

AnacondaTimes

AUGUST 1, 2007

PROUDLY SERVING LSA ANACONDA



Photo by Staff Sgt. Glen Chrisman

Unit trains for peacetime

Soldiers train towards the mission they will have upon returning home.

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Web Image

Article 15 v. Courts-martial

Servicemembers can elect for courts-martial when faced with Article 15. Know your options.

Page 10



Web Image

Fuelers wear Garita patch

Puerto Rican Soldiers opt to wear RRC symbol as combat patch in country.

Page 15



Photo by Sgt. Jasmine Chopra

Spc. John Patrick Garland Jr., a motor transport operator in the 2-82 Field Artillery, helps a little girl in Albu Assial try on new shoes July 18. Many of the children he helped that day had cuts and scrapes on their feet due to the fact that they have no shoes.

Caring for local villagers builds good relationships

by Sgt. Jasmine Chopra

Anaconda Times staff

LSA ANACONDA, Iraq — Soldiers are warriors, but they are humanitarians too. Soldiers in the 411th Engineer Brigade continue serving the people of Iraq even after their military missions are complete, through special outreach projects driven by units and individuals.

“One visit to a local village and it opens your eyes. You know then what you have to do. You must help them,” said Sgt. 1st Class Gregory Murray, public affairs noncommissioned officer in charge with the 411th Engineer Brigade.

He delivers clothes, shoes, sporting goods, school supplies and toys to local villagers. Barefoot children in tattered, mud-stained clothing smile and cheer when they see Murray and other Soldiers arrive.

With the help of the 2nd Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery Regiment, which is responsible for the area that includes villages the 411th has served, 2,000 pounds of goods have been delivered in 10 months. The donations came from communities in the United States.

Murray’s pursuit of getting badly needing donations to local villagers began in 2003

when he deployed to Iraq for the first time.

“There was nothing they did not need,” said Murray.

From the basics, like soap and toothpaste, to things of comfort and joy like blankets and teddy bears, villagers lack items the average person may take for granted, he said.

In addition to meeting the villagers critical need for basics, the donated items serve to foster a good relationship between Soldiers and local Iraqis, said Lt. Col. James Lukehart, deputy of the construction management section for the 411th.

Lukehart wrote to friends

back home describing the conditions villagers lived in and friends responded with hundreds of packages.

Each week, after his primary duties providing technical guidance on construction projects are complete, including one that will bring potable water to villagers, Lukehart spends time sorting through packages and coordinating their delivery.

Since he must check on the status of projects in villages, he uses those opportunities to distribute the packages.

Soldiers in the 2-82 Field Artillery join in the effort. On

See **Caring**, Page 4

CSM Corner

The 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) mission has been very successful. Warfighters, contractors, and DOD civilians have all been very helpful in getting supplies where they are needed.

The success of the 13th and its subordinate brigades is due in large part to the efforts of the command staff. This "A team" was hand picked by Brig. Gen. Michael J. Terry, 13th SC(E) commanding general, and has minimized the strain on our brigades through their efforts.

Of course, I can not forget the noncommissioned officers, especially the squad leaders. Your leadership, dedication and unwavering support in carrying out combat logistics patrols throughout Iraq played a critical role in achieving the 13th SC(E) mission. Job well done. We have proven that when there is a combat mission needing support, the 13th SC(E) is the one to turn to for mission success.

Before we go, we must ensure the turn-over to the 316th

Expeditionary Sustainment Command is done in a professional manner. I wish the Soldiers of the 316th the best of luck on your deployment. I know you're prepared for the mission and won't skip a beat.

On the home front, my thanks go to the families for your continued support as we transition out of Iraq and through Kuwait. We will see you soon.

Provider Seven out!
- Command Sgt. Maj. Terry Fountain, 13th SC(E) command sergeant major



Courtesy Photo

Healthy steps toward re-deployment, reintigration

by Staff Sgt. Mary Mittlesteadt

15th SB PAO

CAMP TAJI, Iraq — After a long year in Iraq filled with stressful and physically demanding moments, the word 're-deployment' is like sweet music in a Soldier's ears.

Although, excitement is high and boarding the flight home may be the focus for some, all must complete a mandatory re-deployment medical threat brief and health assessment prior to leaving theater.

"The goal of the brief and assessment for Soldiers is to screen for problems that may have been developed during the deployment and problems that may develop after returning home," said Maj. Bonnie Hartstein, brigade surgeon, 15th Sustainment Brigade from Fort Hood, Texas.

The re-deployment medical threat brief gives Soldiers knowledge of documented health concerns and threats from the region they are stationed in and informs them of the possible joys and stresses of reintigration with family and friends.

"It lets Soldiers know what they need to know about their health prior to re-deploying," she said.

After the brief, Soldiers will have the opportunity to fill out the Post-Deployment Health Assessment form and complete a one-on-one with a medical care provider.

"During the one-on-one we annotate what we feel the Soldier needs, so when they return they can get care," Hartstein, a native of Rockfield, Md., said.

She added that the assessment is also intended to track trends and large scale problems so they can be addressed in the future.

For all Soldiers, this brief and assessment has to be completed within 30 days prior to leaving theater.

Soldiers can expect to learn about common health problems, such as upper respiratory infections primarily associated with the environment and bowel disturbances caused by change of diet and eating habits.

The brief also covers infectious diseases like leishmaniasis, tuberculosis, malaria and sexually transmitted

"It lets Soldiers know what they need to know prior to re-deploying."

Maj. Bonnie Hartstein
15th SB

diseases.

To prepare for the health assessment and help this process run smoothly and quickly, Hartstein suggested Soldiers should "anticipate the questions that the will be asked and be ready to answer them."

A few of the topics covered are health changes during the deployment, sick call visits, medications taken during the deployment, vaccination history, combat related incidents and emotion wellbeing.

The information Soldiers put on the PDHA form is protected medical information, not punitive, and will be put in their medical record.

"There is no reason not to be honest. It is to help individual Soldiers," she said.

For example "some people worry about dust and

environmental exposures and shouldn't be afraid to voice those concerns," Hartstein said.

However, she added the assessment is not for addressing short-term issues that should be handled by going through a local troop medical clinic for sick call.

For National Guard and Reserve component Soldiers, completing this assessment properly is equally important, said Hartstein.

Medical issues documented on the PDHA are used to ensure accurate referrals when they return to their demobilization site or home station.

She recommends Soldiers keep the PDHA form available and not to pack it in their luggage, because they will need it to depart theater.

Completion of these re-deployment steps will take Soldiers closer to their family and friends and give tools and knowledge to use for their health and successful reintigration home.

Gen. Petraeus visits Adder

by Spc. Jaime Avila

1st BCT, 82nd ABN DIV

CAMP ADDER, Iraq — Multi-National Force-Iraq Commander Gen. David H. Petraeus visited here July 21 to get briefings from Coalition Forces commanders on the camp.

"I just got a good update from your commander. The 34th D6 and the 29th D6 is impressed by what you're doing," Petraeus said while addressing a group of Paratroopers and Soldiers from 1st Brigade, 82nd Airborne Division (the Devil Brigade,) who just received one of his coins.

Petraeus spent the remainder of the morning meeting with both the Australian and Romanian army units. The commanding officers provided situational updates on missions in their area of operations.

Following the briefings, Petraeus had lunch with company commanders from all forces in Camp Adder, discussing their challenges here and the overall situation in Iraq.

Petraeus ended his stay with a flight to Camp Ur, an Iraqi army post.

ANACONDA TIMES

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

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82nd Sustainment Brigade
507th Corps Support Group
15th Sustainment Brigade
CJSOTF-AP

U.S. representatives visit servicemembers in Iraq

by Sgt. Jasmine Chopra

Anaconda Times staff

LSA ANACONDA, Iraq — Members of the U.S. House of Representatives visited servicemembers here July 21. Representatives Michael C. Burgess, John Carter, Kevin Brady, each from Texas, Steve King from Iowa, Jim Jordan from Ohio, and David Davis from Tenn. shared lunch with and fielded questions from servicemembers.

“There are some destiny making decisions that we need to make and you are the ones on the ground helping us determine how to make those decisions. I needed to meet you,” said King.

Carter, who represents the area including Fort Hood, Texas, where many Soldiers serving here are based, said among his chief concerns is the quality of life for Soldiers and their families. He thanked servicemembers for sacrificing time spent with loved ones and shared he is currently working on a bill that will provide incentives for employers who hire military spouses.

“With this many Texans on an operation, I know you all are kicking butt,” said Carter, a Texas native.

Davis shared that it was



Photo by Sgt. Jasmine Chopra

Brig. Gen. Michael J. Terry, Commanding General, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) welcomes Rep. John Carter to LSA Anaconda July 21. Carter represents the area including Fort Hood and serves on both the Military Construction Subcommittee as well as the Homeland Security Subcommittee.

critical for him to meet face-to-face with warfighters. “I’m going to have to make some decisions back on Capi-

tol Hill that will affect your lives...I want to be able to say that I’ve been there, I’ve listened to what the people

fighting against a determined enemy have to say.”

The congressional delegation also visited wounded

troops at the Air Force Theater Hospital before flying to visit servicemembers at other camps in Iraq.

Worship services

PROTESTANT – TRADITIONAL

Sunday 9:30 a.m. USAF Hospital Chapel
9:30 a.m. Provider Chapel
10 a.m. Freedom Chapel (West Side)
5 p.m. Tuskegee Chapel (H-6)
7:30 p.m. Air Force Hospital Chapel

PROTESTANT – GOSPEL

Sunday 11 a.m. MWR East Building
11:30 a.m. Freedom Chapel (West Side)
2 p.m. Air Force Hospital
7 p.m. Provider Chapel

PROTESTANT – PRAISE & WORSHIP

Sunday 9 a.m. MWR East Building
9 a.m. Eden Chapel
7 p.m. Freedom Chapel (West Side)
7:30 p.m. Eden Chapel

PROTESTANT – SAMOAN CONGREGATIONAL

Sunday 4 p.m. Provider Chapel

PROTESTANT – CONTEMPORARY

Sunday 10 a.m. Town Hall (H-6)
Wednesday 8 p.m. Tuskegee Chapel (H-6)

NON-DENOMINATIONAL

Sunday 9 a.m. Signal Chapel

NON-DENOMINATIONAL SPANISH

Sunday 2 p.m. Freedom Chapel (West Side)

LATTER DAY SAINTS (LDS)

Sunday 1 p.m. Provider Chapel
4 p.m. Freedom Chapel (West Side)
4 p.m. Tuskegee Chapel (H-6)

ROMAN CATHOLIC MASS

(Sacrament of Reconciliation 30 min prior to Mass)

Saturday 5 p.m. Tuskegee Chapel (H-6)
8 p.m. Freedom Chapel
9:30 p.m. Air Force Theater Hospital Chapel
Sunday 9 p.m. Tuskegee Chapel (H-6)
11 a.m. Provider Chapel
Mon-Fri 5 p.m. Tuskegee Chapel (H-6)

CHURCH OF CHRIST

Sunday 2 p.m. Tuskegee Chapel (H-6)

ISLAMIC PRAYER

Friday 12:30 p.m. Provider Chapel

PROTESTANT-LITURGICAL

Sunday 7 p.m. Tuskegee Chapel (H-6)
Wednesday 8 a.m. Tuskegee Chapel (H-6)

FRIDAY SHABBAT SERVICE

Friday 7 p.m. Tuskegee Chapel (H-6)

Combat Stress Control

113th Medical Company (CSC)

433-2402

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

433-2402

Soldiers speak, see families back in States

by Pfc. Gaelen Lowers

3rd SB PAO

FOB Q-West, Iraq — A video tele-conference was held between Soldiers assigned to the 3rd Sustainment Brigade here and their families at Fort Stewart, Ga., July 15.

This is one of many morale and welfare VTCs scheduled to occur during the deployment of the 3rd SB.

"It's been about two months now since we've been in theatre," said Maj. Patrick M. Curran, executive officer for the 3rd SB. "It's just kind of the right time to see our families."

Curran was able to see his wife and his two boys for the first time since he left Fort Stewart back in May 2007.

"I'm looking forward to it, personally," said Curran just before his allotted time at the VTC.

"The best time to keep morale up is not necessarily a holiday," said Maj. Jeffery M. Schroeder, 3rd SB signal officer here. "It's whenever you can get to it. We've been going a million miles a minute since we've been here and now we are starting to get to the point where we're getting into a steady pace. The Soldiers are starting to think more about home and their families."

An email was sent by 2nd Lt. Misty J. Hannah, strength manager for the 3rd SB, to Soldiers informing them about the event and who to contact to have their time slot reserved. But that's not the only way a Soldier can find out about



Photo by Pfc. Gaelen Lowers

Pfc. Hansel O. Medina, supply specialist for the 3rd Sustainment Brigade, poses with his family through a video tele-conference from forward operating base Q-West, Iraq, to Fort Stewart, Ga., to boost morale among Soldiers.

VTCs and upcoming events.

Staff Sgt. James Whitley, the 3rd SB VTC coordinator here, said morale VTCs are scheduled every weekend for the various battalions throughout the FOB.

"Soldiers can contact their S6 shop or their local VTC coordinator to find out times and dates of upcoming VTCs," said Whitley.

For rear-detachments, family members and friends can contact their local Family Readiness Group liaison for times and dates of upcoming VTCs, said Capt. Michael C. Suarez of the 3rd SB finance section.

The VTC systems are something bought prior to deployment for both the Soldiers deploying and for the rear-detachments.

"It's a brand new system with a high definition camera so the picture quality is much better," said Whitley. "There is only a 2-second delay."

"We're using architecture that is already here," said Schroeder. "The only cost for us was the purchase of the VTC suites."

This is a significant event for Soldiers and family members said Hannah. They can actually see their family as opposed to just talking to them on

the phone.

Pfc. Hansel O. Medina, supply specialist for the 3rd SB was able to talk to his wife, his cousin, his son and his friend over the VTC.

"It makes me feel good," said Medina, "because I can't do that everyday. I can see that they are doing ok and they can see that I am doing well also."

The Army recognizes the hardships to be had and sacrifices made by the Soldiers and their family members.

"Sometimes," Schroeder says, "it's just funny to hear your kid laugh. It puts a smile on your face and recharges your batteries."

Caring, from Cover

one recent mission to the village of Albu Assial, Spc. John Patrick Garland Jr., a motor transport operator in the 2-82 FA helped several children try on new shoes.

Many of the children had cuts and scrapes on their feet due to the fact that they have no shoes.

"They need everything in these villages, if people back home can send more things, please do," said Garland.

Murray adds that donating clothing, sporting goods, and toys to local villagers serves to dispel myths about Americans.

"One girl was so frightened she started crying because when she saw our trailer, she thought we were going to kidnap her," said Murray.

The trailer was filled with

"They need everything in these villages, if people back home can send more things, please do."

Spc. John P. Garland Jr.
2-82 FA

donations, including Murray's bike which he gave to the frightened girl.

"When she realized that the bike was for her and that we meant her no harm, she was so happy," said Murray.

Whether it's a soccer ball, new shoes or clothes, the donations Murray and Soldiers like him distribute are giving local Iraqis the chance to see Soldiers are more than warriors, they are humanitarians.



Photo by Sgt. Jasmine Chopra

Sgt. 1st Class Gregory Murray, public affairs noncommissioned officer in charge with the 411th Engineer Brigade gives a girl in Albu Assial a bike July 18. Murray has also donated soccer balls, clothes, and shoes to several local villages.

Iraqi informants lead U.S. Soldiers to weapons, IED caches

Courtesy story

2nd BCT, 10th Mtn. Div. PA

RUSHDI MULLAH, Iraq — Iraqi informants led coalition forces to three massive caches north of Rushdi Mullah, Iraq, July 18.

Accompanying the informants were Soldiers of Company C, 2nd Battalion, 14th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division (Light Infantry) out of Fort Drum, N.Y., who helped seize the caches just 20 miles south of Baghdad.

“Over the last several weeks, the number of Iraqis who have been sharing tips with us is astounding,” said Maj. Web Wright, a spokesperson for the 2nd BCT. “There has been a turning of the tides against al-Qaida in this area. The people are tired of them and are turning their backs on AQI.”

All three caches were found buried in 55-gallon drums within 100 meters of one another.

The contents of the caches included 13 rocket propelled grenades, 150 bags of Russian mortar propellant charges, two 57 mm mortar rockets, an armor-piercing rocket propelled grenade, four cylindrical explosive charges, two square explosive charges, two hand-launched star cluster flares, a Russian fragmentary hand grenade, 25 mortar propellant charges, 100 12.7 mm DiSHKA heavy machine gun rounds, 20 25 mm rounds, a 75-round Ak-47 ammuni-



U.S. Army Photo

1st Lt. Norm O'Neil, a platoon leader with Company C, 2nd Battalion, 14th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division (Light Infantry) out of Fort Drum, N.Y., sorts through the contents of three caches that were found north of Rushdi Mullah, Iraq, July 18. An Iraqi informant led coalition forces to the cache sites.

tion drum, three sniper rifle scopes, two mortar sights, 10 cell phone chargers, five radios, a pressure plate, a machine gun lower receiver, two 7.62 mm machine gun barrels, two bottles of glucose, four vehicle cell phone chargers,

an improvised explosive device command wire initiator, a hands-free telephone headset, an eight-battery holder, four cell phone batteries, a 4.8 voltage rechargeable battery, a seven-piece antenna, two flip-open cell phones,

four Motorola talk-abouts, a cordless phone, a cordless phone base, a toy cell phone improvised explosive device initiator, two phone cords, an antenna extension, two keyless-entry devices with IED initiator switches, two mag-

nets, two circuit boards and various nuts and bolts.

Radio and cell phone accessories are commonly used to detonate IEDs.

An explosive ordnance disposal team destroyed the ordnance.

Iraqi Security and Army forces, U.S. forces detain Al-Qaeda leader

Courtesy story

CJSOTF-AP

BAGHDAD — Members of the 2/2nd Iraqi Army Battalion, Ninewa SWAT, with U.S. Special Forces as advisors, detained an alleged battalion commander for the al-Qaeda affiliated Islamic State of Iraq in western Mosul July 19 during an intelligence driven operation.

Iraqi forces also detained a second individual who allegedly controls 20 fighters who build and emplace improvised explosive devices in western Mosul.

Five other suspected terrorists who were present

during the operation were also detained.

The primary suspect is believed to be a former regime Army officer who controls six other emirs throughout Mosul.

He reportedly is the liaison between the west side ISI commander and other battalion commanders.

Iraqi forces detained the targeted individuals without incident.

They also seized terrorist propaganda, a cell phone, forged identification cards and an Iraqi passport.

No Iraqi or Coalition Forces members were injured during the operation.

Suspected Al Qaeda cell leader detained near Taji

Courtesy story

CJSOTF-AP

BAGHDAD — Iraqi Army Forces, with U.S. Special Forces as advisors, conducted a helicopter assault raid July 20 detaining a suspected Al Qaeda in Iraq leader suspected of numerous crimes including a recent attack that destroyed a bridge on a primary Iraqi transportation route.

Iraqi Soldiers detained their primary suspect without incident in a remote area northwest of Taji.

The detained individual

is the leader of an al Qaeda cell in the Qaryat al Majarrah region and recently claimed responsibility for a May 27 suicide truck-borne improvised explosive device attack that destroyed the a key bridge over the Danat Nazim al Majarrah Canal, a main Iraqi supply route in the Habbaniyah area.

He is also allegedly responsible for facilitating foreign fighters and the planning and execution of multiple IED attacks in Ramadi and other areas.

The insurgent leader and his cell are also suspected of murdering and intimidating Iraqi citizens, conducting

oil smuggling operations, and committing a string of highway robberies in an effort to fund al Qaeda activities.

The capture and detainment of this alleged cell leader will greatly inhibit al Qaeda terrorist activities in Western Iraq and reduce attacks in Ramadi and surrounding areas.

In a separate operation, two other individuals with suspected links to terrorist groups were detained during an operation outside Karmah.

No Iraqi or U.S. Special Forces were injured during this operation.

BMETs keep vital machines working in hospital

by 1st Lt. Shannon Collins

332nd AEW Public Affairs

BALAD AIR BASE, Iraq —

As medics and volunteers carry wounded American servicemembers and Iraqi civilians to the emergency room, doctors and nurses stand by, ready to treat them. Many of the tools physicians use range from oxygen and suction machines to Computed Tomography Scanners and X-Ray machines. Without these machines, the doctors and nurses would find difficulty in performing their mission. Without the 332nd Expeditionary Medical Support Squadron team, these machines would not work.

Seven biomedical equipment Airmen from six different Air Force bases combined their skill sets and volunteered to deploy to Iraq solely to help the Air Force Theater Hospital move from its tent structure to a pre-engineered facility. The final part of the move is scheduled for Aug. 3.

"We are excited to get to be a part of this project," said Senior Airman Scott Hatch, a 332nd EMDSS biomedical equipment technician deployed from the 81st Medical Support Squadron at Keesler Air Force Base, Miss. "We all want to see it turn out to be a huge success and deliver the new facility on time. Every-



Photo by 1st Lt. Shannon Collins

Tech. Sgt. Raymond Hillis, a biomedical equipment technician and transition team lead here with the 332nd Expeditionary Medical Group's Expeditionary Medical Support Squadron, teaches Senior Airman Scott Hatch, 332nd MDG MDSS transition team member, on how the new vacuum system will be connected from the ceiling to the wall boxes in the new Air Force Theater Hospital.

one on the team has really good ideas of how to accomplish certain tasks or challenges. It's a very creative and constructive

environment, and since we all want this to be a success, we are always looking at ways to get the job done better and faster."

The team is responsible for ensuring critical infrastructure is in place, to include medical gases such as oxygen, suction machines, equipment placement and the testing of items such as CT scanners and oxygen generators, said Maj. Brad Weast, 332nd EMDSS transition team leader.

Major Weast deployed here January to May, but stayed to work on the project.

He said the team is coordinating needed resources, trucks, forklifts and more. They are working site development and placement of key functions such as fencing, t-barrier placement and a covered walkway from the Intensive Care Unit to the Contingency Aeromedical Staging Facility for patient transport for those leaving the area of operations.

Tech. Sgt. Raymond Hillis, the 332nd EMDSS BMET team lead who is deployed from the 382nd Training Squadron, Sheppard AFB, Texas, is proud of his team.

"To hire a contractor to do what we are doing would have cost the Air Force \$1.8 million and more importantly, would have delayed the opening of our facility by months," the Lancaster, Ohio, native said. "In-

stead, the Air Force turned to the BMET to get the job done. My team has answered the call well. Everyone knows the importance of their jobs and work tirelessly to accomplish the task."

For the team, the importance of their work is the patients and the people who take care of the wounded.

"I love what I'm doing here," he said. "Every time I pull a patient off of a chopper or volunteer to assist the operating room, I see the type of environment our miracle workers are struggling in. I get to be the guy who gives them a better environment to perform their miracles in."

Airman Hatch, a Springfield, Mo., native, echoed his sentiments.

"What we are doing in the new facility is setting up the medical staff assigned to Balad Air Base now and in the future with a hospital that's about as close to a stateside medical treatment facility as you could get being deployed. For the patients, being in the new facility will undoubtedly be a more comfortable stay.

"Currently, the hospital provides a 98 percent survival rate for its patients," he said. "With the new facility, the hospital can continue to provide outstanding care."

When the team is not deployed, they maintain and repair medical equipment. They handle anything from X-Ray machines

to thermometers.

They have met daily challenges such as border restrictions with construction equipment, material getting sent port to port, PVC pipes getting sent to the wrong location and running out of t-barriers used for defense, said Major Weast.

But, Major Weast said, the team has met these challenges head on and are still on deadline. More than 100 volunteers from around the base have come out to help the BMET team and the other teams that are working on the new facility.

The reason for all the help is simple, said the Major.

"I cannot think of a single structure, be it a tent or the new building, that has more meaning to so many," the Joplin, Mo., native said. "We are in a war zone, so each of us, medical or not, can probably name at least one person who has been affected and has passed through our doors."

The new building is not only for wounded American servicemembers but for the Iraqi people as well.

"The new facility is amazing," Airman Hatch said. "It's easy to forget sometimes that it's an expeditionary project. Seeing the new facility next to the current hospital is like night and day. The new facility will make a wonderful gift to the Iraqi people when our mission here is accomplished."



Photo by 1st Lt. Shannon Collins

Senior Airman Dylan Watson, a biomedical equipment technician and transition team member here with the 332nd Expeditionary Medical Group's Expeditionary Medical Support Squadron, cuts oxygen tubing to connect the oxygen boxes on the wall to the main oxygen system for the new Air Force Theater Hospital.

Comm medics provide critical wartime assets

by 1st Lt. Shannon Collins

332nd AEW Public Affairs

BALAD AIR BASE, Iraq — A medical evacuation unit helicopter crewmember radios in advance, detailing how many patients, the acuity, injury type and any special instructions, such as cardiopulmonary resuscitation in progress.

Hospital staff members preposition assets and notify the surgical and radiology staff and the chief nurse via an overhead paging system.

As the staff works with the patient, they record medical information in a computer and coordinate airlift for the patient to go to another medical facility.

All of this would not be possible if not for the five Airmen from the 332nd Expeditionary Medical Group's Expeditionary Medical Support Squadron's transition team who focus primarily on the Air Force Theater Hospital's communications.

"The team is responsible for ensuring critical communications are in place - air and ground listening stations, telephones, classified and unclassified communications and more," said Maj. Brad Weast, 332nd EMDG transition team leader. "There are approximately 18 unique medical systems in play, and each has to be fully functional. Each directly supports the care continuum."

The team not only maintains the communications network for the current tent hospital, but they are also helping set up the new, pre-engineered facility as well.

They have helped pull more than 50,000 feet of computer network and CAT 5 cable, put together furniture, moved and cleaned new patient beds and more.

The computer and phone connections range from wards to the intensive care unit and surgical areas.

The team worked with multiple groups from the Army and Air Force to coordinate the communications movement and then performed maintenance and trouble calls on more than 100 computers in the new facility.

"Our days are full and never dull," said Staff Sgt. Robert Luna, an AFTH systems team member deployed from the 59th Logistics Squadron at Lackland Air Force Base,



Photo by 1st Lt. Shannon Collins

Staff Sgt. Robert Luna, an Air Force Theater Hospital systems transition team member with the 332nd Expeditionary Medical Group's Expeditionary Medical Support Squadron, separates and recalls data communication cables in one of the communications closets of the new AFTH. The cables will be used in the Morale Welfare and Recreation Cafe used by wounded servicemembers. Throughout the transition, the Airmen pulled more than 50,000 feet of computer cables; set up computers, phones and paging systems and more. The hospital is scheduled to open Aug. 3.

"It's very important to be here for this... It is simply an amazing project to be a part of."

Staff Sgt. Robert Luna
332nd EMG

Texas.

"It's very important to be here for this. You get to see first-hand how things have been done over the last few years, and then you get to improve on that process in the new hospital and shape the future of all treatments received here. There is no doubt in my mind that I would do this again. It is simply an amazing project to be a part of," he said.

Luna was deployed here May through September 2006 but came back for the hospital transition.

He, and other team members, were asked back for their information systems expertise.

Team member Tech. Sgt. Jeremy Harding, a quality control and PACS administrator deployed from the 6th Medical Group at MacDill AFB, Fla., was selected as a subject matter expert in diagnostic imaging.

"I am proud that I was selected," he said. "I am able to assist with planning and preparing the radiology section, which includes trauma and routine radiographs, ultrasound, PACS and computed tomography scanners and more."

Harding, who deployed here in January but stayed until the new hospital is complete, worked on the transition systems team and helped run CAT 5 cable, establish SPAWAR computers for patients and perform general computer maintenance.

Harding's teammate, Tech. Sgt. Gary Guzman, deployed here August 2006 to January 2007.

He came back for more than 60 days to assist with the transition to the new facility.

"This is the most rewarding duty I've had in my 12 years in the Air Force," the Bermerton, Wash., native said. "I can't think of anything more important than being able to assist with saving the lives of the heroes who come through our facility. I would do this job again in a heartbeat."

Harding is excited to be a part of the transition as well.

"This facility is a tremendous upgrade from the old M.A.S.H. style tents we are currently in," he said. "The tents have served their purpose for years, and the Air Force is proving once again, that taking care of people is what they do best. This facility will increase patient care, lower infectious rates, provide a safer environment to work in and be cheaper on fuel and energy costs."

Harding, Guzman and Luna and their transition teammates, work directly with various EMDG departments to ensure unique communications requirements are in place, tested and ready for

the estimated July 27 opening of the new hospital.

"Without these medical information and communications capabilities, in whatever form, care delivery in any environment becomes more difficult, especially in a war zone," said Weast, deployed from the 56th Medical Group at Luke AFB, Ariz.

One of the team's favorite parts of the mission is supplying SpaWar to patients.

With more than 15,000 users annually, SpaWar gives one the ability to reach out to family and friends, said the Joplin, Mo., native.

"I wish I could count how many times I have sat next to patients while they let their family know everything was going to be all right," Weast said.

"The ability to communicate, document and share information that supports work and just people in general, especially our wounded warriors, means so much to so many. It has been an honor working with these guys," he said.

1744th Trains for Peacetime M



by Staff Sgt. Glen Chrisman
1744th Transportation

LSA ANACONDA, — Soldiers of the Transportation Company are shifting some of their training focus towards the mission they will have when they come home this fall. “Even though we are in a wartime environment, it is important to get the Soldiers ready for our peacetime mission,” said Company Commander Capt. Justin Jennings of Waverly, Ill.

When the Sreaton-based Army National Guard unit was mobilized last year, they thought they would be hauling cargo throughout the world. That all changed when they were training in Camp Shelby, Ind. The company commander told them they would no longer be driving semi-tractors but would rather be training for a new mission as a protection company for armored security vehicles.

Jennings realized there was a need for retraining. Soldiers’ primary peacetime role and tasked out a mission to put together a truck



Photos by Staff Sgt. Glen Chrisman

(Above) Students in the course work on proper binding techniques. Binding down a load is important to make sure cargo does not shift during transportation. Pictured from left to right: Spc. Katie Johnson of Earlville, Ill., Pfc. Ashley Davis of Pontiac, Ill., and Spc. Andrew Walker of Moro, Ill. (Top) Sgt. Fernando Murillo of Berwyn, Ill. (left) and Spc. Justin Odam of West Frankfort, Ill. (right) work on chaining and binding a load on top of the 40-foot trailer. As a transportation company, the 1744th TC hauls anything from food and vehicles to ammunition and other hazardous materials.



mission while mobilized to Iraq

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refresher course.

The course is a week long class started in late June and will continue until mid-August. Attendance is kept small with only six students and three instructors to give the Soldiers more hands-on training. Soldiers who have been given some downtime are rotated through the course, allowing the 1744th TC to maintain focus on their current mission in Iraq while helping to retrain the Soldiers.

"It's good for when we return to Illinois and the Soldiers return to their respective transportation companies," Jennings said. "The Soldiers asked for training to hone their skills so when we go home they're competent in doing their job."

Class coordinator Staff Sgt. Thomas Rubin of Wood Dale, Ill., said it was challenging putting the course together but he feels the Soldiers are learning a lot. "It's an extraordinary opportunity for Soldiers to learn about their military job," he said. "It's an interactive environment where they can learn in the classroom and get some time

behind the wheel."

Soldiers in the course agree the class gives them a chance to dust off their truck driving skills.

"I was a bit rusty at first," said Spc. Justin Odam of West Frankfort, Ill. "It took awhile to get back in the groove, especially remembering how to back up (a semi trailer), but the instructors were really helpful and the repetition helped get it in our heads."

According to Pfc. Ashley Davis of Pontiac, Ill., backing the 40-foot trailers was her weakness, but said she learned a lot about binding and tying down loads. "We never really went over tying down loads in AIT (Advanced Individual Training)," she said. "It was just good training from people that have had a lot of experience."

One of the more experienced instructors is Staff Sgt. Michael Bickham of LaSalle, Ill., who uses his 15 years of military experience to help teach the class. "It was only 25 percent classroom material and 75 percent based on our experiences," he said. "They seemed to get more out



Photos by Staff Sgt. Glen Chrisman

(Above) Pfc. Ashley Davis of Pontiac, Ill., pulls a chain across the 40-foot trailer as she works on the proper techniques of chaining down a load. As a transportation company, 1744th TC hauls anything from food to vehicles and ammunition.

(Below) Spc. Katie Johnson of Earlville, Ill. watches her mirrors as she tries to back the semi tractor and 40-foot trailer between a series of cones. Passenger Pfc. Ashley Davis of Pontiac, Ill. looks on awaiting her chance to straight-line back between the cones.

of the class by talking about problems we have had in the past and sharing our experiences."

For one Soldier the class

was exciting for more reasons than just training. Spc. Jeremy Engel of Peru, Ill., said it got his mind geared up to go home. "We've got two

months left. It was great to see the trucks and be able to start thinking about what we will be doing when we get home."



Article 15 v. Courts-martial: know your options

by Sgt. Jasmine Chopra

Anaconda Times staff

LSA ANACONDA, Iraq — When Soldiers accused of minor misconduct opt for courts-martial instead of taking an Article 15, they can wind up with a federal conviction and a bad conduct discharge for something as minor as showing up late to work.

Of the 140 articles of the Uniform Code of Military Justice, the one most familiar to Soldiers is the Article 15, usually reserved for Soldiers accused of minor offenses. Soldiers facing an Article 15 might get fearful or angry, but what they need to do is get informed about their options, said Capt. Yolanda McCray, senior defense counsel at the central field office here for the Central Command area of responsibility. McCray, from the US Army Trial Defense Service, serves in a role similar to that of the public defender in the civilian justice system.

Soldiers can elect to trial by courts-martial instead of accepting an Article 15, but it's important to know the advantages and disadvantages of both said, Capt. Jeremy Stephens, senior trial counsel for the 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary.) Stephens serves as chief in-court prosecutor for the command.

"When you first walk into the commander's office and they're reading that Article 15, you're going to have a lot of things running through your mind," said Stephens. "You might think you didn't do anything wrong. You might think it's unfair that they're giving it to you and you might think you want a courts-martial, but you've got to think it through. If you go to courts-martial and lose, you may face more severe punishment and you'll have a federal conviction on your record."

Courts-martial is the military's formal criminal trial. From least to most severe are the summary, special, and general. Conviction in either a special or general courts-martial constitutes a federal criminal conviction. Summary courts-martial is more formal than an Article 15, but the punishment is not a criminal conviction.

Punishments range from reprimand, to reduction in rank, to confinement, and more. One recent case resulted in a Soldier who turned down an article 15 being found guilty at courts-martial of 14 counts of failure



Photo by Sgt. Jasmine Chopra

In Iraq, most Article 15s result from violations of General Order Number One, an order whose prohibited acts include but are not limited to possession of alcohol and possession of pornography. Pictured above is alcohol seized by the Provost Marshal Office here from service members at LSAA. Alcohol is often disguised in bottles of non-alcoholic beverages in an effort to elude suspicion. When Soldiers opt for courts-martial instead of taking an Article 15, they can wind up with a federal conviction and a bad conduct discharge.

to report and disrespect. The 19-year-old private first class was reduced to E-1 and given a bad conduct discharge, said Stephens.

Another consideration about courts-martials in Iraq is that accused Soldiers can be held in country till the conclusion of their case, months past the date they were estimated to return home from deployment.

"They don't get any extra money for staying here past 12-months boots on the ground," said Stephens.

Ultimately, it is a Soldiers decision whether to take an Article 15 or go to courts-martial.

"The Soldier must decide how much risk they are willing to take since you can never guarantee if someone is going to win or lose at courts-martial. You have to be willing to accept all of the consequences," said McCray.

Once found guilty, a Soldier can appeal the conviction, but they cannot opt for the original Article 15.

In Iraq, most Article 15s result from violations of General Order Number One, an order

which prohibits acts including, but not limited to, possession of alcohol, and possession of pornography. Most courts-martials result from sexual offenses, said Stephens. Misuse of substances like paint and compressed air can also be punishable under General Order Number One. One recent case resulted in eight months time in confinement and bad conduct discharge for a Soldier who convinced his buddy to huff aerosol. The buddy died as a result of huffing.

Sometimes commanders jump to the Article 15 unnecessarily and charge Soldiers without supporting evidence which results in Soldiers wanting to opt for courts-martial instead, McCray said.

Other times Soldiers feel they cannot get a fair shake from their commander and would rather go to courts-martial because at least they know the adjudicator will be fair, she said.

"We look at the charges to see if they are appropriate and if there are not, we'll call commanders and often time commanders will change the

charges so that they are more appropriate to the alleged misconduct. The Soldier is then willing to accept the Article 15," she said.

Since Article 15 and courts-martial aren't everyday experiences for the average Soldier, they ought to consult their local trial defense services if they are affected by either, said McCray. Soldiers also need to know that if they are read an Article 15, it doesn't mean that they are guilty of the alleged misconduct. Soldiers have an opportunity to defend themselves against charges in the Article 15 and trial defense services can assist them with mapping out their arguments. An Article 15 can be dismissed.

McCray urges commanders to mentor junior Soldiers accused of minor misconduct with corrective training, prior to pursuing more severe punishment.

"Consider what end state you really want and how you can get there without excessive measures," said McCray. "You want to be a commander who is tough, but you also want to be a commander who is fair. It

has to be a balance between the two."

Both attorneys agree Soldiers ought to know and follow orders, codes, and policies to stay out of trouble.

Since each case is unique, Soldiers should consult professionals at their local trial defense services. For more general information about Article 15 and courts-martial, consult Part V of the Manual for Courts-Martial, Chapter 3 of Army Regulation 27-10.



Web Image

Lifeblood pumped into farming community in Mrezat

by Spc. L.B. Edgar

7th MPAD

BAGHDAD, Iraq — There was no network news coverage, no front page spread, but local leaders of Mrezat, a small agricultural village in a northern section of the Adhamiyah District, shed tears of joy as water pumped from the Tigris River and passed attendees of a ceremony to mark the opening of a new pumping station in the community.

In Mrezat, water is the lifeblood of the people. The agrarian community subsists primarily on palm-date groves, which are grown throughout the year. Without proper irrigation the groves wither and date production ceases.

Mrezat's refurbished irrigation pump brings the needed water from the Tigris' base to the farmers' crops.

Though the opening was of critical importance to the residents of Mrezat, the success story will not make any headlines, said Lt. Col. Al Shoffner, the commander of 2nd Battalion, 319th Airborne Field Artillery Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division.

"I would welcome the media to cover things like today and I don't think if we had media there I would have to say much," said the native of Lawton, Okla., referring to the grateful residents of Mrezat.

True success stories, like Mrezat's pump opening, go



Photo by Spc. L.B. Edgar

Capt. Frank Fisher, non-kinetic projects officer with the 319th Airborne Field Artillery Regiment's Headquarters and Headquarters Battery of 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division, stands in front of leaders of Mrezat in the Basateen neighborhood of Baghdad's Adhamiyah district before the ribbon cutting ceremony for the opening of the Mrezat Water Pump Station July 10. The irrigation pump benefits 10 to 12 thousand people in Mrezat, whose primary crop is from the palm-date grove.

unnoticed largely due to the overemphasis placed on the loss of human life. While he admits there is a human toll to warfare, Capt. Frank Fisher, a non-kinetic project officer with the regiment's Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, said it shouldn't necessitate the omission of any

and all progress.

Fisher, a 37-year-old native of Dryden, Mich., said that media reporting in the United States often overlooks the construction of humanitarian projects in Iraq.

He said Mrezat's irrigation pump is producing between 1,000 and 5,000 gallons of

irrigation water per hour. Up to 12,000 residents' lives are better because of it, he said.

The culmination of two months work by the Basateen Neighborhood Advisory Council was good news for the people it affected and those who assisted in the project.

"It's important for Soldiers to see they are not merely security guards but are helping the government of Iraq and its people get back on their feet," said Shoffner.

He said projects like this one help ensure security more than patrols, because people have a vested interest in maintaining order.

"Recently, the area has been peaceful and because it's been peaceful and secure we're able to do projects like we did today," Shoffner said. "I think the sheiks understand that these sorts of projects are only possible if they are willing to police themselves and maintain the peace."

Mrezat and the Basateen area of Adhamiyah are expected to see even more progress in the near future, with upcoming projects to refurbish two schools and repave roads. In neighboring Sufiya, a cooperative of power

"It's important for Soldiers to see they are not merely security guards but are helping the government of Iraq and its people get back on their feet."

Lt. Col. Al Shoffner
2-319 FA



Photo by Spc. L.B. Edgar

Lt. Col. Al Shoffner, commander of 2nd Battalion, 319th Airborne Field Artillery Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division speaks with leaders of Mrezat in the Basateen neighborhood of Baghdad's Adhamiyah district before the ribbon cutting ceremony for the opening of the Mrezat Water Pump Station July 10.

generators is in the works. Basateen is slated to receive reusable solar energy, Fisher said.

All of the projects will act as band aids until the government of Iraq fixes its power grid, Shoffner said.

"The projects are designed so they do not depend on coalition forces or Iraqi security forces for fuel, maintenance or to operate the generators. The communities do that themselves," Shoffner explained.

With upcoming projects on tap and the Basateen Neighborhood Advisory Council working to improve the community, Fisher said maybe one day, that too, will make the news.



Photo by Senior Airman Olufemi A. Owolabi

Staff Sgt. Reid Huckle, a survival equipment shop technician, modifies a torso harness at Balad Air Base, Iraq.

Survival Airmen: critical to mission

by Senior Airman Olufemi A. Owolabi
332nd AEW Public Affairs

BALAD AIR BASE, Iraq — As the Air Force values attention to detail and safety in everything it does, so do the Airmen of the 322nd Expeditionary Maintenance Squadron's survival equipment shop here.

With a cursory glance at a survival shop, it might be mistaken for an alteration shop, with a sewing machine and a variety of colors and sizes of threads that abound in the shop.

But at the survival shop, the five-member unit here does more than just uniform alterations. Its job contributes to the safety and survival of aircrews. Survival Airmen work around the clock to ensure aircrews have serviceable equipment such as torso harnesses, G-suits, flight suits and survival vests.

"We support every aircrew and their aircraft, ranging from F-16s and C-130s to helicopters," said Staff Sgt. Reid Huckle, a survival non-commissioned officer here. "Our job is very important, especially in a deployed environment, with the sand and heat causing a lot of damage to fiber fabrics, the materials this equipment is made of. Our job is about pilots' safety because without us here, there will be nobody to repair their equipment."

Though these Airmen don't pack and repack parachutes because there is no facility for them to do so here, they said the amount of repair work they do on parachutes, harnesses and G-suits is what makes them a critical part of flying

operations.

Survival Airmen repair more than 50 harnesses, four G-suits and five flight suits a week. They also repair intake covers on F-16s.

If a harness has a hole in it, it can jeopardize a pilot's safety when there is an emergency or need for him to eject from the aircraft. The survival shop prevents this from happening. When aircrew members come back after flying with a hole in their harness, the survival shop repairs it.

"Due to nature of our job, paying attention to details is a big part of it," said Huckle. "Survival Airmen are always aware of their surroundings to ensure they don't rip things more than they've been ripped. We are the last resort when it comes to pilots' safety in case they have in-flight emergencies."

Survival Airmen work closely with the life support shop and every aircrew here, irrespective of the aircraft they fly. Pilots take their equipment to the life support shop before they fly for inspection and fitting to ensure it is functional. If there is a problem with the equipment or it doesn't fit, they take it to the survival shop for repair or modifications.

"We provide last-minute, quick fixes and modification on life-sustaining equipment," said Master Sgt. Jose A. Rodriguez, survival shop superintendent. "Everybody assigned to the survival equipment shop is well rounded, and we do each other's job. It doesn't matter if the job is for F-16s or C-130s."

They work with three different types and sizes of threads

which are made of various thickness and materials such as nylon, cotton and Nomex heat resistance materials.

"With the amount of heat pilots encounter here, the Nomex heat resistant material prevents their equipment from melting, and it keeps them together during an emergency," said Huckle.

Besides paying attention to detail, Rodriguez said a survival Airman must be very meticulous and have integrity.

"Integrity is one of the Air Force core values; it is instilled in us right from basic training and technical school," he said. "If we don't have integrity, we won't have the will or want to actually go back and redo a job that already took us eight hours to do. Without integrity, we can lose a life because we are the last to let them (pilots) down when it comes to parachuting, ejecting out of an aircraft and survival."

"Without us here, pilots won't be able to fly," said Huckle. "And if they can't fly, they won't be able to give air support to the troops on the ground."

Each day is always different for survival Airmen, depending on the time or the equipment they have to work on. As long as they can get their job done before another flying mission and ensure the pilot is comfortable, they consider this a mission-accomplished day.

"Our job is all about the comfort of pilots," said Rodriguez. "As long as the pilot is comfortable inside the small cockpit, our mission is accomplished. We provide the service that gives them the comfort to accomplish their mission."

On the street with Sgt. Jasmine Chopra

"What would you do with four extra hours in a day?"

Spc. Kelvin Williams
1/9th Field Artillery Battalion



"I'd learn how to swim."

Spc. Luis Barrera
1/9th Field Artillery Battalion



"I would spend time tanning and catch some more movies."

Sgt. Jarvis Glove
7th Signal Battalion



"I would sleep."

Shout outs from home

Jason Lockett
What's up Jason?
Much love,
The Russell family

Ryan Wagner
We're very proud of all you've accomplished there! Just a few more weeks and a wake-up! Love you too! Mom

GJ. Camilo
Mi Rubio Precioso!
Two weeks down... xxxs to go... However many "wake ups" there are left. However many it takes. It doesn't matter. They would not be enough to keep us apart. This distance is only a temporary inconvenience. Our love has stayed true for much longer. Remember, Do your thing. Have fun. Be safe. But most importantly... Come back! I'll be waiting for you. Quien te ama?
Naty

Kenneth Horst
I want you to know I am safe at FT. Rucker learning some wonderful things and thinking about you being there, Kaitlin in Ft. Leonardwood and McKenna and Brady in

Indianapolis. You are doing a great job and keep your head up. We may have lost contact for a short time while I'm phasing, but we have our connection in our hearts. Please know that I am well, and think of you and the kids hourly. Stay safe and don't worry about me. I love you honey and I miss you so very much. Take care.
Your loving wife and best friend, Jen Horst

Tami Zalewski
A belated happy birthday from your family back home!!!
We love you!
Mom and Dad, Steve, Elizabeth and Sofia

Christopher Hall
Hi daddy, Football season is going to start soon. I will let you know how the 49ers do incase you can't watch the games.
I love you and miss you. Nathaniel Shay Hall

Brian J. Reed
I love you and miss you very much. The kids and I can not wait until June when we are able to be a family again. We love and

miss you so very much. Be safe. Forever and Always, Stasha, Devon, Kaylea, Taylor, and Natalie

April Moody
Just a small reminder that I Love you, miss you and can't wait to be with you again! Stay focused on the road to come and we will meet at the end.....
Forever yours,
Jerrime Bishop

Lance F. Lopez Jr.
I pray for the day that you are home safe and wrapping your arms around me. For it is there that I am safe. I LOVE you and miss you whole bunches! I'll talk to you when you get home from work! Always and forever,
Dina

Timothy Bemiss
Hello Daddy!
I miss you & can't wait to see you again. I miss playing & wrestling with you. Mommy is taking good care of me but it's not the same without you here with us!
Love,
Your baby girl aka Abbie-Doodle

Jason Keller
Just wanted to say I love and miss you babe. Hurry Home! God Bless all the Soldiers over there.
Brooke Morrison

Jerita L. Tucker
Wishing you a happy and wonderful birthday. I miss you dearly.
Your husband,
Lapatrack Tucker

Deren Alldaffer
I knew from the day I met you we would build a wonderful life together. You are my heart, my everything. I miss you, and I love you forever and ever! I can't wait till the day you come home. I am so proud of you. Stay strong you are always in my heart. Love you forever and ever.
Love always,
Kelly

Christopher Finklea
The kids and I miss you very much.
We love you,
Kendra, Olesia, O'Brian and Christopher Jr.

James Fulcher
Hi we just wanted to say

hi and to say that we love you and we miss you very much. You are in our prayers. You are out own special Soldier. We pray that God continues to keep you safe and covered. Just know that we are here waiting with open arms. We are so very proud of you, pooh bear.
We love you,
Tabotha, Jasmine and Shekinah

April Moody
We just wanted to say congratulations on becoming an E-5(P). We are all so proud of you. Keep up the good work. Stay safe and can't wait until you come home. You are always in our prayers.
Love,
The Prather family

Tiffany and Eric Pettit
Just wanted to tell you how much I miss you both and can't wait until you are back at home with me. It is just not the same with out my two best friends. Take care and be safe!!! I love you both so much.
Love,
Halley (and the family)

SUSTAINER REEL TIME THEATER

(Schedule is subject to change)

Wednesday, August 1

28 Weeks Later (R)

Bug (R)

Thursday, August 2

Hairspray (PG)

The Condemned (R)

Friday, August 3

Shrek 3 (PG)

Bug (R)

Simpsons Movie (PG-13)

Saturday, August 4

Mr. Brooks (R)

Simpsons Movie (PG-13)

Gracie (PG-13)

Sunday, August 5

Simpsons Movie (PG-13)

Shrek 3 (PG)

Pirates of Caribbean (PG-13)

Monday, August 6

Simpsons Movie (PG-13)

Gracie (PG-13)

Tuesday, August 7

Mr. Brooks (R)

Simpsons Movie (PG-13)

http://jennypouse.com

Jenny, the Military Spouse

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Everything's Fine!

...SO WE MADE IT HERE OKAY... HOW'S EVERYTHING THERE?

EVERYTHING'S FINE. A SMALL PROBLEM WITH THE COMPUTER AND THE WASHER

...BUT I CALLED THE SQUADRON LIKE YOU SAID AND SOMEBODY TOLD ME HOW TO FIX THEM. EVERYTHING'S FINE.

GREAT! THAT'S GREAT BY THE WAY... A GUY FROM THE WEATHER FLIGHT SAYS YOU HAVE A HURRICANE COMING YOUR WAY...

YEH, I HEARD...

...YOU GONNA BE OKAY?

...I'LL BE FINE... EVERYTHING'S FINE...

http://www.pvtmurphy.com

Pvt. Murphy's Law

BASED ON MY EXPERIENCE...

WELL, MY DRILL SGT SAID...

SIR, TRUST ME.

WATCH THIS!

Spc. Brian Wilson, 206th ASMC

Back of the Formation

INTELLIGENCE REPORT

OFFICIAL EYES ONLY

-MORTAR ATTACK @ 14:43

-SUSPECT HAJI BOB IN AREA MSR IDAHO

-WHITE FOUR ODOR TRUCK SUSPECTED IN SURVEILLANCE WILL BE IN AREA OF THE VILLAGE BEEBOPA

TOP SECRET

LEVEL G-17 CLASSIFIED

WHERE DOES THE COMMANDER GET ALL THIS INFORMATION FROM?

DUDE, SATELLITES WITH LASER EYES

OH, MAGIC 8 BALL...

SECRET SQUAD

August 1

ANACONDA ACTIVITIES

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

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

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

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

Aerobics
7 p.m., West MWR

Green Bean Karaoke
8 p.m., West MWR

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

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

R&B Music
8:30 p.m., H-6 MWR

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

Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu
9 p.m., East Fitness Center

August 2

Tae Kwon Do
Midnight, East Fitness Center

9-Ball and Dominoes Tourney
2 a.m., 2 p.m. and 8 p.m., H6
MWR

Intermediate Swim Lessons
6 p.m., Indoor Pool

Soccer and Tennis
7 p.m., West Fitness Center

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

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

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

Console Game Tourney
8 p.m., West MWR

Dodgeball League
8 p.m., Circuit Gym

Combatives Training

8:30 p.m., East Fitness Center

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

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

August 3

Texas Hold'em
2 a.m., 2 p.m. and 8 p.m.,
H-6 MWR

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

Country Night
8:30 p.m., H-6 MWR

Open Volleyball
7 p.m., West Fitness Center

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

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

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

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

Scrabble Tourney
8 p.m., West MWR

Chess, Spades and
Dominoes
8 p.m., West MWR

Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu
9 p.m., East Fitness Center

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

August 4

Pilates
11 a.m., West Fitness
Center

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

Basketball Tourney

7 p.m., MWR Circuit Gym
Aerobics
7 p.m., West MWR

Salsa Dance Class
7 p.m., East MWR

Tae Kwon Do
7 p.m., East Fitness Center

Screaming Eagle Poker
7:30 p.m., East MWR

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

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

August 5

Darts and Foosball
8:30 a.m. and 8:30 p.m., H-6
MWR

Capoiera
12 p.m., East Fitness Center

Ryu Ryu
2 p.m., East Fitness Center

Aerobics
7 p.m., West Fitness Center

Poker
7 p.m., East MWR

Poetry Night
7 p.m., East MWR

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

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

Green Bean Karaoke
8 p.m., West MWR

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

Abs Salute
8 p.m., H6 Fitness Center

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

August 6

Texas Hold'em

2 a.m., 2 p.m. and 8:30 p.m.
H6 MWR

Tae Kwon Do
Midnight, East Fitness Center

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

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

Aerobics
7 p.m., West MWR

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

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

Karaoke
8 p.m., East MWR

Poetry Jam
8 p.m., West MWR

Floor Hockey
8 p.m., MWR Circuit Gym

Brazilian Jiu-Jutsi
9 p.m., East Fitness Center

August 7

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

Kung Fu
7 p.m., H6 Fitness Center

Tae Kwon Do
7p.m., East Fitness Center

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

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

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

Balad Idol
8:30 p.m., H-6 MWR

August 8

Spades & Ping Pong

2 a.m., 2 p.m. and 8 p.m., H6
MWR

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

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

Spin Class
3:30 p.m., H6 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

Aerobics
7 p.m., West MWR

Green Bean Karaoke
8 p.m., West MWR

Cardio Funk
8 p.m., H6 Fitness Center

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

Floor Hockey
8 p.m., MWR Circuit Gym

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

Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu
9 p.m., East Fitness Center

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E-mail us:

[anaconda.times@iraq.
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Do you have a story idea?

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“Freedom fuelers” wear cultural pride on right sleeve

by Spc. Jennifer L. Sierra

Anaconda Times Staff

LSA ANACONDA, Iraq — The 969th Quartermaster Detachment from Puerto Rico took off the 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) combat patch and replaced it with the 65th Regional Readiness Command “Garita” patch, July 21.

“The decision was whether or not to wear it in theater,” said Lt. Col. Patricia L. Day-Moore, commander, 969th QM Det. “We didn’t want to disrespect the 13th SC(E). They have been so good to us,” she said.

The “freedom fuelers” are the first to wear the Garita as a combat patch in Iraq. Day-Moore said there is a fellow Puerto Rican unit in Afghanistan, but it is unknown if they have put the 65th RRC patch on their right sleeve.

“To be among the first Puerto Rican Soldiers to wear the Garita with pride as a combat patch is a great honor and a dream come true,” said Sgt. Luis K. Barreto-Nieves, human resources and administration specialist, 969th QM Det.

The unit was split into four teams and supervised fuel farms throughout Iraq. The embassy team worked closely with Multi-National Force-Iraq and the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad to provide



Photo by Spc. Jennifer L. Sierra

Members of the 969th Quartermaster Detachment , proudly wear the 65th Regional Readiness Command “Garita” patch on both sleeves during a combat patch ceremony held at the east MWR July 21, here. The 969th QM will be among the few Soldiers who wear the Garita after the 65th RRC deactivates under the new re-organization process.

them data on crude exports, refined production, domestic supply and Iraqi fuel storage.

The other three teams traveled to various forward operating bases throughout Iraq

to ensure operators received proper training to manage Army fuel in accordance with military standards. They also conducted inspections and audits during their time here.

Day-Moore said that under the Army’s new re-organization, the 65th RRC is being deactivated, so the 969th is among the few that will keep the Garita patch alive.

“The loyalty these Soldiers have toward their patch is greater than possibly any

other Reserve Soldier... In some way it is that culture’s identity,” said Day-Moore.

“I am blessed for being part of a select few who will keep the Garita alive after the 65th deactivates,” said Barreto-Nieves. “Puerto Rican Soldiers are known to be among the best. I’m proud to be one of them and to be a part of the legacy and honor which I feel when I wear the Garita RRC patch as a combat patch.”



Photo by Spc. Jennifer L. Sierra

(Above) Col. Gregg E. Gross, chief of the distribution management center, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), address the audience during the 969th Quartermaster Detachment combat patch ceremony.

(Right) Members of the 969th Quartermaster Detachment, simultaneously placed the 65th Regional Readiness Command “Garita” patch on their right sleeve in a combat patch ceremony.



Introducing 316th Expeditionay Sustainment Command



Photo by Sgt. Joel Gibson

Brig. Gen. Michael J. Terry, commander, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) meets Brig. Gen. Gregory E. Couch, commander, 316th Expeditionary Sustainment Command, and Command Sgt. Maj. Stacey E. Davis, 316th ESC, upon arriving here July 24. The 316th is taking over logistics operations in Iraq from the 13th SC(E).



Photo by Sgt. Erin Murphy

Lt. Col. Charles Flynn, 316th ESC, holds his baggage in anticipation of leaving Fort Bragg, N.C. for the deployment to Iraq.



Photo by Staff Sgt. William Dawson

(Above) Sgt. 1st Class Powel, 316th ESC, points out a target to Capt. Gregory Hinton, 316th ESC, at M-16 qualification at Fort Bragg, N.C.
(Below) Spc. Timothy Jarosz, 316th ESC, high-crawls during warrior tasks training at Fort Bragg, N.C.



Photo by Spc. Jason Venturini