

AnacondaTimes

JANUARY 23, 2008

PROUDLY SERVING LSA ANACONDA



Photo by Spc. Jay Venturini

New facility opens on LSAA

Center consolidates major supply activities

Page 10



Photo by Staff Sgt. Bryant Maude

You break it, they fix it

Master mechanics keep vehicles moving

Page 12



Photo by Spc. Thomas Keeler

Burning insurgent hideouts

Setting flames improves irrigation, counters enemy

Page 8



Photo by Staff Sgt. Dave Lankford

Spc. Patrick Oaks, a medical specialist with the 1st Battalion, 9th Field Artillery Regiment (FAR), explains the use of burn ointment and other much needed medical supplies to the parents of local children through an interpreter. Though he is limited by the amount of supplies he has to offer, the villagers are very thankful for the concern he has in regard to the welfare of their children.

Offering aid to villagers builds strong alliances

by Staff Sgt. Dave Lankford

Anaconda Times staff

BALAD, Iraq – An Army field medic offered much needed care to residents in a village on the outskirts of Balad Jan. 10.

Spc. Patrick Oaks, a medical specialist with the 1st Battalion, 9th Field Artillery Regiment (FAR), enjoys reaching out to the local villagers and sees it as an important step towards building strong communities and the future of Iraq.

"We want them to have a better life than what they've had. So we're here, we're getting them care that they've never seen in their life," said the McAllen, Texas native. "All the medical care we can give out to these people makes it easier to win hearts and minds."

Most of the medical conditions Oaks encounters are very minor and range from the sniffles to burns sustained in the kitchen. Today, however, he is here

to see a patient who holds a special place in his heart.

Eight-year-old Alyah suffers from a serious but easily treatable kidney disorder which has affected nearly every aspect of her young life. The local doctors have diagnosed the condition but lack the medications needed to treat her said Oaks. Untreated, the condition has caused increased discomfort which has led to inactivity. This is leading to other health related problems that could have devastating long-term effects.

"It should be fairly simple to treat her with what we have, so we're going to get her in and get her taken care of," he said.

In a community as small and tight-knit as this, where most of the residents are family, the suffering of one little girl is reflected in the concern on nearly every face.

"Her illness is a big burden for this

small community here. If we can provide her with the resources we have to make her better, it will be a huge impact. We'll win these people," said 1st Lt. Andrew Holler, 1st Platoon leader, A Battery, 1-9 FAR.

Though collecting information and denying the enemy access to key terrain is still at the forefront of the 1-9 FAR mission, this type of humanitarian aid is paramount to future success.

"Today was mostly just about building rapport with these people. Later we can come back and yield more fruitful results," said Holler.

Whether the mission of the day is administering aid to those who need it or expelling insurgents from the area, the end result will be a better future for the Iraqi people.

"They're going to be able to have a successful life," said Oaks, "and be a part of the rebuilding of their country."

'At ease' with the 316th CSM



Command Sgt. Maj. Stacey E. Davis

We as leaders must always be accountable and responsible for our actions as well as the actions of our subordinates. Accountability is the state of being accountable. It is an obligation or willingness to accept responsibility or to account for one's actions. Accountability and responsibility represent important qualities for a credible leader to have if that person is to be considered believable, dependable, and worthy of people's trust and confidence. Credible leaders

act with character and integrity, and they earn and maintain trustworthiness when they hold themselves accountable and behave in ways consistent with the values of accountability and responsibility.

Subordinates, both military and civilian, regardless of branch of service or federal agency, expect their leaders to accept responsibility and account for their actions, claiming ownership for results produced as a result of their collective involve-

ment, regardless of success or failure. When an officer or NCO expected to lead fails the accountability test, his or her honesty, character and integrity comes into question. As a result, trust—that essential element to both credibility and leadership—is compromised and a new standard is set.

The key to maintaining accountability and responsibility is adhering to the established standard by holding people answerable for their action or lack of action. Individuals who are charged with the responsibility of leadership must hold not only their subordinates, but also themselves, accountable for the conduct and actions of their respective operation. The two go hand-in-hand and are vital to good order and discipline. In addition, doing so will give credence to being viewed as a military professional.

As I have stated time and time again, we do two things in the Army each day. We train Soldiers and we grow them into leaders; proud, battle-tested warriors who are upright, unafraid, and uncompromising. That is what our nation and Army requires from us in a time such as this. Are you an accountable and responsible leader worthy of leading and being an example for our newest greatest generation? If you are not, I am counting on you to immediately take the necessary corrective steps to become one. Until then, continue to sustain the victory and always place our servicemembers and civilian workers first.

Command
Sergeant
Major



NCOs lead
the way!

Provost Marshal Office: Weekly police blotter

Week of Jan. 6- Jan. 12

The PMO conducted: (215) security checks, (36) traffic stops issued (26) DD Form 1408 Armed Forces Traffic Ticket, registered (76) vehicles on the installation, (1) weapon and (12) Common Access Cards were reported lost, (7) minor traffic accidents.

The PMO is currently investigating: (9) Larceny Government/Personal Property cases

PMO Recommendations:

LSAA Regulation 190-5; A driver who unsafely operates a vehicle without proper control due to environmental, road, weather or vehicle conditions is in violation of: lack of due care and attention (i.e., causing a vehicle accident due to inattentiveness, improper backing, not using

a spotter, or improper turning, not using headlamps during darkness or not using windshield wipers, if needed). Drivers will not utilize a cell phone while driving. Other devices that distract the driver's attention should not be used, unless absolutely mission essential, (i.e., global positioning systems and other modern communication or navigation devices).

Crime Prevention: Secure all belongings and government equipment. Lock your doors whenever you are away, even for just five minutes.

Lost and Found: To find out if your lost item has been turned into PMO, contact PMO/Investigations at 443-6105.

by: Air Force Staff Sgt. Mirta Jones, PMO



Photo by Air Force Staff Sgt. Mirta Jones

Tech Sgt. Rickie Jones with the PMO helps a contractor exit his dormitory during welfare checks at a workers' camp on LSA Anaconda.

ANACONDA TIMES

316th ESC Commanding General, Brig. Gen. Gregory E. Couch

Anaconda Times is authorized for publication by the 316th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) for the LSAA Anaconda community. The contents of the Anaconda Times are unofficial and are not to be considered the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, including the Department of Defense or Operation Iraqi Freedom.

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1/82nd Brigade Combat Team
3rd Sustainment Brigade
7th Sustainment Brigade
507th Corps Support Group
1st Sustainment Brigade
CJSOTF-AP

Mission Statement: Produce a weekly newspaper that provides the command leadership team a means of disseminating command information to servicemembers on Logistical Support Area Anaconda and subordinate 316th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) units throughout Iraq. Contents of the paper will target enlisted servicemembers, officers, and civilian staff as well as primarily highlight the mission and experiences of 316th ESC units and personnel, with a secondary objective of detailing the activities of the LSA Anaconda community.

Good character builds people, relationships, society

by Chaplain (1st Lt.) Virginia A. Emery
719th MCB

On Aug. 28, 1963 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. delivered an address which has entered the American consciousness; the “I have dream” speech.

“I have a dream that my four little children will one day not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character,” said King.

Too often people judge the worth of others based on things such as color of skin, physical attractiveness, money and other outward characteristics society deems “valuable.” However, King’s dream shines a light on the true essence of a person- their character.

Character is important on the individual level because it represents the real you. A person’s character represents their nature, the total of their personal traits and moral qualities. It connects a person’s values to their actions. In one sense your moral character translates your abstract values into the concrete actions you do everyday. For example, a

person of good character who finds a wallet on the street will not pocket it but rather attempt to return it. Their character values honesty and translates it into action. Building a good relationship, a good unit, and a good society needs people with moral character. Character is not a static thing, much like your physical body, character is developed. The first step is to understand the values you hold. In the Army, we are organized around the values of loyalty, duty, responsibility, selfless service, honor, integrity, and personal courage. Translating these values into how we act when we are in the motor pool, our office, on a convoy or patrol, is the work of our character. Therefore it is essential that we understand how we can develop our character so our actions are consistent with our values.

First, ask yourself is what I am doing consistent with the values I hold? By checking yourself once in awhile, you can make adjustments if your actions are not in line with your values. Secondly, find people who display good

character and use their actions as a guide. These guides could be someone you know personally, or someone you have read about. Conversely, a third way to develop your character is to surround yourself with people who are trying to live their lives with integrity.

These are the type of people who are trying to keep their actions consistent with their values. Good character is what builds people, relationships, and society. Without people of character, we would descend into a criminalist anarchy that would destroy the fabric of

our nation. King dreamed of a day when it will be character, not outward appearance, that would be the rule for judging individuals. In honor of King, take an honest assessment of your character--how would you be judged?

Soft shoulders can cause rollovers



Photo by Staff Sgt. Dave Lankford

FOB ORION, Iraq - A Palletized Load System rests at the bottom of an embankment after a slow roll down a hill on the road north of FOB Orion. The accident was the result of wide but very soft road shoulders which are common throughout Iraq. Though this accident did not result in any injuries the loss of time and equipment are always costly. Drivers should avoid maneuvering on road shoulders whenever possible.

Worship services

PROTESTANT – TRADITIONAL

| | | |
|--------|------------|------------------------------|
| Sunday | 7:30 a.m. | Air Force Hospital Chapel |
| | 9:30 a.m. | Provider Chapel |
| | 10:30 a.m. | Freedom Chapel (West Side) |
| | 11 a.m. | Chapel Heights Chapel (4155) |
| | 5:30 p.m. | Gilbert Memorial (H-6) |
| | 7:30 p.m. | Air Force Hospital Chapel |

PROTESTANT – GOSPEL

| | | |
|--------|-----------|----------------------------|
| Sunday | 11 a.m. | MWR East Building |
| | Noon | Freedom Chapel (West Side) |
| | 2 p.m. | Air Force Hospital Chapel |
| | 3:30 p.m. | Gilbert Memorial (H-6) |
| | 7 p.m. | Provider Chapel |

PROTESTANT – CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP

| | | |
|-----------|------------|----------------------------|
| Sunday | 9 a.m. | MWR East Building |
| | 10:30 a.m. | TOWN HALL(H-6) |
| | 8 p.m. | Eden Chapel |
| | 2 p.m. | Chapel Heights (4155) |
| | 7 p.m. | Freedom Chapel (West Side) |
| | 9:30 p.m. | Freedom Chapel (West Side) |
| Wednesday | 8 p.m. | Tuskegee Chapel (H-6) |

PROTESTANT – LITURGICAL

| | | |
|--------|-----------|--------------------------|
| Sunday | 9 a.m. | EPISCOPAL Freedom Chapel |
| | 11 a.m. | LUTHERAN (Chapel Annex) |
| | 3:30 p.m. | EPISCOPAL (Tuskegee H-6) |

PROTESTANT --MESSIANIC

| | | |
|--------|-----------|----------------------------|
| Friday | 8:30 p.m. | Freedom Chapel (West Side) |
|--------|-----------|----------------------------|

PROTESTANT—PRAYER SERVICE

| | | |
|----------|--------|---------------|
| Saturday | 7 a.m. | Signal Chapel |
|----------|--------|---------------|

PROTESTANT—SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST

| | | |
|----------|--------|----------|
| Saturday | 9 a.m. | Provider |
|----------|--------|----------|

PROTESTANT—CHURCH OF CHRIST

| | | |
|--------|--------|------------------------|
| Sunday | 2 p.m. | Gilbert Memorial (H-6) |
|--------|--------|------------------------|

ROMAN CATHOLIC MASS

(Sacrament of Reconciliation 30 min prior to Mass)

| | | |
|----------|-----------|----------------------------|
| Saturday | 5 p.m. | Gilbert Memorial (H-6) |
| | 8 p.m. | Freedom Chapel (West Side) |
| | 11 p.m. | Air Force Hospital Chapel |
| Sunday | 8:30 a.m. | Gilbert Memorial (H-6) |

| | | |
|--|---------|-----------------|
| | 11 a.m. | Provider Chapel |
|--|---------|-----------------|

| | | |
|---------|------------|-----------------|
| Mon-Fri | 11:45 a.m. | Provider Chapel |
|---------|------------|-----------------|

| | | |
|----------|-------|------------------|
| Mon-Thur | 5p.m. | Gilbert Memorial |
|----------|-------|------------------|

LATTER DAY SAINTS-(LDS)-(MORMON)

| | | |
|--------|----------|----------------------------|
| Sunday | 1 p.m. | Provider Chapel |
| | 3:30p.m. | Freedom Chapel (West Side) |
| | 7 p.m. | Gilbert Memorial (H-6) |

JEWISH SHABBAT SERVICES

| | | |
|--------|--------|------------------------|
| Friday | 7 p.m. | Gilbert Memorial (H-6) |
|--------|--------|------------------------|

ISLAMIC SERVICE

| | | |
|--------|------|----------------------------|
| Friday | Noon | Freedom Chapel (West Side) |
|--------|------|----------------------------|

PAGAN/ WICCAN FELLOWSHIP

| | | |
|--------------------|--------|-------------|
| Thursday, Saturday | 7 p.m. | Eden Chapel |
|--------------------|--------|-------------|

BUDDHIST FELLOWSHIP

| | | |
|---------|--------|-------------|
| Tuesday | 7 p.m. | Eden Chapel |
|---------|--------|-------------|

53rd MHD: first to document sustainment operations

by Sgt. Jasmine Chopra

Anaconda Times staff

LSA ANACONDA, Iraq- If Columbus was not the first person to discover America, why do so many people think he did? The answer may have to do with how history gets remembered and the way history is recorded and retold. At the crux are the people charged with documenting it. Theirs is a crucial mission.

For Soldiers in the 316th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) (ESC), the 53rd Military History Detachment (MHD) is at the heart of capturing their first-hand accounts. The team of just three is racing to make sure 316th Soldiers' experiences in Iraq do not get left behind on the battlefield. Halfway into their deployment, they have already collected more than 500 interviews which serve as "raw data" for historians at the Center for Military History (CMH) to later include in writing the official history of the 316th's operations in Iraq.

"When you think historian, you might get this image of an old professor in a sweater sitting in the library of some university," said Sgt. Kristin Crowder, a historian with the 53rd. "That's not us. We're here in Iraq where the troops are ... We're almost collec-



Photo by Sgt. Jasmine Chopra

Lt. Col. Teddy Mora (front) and Sgt. Kristin Crowder, both in the 53rd Military History Detachment, travel throughout Iraq risking their own lives collecting Soldiers' stories to preserve them for all time. Along with Sgt. Kevin Prato (not pictured) they are the first MHD to provide coverage of sustainment operations under the new modularity construct. The data they collect is forwarded to the Center for Military History to be included in writing official military history.

tors of the present, really, because we are collecting history that happened three weeks ago as opposed to 30 years ago," said Crowder.

The 53rd travels throughout Iraq, risking their own lives to collect Soldiers' stories to preserve them for all time. They are the first MHD to provide coverage of sustainment operations under the new modularity construct.

Along with the other two members of her unit, Sgt. Kevin Prato and Lt. Col. Teddy Mora, commander of the 53rd, Crowder collects and or-

ganizes interviews and other information, including documents and photos for delivery to the CMH. The historians are careful to only collect and organize, never interpret or infer, in the hope of preserving the most immediate and pure account of an event documented. All material collected is forwarded digitally to the CMH.

"For the 316th, we are responsible for collecting documentation so that future historians can write the history of the 316th during Operation Iraqi Freedom 07- 09

(the deployment period for which the 53rd was responsible.) Whatever the outcome will be, these types of documentations we gather will be used to write the history," said Mora.

"Out of the three of us, the one that may live to see a published product from the collection we prepare may be Sgt. Prato because he is the youngest," Mora said.

Prato is 23. Several decades will likely pass before any part of collection will be declassified and processed into a published work.

"Things can get distorted over time, so being here and getting the info from the horse's mouth as quickly as possible helps avoid some of those distortions," Prato said.

On some of his interviews, Soldiers have been incredulous about the 53rd's role.

"It's funny, sometimes people think our job is made up and that we are really CID (Criminal Investigations Division)," said Prato.

However, for the most part the fact these historians are Soldiers works to gain fellow Soldiers' trust and willingness to open up and talk, he said.



The U.S. Army Reserve Timeline

1952 - 1955 Legislation renames the ORC as the Army Reserve and divides it into a Ready Reserve, Standby Reserve and Retired Reserve and provides that Reserve units have 24 training days and up to 17 days of annual training. The President is given authority to call up to one million Army Reserve Soldiers of all services.

1961 Berlin Crisis - More than 60,000 Army Reserve soldiers are called to Active duty.

1968 Vietnam Conflict - 5,900 Army Reserve soldiers are mobilized.

1973 The All-Volunteer Force is implemented; Army Reserve receives more responsibilities and resources. Authority to call up to one million Army Reserve Soldiers of all services.

1961 Berlin Crisis - More than 60,000 Army Reserve soldiers are called to Active duty.

1968 Vietnam Conflict - 5,900 Army Reserve soldiers are mobilized.

1973 The All-Volunteer Force is implemented; Army Reserve receives more responsibilities and resources.

1983 Grenada - After the U.S. rescue operation, volunteers from Army Reserve civil affairs units deploy to Grenada to help rebuild infrastructure.

1989 Panama - After the U.S. invasion, Army Reserve civil affairs and military police units help restore order.

7th SB Soldiers proud to serve again, reenlist in Iraq



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class John Stiles

CAMP ADDER, Iraq- Brig. Gen. Gregory E. Couch, the 316th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) commanding general, reenlists five Soldiers Dec. 28 in front of the 7th Sustainment Brigade's Headquarters at Camp Adder, Iraq. From left to right are, Staff Sgt. Michael Jackson, Spc. Joe Flood, Spc. Joseph Welch, Spc. Brandon Chambers and Spc. Pedro Delgado.

Rapid Equipping Force brings ideas to life

by Spc. Jay Venturini
Anaconda Times staff

LSA ANACONDA, Iraq-Technology is always getting lighter, smaller, faster and more efficient. In the Army, where change can be challenging, new technologies are coming to fruition.

The Rapid Equipping Force (REF) is a major player in collecting ideas for new products or improvements for existing ones.

“We provide the war fighter products they don’t already have,” said Maj. Mark A. Hopkins, the REF-Balad officer in charge.

Since 2003, REF has added more than 1,000 new products into the Army supply system, ranging from weapon mounted lights to counter improvised explosive device (IED) equipment.

Many ideas for new products come from REF teams headquartered in Baghdad, Tikrit and here. Teams go out with units to see what their needs are and how they can improve their capabilities.



Photo by Spc. Jay Venturini

One of the products the Rapid Equipping Force has produced is a weapon mounted laser that is designed to be used for escalation of force procedures. The laser is one of over 1,000 items now being used in theater thanks to REF.

“We are autonomous, which allows us to travel to anywhere in theater and talk to any unit,” said Hopkins. “It allows us to connect with the different units and get them what they need.”

After a request for a product is received, REF alerts the units higher command that a request has been made. Then the

request is sent to Fort Belvoir, Va. where a team of scientists and technicians bring the idea to life.

Sometimes, a new product is as easy as searching the internet for a civilian product similar to the request. Designers contact

the products vender to arrange a contract for the product to be made to Army specifications.

Another way to find preexisting products is to search items only offered for special forces (SF) units. Many times the products are only offered to SF

due to the type of missions they run. When this is the case, REF will make a version of the product available for all Soldiers.

Once ready, it is sent to the requesting unit to be field tested. The product’s assessment period lasts between 30 to 90

days. After that period of time, an assessment report must be done. If approved, REF puts the item into the Army supply system for other units to order.

It is truly a great system, said Hopkins. It is filling the needs of the Army one unit at a time.

Do you or someone you know have an interesting story to tell?

Does your unit serve a special function others may not be aware of?

At the Anaconda Times, we want to tell YOUR story, so email us and we’ll do the rest.

anaconda.times@iraq.centcom.mil



Warriors ensure accountability of equipment



Photo by Sgt. Jasmine Chopra

LSA ANACONDA, Iraq- Pfc. Terry Proud, a gunner with the 297th Combat Support Company, a National Guard unit from Fort Richardson, Alaska, tells Staff Sgt. Gerald Mullins, platoon sergeant also with the 297th, the serial number on his weapon. Accounting for and maintaining equipment is vital to day-to-day operations.

C-130s vital in winning war on terrorism

by Staff Sgt. Travis Edwards

332nd Air Expeditionary Wing

BALAD AIR BASE, Iraq - For every 24 tons of cargo airlifted in Iraq, a supply truck and two troops are spared a trip on a dangerous road. For every 50 passengers airlifted, one more busload of servicemembers is also spared from Iraq's dangerous roads.

This according to Tech. Sgt. Mike Thomas, a 777th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron (EAS) C-130 Hercules loadmaster here.

The 777th EAS moves everything from highly mobile multi-wheeled vehicles (HMMVs) to personnel via C-130 Hercules, making mission accomplishment safer for ground troops.

"Our mission is to haul as much cargo throughout Iraq to keep Army convoys off the road," said Sergeant Thomas.

The squadron flies about seven missions a day, each mission consists of multiple sorties and can haul more than 40,000 pounds of cargo or roughly 90 passengers on each flight.

Aside from airlifting cargo, this Herculean horde also aids servicemembers who need transportation to the Air Force Theater Hospital for further treatment.

"Every mission we have varies. Yesterday I was part of an



Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Travis Edwards

A C-130 Hercules taxis on the runway here after a mission where the crew picked up personnel from several forward operating bases in Iraq, Jan. 11. C-130s assigned to the 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing moved more than 4,500 tons of cargo and 33,500 passengers during this Air and Space Expeditionary rotation.

aeromedical evacuation mission that hauled 22 wounded passengers back to Balad to seek further

medical treatment or to continue on to Germany," said Thomas.

Another unique characteris-

tic of the 777th EAS mission is overwatch support.

Assisting the aircrew in keeping the C-130s airborne, are the Airmen of the 777th Expeditionary Aircraft Maintenance Unit (EAMU), who maintain and repair everything on the "Herc."

"Our maintainers specialize in what we call 'Red Ball' maintenance," said Chief Master Sgt. Charles Fletcher, the 777th EAMU superintendent. "When an aircraft is launching and has a maintenance problem, our technicians jump on board to troubleshoot it. When it happens, the maintainers have a 99 percent success rate in getting the mission off on time."

"Without [the maintainers] this mission wouldn't happen," said Sergeant Thomas.

Whether keeping servicemembers off the roads, ensuring cargo reaches its desti-

nation or getting the hurt and wounded to life-saving care, Sergeant Thomas said his team fuels the fight, providing vital support to the war.

"I never thought when the war broke out that I would have such a direct contribution to it. It makes me feel outstanding," he

Parts store keeps fighters fighting



Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Joshua Garcia

BALAD AIR BASE, Iraq- Staff Sgt. LaToya Gary, a 332nd Expeditionary Maintenance Squadron aircraft parts store supervisor, documents a pull in a log book here, Jan. 17. Pulls are customer orders and are documented to show which shops have received parts from the store. The store retains parts for many types of aircraft including fighter jets.



Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Travis Edwards

Airmen and Soldiers arriving at Balad Air Base exit a C-130 that landed here, Jan. 11. The C-130s' main mission in Iraq is to provide precision air delivery of supplies and personnel throughout the theater of operations quickly and reliably.

Key leaders meet, discuss issues in southern regions

by Spc. Jaime Avila

1st BCT, 82nd Airborne Division

CAMP UR, Iraq - Col. Charles A. Flynn, commander of the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division met with Brig. Gen. Sa'ad Alherbaia, commander of the Iraqi Army 10th Division, 3rd Brigade, the Dhi Qar Police Chief, Gen. Abdul Hussein, the Governor of Dhi Qar, Governor Aziz Ogeli, and other key personnel in Coalition and Iraqi forces Jan. 7.

They met to discuss a wide range of topics to include the security situation in Dhi Qar, improving the effectiveness of Iraqi security forces and to set future dates for more meetings.

The main focus of discussion throughout the meeting was the current situation of the Provincial Joint Communications Center.

They believed that with better communication between individuals with



Photo by Spc. Jaime Avila

Col. Charles A. Flynn and Iraqi Brig. Gen. Sa'ad Alherbaia have a word before starting the meeting at Camp Ur Jan. 7. They discussed key issues in the Dhi Qar region.

common goals they could improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the emergency responders in Dhi

Qar.

After the meeting, Sa'ad invited his guests for lunch. They had lunch with the sat-

isfaction that with their cooperative spirit they could get many of these issues resolved.

They also discussed the issue of having trained men to investigate and gather intelligence in the Iraqi government. Coalition Forces agreed to discuss the issue further in a later meeting to find a solution to the problem.

Home to the ancient Mesopotamian city of Ur, Dhi Qar is significant to archeologists, historians and tourists.

Its landmarks is the Sumerian Ziggurat, an ancient temple built in 2000 B.C. It also is purported to be the birthplace of Abraham, who figures prominently in Judaism, Christianity and Islam.

The chief responsibility for safeguarding the people of Dhi Qar was returned to the Iraqi government and its civilian-controlled security forces in September 2006 after certain benchmarks had been reached.

Dhi Qar, with 1.8 million residents, was the second province, after Al Muthanna, to be handed over to Iraqi control.

MNF-I commander visits Camp Adder troops



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Gary L. Qualls Jr.

CAMP ADDER, Iraq - Gen. David H. Petraeus, commander of Multi-National Force-Iraq, tells Spc. Zachariah Estrada, Company D, 3rd Battalion, 144th Infantry Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division, he is on target during a visit to Camp Adder Jan. 12. Petraeus was briefed on the current situation in Southern Iraq and had lunch with company commanders where he presented coins to Soldiers.

Engineers improve irrigation for farmers, deny enemy hideouts

Photos by Spc. Thomas Keeler

Anaconda Times staff

LSA ANACONDA, Iraq- Soldiers from the 224th Engineer Company, an Oregon National Guard unit, are carrying out one of the most vital missions in northern Iraq: security and reconstruction.

The 224th specializes in construction-related jobs. Culvert denial, which involves blocking the openings of culverts to impede the enemy's ability to hide explosives within, route sanitation, which involves clearing roadways of debris and garbage, and rapid crater and culvert repair, are a few of the many tasks engineers with the 224th complete. What these skilled engineers also seek to build includes better relationships with local Iraqis while preventing Anti-Iraqi forces from using the terrain to mount attacks, create hideouts or establish weapons or explosives caches.

To this end, Soldiers from the 224th set out to clear vegetation from an irrigation channel near Balad Jan. 9. Clearing the channel of overgrown reeds will make irrigation of crops easier for farmers who depend on water for their livelihood and survival. It also will deny concealment for Anti-Iraqi forces reported to use the vegetation to hide.

"This area is a hot spot," said Cpt. Marc Mouser,

commander of the 224th. "That's why we've come to take care of business," he said.

According to Sgt. Jeff Tomchak, a truck commander with the 224th, enemies have used the channel for concealment in the past. The channel is prime area for placement of explosive devices since it runs parallel to a road frequented by Coalition Forces.

Using a ground torch with a blend of gasoline, diesel fuel and other clean-burning additives developed by the U.S.D.A. Forest Service to remove fire hazards, Sgt. Devin Fields, an engineer with the 224th, set flame to dense vegetation in the irrigation channel. Local farmers had tried to keep the ditch clear themselves, but with much difficulty since they lacked the proper resources or tools to eliminate the overgrowth.

"Farmers rely on this waterway; clearing the ditch will allow water to flow more freely," said Mouser.

Despite the potential risks of coming face-to-face with IEDs, small arms fire, and other harm, the 224th continues to go outside the wire everyday to make the surrounding area safer and more livable for servicemembers and Iraqis alike.

1.



r Iraqi

2.



1. Using a ground torch with a blend of gasoline, diesel fuel and other clean-burning additives developed by the U.S.D.A. Forest Service, Sgt. Devin Fields, an engineer with the 224th Engineer Company from the Oregon National Guard, clears an irrigation channel Jan. 9 for local Iraqis near here who use the channel for crop irrigation and have tried to keep the ditch clear of debris themselves. The spotter, Sgt. Jeff Tomchak, a truck commander with the company, adds insurgents have used the channel for cover in the past for placement of explosive devices along the road that runs parallel to it.

2. Sgt. Jeff Tomchack, a truck commander with the 224th Engineer Company, stirs a mixture of chemicals, motor gas and diesel fuel developed by the U.S.D.A. Forest Service to clear vegetation and reduce fire hazards. The mixture was applied to overgrown reeds in an irrigation channel. The flammable mixture is applied with a ground torch and is designed to burn clean without leaving residue or contaminating the environment.

Anaconda cuts ribbon on new distribution facility

by Spc. Jay Venturini

Anaconda Times staff

LSA ANACONDA, Iraq – There was a ribbon cutting ceremony Jan. 12 signifying the opening of the Corps Distribution Center (CDC) here.

The center consolidates the major supply activities on post including the Joint Distribution Center (JDC), Forward Redistribution Point (FRP), Class one yard (subsistence and water) and multi-class supply support activity, which includes classes two (individual Soldiers' equipment), three (oil and lubricants), four (engineering supplies) and nine (repair parts).

"The entire facility encompasses more than 100 square acres and has more than 360,000 square feet of warehouse and office space," said Maj. Mike Moore, the 13th Combat Services Support Battalion (CSSB) support operations officer.

Prior to the CDC, the different logistical sites were scattered throughout LSA Anaconda, which made it very cumbersome to Soldiers and contractors to utilize more than one site. With everything being in one place it will expedite the process which will get the supplies to the Soldiers who need them faster.

The \$25 million facility, which employs more than 400 military and contractor personnel combined, has been five years and three logistical commands



Photo by Spc. Jay Venturini

(From right) Maj. Michael Moore, the 13th Combat Services Support Battalion (CSSB) support operations officer, Lt. Col. Tim Sullivan, the 13th CSSB commander, Brig. Gen. Gregory E. Couch, the 316th ESC commanding general and Col. Brian Leonhard, the 213th Area Support Group commander, cut the ribbon on the new Corps Distribution Center (CDC) here.

in the making. Despite many set backs and having to go through red tape the logistical community here was determined to get the facility completed.

"The CDC is so important because we will be able to better utilize personnel, assets, recourses and further reduce

customer wait time to return supplies back to the war fighter," said Moore.

"This facility is truly remarkable," said Brig. Gen. Gregory E. Couch, the 316th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) commanding general. "It is the future of logistics in Iraq."

The largest facility in the CDC is the new and improved FRP which is responsible for keeping unused supplies in Iraq and redistributing them to Soldiers who need them.

"The stuff at the forward redistribution point is excess from outlining (forward operating bases) which gets retrograded

back here," said Moore. "We take it, receive it, in process it, catalog it and put it on the shelf until someone needs it." With the CDC being fully operational the logistical hub of Iraq will run much more smoothly and efficiently which will save money but much more importantly, potentially

316th ESC G6 leaves lasting mark at Joint Operations Center



Photo by Spc. Jay Venturini

LSA ANACONDA, Iraq—Sgt. Jan D. Smith, the 316th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) G6 audiovisual technician, airbrushes the final touches to the G6 mural outside the G6 trailer at the joint operations center here. Smith, has been working on the project since November and designed and painted the mural himself.

316th mail room: keeping mail flowing, morale up

by Spc. Jay Venturini
Anaconda Times staff

LSA ANACONDA, Iraq – Being deployed is hard on anyone. Servicemembers have to find ways to keep their spirits up. Getting mail and care packages from friends, family and grateful fellow Americans goes along way to keep morale up throughout the ranks.

The 316th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) (ESC) mail room does its part to keep the mail readily available for their servicemembers to pick up and enjoy.

“I am in charge of all the mail that comes in for Soldiers of the 316th ESC and ensuring it gets to the proper personnel,” said Sgt. Hiep Le, the 316th ESC mail room noncommissioned officer (NCO).

All mail for LSA Anaconda comes in through the joint military mail terminal where it is sorted out into the different units and organizations located here.

Once the mail is divided, it is Le’s responsibility to sort through the 316th ESC mail to inspect packages for damage and to forward or return anything that does not belong. Then he organizes all the articles of mail alphabetically by last name and forms a list, which is added to the preexisting list of uncollected mail from previous days.

“The normal routine of sorting through all the mail in the morning takes about an hour and a half depending on how much comes in,” said Le. “Then the mail room is open at



Photo by Spc. Jay Venturini

Sgt. Hiep Le, the 316th ESC mail room noncommissioned officer in charge, hands a package to Spc. Kristopher Miller, a 316th Headquarters and Headquarters Company administrative clerk. On an average day, Le hands out over 100 articles of mail to personnel.

8 o’clock sharp.”

The schedule of working the mail room can be very sporadic. There are usually long periods of waiting accompanied by a few short periods of long lines. During the holiday season, which is typically the busiest time of the year for mail traffic, as many as 12 pallets that consisted of over 30 articles of mail came in daily

for 316th personnel alone.

“For two weeks straight it was nonstop,” said Le. “Going through all the Christmas mail was very tiring and frustrating at times but I got it done.”

“Sgt. Le really did a great job over the holiday period,” said Sgt. Garry Long, 316th ESC motor pool mechanic. “It’s not easy keeping all the mail organized and accounted

for.”

With the holiday mail and countless other packages, there have been some very unusual items that have found their way into the mail room.

“I’ve seen everything from groceries to musical instruments and weights for bodybuilding,” said Le. “Some of the things I just shake my head at.”

Despite the long hours and endless amount of letters and boxes, knowing each article of mail brings with it a little piece of home makes it worth it.

“It makes me feel good about doing my job,” said Le. “It reminds me how important my job really is to the Soldiers of the 316th, and it makes me want to work to the best of my ability.”

America’s warrior

by Spc. Joseph Welch

A snapshot of servicemembers in the Global War on Terrorism



Photo by Spc. Joseph Welch

Full name and rank: Sfc. Devon A. Escoffery
Unit: HHC, 7th Sustainment Brigade
Job title: 7th Sustainment Brigade Mortuary Affairs NCOIC.
Time in service: 17 years.
Age: 44.
Hometown: Queens, New York.
Family: Wife Rosemarie, son Devon and daughter Ashley.
Pastimes (Hobbies): Soccer.
Life-changing event/moment: In 2003, when a friend of mine got killed in Al Asad, Iraq.
The person I admire the most: My older brother, Anthony Escoffery.
Why I joined the military: To make a better life for my family.
If I wasn’t in the military I would be: Working in some factory or hospital.

The one thing I would change about the Army: The deployment rotation system.
What makes a good Soldier: Being willing to take instruction and always do the right thing.
What makes a good leader: Someone who is willing to listen.
Lesson learned: I have learned how important it is to cherish your family and friends.
Unusual fact about you: I am a God fearing person and cherish the family system.
Motivations in life: My wife and two kids.
Goals: Retire in 2010 and go back to college to complete my bachelor’s degree.
Best part of my Job: Doing recovery of all our fallen comrades and seeing how it gives closure to their families.
Hardest part about my job: Processing our fallen comrades.

Maintenance Soldiers get good reviews in Prosperity

by Staff Sgt. Bryant Maude

1st Sustainment Brigade

FOB PROSPERITY, Iraq – Six months ago Staff Sgt. Todd Hotis, a team member with Multi-National Security Transition Command - Iraq (MN-STC-I), had a slow leak in the transfer case of his Humvee and was having trouble getting someone to fix it.

“We got a crack in our transfer case and the old unit just let us ride with it,” recalled Hotis. “So I brought it to these guys – they saw the leak – and said they’d replace it.”

The Soldiers are mechanics with the 598th Maintenance Company, 68th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, working in FOB Prosperity as part of the Forward Logistics Element (FLE) implemented by the 1st Sustainment Brigade (SB).

“The FLE was established to provide logistics support operations in the International Zone to replace the 15th Brigade Support Battalion as they were departing with no replacement unit,” said Maj. Christopher Dexter, the deputy support operations officer for the 1st SB. “It was no problem,” said Pfc. Kyle Maritz, a mechanic with the 598th Maint. Co.

“They come by here about



Photo by Staff Sgt. Bryant Maude

Pfc. Kyle Maritz, from Naples, Fla., a light wheeled mechanic with the 598th Maintenance Company, 68th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, replaces a transfer case on an up-armored Humvee.

once a week,” said Maritz.

One service bay over, Spc. Ashton Hartmann, was having

the calipers replaced on his vehicle.

“He’s fast,” said Hartmann

of Sgt. William Dickenson, a light wheeled mechanic, with the 598th Maint. Co.

“These guys do an outstanding job,” Hotis said. “They take really good care of us.”

Soldiers guard gates



Photo by Staff Sgt. Bryant Maude

CAMP LIBERTY, Iraq – Pfc. Joshua Shepherd, of Boston, Mass., a chemical specialist with the 46th Chemical Company, monitors vehicles traveling through entry control points for Company B, 1st Battalion, 143rd Field Artillery.

Chaplain gives gifts to Iraqi children at hospital



Photo by Spc. Ryan Porter

LSA ANACONDA, Iraq – Ch. (Capt.) Kenneth Reid, the Task Force 106th chaplain, gives an injured Iraqi child a plethora of gifts at the Air Force Theater Hospital here as the child’s mother watches at his bedside. Throughout his deployment, Reid has given out more than 100 stuffed animals to Iraqi children. Reid summed up the visit by saying, “The smile on the child’s face always says it was a success.”

Upcoming sports on AFN

Wednesday 1/23/08

Michigan @ Wisconsin live 3:00 a.m. AFN/sports
Boston Bruins @ Montreal Canadians live 3:30 a.m. AFN/xtra
Tennessee @ Kentucky live 5:00 a.m. AFN/sports
New Jersey Nets @ Sacramento Kings live 6:00 a.m. AFN/xtra
2008 Australian Open live 12:00 p.m. AFN/sports

Thursday 1/24/08

Iowa State @ Kansas live 3:00 a.m. AFN/sports
Washington Wizards @ Cleveland Cavaliers live 3:00 a.m. AFN/xtra
Los Angeles Lakers @ San Antonio Spurs live 5:00 a.m. AFN/sports; replay 5:00 p.m. AFN/sports
Detroit Red Wings @ Anaheim Ducks live 6:00 a.m. AFN/xtra
2008 Australian Open live 11:30 a.m. AFN/sports

Friday 1/25/08

Duke @ Virginia Tech live 3:00 a.m. AFN/xtra
San Antonio Spurs @ Miami Heat live 4:15 AFN/sports
Winter X Games 12 live 5:00 a.m. AFN/xtra
New Jersey Nets @ Golden State

Warriors live 6:30 a.m. AFN/sports
2008 Australian Open live 12:00 p.m. AFN/sports
Seton Hall @ Providence replay 5:00 p.m. AFN/sports
Michigan State @ Northwestern replay 6:30 p.m. AFN/sports

Saturday 1/26/08

Orlando Magic @ Detroit Pistons live 3:00 a.m. AFN/sports
Phoenix Suns @ Cleveland Cavaliers live 3:00 a.m. AFN/xtra
2008 Australian Open: Women's final live 5:30 a.m. AFN/sports; replay 12:00 p.m. AFN/sports
Winter X Games 12 live 5:30 a.m. AFN/xtra
Gonzaga @ Memphis live 8:00 p.m. AFN/sports
Notre Dame @ Villanova live 8:00 p.m. AFN/xtra
Connecticut @ Indiana live 9:00 p.m. AFN/prime
Texas A&M @ Oklahoma State live 10:00 p.m. AFN/sports
PGA Tour: Buick Invitational live 11:00 p.m. AFN/prime
Winter X Games 12 live 11:00 p.m. AFN/xtra

Sunday 1/27/08

Wisconsin @ Purdue live 12:00 a.m. AFN/sports

Utah State @ New Mexico State live 2:00 a.m. AFN/sports
Georgia @ Tennessee live 3:00 a.m. AFN/prime
Georgetown @ West Virginia live 3:00 a.m. AFN/xtra
USC @ Oregon live 5:00 a.m. AFN/prime
Creighton @ Southern Illinois live 5:00 a.m. AFN/sports
Winter X Games 12 live 5:00 a.m. AFN/xtra
South Carolina @ Kentucky replay 7:00 a.m. AFN/xtra
North Carolina State @ Florida State replay 9:00 a.m. AFN/xtra
Indiana Pacers @ Miami Heat replay 11:00 a.m. AFN/xtra
2008 Australian Open: Men's final live 11:30 a.m. AFN/sports
New Orleans Hornets @ San Antonio Spurs replay 1:30 a.m. AFN/xtra
Texas Tech @ Texas replay 4:00 p.m. AFN/xtra
Army @ Navy live 8:00 p.m. AFN/xtra
Michigan @ Michigan State live 9:00 p.m. AFN/prime
Phoenix Suns @ Chicago Bulls live 9:00 p.m. AFN/sports
PGA Tour: Buick Invitational live 11:00 p.m. AFN/prime
Cleveland Cavaliers @ Los Angeles Lakers live 11:30 p.m. AFN/sports

Monday 1/28/08

NHL All-Star Game live 2:00 a.m. AFN/sports; replay 12:00 p.m. AFN/sports; replay 8:00 p.m. AFN/sports
Duke @ Maryland live 2:30 a.m. AFN/prime
Denver Nuggets @ Dallas Mavericks live 2:30 a.m. AFN/xtra
Northwestern @ Illinois live 4:00 a.m. AFN/prime
Winter X Games 12 live 5:00 a.m. AFN/xtra
Cincinnati @ Seton Hall replay 7:00 a.m. AFN/xtra
Vanderbilt @ Florida replay 9:00 a.m. AFN/xtra
Clemson @ Miami (FL) replay 11:00 a.m. AFN/xtra
Denver Nuggets @ Dallas Mavericks replay 3:30 p.m. AFN/sports
Boston Celtics @ Orlando Magic replay 6:00 p.m. AFN/xtra

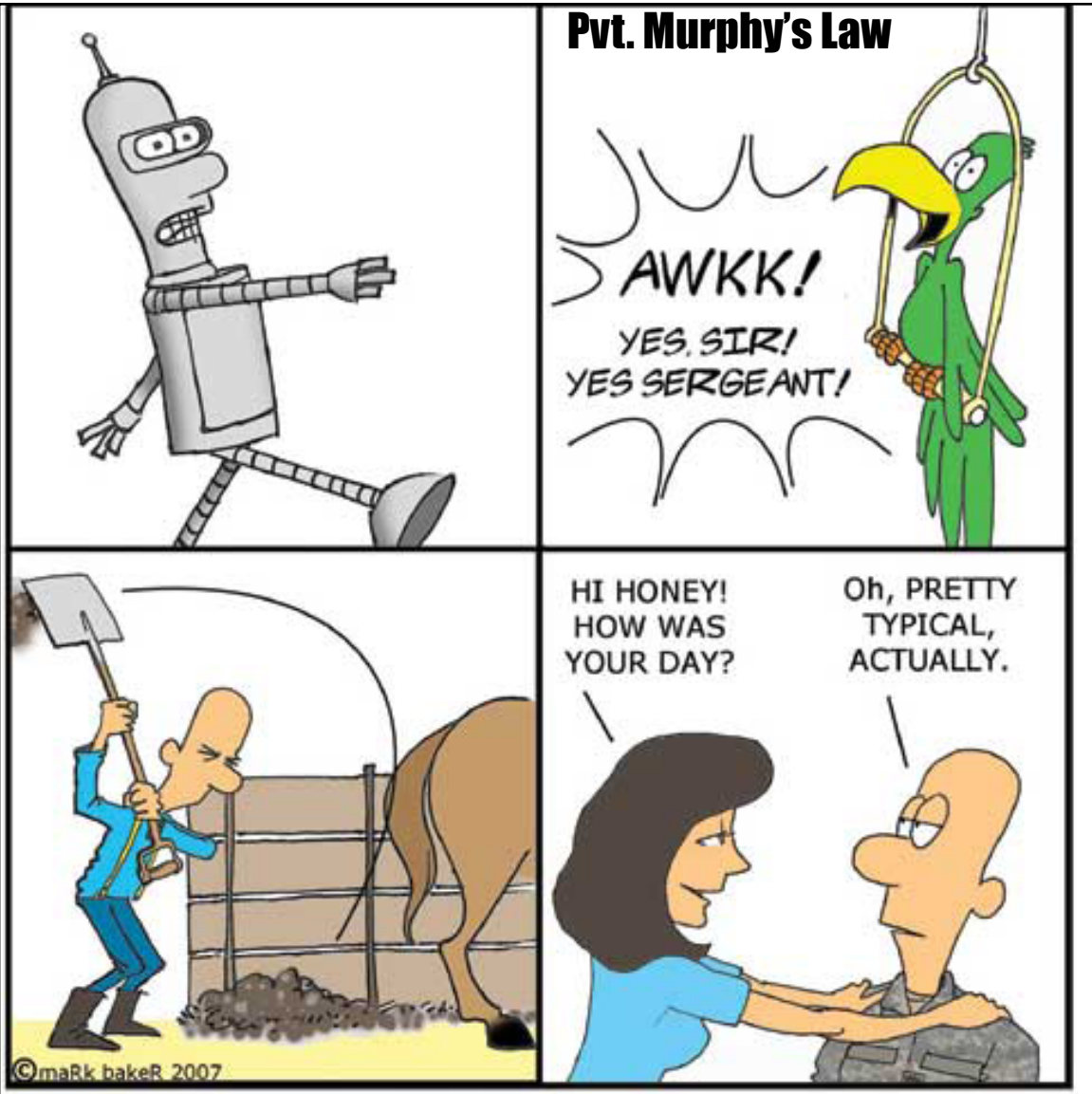
Tuesday 1/29/08

Women's BB: Tennessee @ Duke live 3:00 a.m. AFN/xtra
Louisville @ Connecticut live 3:00 a.m. AFN/sports; replay 4:30 p.m. AFN/sports
Oklahoma State @ Oklahoma live 5:00 a.m. AFN/sports; replay 3:00 p.m. AFN/sports
San Antonio Spurs @ Utah Jazz live 5:00 AFN/xtra

SUSTAINER REEL TIME THEATER

(Schedule is subject to change)

| | |
|--------|---------------------------|
| 5 p.m. | Wednesday, Jan. 23 |
| 8 p.m. | First Sunday (PG-13) |
| | Thursday, Jan. 24 |
| 5 p.m. | The Mist (R) |
| 8 p.m. | First Sunday (PG-13) |
| | Friday, Jan. 25 |
| 2 p.m. | The Golden Compass (PG) |
| 5 p.m. | I am Legend (PG-13) |
| 8 p.m. | Untraceable (R) |
| | Saturday, Jan. 26 |
| 2 p.m. | I am Legend (PG-13) |
| 5 p.m. | Untraceable (R) |
| 8 p.m. | The Golden Compass (PG) |
| | Sunday, Jan. 27 |
| 2 p.m. | Untraceable (R) |
| 5 p.m. | The Golden Compass (PG) |
| 8 p.m. | I am Legend (PG-13) |
| | Monday, Jan. 28 |
| 5 p.m. | Untraceable (R) |
| 8 p.m. | The Golden Compass (PG) |
| | Tuesday, Jan. 29 |
| 5 p.m. | The Golden Compass (PG) |
| 8 p.m. | Untraceable (R) |



ANACONDA ACTIVITIES

INDOOR POOL

Aqua Training: Tuesday and Thursday- 7:45 p.m.

Swim Lessons

-Beginners: Tuesday – 7 p.m.

-Intermediate: Thursday- 7 p.m. *Must sign up with instructor.

-Advanced: Saturday - 7 p.m. *Must sign up with instructor.

Time Trails- 50m, 100m, 200m: Friday – 8 a.m.&p.m.

EAST FITNESS CENTER

Basketball League: Monday-Friday – 7 p.m.

Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu: Monday, Wednesday, Friday – 8 p.m.

Kyu Kyu Kempo: Sunday- 2 p.m.

Modern Army combatives: Tuesday and Thursday- 8:30 p.m.

Open court volleyball: Sunday- 6 p.m.

Shotokan Karate Do: Thursday- 6:45 p.m., Saturday- 8:30 p.m. and Sunday- 5:30 p.m.

Soo Bahk Do: 6 p.m.

Step Aerobics: Monday, Wednesday, Friday – 5:30 p.m.

Wrestling & physical fitness class: Tuesday- 6 p.m. and

Saturday- 7 p.m.

Swing dance: Sunday- 7:30 p.m.

EAST RECREATION CENTER

8-ball tourney: Monday- 3 p.m. and 8 p.m.

9-ball tournament: Wednesday- 3 p.m. and 8 p.m.

Game Console Tourney: Thursday- 8 p.m.

Country Dance Class: Thursday- 7 p.m.

Dominoes: Friday- 8 p.m.

Karaoke: Monday- 8 p.m.

Model building: Sunday- 1 p.m.

Poetry/ open mic: Sunday- 7:30 p.m.

Poker tourney: Sunday- 6 p.m.

Salsa dance class: Saturday- 8:30 p.m.

Swing dance: Tuesday- 7p.m.

Ping pong tourney: Tuesday- 3 p.m. and 8 p.m.

WEST RECREATION CENTER

8-ball tourney: Wednesday- 1 p.m. and 8 p.m.

9-ball tournament: Monday- 1 p.m. and 8 p.m.

Dungeons & Dragons: Saturday- 8 p.m.

Friday nights in Balad: Friday- 8 p.m.

Foosball: Tuesday- 1 p.m. and 8 p.m.

Green Bean karaoke:

Wednesday and Sunday- 8 p.m.

Ice Ball Tourney: Thursday- 4 p.m.

Ping pong tourney: Tuesday- 1 p.m. and 8 p.m.

Salsa dance class: Thursday- 8:30 p.m.

Spades, Chess and Dominoes: Friday – 1 p.m.

Texas hold 'em: Saturday- 1 p.m. and 8 p.m.

Game Counsel Tourney: Thursday- 1 p.m. and 8 p.m.

WEST FITNESS CENTER

3-on-3 basketball tourney: Saturday- 7:30 p.m.

6-on-6 volleyball tourney: Friday- 7 p.m.

Aerobics: Monday, Wednesday, Friday- 7 p.m.

Body by Midgett Toning Class: Tuesday, Thursday - 7 p.m.

Dodge ball Game: Tuesday- 7:30 p.m.

Furman's Martial Arts: Monday, Wednesday, Sunday- 1 p.m.

Gaston's Self-Defense Class: Friday, Saturday- 7 p.m.

Open court basketball: Thursday- 7 p.m.

Open court soccer: Monday, Wednesday - 7 p.m.
Zingano Brazilian Jui Jitsu: Tuesday, Thursday- 8:30 p.m.

CIRCUIT GYM

Floor hockey: Monday, Wednesday, Friday – 8 p.m.

WEST SIDE

CHESS CLUB

WHEN: EVERY FRIDAY

WHERE: THE WEST SIDE MWR

TIME: 1 and 8 p.m.

For More Info: Emily.McGovern@kbr.com

New helmet sensors to measure blast impact

by Donna Miles

Army News Service

FORT BELVOIR, Va.,- Soldiers from the 101st Airborne Division preparing to deploy to Afghanistan are being issued sensors that attach to their helmets to measure the impact from blasts, roadside bombs and other activities.

About 1,200 "Screaming Eagles" already have the new sensors, and the rest will receive them within the next month, said Maj. William Schaffer, a product manager in the Army's Program Executive Office Soldier, based here.

Meanwhile, troops from the 4th Infantry Division are scheduled to receive helmet sensors with similar capabilities before their deployment to Iraq this fall, Schaffer said.

The sensors gather data on impacts ranging from a dropped or kicked helmet to a vehicle crash to a nearby weapon firing or explosion,



Photo by Donna Miles

The 4th Infantry Division will receive an internally mounted helmet sensor before its deployment to Iraq this fall.

Maj. Schaffer explained. They measure two specific actions: the energy wave generated by the "event," and the "acceleration" or jolt that follows.

In the short term, data collected through the sensors is expected to help the Army improve the helmets and other protective equipment it provides its soldiers, Maj. Schaffer said.

A longer-term application - one Maj. Schaffer emphasized the medical community isn't yet ready for - is to use impact data to help diagnose traumatic brain injuries.

"With the number of IEDs that we're seeing in Iraq and the traumatic brain injury that's coming out of it, obviously somewhere down the line we are looking at correlating the blast and the injury," he said. "But in the near term, we are looking at developing a more protective piece of equipment. The advanced combat helmet we have out there is the best in the world, but we are always looking at ways to make our products better, and this is a great way to start."

Gen. Richard A. Cody, Army vice chief of staff, ordered the helmet sensor program in June. Three months later, the Program Executive Office Soldier had come up with several potential helmet sen-

sors and was putting them through extensive testing at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md.

The model going to the 101st Airborne Division attaches to the back of the advanced combat helmet, protected by a hardened casing that is covered by a camouflage flap. It weighs about 6 ounces and has a six-month battery life. The sensor remains in a "sleep" mode, automatically turning itself on and capturing data from an event, then turning itself off. It has enough memory to store data on 527 events.

To harvest information from the sensor, a soldier simply connects it to a computer using a USB port, hits "save" and sends the data to a secure database.

An internally mounted model to be fielded to the 4th Infantry Division sits under the padding in the crown of the helmet. It has a rechargeable battery, but otherwise has the same ca-

pabilities as the externally mounted sensor.

"One is protected by the helmet itself, and one by the hardened casing around it," Maj. Schaffer said. "Both measure impact and acceleration."

Initial input from 101st Airborne Division soldiers shows they are happy to play a part in helping the Army improve its helmet protection, Maj. Schaffer said. He noted that many of the soldiers have experienced blasts or accelerations during past deployments and recognize the value of the sensor technology in developing the next-generation combat helmet.

"This shows everybody that the Army cares," Maj. Schaffer said. "We have got the best equipment in the world, but we are not resting on our laurels. We are always looking forward, always looking for the next generation of protective equipment to take care of the soldiers."

Iraqi Special Tactics team, U.S. Special Forces investigate cache sites



Photo by U.S. Navy Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Todd Frantom

MUHALLABIYAH Iraq – An Iraqi Special Weapons and Tactics team and U.S. Special Forces find a cave containing material to make improvised explosive devices Jan. 10 during a patrol on the Muhallabiyah Ridge.



Photo by U.S. Navy Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Todd Frantom

MUHALLABIYAH Iraq – A member of an Iraqi Special Weapons and Tactics team surveys a farm in search of illegal weapons.



Photo by U.S. Navy Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Todd Frantom

MUHALLABIYAH Iraq – An Iraqi Special Weapons and Tactics team conduct mounted and dismounted patrols along with U.S. Special Forces, on the Muhallabiyah Ridge. The groups were investigating three reported cache sites used by insurgents in western Ninewah.

Explosives material can be minute



Photo by U.S. Navy Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Todd Frantom

MUHALLABIYAH Iraq – Paraphernalia found in one of the cache sites during a patrol on the Mullibiyah Ridge. An Iraqi Special Weapons and Tactics team and U.S. Special Forces found the minute material while investigating caches.



Photo by U.S. Navy Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Todd Frantom

MUHALLABIYAH Iraq – Iraqi Special Weapons and Tactics team members patrol on a hilltop, in search of reported illegal weapons and explosives caches.

Running in Remembrance: MLK 5K run



Photos by Sgt. 1st Class Neil Simmons

(Above) LSA ANACONDA, Iraq – Soldiers of the 8th Ordnance Company round the last bend before the finish line at Holt Stadium here during the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. morning run Jan. 15. The unit went the entire five kilometers in formation. (Below) A Soldier pushes all the way through to the end of the five kilometer run here. The run was held in recognition of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and had more than 400 Anaconda residents participate.



Photo by Spc. Jay Venturini

LSA ANACONDA, Iraq – (From left) 2nd Lt. Nathan Flores, 316th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), 1st Lt. Pablo Cercenia, 1st Battalion, 9th Field Artillery Regiment, Spc. Amauri Cordero, Charlie Battery, 1st Battalion, 143rd Field Artillery Regiment, Capt. Rachel Springer, Multifunction Medical Battalion, and 1st Lt Brittany Commons, 326th Engineer Battalion, receive an award for being the top runners at the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. 5k run at Holt Stadium.



Photos by Sgt. 1st Class Neil Simmons

(Above) LSA ANACONDA, Iraq – Displaying their Army spirit, 403rd Inland Cargo Transfer Company Soldiers sound off as they cross the finish line after running five kilometers in recognition of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. (Below) 2nd Lt. Nathan Flores with the 316th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) crosses the finish line of the five kilometer Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. run. Flores finished the race first with a time of 16:08, more than a minute faster than his closest competitor.

