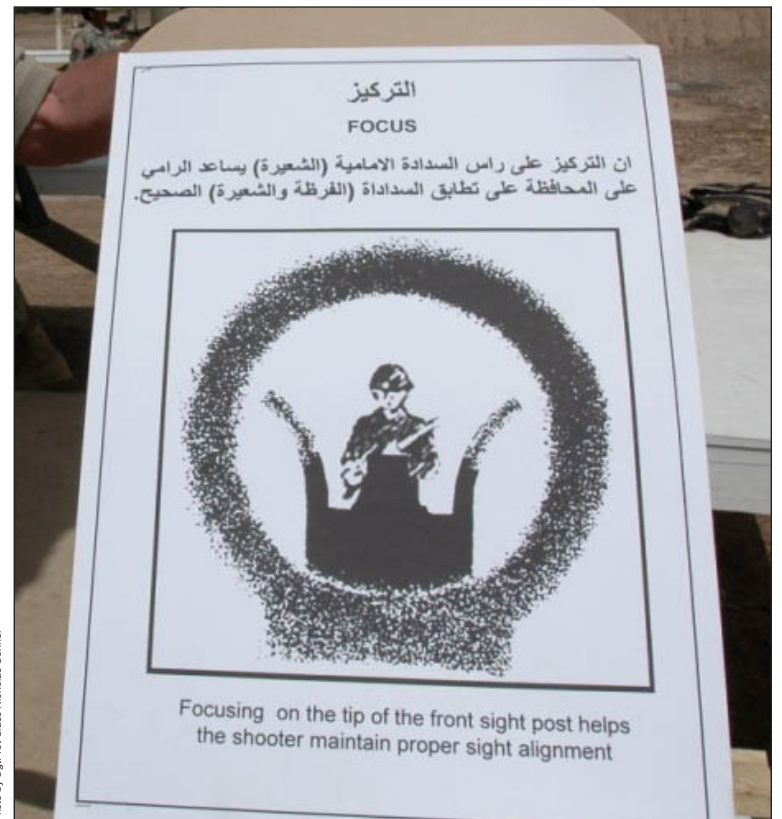
The weapon exchange is just the first step in a five-day program of instruction for the Iraqis. However, new rifles are not handed out in a one-for-one swap. Coalition Forces assign each IA recruit a weapon using a high-tech, biometric issue system.

Verified against a master list and having turned in his old rifle, the IA soldier and his new M-16 continue on to one of ten biometric stations, where he is finger printed, undergoes a digital retinal scan and is photographed with the M-16's serial number. Officials then transfer the information to a database in Baghdad, to ensure accountability and to prevent the weapon from ending up in the wrong hands.

"We are very excited about it," said a 9th Iraqi Army Division second lieutenant, whose name is withheld to protect his identity. "We have been hearing about getting the new weapons for some time and finally they are here."

U.S. Department of Defense civilian contractors provide hands-on instruction modeled after the same training American troops receive. Familiar box drills, sight picture training and live-fire weapon zeroing provide consistent and effective basic marksmanship skills.

It does a number of things for the basic IA soldier, said George Conrad, an assistant team leader providing the primary marksmanship instruction.



A training aid, designed to show IA recruits the proper sight picture for the M-16A4 rifle has instruction manuals translated to Arabic to help recruits adjust from the AK-47 assault rifle. The different sighting system between the two weapons has been one of the biggest adjustments for the soldiers to make.

The better weapon system puts the IA forces in sync with coalition troops and it builds their confidence.

Conrad said they have all seen change and new equipment at the higher echelons, but now, the soldier in the dirt has something new, something tangible, in his hands.

"It's a sign of hope that things are changing," he said. "It's something that needed to be done."

Easter said that training at the Taji RTC would continue at the company-size level, with program augmentation at Besimaya Range later this summer for IA battalions.



An Iraqi Army sergeant major "rods" a recruit onto the range prior to the start of live-fire weapon zeroing at the Taji RTC. A familiar safety practice for American troops, the drill ensures the M16 is unloaded and that the rifle's chamber is free of rounds. The five-day training course, by coalition forces and DoD contractors, provides primary marksmanship instruction modeled after current U.S. forces training.



Iraqi Army recruits look through the sights of their new M-16A2 during box drill training at the Taji RTC rifle range. The training helps recruits attain the proper sight picture through the unfamiliar rear sight aperture and front sight post of the M-16. One of the biggest challenges for IA soldiers to make is the adjustment between the sighting systems of the old AK-47 assault rifle and the American-made M-16.

## Combat Stress Control

113th Medical Company (CSC)

# 829-1402

individual counseling by appointment or walk-in

command referrals

services for combat and operationally stressed soldiers

### RELAXATION TECHNIQUES

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

### STRESS MANAGEMENT

MONDAY AND THURSDAY  
10 TO 11 A.M.

### HOME FRONT ISSUES

MONDAY AND THURSDAY  
5 TO 6 P.M.

### CONFLICT RESOLUTION

WEDNESDAY AND SATURDAY  
11 A.M. TO NOON

### ANGER MANAGEMENT

TUESDAY AND FRIDAY  
11 A.M. TO NOON

### ANXIETY AWARENESS

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

### SLEEP HYGIENE

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

### GOAL SETTING

MONDAY AND THURSDAY  
11 A.M. TO NOON

### DEPRESSION AWARENESS

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

### COMMUNICATION SKILLS

TUESDAY AND FRIDAY  
10 TO 11 A.M.

### RELATIONSHIP SKILLS

WEDNESDAY  
9 TO 11 A.M.

for more information,  
email:

melissa.kale@us.army.mil

# 829-1402

# Tops in Blue wows troops with 'The Fly-By'

by Senior Airman Candace Romano

332nd AEW Public Affairs

LSA ANACONDA, Iraq - Sequins, tassels, gleaming brass and perfectly choreographed moves dazzled the crowd April 28 as the 2007 Tops In Blue team unleashed the talent of the Air Force at the Sustainer Theater here.

Thirty-eight active-duty Airmen make up the singers, dancers, instrumentalists, drivers and stage crew for the Air Force's premier expeditionary entertainers who set out in mid-April to kick off their annual tour singing and dancing their way through the area of responsibility.

This year's theme, "The Fly-By," commemorates the 60th Anniversary of the Air Force, and took showgoers through time as the group performed songs from the decades, starting with Big Band tunes to a sizzling rendition of "Fever," by Peggy Lee, and other hits by the Beach Boys, Chubby Checker, Barbara Streisand and The Temptations.

To open the show, 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing Command Chief Master Sgt. Scott Dearduff welcomed Airmen, Soldiers and civilians in the audience.

"I know you will be impressed by the enthusiasm, talent and passion of



Tops In Blue vocalist Senior Airman Wallis Payano sings to Senior Airman Todd Lawrence during a performance here April 28.

this year's Tops In Blue members ... let's make some noise!"

The show included 90 minutes of nonstop live music and entertainment, keeping hearts pumping and spectators enthralled.

"I thought the show was amazing - to see all of them up there, singing, sweating and dancing," said Senior Airman Elizabeth Milliken, 332nd Expeditionary Maintenance Squadron munitions systems journeyman and the current "Balad Idol." "Seeing their motivation and energy has definitely boosted my morale - and they're not in DCUs!"

While it was an Air Force performance, many members of the sister services showed up for the show.

"I really didn't know what to expect, since I've never seen Tops In Blue before," said Army 1st Lt. Carlos Cruz of the 3rd Brigade, 1st Cavalry, from Fort Hood, Texas.

Cruz, who is deployed to Forward Operating Base Normandy, Iraq, was traveling through Balad on his way back to the States for rest and relaxation.

"It was a taste of home - something I haven't seen in seven months," he said with a smile.

## Airmen Ministry Center opens to honor fallen pilot

by Master Sgt. Bryan Ripple

332nd AEW Public Affairs

LSA ANACONDA, Iraq - Airmen seeking a quiet place to relax in a wholesome environment and perhaps some space away from a crowded dorm room now have another place to spend off-duty time within the H-6 housing area.

"Troy's Place," an Airmen Ministry Center sponsored by the Balad Air Base Chapel, opened May 4 after a 9 a.m. ribbon cutting ceremony. Brig. Gen. Robin Rand, commander of the 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing, cut the ceremonial ribbon, after Chap. (Lt. Col.) Harry Mathis, wing chaplain, provided a prayer.

"I know Troy would have been honored to help with a project like this," Rand said. "A lot of effort went into this, and people should be proud."

The Air Force Chaplain Service is opening such centers throughout the Air Force, especially for Airmen who reside in dorms, in order to provide a "home-like" atmosphere with wholesome entertainment options.

Troy's Place is named for Maj. Troy Gilbert, an F-16 pilot from Luke Air Force

Base deployed to Balad Air Base, who gave his life for his country while supporting Coalition Forces pinned down by Anti-Iraqi forces Nov. 27.

"Major Gilbert was known by many for his kind, generous spirit, his love of the F-16, and for his vibrant personal faith," Mathis said. "A highly-skilled pilot, he was also very active in base chapel programs at Balad and volunteered significant amounts of time helping patients at the Air Force Theater Hospital," he said.

"I'm told Troy would have been one of the first ones to help build and support the Airmen Ministry Center, and in honor of his life of service, this center is named for him."

Troy's Place was a project taken on by the Company Grade Officers Council with Capt. Robert Vidoloff, 332nd Expeditionary Operations Support Squadron, leading the way.

Staff Sgt. Brian Marts, chaplain assistant, developed the concept and it was built almost entirely by volunteer labor in an empty tent space adjacent to the base chapel.

"The effort people put into



Brig. Gen. Robin Rand (center), commander of the 332nd AEW, cuts the ceremonial ribbon to officially open "Troy's Place," an Airmen's Ministry Center May 4 with the help of Staff Sgt. Brian Marts, wing chaplain assistant, and Lt. Col. Harry Mathis, senior chaplain.

this was phenomenal, combining many different talents and abilities," Marts said.

The center came together with the help of numerous people who donated off-duty time to make the center a reality. Volunteerism is a common thread that weaves throughout the 332 AEW and bonds the Tuskegee Airmen together and strengthens the heritage of the famed Red Tails of World War II.

Senior Airman Corey Chism of the 727th Expeditionary Air Control Squadron,

helped out by installing the flooring, cleaning the tables and building bookshelves. "I like working with my hands and making a place for people to hang out during free time, it is an awesome opportunity," Chism said.

Tech. Sgt. Troy Kiick, also from the 727 EACS, worked on the flooring portion of the project as well. He said "It's another thing Balad is doing to make living conditions better for Airmen."

Master Sgt. James Murphy of the 727 EACS contributed

Bringing a taste of home to deployed Airmen is exactly what Tops In Blue does. "I love it - I love everything we're doing for our Air Force family," said Senior Airman James Rannalli, a trumpet player with Tops In Blue.

Rannalli was recently deployed to Contingency Operating Base Speicher in 2005 where he provided gun support on convoys with the Army north of Baghdad.

"It's weird to be out here on the opposite side of things, but it's a great feeling to be supporting the Airmen deployed out here," Rannalli said. He is a vehicle operator with the 37th Logistics Readiness Squadron at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas.

The cast ended the show by singing a Tops In Blue tradition, "God Bless the USA," by Lee Greenwood, followed by the Air Force song.

"It's good for all of us to have a piece of home," said Brig. Gen. Robin Rand, 332nd AEW commander. "This is the eighth time in three years Tops In Blue has come here, and this is the finest show I've seen."

Every year, Tops In Blue entertains more than 250,000 military personnel and their families, traveling wherever servicemembers are stationed.

They will tour Southwest Asia for just over three weeks, and continue their tour through February.

his carpentry skills by building cabinets and a coffee bar. "It was a rewarding way for me to spend my time off and contribute to a quiet place for people to hang out, which is something I enjoy," he said.

Several other individuals, wing units and professional development organizations contributed to the creation of Troy's Place. With the center now open, Airmen will be able to honor one of their own in Major Gilbert's memory at a place he would have been proud to build for others.

# NG Soldier vows more years of service

by Sgt. KaRonda Fleming

Anaconda Times Staff

**ALASAD, Iraq** – One would think that on a Soldier's 56th birthday, plans for retirement would be a main priority and objective.

The support operations noncommissioned officer in charge, Master Sgt. Casey W. Karriker, a National Guard Soldier with the 630th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, based out of Lenoir, N.C., decided to reenlist on his birthday, which would give him more than 40 years of service in the military.

The China Grove, N.C. native said he first joined the Army as a private in September 1969.

"I always felt like I had something else to offer," Karriker said when explaining why he decided to reenlist in the past years.

"I think my being in the military has made me a better person all around. I definitely have a commitment to God and my country," he said.

Karriker is the type of person that motivates his Soldiers by staying positive, said Capt. Roderick A. Vinson, supply and services officer, 630th CSSB from Charlotte, N.C.

"For him to be in the military as long as he has been, it is kind of surprising that he has that type of go attitude," Vinson said. "He is really friendly and always looking out to help others."

"I was very fortunate to do his reenlistment," said Lt. Col. David L. Jones, battalion commander for the 630th CSSB.

"I think I'm one of the few officers to ever reenlist a Soldier who is going to go over 40 years of continuous military ser-



Master Sgt. Casey W. Karriker (right), meets with other senior leaders in his battalion to discuss upcoming missions.

vice, of which 25 of those years are active service," Jones of Statesville, N.C. said.

There are several master sergeants and above in the 630th with more than 36 years of service. Jones said his battalion is very fortunate to have senior NCOs with numerous deployments and a vast knowledge of experience.

On a daily basis, Karriker said he is responsible for overseeing the delivery of all Class I (food), Class III (fuel) and Class V (ammunition) items, as well as the maintenance in the companies within the battalion. He said he also handles moving commodities to different Forward Operating Bases.

Karriker said he often takes time to talk with his Soldiers and listen to any problems they may have.

He was deployed during Desert Storm in 1991, and since then he has been deployed in four different combat zones to include Bosnia, Kosovo, and to Iraq in 2004.

During his first deployment to Iraq, he served as the first sergeant for a transportation company, he said.

Vinson said because of his background as a first sergeant, Karriker is able to feed off his energy to other NCOs in a positive way.

"He's not the type that will sit on an issue. He immediately resolves issues and expects that from his other NCOs."

Jones said, "You look at a Soldier like him, and you think, wow, why so many years. What's so amazing to me is that 40 years of service, and all the numerous reenlistments, not one time did he reenlist for a bonus. Not one time in 40 years did he receive a bonus for reenlisting."

"So it was nothing but a pure bonus for the United States military have him to continue to serve. I am honored to have the chance to participate in his reenlistment. It was a great event," Jones said.

# Keep sharp for rest of your deployment

by Sgt. Maj. Kenneth A. Hinckley

Special commentary to the Anaconda Times

**LSA ANACONDA, Iraq** – Redeployment for some units on Logistical Support Area Anaconda is drawing near.

It is natural to think of that great day when we step off the airplane onto American soil, and see the smiling faces of all those who love us, and who we have missed beyond words. We will have made it. The long work hours for months on end, the danger from combat logistic patrols and war, the long separation, ended. It will be a shock for some, but for all, a chance to reintegrate into being home.

This article is not meant to put out neat little safety slogans, but it is an attempt to make you stop and think. Two or three more months of war are a long time. For those Soldiers who regularly leave the wire, each day is full of danger. For those who don't leave the wire, the chance of an accident is greater now than when you first arrived. Soldiers are in a hurry. There is packing to be done, moving to take place. A thousand tasks to be finished.

You have made it when your feet touch down in your home state or city. Until that date, the war is still going on. Not only are there tasks to be completed, but we must train those who follow on to continue the fight we have waged for a year or more. We must keep our head in the game to make sure stupid mistakes are prevented which can cost us, or we cost others, lives and limbs.

The key point also is to train our replacements with an attitude of confidence professionalism, with our heads still "In the game." They don't want to hear how close we are to going home they will have just arrived, and they know that. What they want and desperately need are the little things we have learned that will keep them alive.

They will copy our professionalism, or flounder due to our complacency and desire to leave country. We owe them. We don't owe them because they are here to replace us. We owe them because they are American warriors just like us. They want to know one day they will go home walking upright, back to those who are waiting for them, the same way our loved ones are waiting for us. We will have a tremendous impact on whether a lot of our comrades in the new units go home alive.

When you do the "right-seat, left-seat" with your brothers and sisters from the units who will replace you – whether you are a clerk, a grunt, or another specialty – do so with the thought in your mind that they need what you have learned.

What they do not need is a cram-course, a half-baked effort to turn over the keys as soon as possible, to relieve you of responsibility.

The new troops need positive reinforcement. If you have negative feelings about your deployment, keep it to yourself. There is no greater way to stay safe than to keep your "head in the game" until your boots reach America. Until then, be a Soldier, be proud of every day of your tour here in Iraq, up to – and including – that last day. Give the follow-on Soldiers the best chance to get their heads in the game.

You can show them many things which will help keep them alive until they gain their own experience. There are thousands of things to be done. Make the most important of these things what you leave behind, to those who take over your mission, to keep them safe, keep them alive.

That is your mission, and your duty.

## OIF vet escorts father's remains home from Vietnam

**WASHINGTON** - Sgt. 1st Class Lewis Clark Walton Jr. has completed two combat tours in Iraq.

His father, Sgt. 1st Class Lewis Clark Walton Sr., only recently made it home from his second tour in Vietnam.

Sgt. 1st Class Walton Jr. escorted his father's remains from the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command on Hickam Air Force Base, Hawaii, to his hometown of East Greenwich, R.I., for burial May 1.

"This is very rare, that we have a son escort remains," said Steve Thompson, JPAC external relations officer.

The mission of JPAC is to achieve the fullest possible accounting of all Americans missing as a result of the nation's past conflicts. More than 88,000 servicemembers are still missing from previous wars. Of that total, more than 1,780 are still unaccounted for from the Vietnam War.

On May 3, 1971, then Staff Sgt. Lewis C. Walton Sr., was inserted with two fellow green beret Soldiers and five Vietnamese into a remote area of South Vietnam near Da Nang to conduct a long-range reconnaissance patrol. The patrol members were ambushed and died without burial.

JPAC teams surveyed and excavated the site five times between 1993 to 2006. Not only did they find material evidence at the site that was consistent with U.S. Army infantry equipment, they discovered a set of airborne "jump



Sgt. Lewis Clark Walton Sr., who was posthumously promoted to Sgt. 1st Class, smiles in a photo taken of him in his Vietnam War era uniform during his time in the Green Berets. His remains were escorted on May 1 from the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command at Hickam AFB, Hawaii, to Rhode Island by his son, Sgt. 1st Class Lewis Clark Jr., 115th Military Police Company, Rhode Island National Guard, for burial.

wings" and a St. Christopher medalion. Sgt. 1st Class Walton Jr. said his father had soldered together a set of airborne wings and a St. Christopher medal to carry for good luck.

Sgt. 1st Class Walton Sr. was identified using mitochondrial DNA by scientists at JPAC's Central Identification Lab.

Sgt. 1st Class Walton Jr. said he was impressed with JPAC and expressed his heartfelt appreciation for their recovery and identification of his father's remains.

"To say thank you is an understatement," he said. "We've always had the hope that he'd be found somewhere, someday, and in good enough condition to bring home."

Sgt. 1st Class Walton Jr. said his father inspired him to join the Army. "I knew I was going in the military," said the 40-year-old and 21-year Army veteran, said. "I come from a very patriotic family."

"The last time I remember him I was two, other than pictures and videos,"

Sgt. 1st Class Walton Jr., said. "One picture I vividly remember was from Vietnam after his first tour, gear in one hand and me being held by the other.

"To come full circle, obviously you feel a sense of relief or some closure. The main thing is you are bringing them home."

Sgt. 1st Class Walton Jr. is an active-duty National Guard and Reserve Soldier with the 115th Military Police Company.

*"In spite of everything, I still believe that people are truly good at heart. I simply can't build my hopes on a foundation of confusion, misery, and death. I see the world gradually being turned into a wilderness; I hear the ever approaching thunder that one day will destroy us too. I can feel the suffering of millions and yet when I look up into the heavens, it will come right, that this cruelty too will end, and that peace and tranquility will return again."*

– Anne Frank

# Candles light the way for Holocaust remembrance

**LSA ANACONDA, Iraq** - Candles hold deep-rooted symbolism in society and are often central in many traditions, ranging from the religious to the romantic.

As a source of light, they are visible reminders of our possible triumph over darkness.

For that reason, in celebration of Holocaust remembrance week here, held May 6-13, included a candlelight vigil May 12.

"Candles remind us of life and how fragile it can be," Sgt. 1st Class Leontin Kent of Mesa, Ariz., with the 164th Corps Support Group, said. "Especially the lives of those people. It represents how quickly their lives were put out, as easily as a candle."

The event came on the tail end of a week full of activities geared to help servicemembers remember the atrocities which took place during WWII.

During the week, several movies and documentaries were played around Anaconda to heighten awareness. Facts about the Holocaust were sent out on mass email systems daily, and the week wrapped up with the unveiling of a mural dedicated to the victims of the Holocaust.

Kent, who helped organize the event, said the planning committee wanted to hold a vigil because of the symbolism it brings.

"The Holocaust stands as a tragedy for Europe, for Western civilization, and for the entire world," said Capt. Tonja M. Ochanma of Sacramento, Calif., also with the 164th, who was mediating the ceremony. "We must remember the facts of the Holocaust, and work to understand these facts."

After a slideshow of photos

*"Don't forget. When we forget, that's when things like this happen again."*

Sgt. 1st Class Leontin Kent

showing the horrors of the Holocaust, seven candles attached to a Star of David background were lit one at a time, each holding their own meaning.

The seven candles were for the women twice victimized, for those who resisted in spirit and arms, for the children murdered by the Nazis, for the non-Jewish who were also murdered, for the survivors of the Holocaust, for the loss of life, and for the empathizers who stood up to tyranny.

"Each candle signifies a unique and precious individual full of love and hope," Ochanma said. "These individuals worked, studied, and played together; all of the ordinary things in life."

After all the candles on the Star of David were lit, participants in the audience formed two lines and each lit a candle of their own, followed by a moment of silence.

"In memory of the victims we kindle these candles. As we look at the ever-increasing light of these candles may we remember the victims," Ochanma said.

Kent said the intent of the vigil was to help servicemembers remember and be aware of this stain on humanity.

"Don't forget," she said. "When we forget, that's when things like this happen again."

**story and photo by Sgt. Alexandra Hemmerly-Brown**

# Q-West tests response





# Preparation for chemical attack

story and more photos on Page 10

“It helped with our situational awareness, and helps us be more prepared so if something like this were to happen, we would be ready for it.”

**Spc. Jose Sorano**

# Training sharpens Soldiers' skills during exercise

by Spc. Kyndal Hernandez  
45th Sustainment Brigade Public Affairs

**FOB Q-WEST, Iraq** - Troops and first responders at Forward Operating Base Q-West put their chemical training to the test during a vehicle borne improvised explosive device exercise.

The exercise was designed to assess how prepared Soldiers are in the event of a VBIED. Role players and Hollywood-style special effects makeup added to the realism.

"We wanted to conduct this exercise to see how the first responders and everyone involved would react to it, and basically see where we stand in our base defensive posture that we need to maintain," said Capt. Wilbert Alvarado, 45th Sustainment Brigade chemical officer.

The exercise included participation from many different elements around the base.

"The whole training exercise was a secret," Alvarado said. "The only people who knew about it were the people in charge of it and the (simulated) casualties. The responders had no idea."

Soldiers from 2nd Battalion, 123rd Armor Regiment were in charge of the exercise, 45th Special Troops Battalion provided Soldiers to play the role of the casualties, the fire department played their role at the decontamination site, and 148th Quartermaster Soldiers were the responders.

Soldiers who were playing the role of casualties maneuvered a mock convoy with five vehicles through the North gate search lanes.

As the convoy entered the search lanes, a civilian vehicle integrated into their convoy and detonated a



Soldiers assist each other in changing their canisters after reaching the decontamination site during the VBIED training Exercise.

simulated chlorine VBIED.

"Anytime you have people from different elements who don't normally work together, there are going to be a few hiccups," Alvarado said. "But with that in consideration, we had very few problems getting things rolling with this exercise and made very few errors. Overall the training was a huge success, and the level at which these Soldiers performed was superb."

Alvarado said the training not

only benefited the Soldiers who had to respond and react to the situation at hand, but also the Soldiers on the base to make them more aware that things like this could happen.

"This was a really good exercise," said Spc. Jose Sorano, a mechanic with 148th Quartermaster Company. "It helped with our situational awareness, and helps us be more prepared so if something like this were to happen, we would be ready for it. It was excellent."



A first responder from 148th Quartermaster Company attempts to control a distraught casualty played by Spc. Monique Ferguson, from 45th Sustainment Brigade, during an exercise at FOB Q-West.



Spc. Monique Ferguson, 45th Sustainment Brigade, plays the role of a casualty in shock as first responders from the 148th Quartermaster Company try to keep her calm and render first aid.

**Weight Loss**, from Page 1

"I completed a risk assessment and I made a disk for everyone to have with helpful information," she said.

According to the rules, contestants had weekly weigh-ins. Unhealthy eating habits, such as not eating or supplement abuse, were strictly prohibited and would result in termination from the contest.

Those working toward their personal weight-loss goals said the contest has been a great way to push themselves.

"I've been working out since I got here, but this has been a big boost," Moe, of St. Paul, Minn., said of the competition. "I don't think there's a person who comes over here who doesn't want to get in better shape."

Sgt. Amanda J. Walker of Manhattan, Kan., a transportation management specialist with the 531st Movement Control Team, said she started the competition just to improve her physical fitness, but came in third place with a loss of 25 pounds.

"Some people actually get less active over here," she said.

Walker noted one of the challenges of keeping in shape in Iraq is long work hours, and many Soldiers have jobs that keep them sedentary.

She said she started losing weight when she increased the number of times per week she exercised, and began eating healthier. Walker said she now loads up on more vegetables and fruit, and tries to avoid the fast food line in the dining facilities.



Sgt. Curtis M. Moe, a transportation management specialist with the 657th Movement Control Team, gets his final weigh-in on the last day of the 49th Transportation Battalion's 'Biggest Loser' competition.

"My room is like a health-food store now," Walker said.

Moe agreed with Walker and said when he started the contest, he emailed his family and friends asking them to send him only healthy food in the mail in place of cookies and candy.

Moe changed his workout routine by adding cardiovascular activity to the weight-training routine he was already following.

He said a challenge for his weight-loss was the large selection of foods in the dining facilities here, and it took discipline to make healthy choices.

Walker had a little extra motivation fueling her weigh-loss. She said her husband at home began exercising more frequently to encourage her, and ended up losing 50 to 60 pounds. Although it won't be easy to keep up this momentum when she gets home, she said her husband now won't give her

the chance to skip workouts, because they are doing it together.

"It feels good, but it's not over for me," Walker said of her weight loss. "I feel like I've accomplished something."

Moe also said he will continue exercising when he returns to the States, but it's not as easy as here in Iraq.

"It will be tough," Moe said. "I don't think anyone wants to gain anything back. I could have lost more, but it's a good accomplishment."

"Hungry" is how both Moe and Orme described themselves after their final weigh-in on May 13.

"It turned out well," Casson said. "I have Soldiers that have passed a Physical Fitness test for the first time in a long time. It has made Soldiers more aware of their eating habits and physical fitness. It has also brought a lot of team cohesion."



Sgt. Amanda J. Walker, a transportation management specialist with the 531st Movement Control Team, weighs in May 13 on the final day of the 49th Transportation Battalion's 'Biggest Loser' competition.

## Ranges to Fire Back

by Mike A. Glasch

TRADOC Public Affairs

**FORT JACKSON, S.C.** - Soldiers going through Basic Combat Training at Fort Jackson will soon face a new enemy, one that can "shoot back."

Laser Target Interface Devices, which will be added to various ranges, work in conjunction with the Multiple Integrated Laser Engagement System.

"When those targets pop up and the Soldier going down the lane fires back and misses, the LTID will shoot back," explained Lyle Daniels, tactical engagement simulation coordinator.

The LTID system uses a microphone, a speaker and a MILES transmitter. "When a target comes up, we can program it so that if it is up for five seconds without being hit the laser then shoots back," Daniels said.

Daniels said the LTID can be programmed to mimic various types of targets -- infantrymen, thin-skinned vehicle or armored vehicle. The type of target the system is imitating affects how far the laser will shoot back and what type of sound the speakers emit to simulate various weapons.

The LTID technology is not new. Daniels said he decided to try to get approval for bringing the equipment to Fort Jackson after observing ranger battalions training with it at Fort Bragg, N.C.

"I sat down with them and asked them 'How do you train members of a fire team to work together, to use ground together,'" Daniels said. "You're trying to teach buddy set, buddy move. When you get a MILES system that shoots back at you it forces Soldiers to focus even more on working together. You want that to become second nature."

## Wagonmasters receive meritorious unit battle streamer

by Sgt. 1st Class Nicholas Conner

15th Sustainment Brigade PAO

**CAMP TAJI, Iraq** - Maj. Gen. Joseph Fil, 1st Cavalry Division commander, presented the Soldiers and leaders of the 15th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) with the Meritorious Unit Citation battle streamer in a May 10 ceremony held here.

The recognition came as a result of the brigade's 2004 to 2005 deployment to Iraq. During that time, and prior to Army force modularization, the 15th SB fell under the 1st Cavalry Division as the Division Support Command.

As DISCOM troopers, the unit set a series of firsts for the greater Baghdad area of operations. Establishing a support base on Camp Taji, "Wag-

onmaster" Soldiers provided a critical link between supply areas in Balad and combat units in Baghdad, Fil said.

"[They] consolidated logistical services and for a full year provided perfect support to the 'First Team's' seven brigades," he said.

Col. Aundre Piggee, 15th SB commander, acknowledged that the successes and traditions of the old DISCOM set the tempo for his unit's continuing support and sustainment mission to the Multi-National Division Baghdad area.

"Our Soldiers continue to set the standard for excellence and professionalism, providing outstanding logistics support to all 96,000 Soldiers that make up the coalition forces in Baghdad," he said.



Maj. Gen. Joseph Fil (left), 1st Cavalry Division commanding general, congratulates Col. Aundre Piggee, 15th SB commander, after presenting the unit with a Meritorious Unit Citation during a May 10 ceremony on Camp Taji. The citation and accompanying battle streamer were the result of the brigade's deployment in 2004 to Iraq. The 15th SB, at that time, was organized as the 1st CD, DISCOM.



Col. Aundre Piggee (left), 15th SB commander, along with Command Sgt. Maj. Mark Joseph (center), 15th SB command sergeant major, and Maj. Gen. Joseph Fil, 1st Cavalry Division commander, attach a Meritorious Unit Citation battle streamer to the brigade's colors during a May 10 ceremony on Camp Taji.

**May 23**

Green Bean Karaoke  
8 p.m., West MWR

8-Ball Tourney  
8 p.m., West MWR

9-Ball Tourney  
8 p.m., 3 p.m. and 8 p.m.,  
East MWR

Spades & Ping Pong  
8:30 p.m. and 2 a.m.  
H6 MWR

Dance Aerobics  
5:30 a.m., East Fitness Center

Aikido  
5-7 p.m., East Fitness Center

Step Aerobics  
5:30 p.m., East Fitness Center

Open Volleyball  
7 p.m., East Fitness Center

Floor Hockey  
8 to 10 p.m., MWR Circuit Gym

Spin Class  
3:30 p.m., H6 Fitness Center

Cardio Funk  
8 p.m., H6 Fitness Center

Aerobics  
7 p.m., West MWR

Martial Arts  
9 p.m. West MWR

Hawaiian Dance Practice  
6 p.m., MWR Circuit Gym

Salsa Dance Class  
8:30 p.m., West MWR

**May 24**

Console Game Tourney  
8 p.m., West MWR

Country/Western Dance Classes  
7 p.m., East MWR

9-Ball Tourney  
8:30 p.m. and 2 a.m.  
H6 MWR

Karaoke Night  
8:30 p.m., H6 MWR

Dodgeball League  
8 p.m., Circuit Gym

**ANACONDA ACTIVITIES**

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Pilates  
7:30 p.m., West Fitness Center

Aikido  
10:00 a.m. to noon., East Fitness  
Center

Tae Kwon Do 1  
8 - 9 a.m., East Fitness Center

Tae Kwon Do 2  
7 - 8:30 p.m., East Fitness Center

Spin Center  
6 a.m., H6 Fitness Center

Korean Martial Arts  
4:30 p.m., H6 Fitness Center

Water Aerobics  
7:45 p.m., Indoor Pool

Intermediate Swim Lessons  
6 p.m., Indoor Pool

**May 25**

Hip-Hop Coffee Shop  
8 p.m., West MWR

Scrabble Tourney  
8 p.m., West MWR

Chess Tourney  
8 p.m., West MWR

Hip-Hop Dance Class  
7-11 p.m., East MWR

R&B Music Night  
9:30 p.m., H6 MWR

Open Volleyball  
7 p.m., West Fitness Center

Self Defense Class  
7:30 p.m., West Fitness Center

Step Aerobics  
5:30 p.m., East Fitness Center

Dance Aerobics  
5:30 a.m., East Fitness Center

Friday Night Spikes  
7 p.m., East Fitness Center

Spin Class  
3:30 p.m., H6 Fitness Center

**May 26**

Country/Western Dance Class  
8 p.m., West MWR

Texas Hold'em  
8 p.m., West MWR

Salsa Dance Class  
7 p.m., East MWR

Bingo Night  
8:30 p.m., H6 MWR

Wrestling  
9 p.m., West Fitness Center

Aerobics  
7 p.m., West MWR

Boxing  
3 to 4:30 p.m., West Fitness  
Center

Pilates  
11 a.m., West Fitness Center

Aikido  
5-7 p.m., East Fitness Center

Tae Kwon Do 2  
7 - 8:30 p.m., East Fitness Center

**May 27**

Magic, The Gathering  
11 a.m., West MWR

Green Bean Karaoke  
8 p.m., West MWR

Spades, Dominoes & R&B  
8 p.m., West MWR

Poker  
7 p.m., East MWR

Poetry Night  
7 p.m., East MWR

Salsa Dance Class  
8:30 p.m., H6 Recreation

Gaston's Self Defense  
7:30 p.m., West Fitness Center

Boxing  
3 to 4:30 p.m., West Fitness  
Center

Aikido  
10 a.m. to noon, East Fitness  
Center

Swing Dance  
7:30 p.m., East Fitness Center

Spin Class  
1:30 a.m., H6 Fitness Center

Abs Salute  
8 p.m., H6 Fitness Center

**May 28**

Martial Arts  
9 p.m., West MWR

Poetry Jam  
8 p.m., West MWR

9-Ball Tourney  
8 p.m., West MWR

Karaoke  
8 p.m., East MWR

Texas Hold'em  
8:30 p.m. and 2 a.m.  
H6 MWR

Aerobics  
7 p.m., West MWR

Martial Arts  
9 p.m., West Fitness Center

Dance Aerobics  
5:30 a.m., East Fitness Center

Tae Kwon Do  
8 to 9:30 a.m., East Fitness  
Center

Step Aerobics  
5:30 p.m., East Fitness Center

Boxing  
7:30 to 9 p.m., East Fitness  
Center

Floor Hockey  
8 - 10 p.m., MWR Circuit Gym

Spin Class  
3:30 p.m., H6 Fitness Center

Cardio Funk  
8 p.m., H6 Fitness Center

**May 29**

Martial Arts  
9 p.m., West MWR

Foosball/Ping Pong  
8 p.m., West MWR

8-Ball Tourney  
8:30 p.m. and 2 a.m.  
H6 MWR

Pilates  
7:30 p.m., West Fitness Center

Martial Arts  
9 p.m., West Fitness Center

Aikido  
10 am to noon, East Fitness  
Center

Tae Kwon Do 2  
7p.m. - 8:30 p.m., East Fitness  
Center

Combative Training  
8:30 p.m., East Fitness Center

Spin Class  
3:30 and 8:30 p.m., H6 Fitness  
Center

Korean Martial Arts  
4:30 p.m., H6 Fitness Center

Kung Fu  
7 p.m., H6 Fitness Center

**May 30**

Aerobics  
7 p.m., West MWR

Green Bean Karaoke  
8 p.m., West MWR

8-Ball Tourney  
8 p.m., West MWR

9-Ball Tourney  
3 p.m. and 8 p.m., East MWR

Spades & Ping Pong  
8:30 p.m. and 2 a.m.  
H6 MWR

Dance Aerobics  
5:30 a.m., East Fitness Center

Aikido  
5 p.m., East Fitness Center

Step Aerobics  
5:30 p.m., East Fitness Center

Open Volleyball  
7 p.m., MWR Circuit Gym

# Do you have a story idea?

Contact the Anaconda Times

[anacondatimes@balad.iraq.centcom.mil](mailto:anacondatimes@balad.iraq.centcom.mil)

# SHOUT OUTS FROM HOME

Alfonso Charles:  
Hey Hubby,  
I miss you and love you so much. Stay cool and drink plenty of water. XOXOXOXO.  
Love, Your Wifey,  
Heather Charles

Greg morales:  
Hi, my love I miss and Love you so much ..Happy Father's Day ..we can't wait to have you home ..your four girl's are waiting on you .HUG's and KISSES ..your wife valerie

Ray Lambeth:  
Ray, We love you and can't wait for you to come home!! Love, Michelle, Hailee, & Rachel

Ryan H. Harris:  
Hey baby- Missing you so much. Keep your head up. See ya soon. -Marlena

Robert Hartzog:  
We are so very proud of you Robert! Keep up the good work! We are counting down the days til you are back at home with us! May God and His Army of Angels keep you and the troops safe! We love you! Meredith, Amy & Sarah

James Nangauta:  
Hey Honey! Well, its more than halfway there and we can't wait until your home! Stay safe and focused out there and we'll see you soon. Love Rosa and Baby Karley

Vincent Dvorak:

Hey Babe! I miss you so badly! You take care of yourself and know Elias and I are here with open arms waiting for your safe return home! Thanks for being the absolute best husband and Daddy any girl could dream of! You're the best!  
Love, Jen

ReyJohn C. Baldugo:  
We miss you babe.Chazie can't wait for us go walking. Austin and Reydon can't wait to go to the beach. I just want you home. Love you dad. Chat and Kids

Henry Torres:  
Go For Broke!

657th ASG Soldiers:  
Happy belated mother's Day to the ladies. Happy fathers day to the dads. For everyone else, we love you just the same. Be safe and come home to us soon. From your families in Hawaii. Much prayers for our heros.

657th ASG:  
Happy belated mother's Day to the ladies. Happy fathers day to the dads. For everyone else, we love you just the same. Be safe and come home to us soon. From your families in Hawaii. Much prayers for our heros.

Jamie Kochi:

The girls got together for dinner with Lori and Noah - we had a great time! We're waiting for you and the unit's safe return. Aloha!

Soldiers of the 111th Postal Company:  
Sending our Love to the soldiers of the 111th Postal Company We miss you and can't wait to see you soon!!!

Joseph Lynes:  
Hailey now weighs 11 pounds. She's as big now as Adam was when he was born, and she's one month old.  
Love, Mom

Rahn Olson:  
Luv ya - Miss ya - SHMILY!!

Clayton Yielding:  
Woohoo! Brother dear, this is the last round, you headed for the home stretch now. See you soon. We all love and miss you back home.

Danny Dunn:  
Hey Danny, Hang in there, won't be long now! Good luck on getting my brother to share his snacks!

Shaun Duncan:  
Hey lilbrave, way to hang in there. Just don't jump out of any more trucks!!

Chuck Cunningham:  
To my hero,Chuck

Cunningham. I Love You and Miss You Very Much. You are the Greatest Husband in the world. Patti

Jerry Parish:  
We are so excited! You are almost home! We are counting down the days!Happy Father's Day! We love you. Stay Safe. Giena , Derek and Blake

Darrel Leutung:  
WE LOVE YOU! Can't wait to se you in a few weeks!

John M. Schultz:  
HAPPY 1st FATHER'S DAY

Glen Hancock:  
I am counting down the days until you come home it will be really soon love you

Glen Hancock:  
Daddy cant wait until you come home and we go on our trip. i love and miss you

Amber Parsons:  
Amber, Remember that no matter how far apart we may seem we are always together. I am in the breeze that rustles your hair, the shadow by your side, in the stars in your sky. Always here for you.  
Love Auntie B  
Kayla says Hello & she misses you very much.

Richard Crichton:  
Ameilia amd I had the best

two weeks with u,may god watch over u.Love Stacey.

Albert Nelson:  
Your family loves and misses you! Stay Safe! Hooah!!!!!!  
Tanya, Sanden and Mary Evan

Dusty Schutz:  
Sgt. Schutz, cant wait to see you in July. We miss you tons. We love you!! Hugs and Kisses. Mary, Tayla and Jarrett

Vincent Dvorak:  
Hi Vince,  
Hope all is going ok. We've been so busy here with Leah's preschool graduation and Ashley's high school graduation this weekend. It has been fun getting ready. I got to spend quite a bit of time with Kathy & Marv and Jen and Elias & Liberty came down too. Leah & Joe love playing with Elias and Liberty and can't wait until July when they can go stay for a week. I will send photos of the graduation after this weekend. Take care - :-> Julie

K.C. Bouldin:  
K.C.,  
We love you and miss you so much. Please BE SAFE! We cannot wait for you to come home!!

Richard Stedman:  
Hey Buddy~~ Sup? I miss you, love you and am very

proud of you!! Please be careful! Things are OK here, but will be better when you're home. LOVE U!! MOM

Albert Nelson:  
Hey Bert,  
Can't wait to see you it's almost cruise time.

Albert Nelson:  
HEY BERT!! LOVE YOU AND MISS YOU! WISH I COULD HUG YOU. YOU ARE THE BEST. SO PROUD OF YOU. LOVE MOM

Justin and Steven Angell:  
We are so proud of both of you. We can't wait for you to come home. Be safe! We Love You!

Jeremy McBryar:  
Sending lots of hugs and kisses. We love you and miss you so much!

Frank Malardo:  
Hey, Just wanted to let you know that I've been thinking about you. Thanks for all that you do! You are an amazing guy! Chelsie

Albert Ericson:  
Wishing you the best on Memorial Day and a safe return home. Miss and love you. Your Big Sis, Tricia

Ian Grant:  
Yippie, you will be here on R&R soon. James Misses you like crazy and CJ, well she is just CJ and will be happy to see you! Love you bunches!



**SUSTAINER REEL TIME THEATER**

(Schedule is subject to change)

**Wednesday, May 23**  
5 p.m. Dead Silence (R)  
8 p.m. Reno 911: Miami (R)

**Thursday, May 24**  
5 p.m. Lucky You (PG-13)  
8 p.m. I Think I Love My Wife (R)

**Friday, May 25**  
2 p.m. Zodiac (R)  
5 p.m. 300 (R)  
8:30 p.m. Shrek the Third (PG)

**Saturday, May 26**  
2 p.m. Black Snake Moan (R)  
5 p.m. Shrek the Third ( )  
8 p.m. Premonition (PG-13)

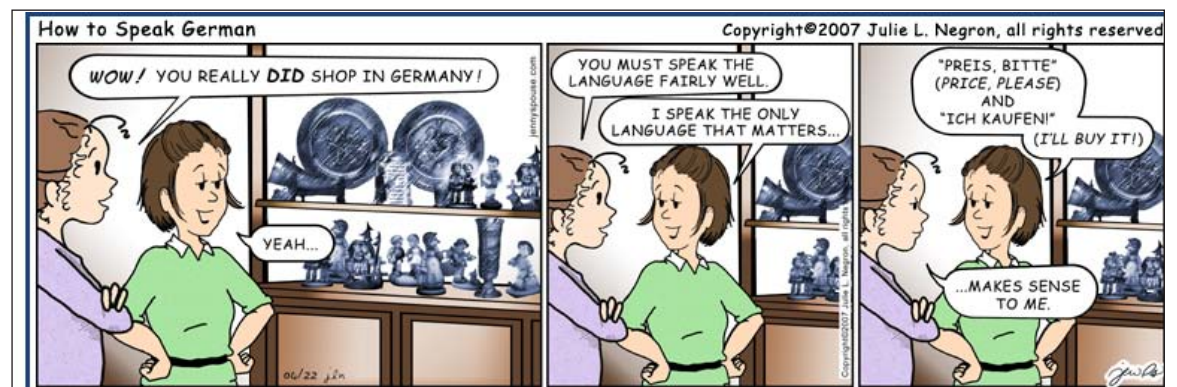
**Sunday, May 27**  
2 p.m. Shrek the Third (PG)  
5 p.m. Dead Silence (R)  
8 p.m. 300 (R)

**Monday, May 28**  
5 p.m. Premonition (PG-13)  
8 p.m. Zodiac (R)

**Tuesday, May 29**  
5 p.m. 300 (R)  
8 p.m. Shrek the Third (PG)

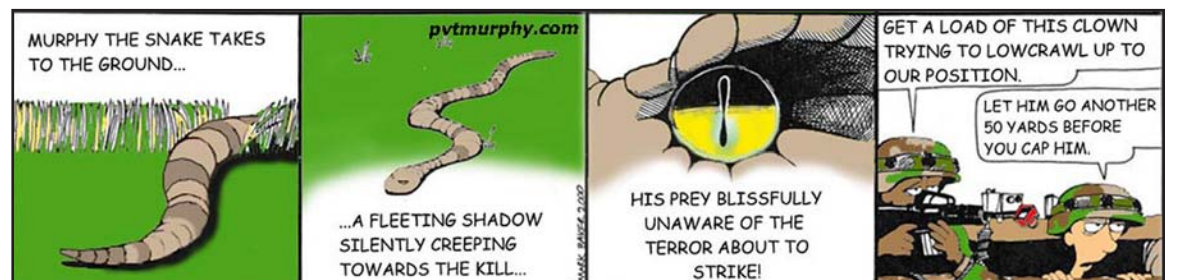
<http://jennyspouse.com>

## Jenny, the Military Spouse



<http://www.pvtmurphy.com>

## Pvt. Murphy's Law



## Back of the Formation





1st Lt. Derek Lee of Honolulu, assistant to the garrison commander with the 657th Area Support Group, teaches a General Technical improvement course at the Blackjack Education Center.



Some of the volunteers and staff at the Blackjack Education Center include, from left, Sgt. James McStay, Lt. Col. Tami Zalewski, Sgt. James Ellison, Capt. Naroda Knox, Sgt. Rhonda Blakely, Capt. Gregorio Sablan Jr., Sgt. 1st Class Michael Lee, Capt. Lance Braswell, Chaplain (Maj.) Charles Yost, Patricia Davis-Mullins, and Master Sgt. Norene Tunstall.

## Volunteer instructors spend free time helping servicemembers

by Staff Sgt. Gary A. Witte

Anaconda Times Staff

**LSA ANACONDA, Iraq** – Some people watch television, some do physical training, and others play video games. When Lt. Col. Tami Zalewski of Stevens Point, Wis. wants to relax, she teaches.

“It’s a great break from any stressful day,” she said.

Zalewski, the chief of Force Health Protection with the 32nd Multi-Functional Medical Battalion, teaches College Level Entry Program algebra once a week and tutors on the side. She said sacrificing some of her free time to help servicemembers is both challenging and fulfilling.

“I’ve been fortunate along the way ... It’s time to give back and share that,” she said. “When you do that, it’s personally rewarding. It’s a lot of fun.”

Last month, the Blackjack Education Center at Logistical Support Area Anaconda honored more than 35 volunteer instructors who led classes for

servicemembers. Most teach CLEP classes, while others handle General Technical studies to help improve Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery scores.

Maj. Gregorio Sablan Jr. with the 657th Area Support Group, the officer in charge of the education center, said volunteers are essential to the center’s ability to offer programs since there is only a small staff on duty.

“Without any volunteers, we wouldn’t have any classes to offer,” Sablan said.

Although they usually prefer teachers to have college degrees, others are welcome if they are “well versed and knowledgeable” in their subjects, he said. The classes often include a long list of subjects, including Arabic, Spanish, English, college mathematics, psychology, science, history and management.

More than 550 students have gone through the CLEP and GT programs since September, Sablan said. Once stu-

dents take the preparatory classes, they can take the CLEP and other tests at the Air Force Education Center on base.

He said servicemembers can see many benefits from additional education aside from the upward mobility it can provide their military careers.

“It’s not a bad thing to have a head start on what you want to do in the future,” Sablan said.

The center doesn’t just need instructors, he noted. Volunteers – who set their own hours – can also man the front desk providing information about tuition assistance and distance learning, or they can work in the library helping shelve and organize the extensive collection of books.

Sablan noted that it is harder now keeping volunteers with many in the process of redeploying, and suggested that some units could make volunteering a group effort.

“If they have personnel to spare, we’d be happy to have them,” he said.

Sgt. James Ellison of Noblesville,

Ind., is a section leader with 209th Quartermaster Company. He said he has often come off a stressful midnight until 8 a.m. shift working the guard towers, only to come in and teach until noon at the education center.

“It’s kind of like an escape,” he said of teaching. “It’s just calm.”

In his civilian career, Ellison works as a sheriff’s deputy, but said he is considering a new path once he gets home. He is thinking about becoming a high school teacher.

Sgt. 1st Class Michael R. Lee of Fort Hood, Texas, the fleet management supervisor with 4th Corps Materiel Management Center, teaches social science, history and GT improvement every week.

Lee said helping servicemembers improve their scores has its own reward – watching others grow.

“They come in one way and they go out better,” he said. “Even if they didn’t reach the standard goal, they improved themselves greatly.”

“They come in one way and they go out better,” he said. “Even if they didn’t reach the standard goal, they improved themselves greatly.”

Sgt. 1st Class Michael R. Lee

Lee said teaching also helps stretch the instructors’ mental skills. “We can do something fruitful,” he said.

Sablan presented coins and certificates to teachers during last month’s ceremony to honor their efforts.

“It’s just a way of showing our appreciation,” he said. “If it wasn’t for them, this (center) would be more like a computer lab.”

## Soldier succeeds as lone woman in male-dominated career field

by Spc. Jeffrey Ledesma

1st Cavalry Division Public Affairs

**CAMP TAJI, Iraq** - Women have faced obstacles throughout history and have fought back. They have swum against the current and stood against stereotypes and double standards to emerge as stronger, inspirational individuals.

Warrant Officer Staceyann McNish, who specializes in mechanics and welding as an allied trades technician with the 1st Cavalry Division’s Company B, 115th Brigade Support Battalion, 1st Brigade Combat Team, has defied the norm by being the sole woman in her male-dominated military specialty.

“I have been doing the same job the entire time I have been in the Army, so I never looked at it as a big deal, but I know it’s a major accomplishment,” said McNish, who began her Army career in the enlisted ranks. “When I first signed up for this, I never thought that I would be the only female warrant officer.”

Not one to sit back and delegate, Chief McNish has gone outside the wire to repair leaking water pipes in the surrounding area.

“She doesn’t sit back and point fingers,



Warrant Officer Staceyann McNish, an allied trade technician with the 1st Cavalry Division’s Company B, 115th Brigade Support Battalion, 1st Brigade Combat Team, repairs a broken water pipe at the Karkh Water Treatment Plant in northern Baghdad May 8. She is assisted by Staff Sgt. Dajanira Burton, the recovery supervisor, and Sgt. James Heintzel, a metal worker.

saying ‘Hey, you do this; you do that.’ She’s actually hands-on,” said Staff Sgt. Erik Babb, a Company A section sergeant. “Seeing someone perform the way she does really picks up the spirits of the troops.”

Although she finds the men in her field sup-

portive, McNish said she does sometimes feel the need to work a little harder than the men – not for them, but for herself.

“The most rewarding work for me is being able to save lives by adding rocket-propelled grenade caging to vehicles or adding sniper

netting on Humvees, or repairing a bridge,” she said.

A single mother of 12-year-old Tatyana and 7-year-old Alex, Chief McNish said she lets her kids know there is nothing they cannot accomplish if they put their minds to it.

“I am able to juggle the career and being a mother because I have two wonderful kids and a good support system for them,” McNish said. She called her children “a beacon of strength” pulling her through the challenges of deployment and military life.

“I think that Chief McNish would do a great job no matter what she chose to do in life. She is very dedicated and goal-oriented,” said Lt. Col. Tyler Osenbaugh, her battalion commander. “The fact that she chose an occupation that few female Soldiers serve in and became a warrant officer is how she chose to prove that she can do anything.”

Her military achievements give her a feeling of pride, and of hope for those who follow in her footsteps.

“It is great to know that I have opened the door for other women, to know that it is OK to take on the challenge of being in a male-dominated job.”

# Al Asad support center keeps chaos at bay for convoys

by Sgt. Karonda Fleming

Anaconda Times Staff

**AL ASAD, Iraq** – The 871st Movement Control Team is not your typical convoy support center. It not only provides security to servicemembers out on convoys, but also for local nationals.

With the vast amount of convoys traveling to and from various bases, many drivers only speak Arabic. With the help of the linguists attached to the 871st MCT, a National Guard unit from Belleville, Ill., these Arabic-speaking convoy drivers are able to get their job done successfully.

The primary mission of the 871st is to keep translators and local national drivers safe, while providing them with basic life-support needs, said Sgt. Charles B. Zamarron, movement control supervisor for the 871st.

Medical care is provided for them when needed, whether it is for life, limb or eyesight. “We give them medical attention at the combat-life saver’s support level,” he said.

Beyond the CLS support, he said if they need to go to the military hospital for further treatment, then they are taken there.

Along with medical care, other life-support needs are provided, including food, clothing and housing. This helps the drivers and translators have a good living environment when not out on the roads.

Security is an important aspect of the mission, he said. When local nationals or translators are escorted to the hospital, the 871st ensures they are treated with respect, all paperwork is kept, and their personal belongings are returned to them.

The support center’s ultimate goal is to keep positive control of the manifest in an organized manner. This will ensure that convoy opera-

tions will run smooth.

Zamarron said, “It is very important that we line the trucks up, find out exactly who is in the manifest and keep the local nationals in a coordinated effort.”

It is important to keep things organized. “We are an organization that keeps those personnel arranged so that when a mission does come up, we can utilize them efficiently and quickly.”

“If we were not there as a convoy support center, it would be very chaotic when numerous trucks come in at one time,” he said.

The trucks on these convoys store supplies that must be accounted for at all times.

Shipments are tracked using radio frequency identification tags, said Spc. Lizandra Vasquez, a linguist specialist from Pasadena, Texas.

“The tags are for each individual pallet or container,” Vasquez said. “If four empty containers are going to be shipped out, then I would bring four RFID tags, unless they are all consolidated into one truck. Then, I may do only one tag.”

She said RFID tags contain vari-



Spc. Lizandra Vasquez, a linguist specialist, 871st Movement Control Team, updates a radio frequency identification tag. Each RFID tag is used to track pallets and containers that travel on convoys.

ous information that helps units track where their shipment is located. The information includes the point of contacts for both the person sending the shipment out, as well as receiving it in Kuwait, the transportation

movement request number and the unit identification code.

“We also work with our interpreter’s providing convoys going out of the gate,” Zamarron said.

The convoy support center effi-

ciently utilizes their area of operation, which benefits the military, local nationals and translators. Through life-support on base and convoy security on the roads, the 871st keeps operations in active.



(Left) Sgt. Charles B. Zamarron, movement control supervisor, 871st Movement Control Team checks a battery used in radio frequency identification tags. (Below) Soldiers with the Battery B, 1st Battalion, 121st Field Artillery Regiment line up their vehicles upon arriving to the 871st Movement Control Team for convoy assistance in Al Asad, Iraq.



Sgt. Charles B. Zamarron, movement control supervisor, 871st Movement Control Team, in-processes Sgt. Nicholas C. Muench, convoy commander for Battery B, 1st Battalion, 121st Field Artillery Regiment.



## A Mother's Day Serenade



**LSA ANACONDA, Iraq** – More than 300 servicemembers remembered their mothers during a celebration on Mother's Day during an evening concert hosted by the 146th Multi-Functional Medical Battalion.

Several months ago, Sgt. Douglas Watts, assigned to the 146th, wanted to do something for his and best friend; his mother.

After numerous rehearsals and planning meetings, the result was a two-hour musical show devoted to military mothers stationed here and at home.

"I am a family man and around

this time of the year it's depressing to be away from family," he said. "My mom is my best friend, and I decided that I would try to fill that void for others as well as myself."

Watts said he wanted to do something to make people happy and bring them a little bit of home.

He said every part of his life was shaped and molded by his mother and sisters.

"I don't know where I would be without them," he said.

The audience got at taste of everything from a capella to rap.

The event director, Capt. Janaia

Nash, with the 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) said she hoped that after the celebration women would realize their importance at home and while deployed.

"It's important to let the ladies know that their efforts in and outside the home are recognized," she said. "The greatest sacrifice for most women is leaving their children behind."

Nash said that women know that deployments can be stressful and challenging.

"I hope ladies left the show feeling special, beautiful, and confident about their purpose in life," she said.

