



AnacondaTimes

JANUARY 30, 2008

PROUDLY SERVING LSA ANACONDA



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Gary L. Qualls

Fueling the dream

Soldiers turn muddy mess into efficient fuel farm.

Page 15



Photo by Staff Sgt. Bryant Maude

Flex your knowledge

More than ever before Soldiers are staffing new jobs.

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Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Gary L. Qualls

Healing Haider, bringing hope

Soldiers, Airmen help Iraqi boy get vital surgery.

Page 10



Photo by Staff Sgt. Dave Lankford

SAMARRA, Iraq – Soldiers of the 2nd Battalion, 320th Field Artillery Regiment dropped over 1,100 rounds of 105mm high-explosive ammunition on targets here over three days, starting Jan. 11, in support of Operation Fulton. The operation was organized after a patrol from the 2nd Battalion, 327th Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division, was ambushed resulting in the loss of several Soldiers.

Operation Fulton: the battle for Samarra

by Staff Sgt. Dave Lankford

Anaconda Times Staff

"This war will not be like the war against Iraq a decade ago...It will not look like the air war above Kosovo two years ago, where no ground troops were used and not a single American was lost in combat..." President George W. Bush.

SAMARRA, Iraq – In the early morning hours of Jan. 8, a Kiowa Warrior observation helicopter spotted what looked like an Al Qaeda encampment in a wooded area

"The intelligence we are getting is that this area is a hotbed for the insurgency but Coalition Forces and Iraqi Security Forces are working together to get rid of the insurgency."

1st Lt. Jonathan Springer
2-320th FAR.

south of Samarra and ground troops were sent in to investigate. What they would uncover may prove to be one of the largest AQI strongholds ever discovered in the region, but the discovery came at a great price.

Soldiers of the 2nd Battalion, 327th Infantry Regiment were in the area conducting patrols when the news of a possible AQI encampment reached them. They responded immediately.

"We had actionable intelligence that said this was a possible AQI base camp. My platoon sergeant was already on site when the rest of the platoon arrived. He had found an area that looked like where AQI was sleeping," said 1st Lt. Steven Higgins, 1st Platoon Leader. "I asked my platoon sergeant what area in the reeds had not been cleared so we could set up security and continue tactical site exploitation."

About that time an OH-58

See **BATTLE**, Page 8

Things not to do in uniform: drinking, gambling, campaigning

The presidential campaign season is underway, so be careful what you do and say in uniform. Yes that's right, in uniform. For while you may know you're not supposed to drink or gamble while wearing it, you might not know that you cannot campaign for, advocate, or promote a candidate, cause or issue while in uniform or in your official capacity as a servicemember, even when you've got your favorite "civies" on.

This certainly does not mean troops can't volunteer their time to a candidate, cause or issue they are passionate about, just be sure to do it as Citizen Joe, not G.I. Joe. And while healthy debates among servicemembers are encouraged, be careful not to commit such acts as sending or even forwarding

an e-mail on your government computer that advocates the election or defeat of a political candidate. It can put you in violation of the Department of Defense Election Policy, The Hatch Act and other directives.

It's easy to see how a Soldier, Sailor, Airman, or Marine, who has already volunteered so much for America, would want to lend their hard-earned credibility to a cause or candidate he or she believes in, but to do so in an official capacity as a servicemember is a violation. To steer clear of election season troubles, follow the 2007 Election Public Affairs Guidance below:

A political campaign or election begins when a candidate, including an incumbent office-holder, makes a formal announcement that he or she

seeks to be elected to a federal, state, or local political office. A political campaign election also begins when an individual files a candidacy with the deferral election commission or equivalent state or local regulatory office. Once initiated, a political campaign or election does not end until one week after the conclusion of the relevant election.

Department of Defense (DoD) personnel acting in their official capacity may not engage in activities that associate DoD with any partisan political campaign or election, candidate, cause or issue.

DoD personnel must forward all inquiries from political campaign organizations to a public affairs officer (PAO) for awareness and appropriate action. In response to specific in-

quiries, PAOs will only provide information that is available to the general public.

Installation commanders will decline requests for military personnel to appear in or support political campaign or election events.

All military personnel, including national guard and reserve forces, are prohibited from wearing military uniforms at political campaign or election events. All military personnel, including National Guard and Reserve forces, acting in their official capacity may not engage in public commentary, including speeches and written submissions offered for publication, concerning political campaigns or elections without prior clearance. For further information go to www.fvap.gov.



Web Image

Provost Marshal Office: Weekly police blotter

(Week of Jan. 13-19)

The PMO conducted: (203) security checks, (20) traffic stops, issued (33) DD Form 1408 Armed Forces Traffic Ticket, registered (100) vehicles on the installation, (7) minor traffic accidents, (19) Common Access Cards were reported lost.

The PMO is currently investigating: (2) Assaults (5) Larceny Government/Personal Property cases and (1) General Order #1 violation.

PMO Recommendations: Bicyclists shall comply with the following requirements while riding on military installations:

A. It is prohibited to wear headphones, ear-

phones or other listening devices while bicycling on roads or streets.

B. ANSI or SNELL Memorial Foundation approved bicycle helmets will be worn by all military and civilian personnel. The military issued Kevlar helmet may be substituted as an authorized bicycle safety helmet. An engineer hard hat does not meet this requirement.

C. Riders should avoid Pennsylvania Avenue when other routes can be used. Riders and joggers are not authorized on Victory Loop.

D. Bicyclists will comply with all traffic signs and customary rules of the road. They must stop at stop signs, yield the right of way and use proper hand signaling when turning or stopping.

By: Staff Sgt. Mirta Jones



Photo by Air Force Staff Sgt. Mirta Jones

PMO Airman 1st Class Ricky Gorman (left) and Senior Airman Ryan Richardson, prepare to respond to an indirect fire attack.

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 LSA 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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213th Area Support Group
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.

Leaders: reducing stress may increase mission success

Policy and Programs
U.S. Army Safety Center

Stress is essential to life. It's the balance between enough and too much that is the challenge. Stress-related claims are on the rise in the Army as well as other branches of the Armed Forces.

Positive responses to stress include performing better, acting faster, running harder and thinking quicker. Some of the symptoms of negative stress can include low morale, aggression, bad decisions, disorganization, hair loss, eye twitches, neck stiffness, sleepiness, increased tiredness, increase palpitation, increased smoking, stomach upsets, eating disorders and physical sickness such as headaches, and increased blood pressure.

Stress is a biochemical response to performance and is caused by: work, knowledge, family, environment, health, values and beliefs, travel, finances and social relationships. Stress consists of several components including:

1. Stressors - e.g., organi-

zational change. Humans like things to be predictable.

2. Feelings - How do I feel about myself? Am I in control?
3. General adaptation syndrome - fear from presentations (sweaty palms, excessive use of the toilet.)
4. Reactions - responses to destruction, loss, death, etc.
5. Thoughts - denial, lack of control over change issues.
6. Behavior - negative thoughts trigger physiological effects (e.g., temper).

The long term effects of stress can result in ulcers, heart attack, nervous breakdown, weight gain or loss, and dependence on alcohol, pills, drugs and smoking.

Leaders can help to reduce perceived stresses among their staff by consulting with personnel, ensuring all personnel have tasks and duties matched to their capabilities and training, informing personnel of

organizational changes, plans and successes, providing adequate training for personnel in resolving work conflicts and providing flexible working arrangements and schedules when possible.

While finding the cause of your personnel's stress and resolving it might be the ideal solution, often this is not possible. In the meantime, a lot can be done to manage stress and improve the quality of your personnel's work life.

Don't forget to monitor how stress is impacting you as a leader.

If you feel that stress is having a negative impact on your life or your personnel's, consider enlisting some of the following techniques:

1. Encourage taking a few minutes out of the day from work and other commitments to meditate. It's an age-old remedy that works.
2. Promote eating properly. Sound nutrition is essential for every aspect of good health.
3. Allow enough regular

sleep to rejuvenate the body and mind, but remember that individual sleep needs vary widely.

4. Establish a consistent exercise program.

5. Remember to have a good laugh now and then.

Reducing stress in the workplace may lead to increased personnel productivity and mission success.



Photo Illustration by Sgt. Jasmine Chopra

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.	Castle 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.	Castle 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)
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PROTESTANT—PRAYER SERVICE

Saturday	7 a.m.	Signal Chapel
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PROTESTANT—SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST

Saturday	9 a.m.	Provider
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PROTESTANT—CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

Friday	Noon	Freedom Chapel (West Side)
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PAGAN/ WICCAN FELLOWSHIP

Thursday, Saturday	7 p.m.	Eden Chapel
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BUDDHIST FELLOWSHIP

Tuesday	7 p.m.	Eden Chapel
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United through Reading, USO keep families connected

by Staff Sgt. Dave Lankford

Anaconda Times staff

LSA ANACONDA, Iraq – There are many innovative programs in place to keep servicemembers deployed around the world connected to loved ones back home. One of the most creative combines modern technology with good old-fashioned book smarts.

The United Services Organization (USO) and the United Through Reading programs keep military parents connected with their children by video-taping the servicemember reading a children's book aloud. The video tape is then converted to DVD and sent along with the book to their children at home.

"The mini's DVD's we use will run 20-30 minutes and the troops can use all of that time reading and talking. There is no cost to the troop. They pick a book and we film them and then we send the book and the DVD to their child or



Photo by Staff Sgt. Dave Lankford

Air Force Staff Sgt. Eric Sullivan, 721st Air Mobility Operations Group, takes part in the United Through Reading program Jan. 17. The program is available at the USO here everyday from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. by appointment, or Fridays at the Air Force Theater Hospital from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.

spouse," said Linda Robinson, Programs Manager for the USO in Balad.

The parent or caregiver at home is then encouraged to photograph or videotape the child watching the DVD and send the photos or video back to the servicemember to boost moral.

The program is available to all de-

ployed personnel, not just parents. Servicemembers may choose to read aloud to a younger sibling, niece or nephew, grandchild, or even a family friend.

"The troops can pick a book for each of the significant children in their life. The USO is thrilled to be a part in offering this program and encourage the

troops to participate. This has proven to be a terrific way to communicate with home and family and can be repeated over and over during the deployment," said Robinson.

Seeing a parent reading may help to ease a child's fears in a way phone calls and emails can't. The program also gives the spouse at home a sense of shared parental responsibility and may lessen the feeling that they are on their own.

"The United Through Reading is set up in the USO center and films everyday from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. by appointment. Troops can stop in the office at 4131 New Jersey to set up appointment," said Robinson. "We also film every Friday at the hospital from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m."

The United Through Reading program was created by the Family Literacy Foundation and has served nearly two-hundred thousand servicemembers to date.

Vladimirov found



Photo by Staff Sgt. Dave Lankford

SAMARRA, Iraq – Pfc. Michael Headley, a rifleman with the 2nd Battalion, 327th Infantry Regiment, examines a 14.5mm Vladimirov (KPV) heavy machine gun found during a sweep on the outskirts of the city here Jan. 13. The KPV is an anti-aircraft weapon, often used by Taliban fighters, which can also be mounted in the turret of a vehicle.

Black History Month events

Friday Feb. 1, kick off prayer breakfast 7a.m. Audie Murphy Room DFAC 1.

Saturday Feb. 2, Talent Concert 7p.m. MWR East

Thursday Feb. 7, Black History Month Knowledge Bowl 6p.m.-7:30p.m. MWR East

Feb. 9, 23, Soul Food Nights Dinner @ DFAC 1 and 4

Feb. 10, 24, Soul Food Sunday Lunch @DFAC 3

Feb. 21, Black History Month Knowledge Bowl 6p.m.-7:30p.m. MWR East



Web Image

Feb. 22, prayer breakfast 7a.m. DFAC 4

Feb. 24, 5K Run 6a.m. Holt Stadium, Poetry Slam, 8p.m. MWR East

Feb. 27, Black History Month Luncheon, 11a.m.- noon

Feb. 28, Black History Month Knowledge Bowl 6p.m.-7:30p.m. MWR East

Feb. 29, Sgt. Debra Gipson in an original stage play, 7p.m.- 9p.m. MWR East

Don't forget to check out MWR East throughout February for movies celebrating Black heritage and history.

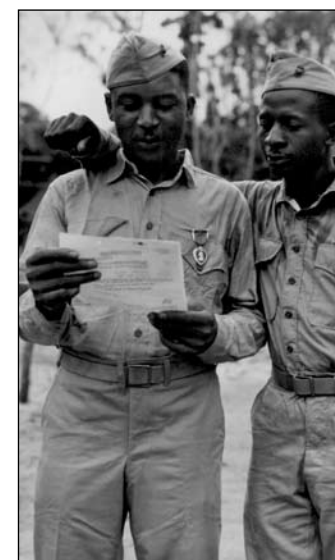


Photo courtesy of Library of Congress

316th Soldiers keep shot groups tight at Smith Range

by Spc. Jay Venturini

Anaconda Times staff

LSA ANACONDA, Iraq – Being deployed to a combat zone requires service-members to keep their situational awareness up and warrior task skills sharp. Soldiers with Headquarters, Headquarters Company (HHC) 316th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) (ESC) are doing their part by hosting a monthly weapon qualification range.

The range is open to anyone in the 316th ESC who

needs to qualify for a promotion packet or just wants to keep their skills sharp.

“My goal is to have everyone in the 316th caught up with their training before they leave here,” said Staff Sgt. Christopher Lowe, the 316th ESC training noncommissioned officer (NCO) in charge. “Rifle ranges and PT tests are the big ones that everyone should take care of here before the big break after redeployment.”

Forty-five Soldiers went through the most recent

range in January. The Soldiers had to fight below freezing temperatures and gusts of wind, but overall the personnel who set up the range qualification achieved their goal.

“It was a huge success,” said Lowe. “My crew did a great job keeping motivated and keeping the range running smoothly. All the credit should go to my guys.”

“Besides the cold the day went very well,” said Sgt. James Rush, the 316th ESC nuclear, biological and chemical NCO. “All the Soldiers got through the range in a timely manner.”

There is a lot of planning that goes into making a range happen. Most of the coordination is done with Detachment 1, 332nd Expeditionary Mission Support Group, who controls Smith Range. Meals are also coordinated through one of the dining facilities on post.

The main thing stressed to every Soldier on the range is safety. Whether it is before, during or after Soldiers have fired, there are procedures in place to keep them safe.



Photo by Spc. Jay Venturini

Sgt. Hiep Le, 316th ESC mailroom NCO, marks a shot group for a Soldier who is zeroing his weapon at Smith Range. Zeroing is critical for weapon accuracy.



Photo by Spc. Jay Venturini

Spc. Kristopher Miller, a 316th ESC administration specialist, acquires a good site picture as he prepares to fire his M-16A2 rifle at Smith Range.

Alabama Guard Soldiers on same sheet of music



Photo by Spc. Andrea Merritt

CAMP TAJI, Iraq- Spc. Justin Reese, the leaves and passes clerk for Headquarters and Headquarters Company, (front) 1103rd Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, listens as Sgt. 1st Class Johnny Schmidt, the noncommissioned officer in charge of the S1 (personnel) section for the 1103rd CSSB, conducts organizational training with the section. Organizational training is conducted to make sure everything is organized within the shop in a manner that results in all personnel staying on the same sheet of music, according to Schmidt.

Have unit electronics that need to be repaired?

Tobyhanna Army Depot Forward Repair Activity (FRA) supports the following programs here in theater:

1. STAMIS/MC4 PC Hardware/Printer hardware/ IPAQ / Laptop / CAISI
2. Tactical Battle Command (TBC) Servers/ Client machines/Workstations
3. Tactical Radio Commo Systems (TRCS)- IDGH Capacity Line of Sight (HCLOS)
4. HIIDE Device Operations

Authorized repair facility for Dell, Panasonic, HP, Itronix, Cisco and MPC.

TOBYHANNA FRA (BALAD)
DSN: 312-987-5130, EXT 6363/6364

TOBYHANNA FRA (TIKRIT)
DSN: 312-987-5130, EXT 8443/8951

TOBYHANNA FRA (TALLIL)
DSN: 318-833-2031

TOBYHANNA FRA (ARIFJAN)
DSN: 318-430-5948

Making munitions for the aerial warfighter

by Staff Sgt. Travis Edwards

332nd Air Expeditionary Wing

BALAD AIR BASE, Iraq- The Air Force prides itself on its ability to fly, fight and win in any war-time situation.

But being able to do that is only possible if pilots are properly equipped with the right munitions for their target.

Ensuring there is no shortage of munitions for combat aircraft are the Airmen in the 332nd Expeditionary Maintenance Squadron Munitions Flight, more commonly referred to as "Ammo."

"This is the best job in the Air Force," said Master Sgt. David Jamison, the 332nd EMXS conventional maintenance non-commissioned officer-in-charge.

"We build bombs for the warfighters, so they can go out and drop them on those who are trying to prevent us from doing our job."

That job is creating a free and stable country for the men and women of Iraq.

Jamison said the Ammo flight assembles five different configurations of precision-guided bombs, as well as maintaining flares for the Air Force and other coalition forces.

"We make the amount of bombs needed to re-supply what the fighters use," said the master sergeant. "Our guys love knowing that what they are building is being used. And seeing video on the news gets them all wired up because they know they made those bombs," he said.

Jamison said having multiple Airmen from different bases leads to different ideas on how things should be handled. But, he said the troops are spun up quickly.

"We just get everyone together to put them on the same page; when new people come in, we take them through step-by-step on how we do business on Balad," he said.

The biggest difference between a garrison environment versus the deployed environment is the amount of real bombs they make.



Airforce photo by Staff Sgt. Travis Edwards

Airman 1st Class Justin Porter, a 332nd Expeditionary Maintenance Squadron Ammunitions Flight conventional maintenance crew member, pushes a 500-pound MK-82 bomb down the Munitions Assembly Conveyor for build-up.

"Our guys love knowing that what they are building is being used. And seeing video on the news gets them all wired up because they know they made those bombs."

Master Sgt. David Jamison
332nd EMXS

"Back home we'll build plenty of bombs, but they will be inert bombs. There won't be a fuse. Just a chunk of concrete with a fin on it," said Jamison.

"With that, it is kind of hard to keep people motivated because it is more of a training opportunity for the pilots. But down here everything is live and they get to see the results of their work daily."

Since Dec. 15, the flight built 150 bombs, all with the potential to be used in combat.

Out of the 150 bombs built, 82 replaced munitions that were spent by Air Force personnel in combat.

"It's a great feeling to know what I am doing is making a difference in this war," said Airman 1st Class Joseph Dunlavy, a 332nd EMXS maintenance technician.



Airforce Photo by Staff Sgt. Travis Edwards

Airman 1st Class Andy Calderon, a 332nd Expeditionary Maintenance Squadron Ammunitions Flight conventional maintenance crew member, tests a computer control section used to steer the GBU-12 laser-guided bomb to a target.

Flexibility is key for California Guard Soldiers

by Staff Sgt. Bryant Maude

1st Sustainment Brigade

CAMPLIBERTY, Iraq—For Soldiers serving in Company B, 1st Battalion, 143rd Field Artillery, the word “flexible” takes on real meaning.

“I was trained as a 31 Bravo, military police,” said Spc. Jacob Chrones of San Diego.

“19 Kilo, tanker,” stated Spc. Michael Dahl, of Beaumont, Calif., who is one of a dozen California National Guard Soldiers assigned to the Rapid Aerostat Initial Deployment (RAID) mission for the 168th Brigade Support Battalion, 1st Sustainment Brigade.

RAID is a giant balloon that flies high above the skies of bases in Iraq. It gives commanders on the ground a visual look at the area outside of the wire.

Co. B was tasked with the mission shortly after arriving in theater. Each of the team members underwent two and a half weeks of training before they were handed the around-



Photo by Staff Sgt. Bryant Maude

Sgt. Michael Taylor (left), from Newberg, N.C., is currently the sergeant of the guard at Entry Control Point Three, but is normally a chemical specialist for the 46th Chemical Company.

the-clock mission of maintaining the giant balloon.

“It’s going great now,” said Staff Sgt. Thomas Coy, the noncommissioned officer in charge of the RAID mission.

“These guys are all smart

and we’re all flexible. You have to be, I guess,” he said.

Monitoring giant balloons is not the only thing Co. B has adapted to. Just down the street, at entry control point (ECP) three, is another group

of 1-143rd FA Soldiers performing an equally critical mission - force protection.

“Basically we’re the defense of the base,” said Sgt. Michael Taylor, from Newberg, N.C., and sergeant of the

guard at ECP three for the 46th Chemical Company. Trained as a chemical specialist, Taylor had to adapt quickly to the security mission given to him. And flexibility is key to winning the war on terrorism.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Bryant Maude

Spc. Juan Garcia, a winch operator with Company B, 1st Battalion, 143rd Field Artillery, keeps a close eye on the giant Rapid Aerostat Initial Deployment balloon as it’s lowered.

Pre-flight checks ensure combat readiness



Photo by Senior Airman Julianne Showalter

BALAD AIR BASE, Iraq- Air Force Lt. Col. Brick Izzi, a 421st Fighter Squadron pilot, conducts pre-flight checks on his F-16 Fighting Falcon before a mission



Photo by Staff Sgt. Dave Lankford

Leave it to the 2nd Battalion, 320th Field Artillery Regiment to ruin an insurgent's dinner. With food still in the cooking pot, it's hard to tell whether the ground is smoldering from the campfire or a 105mm artillery shell. Judging from the fact that the other boot was spotted in a tree over 100-feet away, the best guess would be the latter.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Dave Lankford

Pfc. Kyle Kelly (left) and Spc. Jason Leaders of the 2nd Battalion, 320th Field Artillery Regiment line up 105mm rounds in preparation for one of the largest offensives ever launched against Al Qaeda in this region.

BATTLE, from Cover

Kiowa Warrior began to circle the area. One person was leaning out of the helicopter pointing to an area on the ground. It appeared the crew had spotted another cache. With no other way to confirm what the Kiowa was seeing, and realizing that any delay could mean the loss of vital intelligence, the platoon leader made the only possible choice...send the men in.

Higgins moved his squads into place and along with his radio operator, Pfc. Curtis Vines, began pushing forward into the wood line as his squad leaders did the same. Everything seemed to be going according to plan, but then the darkness erupted in a hail of automatic gunfire.

"Within about 15 meters of where we broke in we came into contact with an ambush. He (Vines) and I started taking rounds all around us. We hit the ground and returned fire. At that point we made the decision to break contact. We didn't want to get caught between our own friendly fire on the road and the fire we were taking from the ambush," said Higgins. "Two of my squad leaders came into direct contact with the enemy. When they got up on the enemy they were probably about 15-feet from them."

The squad leaders, immediately realizing they had been caught in the ambush, made the same call as their platoon leader. They gave the order to break contact and began to withdraw from the objective. They reconsolidated on the road where they realized every leader's greatest fear. One man had not made it out of the wood line.

Without hesitation the squad leaders assembled a team and headed back into the direction of the ambush from which they had just narrowly escaped. Again, pushing forward into accurate and overwhelming enemy fire, and with hand grenades exploding around them, the team pushed forward until they reached their fallen comrade.

When the smoke cleared, 3 men had given their lives for their country and their brothers. It was then the Soldiers and leaders of the 101st Airborne Division decided their sacrifice would not be in vain, and Operation Fulton was born.

"Our grief has turned to anger, and anger to resolution. Whether we bring our enemies to justice, or bring justice to our enemies, justice will be done." —President George W. Bush.

Shortly after the ambush warning orders went out to units across Northern Iraq. Operation orders were issued at Contingency Operating Base Speicher, Forward Operating Base Orion and Logistic Support Area Anaconda. Operation Fulton would be among the largest offensives ever launched against Al Qaeda operating in the region.

When the 2nd Battalion, 320th Field Artillery Regiment (FAR) rolled toward Samarra amidst driving snow on the morning of Jan. 10, they had in tow four 105mm Howitzers and 1200 rounds of high explosive ammunition. In addition, the field artillery would be accompanied by battalion mortars, close air support and a battalion of infantrymen hungry for payback.

"We were given the warning order yesterday and told to get our guns ready in support of 2-327th, (aka) No Slack, and also the 1st Brigade Combat Team. Right here you are seeing a full spectrum of operations...we're talking about field artillery, infantry, cavalry; actual full spectrum counterinsurgency operations trying to root out this insurgency that has embedded itself in Samarra," said 1st Lt. Jonathan Springer, the A Battery, 2-320th FAR executive officer. "The intelligence we are getting is that this area is a hotbed for the insurgency but Coalition Forces and Iraqi Security Forces are working together to get rid of the insurgency."

The "King of Battle" has rarely been called on in the Global War on Terrorism due to the urban nature of operations. Regardless of how accurate the field artillery of today is, the high explosive rounds would cause civilian casualties if utilized in the overpopulated cities of Iraq. This is not the case in the badlands south of Samarra, an area sparsely populated by farmers and heavily popu-

lated with insurgents.

"To be able to apply what we've actually been taught in the school house, yeah, it gives these guys a sense of pride and you can see it in their eyes these guys got real excited when they were told they were going to come out here in support of the infantry and shoot upwards of 1,200 rounds. These guys are ready. I am proud of these guys, they've worked hard for this," said Springer.

The uniqueness of this situation was not lost on Pfc. Kyle Pecus, A Battery, 2-320th FAR.

"I've always wanted to come to Iraq and shoot artillery but for the longest time I didn't think I'd be able to. Instead of doing Infantry tactics we actually get to do our job. It feels good to do our part," said Pecus. "There're insurgents over there and it's my job to kill them."

By mid-afternoon on the first day of operations forward observers had located their targets and begun calling for fire. The 2-320th FAR began raining down hell on the objective as they responded to fire mission after fire mission. For the next two days the field artillery put steel on target clearing the way for the Infantry to sweep across the four-square kilometer objective.

"Our nation -- this generation -- will lift a dark threat of violence from our people and our future... We will not tire, we will not falter, and we will not fail." —President George W. Bush.

By day three the final artillery round had been fired and the Infantry had fought through every last inch of the objective. The insurgents who once harbored delusions of sanctuary in this place have either retreated or been killed. The evidence of their defeat is all around, in the form of burned out vehicles, smoldering caches and clothing and other personal effects dangling from the trees and bushes in a surreal panorama.

The only evidence of survivors are a few fresh drag marks in the charred landscape. Occasionally, a shoe is spotted on the ground where it was ripped from the owner by debris during a hasty withdraw.

Perhaps the most telling evidence of the utter annihilation the inhabitants of this insurgent encampment faced is the intelligence and financial assets they left behind. Under no circumstances would an enemy which still possessed the capacity or will to fight abandon the goldmine of information and monetary resources which were found in the aftermath of the battle.

A staggering amount of information was seized including a stack of notebooks listing the names, phone numbers and in some cases the location of insurgents, details of previously executed and planned attacks, diagrams of IEDs and a wealth of other useful information, as well as thousands of dollars in U.S. currency and a list of the terrorist supporters who donated it.

"There's a lot of information in these notebooks about some real historic bad guys," said Staff Sgt. Jeff Oliver, the 2-327th Inf., intelligence noncommissioned officer in charge. "We've seen a lot of these names before, some as far back as the initial invasion in '03. The information we've got here may help us catch some of them."

In addition to the notebooks were a multitude of electronic recording devices including compact disks, flash and secure digital memory cards and external hard drives. These devices were all transported immediately to intelligence specialists for examination. A cell phone was also found and with any luck its memory will be filled to the hilt with usable information.

Staff Sgt. Mark Quigley, one of the 1st platoon squad leaders involved in the initial firefight on Jan. 8, said though nothing makes up for the loss of a comrade the intelligence gathered here is at least some consolation.

"At least we're uncovering something that might help further the war," said Quigley, who describes his fallen brothers in a voice strained by emotion as "some of the best Soldiers I've ever met."

Editor's note: All quotes from President George W. Bush are from his State of the Union address delivered to the American people on Sept. 20, 2001 in the wake of the September 11 attacks.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Dave Lankford

Soldiers of the 2nd Battalion, 320th Field Artillery Regiment brace themselves and plug their ears before dropping more than 1,100 rounds of 105mm high-explosive ammunition on targets over three days in Samarra in support of Operation Fulton.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Dave Lankford

When the smoke cleared from the battlefield an exceptional amount of intelligence was found, including thousands of dollars in U.S. currency and a list of the radical supporters who donated it. 1st Lt. Steven Higgins, a platoon leader with the 2nd Battalion, 327th Infantry Regiment, believes this is convincing evidence the funding is being funneled in from outside of the local area.

Iraqi boy gets vital surgery thanks to Soldiers, Airmen

by Sgt. 1st Class Gary L. Qualls, Jr.
82nd Abn. Div.

AL HUMANDY, Iraq –

The proud sheik, along with the mother of a boy who had been shot, came to the Cedar II gate in utter earnestness on Thanksgiving morning.

Three-year-old Haider Habeeb was hit in both legs by a stray bullet from an unconfirmed source, rendering the young child unable to walk.

Now the sheik and the boy's mother were looking to Company A, 116th Brigade Special Troops Battalion (BSTB) for help.

The boy, who was shot Aug. 22, had actually been brought to Contingency Operating Base Adder in September, but because they do not have pediatric specialists, he was referred to a local hospital in Al Batha, a city about 10 minutes away.

Although they lacked pediatric specialists, doctors performed the surgery on Haider's legs.

The surgery went fine, but damage was done to his urethra during the procedure resulting in the boy having to permanently use a catheter.

Company A, 116th BSTB, whose mission is area security, has earned respect

from area villages for it, said Company Commander Capt. Ryan Thompson.

Taking it a step further, they've strived to establish a good relationship with area tribes, including helping them, and this has resulted in increased security, Thompson said.

Incoming Commander Maj. Kory Knight, 1st Battalion, 147th Field Artillery, plans to continue the same approach, he said.

"Haider brought out a universal humanness in everybody... Iraqis and Americans; he brought us all together in the same place where we were all on the same team."

Staff Sgt. Scott Varisco
116th BSTB

So with this mind set, Company A, 116th BSTB set out to help the child.

Staff Sgt. Scott Varisco, of Virginia Beach, Va., and Sgt. Emad Palaez, of the unit's civil military operations section, took the lead, having the unit physician's assistant, Lt. Col. Thomas

Moon examine him. Moon then contacted Lt. Col. Stacey Koff at the 86th Combat Support Hospital in Baghdad, who had a Company A, 116th BSTB medic instruct the boy's parents to clamp his catheter to see if he could urinate the normal way. He could not. Koff subsequently agreed to examine Haider and perform surgery if necessary.

As is often the case in combat zones, transportation became a challenge. 1st Sgt. Shaun Roach tried to arrange transportation for the boy, but was unsuccessful. Varisco tried "eight pages worth of e-mails" to get help with transporting the boy to Baghdad and after several weeks of frustration the issue got to the attention of 1st Brigade Combat Team Commander Col. Charles A. Flynn, who made some phone calls to arrange transportation.

"It's amazing what a colonel can do," Varisco said. The CMO sergeant noted the ride finally came on Christmas Day after they thought perhaps it wouldn't come.

Once they got the child up to Baghdad, however, Dr. Koff discovered a mass in the area of Haider's urethra and because of that she couldn't perform the surgery.



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

The victim of stray bullets which impacted both his legs, three-year-old Haider Habeeb, was rendered unable to walk. During surgery, damage was done to his urethra and Habeeb had to permanently use a catheter. Airmen and Soldiers from several different units worked together to get surgery and physical therapy for Habeeb. Both the surgery and therapy have been successful and Habeeb no longer needs a catheter and his ability to walk has improved.

Determined to help the boy, Palaez, Varisco and a persistent interpreter named Tariq Razzaq, set forth to find a place for him to receive the needed surgery.

An Iraqi organization called the National Iraqi Assistance Center contacted several hospitals.

They found hospitals in Kuwait and Jordan willing to take Haider, but then an Air Force doctor from Balad, Dr. Sam Hakim, of the 332nd Expeditionary Medical Dental Group, stepped forward and said, "Bring him here."

Since Balad was much closer than Kuwait and Jordan, they opted to go there.

The procedure would be a long ordeal for Haider.

Two surgeries had to be performed.

One procedure was four hours long and the other lasted an hour and a half.

Palaez, who was with Haider during the surgery on New Year's Eve, described him as a "brave, strong little boy," but apprehensive be-

cause of the bad experience he had at the Iraqi hospital.

Palaez assured him he was in good hands, though, and Haider made it through. Dr. Hakim seemed really interested in the child, Varisco said.

Besides performing the successful surgery on Haider's urethra, he got him a brace for his legs and crutches and arranged physical therapy for him.

He is now also able to walk.

Palaez noted the boy drew positive reaction from people wherever he went.

He was showered with gifts from Baghdad to Balad to Cedar II.

"Haider brought out a universal humanness in everybody," Varisco said.

"Iraqis and Americans; he brought us all together in the same place where we were all on the same team," he said.

"Now I believe we have opened the door to helping people in the future," added Palaez.



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

Dr. (Capt.) Logan McDaniel, (right) 213th ASMC, gives three-year-old Haider Habeeb a check up after the boy endured surgery to correct damage caused to his urethra during surgery to help him walk again after a stray bullet impacted his legs. Haider's prognosis is good according to Logan. Sgt. Emad Palaez, of the 116th BSTB civil military operations section (left) was instrumental in getting Habeeb help.

Bumping up the HEAT on rollovers

by Spc. Joseph Welch &
Spc. RJ Gilbert

7th Sustainment Brigade

CAMP ADDER, Iraq- With the Transfer of Authority Ceremony between the 7th Sustainment Brigade (SB) and the 82nd SB having occurred in November last year here, the proverbial torch was passed in many ways including: Humvee Egress Assistance Trainer (HEAT) training.

The impetus for HEAT training was provided by the number of deaths and injuries in Iraq occurring due to rollovers; and in order to teach Soldiers how to more effectively react to rollovers, explained Sgt. Caleb M. Cobb, HEAT Instructor and 7th SB Battalion chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear noncommissioned officer (NCO).

As of October 2006, "there have been over 300 injured, 156 severely injured and 144 fatalities (all vehicle related) since the Army arrived in theater," said Sgt. Terrance E. Staley, HEAT instructor and 7th SB Headquarters, Headquarters Company NBC NCO.

The HEAT simulates a rolled-over Humvee with its capability not only of rotating 360 degrees both clockwise and counter-clockwise, but also stopping at various positions within those rotations. This is the only Army training device that allows Soldiers to practice vehicle exit techniques at different angles.

After watching the instructional portion of the course, the practical exercises turn the participants' respective worlds' upside-down. With the Soldiers



Photo by Col. Thomas P. Dove

A 7th Sustainment Brigade Soldier sprawls out of the HEAT en route to pulling security. The HEAT allows soldiers to get a feel for what being in a rollover accident might be like and develop methods of surviving and escaping such accidents.

inside the HEAT, they are taught to rely upon their seat belts when the instructor begins rotating the HEAT to 90 degrees, then 180 degrees with the students secured by their safety restraints and seat belts. When this occurs the students yell "rollover, rollover, rollover," pull the gunner back in the HEAT and place one arm above their heads against the roof all at once.

"If you've never flipped a vehicle it teaches you what it's like. Everybody should have to do it," said Capt. Megan R. McCormack, the 7th SB Support Operations, Plans and Effects officer.

"Ninety-seven percent of Soldiers in an accident receive minor or no injuries when wearing seat belts. I try to emphasize that point in the class because that is a big number," said Cobb.

After seatbelt confidence is instilled, the course ends when students are once again overturned to the 90 degree then 180 degree positions. Yet this time they go even further by unbuckling the seatbelts and undoing the restraints, exiting the HEAT in an expeditious manner, and pulling security. Such realistic training helps Soldiers survive a rollover and stay battle focused.

Black History Month films Feb. 1- 5

Film: The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman
Date: Feb. 1
Time: 8p.m.

Film: Reflections of Carter G. Woodson
Date: Feb. 2, 5
Time: 11a.m.- noon

Film: Black History Media Presentation
Date: Feb. 2, 5
Time: noon- 1:30p.m.

Film: Tuskegee Airmen
Date: Feb. 2
Time: 1:30p.m.- 2:30p.m.

Film: Africans in America 1607- 1865
Date: Feb. 2
Time: 2:30p.m.- 5:30p.m.

Film: History of the Blues
Date: Feb. 2
Time: 5:30p.m.- 7p.m.

Film: 4 Little Girls from Birmingham
Date: Feb. 2
Time: 7p.m.- 9p.m.

Film: Pride
Date: Feb. 4
Time: 8p.m.

Film: History of Black Achievement Part 1& 2
Date: Feb. 5
Time: 1p.m.- 4:30p.m.

Film: Buffalo Soldiers
Date: Feb. 5
Time: 5p.m.- 6p.m.

Film: Voices of Civil Rights
Date: Feb. 5
Time: 6:30p.m.- 9p.m.

All films will be shown at the MWR East Movie Room.

America's warrior

by Sgt. Jasmine Chopra

A snapshot of servicemembers in the Global War on Terrorism

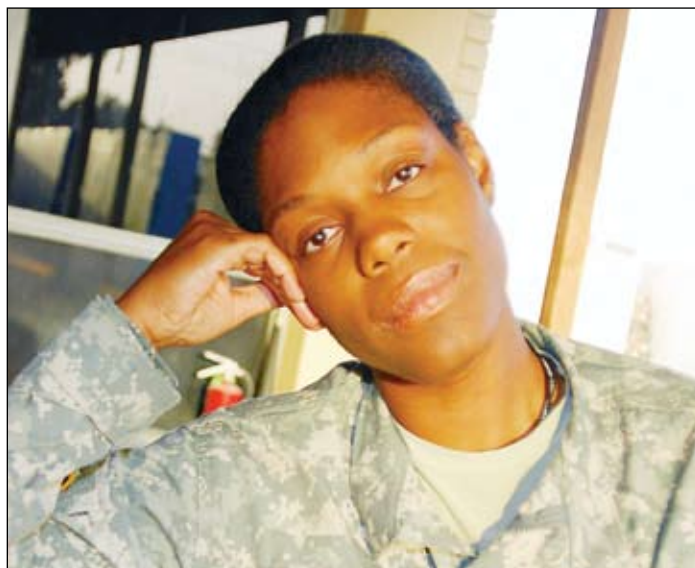


Photo by Sgt. Jasmine Chopra

Name: Sgt. Debra J. Gipson.

Unit: 316th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary).

Job title: Education Center Sergeant.

Time in Service: 12 years in the Army Reserve.
Age: 40.

Hometown: Cleveland, Ohio.

Family: Charles, age 17 and Aaliyah, age 6.

Pastimes: Recreation vehicle camping, jet skiing, all-terrain vehicle and motorcycle riding, powered parachuting, model railroad collecting, gardening, home improvement projects, civic organization volunteer and volunteer firefighting.

Life-changing event: The days my parents and older brother died.

The person I admire most: My son because he consistently causes me to re-evaluate my perspective. He's also handsome and intelligent.

Why I joined the Army: I grew up in the City of Cleveland and used to love family day-trips to

state parks in Michigan. I thought that I'd enjoy camping. I was 18 and didn't know any better.

If I wasn't in the Army: I have a law degree so I'd be a licensed, practicing Contract Attorney.

The one thing I would change about the Army: I'd make service mandatory for two years.

Why do you continue to serve: I love the Armed Forces! I love serving. I love the Army's structure and the variety and quality of the people that I've met.

Unusual fact about you: I gave every graduation speech from pre-school to college.

Goals: Taking the Bar Exam so that I can practice law and spending the rest of my days writing as many books as I can. It's been my dream since I was seven.

Best part of my job: Teaching the GT Improvement Course.

Editor's Note: Gipson will perform in an original stage play Feb. 29, 7- 9p.m. at the MWR East

FAR medic proves her skill, safeguards lives

by Staff Sgt. Dave Lankford

Anaconda Times Staff

LSA ANACONDA, Iraq – Spc. Brandilee Redden, a medical specialist attached to the 2nd Battalion, 320th Field Artillery Regiment, locks and loads a 5.56mm round into the chamber of her M-4 Carbine before climbing back into her up-armored Humvee. If she's more nervous than the men in her squad, she doesn't show it. By her manner one may think she is heading out for a Sunday drive in the country...only this country is Iraq.

Redden's office is not surrounded by the protection of a fence or manned guard tower. In fact, soon the only protection she will have will be the squad she's attached to, her body armor and her recollection of basic combat training. In a war with no front lines the enemy is the sole deciding factor when it comes to who will engage in close combat and who will not.

This fact is not lost on Redden as her patrol exits the rela-

tive safety of LSA Anaconda. As a line medic her job takes her to places many fear to tread, and her responsibilities don't stop with providing medical care.

"The guys like to (joke) with me," she said. "They say I have three jobs: personal security, secretary and medic."

Redden said the medical aspect of her job is not used often on the field artillery Soldiers she works with. More often than not they will not come to her with minor problems. It's only when she notices an injury or illness is not going away on its own that she will insist on administering care. The security mission is what demands a majority of her time.

"We can't have guys searching the women. That's where I come in."

Redden said that, more than political correctness, her duties are about respecting the culture of the Iraqi people. Her job is not only to search, but to safe-



Photo by Staff Sgt. Dave Lankford

SHEIK JAMIL, Iraq – Spc. Brandilee Redden, a medical specialist attached to the 2nd Battalion, 320th Field Artillery Regiment, stands far enough away to be nonthreatening, but close enough to react should anything threaten the safety of the women and children she stands watch over. It is not uncommon for female Soldiers to be utilized in this manner when the mission requires local women to be questioned or detained.

guard any women or children at the scene of an operation. Often this puts her right in the thick of the action.

"There are rules against female Soldiers kicking down doors," she said. "But when the door does come down, I

have to be right there in place ready to do my job."

This is an up close and personal view of combat most Soldiers will go their entire career without experiencing, and it's a view she has become very accustomed to.

"We go out every day," says Redden. "I'm not going to lie. About the first three times I went out I was [messing] my pants. And when they told me to get out of the vehicle for the first time I thought 'oh my God; I'm going to get killed.' But now I love it. I wouldn't want to do anything else."

"Spc. Redden always has a professional attitude and is always willing to do the job. She has really taken to the unit since she was transferred from C/426 (Charlie Company, 426th Medical Brigade) and is now an irreplaceable asset," said Capt. Jonwayne Lindsey, the 2nd Battalion, 320th FAR battery executive officer.

When her time in Iraq is over Redden plans to return home to Clarksville, Tenn., where she will reassume her role as a wife and mother. She also hopes to one day turn her love of history into a career in a museum, possibly as a curator.

You break it, 536th Maint. Co. can fix it



Photo by Spc. Andrea Merritt

CAMP TAJI, Iraq – Spc. David Raffield, a mechanic with the 536th Maintenance Company, puts the repaired engine back inside of a Humvee Jan. 15. The 536th Maint. Co. is deployed from Hawaii.

Do you have a story idea?

Contact the Anaconda Times

anaconda.times@iraq.centcom.mil

Upcoming sports on AFN

Wednesday 1/30/08
Ohio State @ Penn State live 3:00 a.m. AFN/sports
Buffalo Sabres @ Tampa Bay Lightning live 3:00 a.m. AFN/xtra
Tennessee @ Alabama live 5:00 a.m. AFN/sports
San Jose Sharks @ Edmonton Oilers live 5:30 a.m. AFN/xtra
Virginia Commonwealth @ George mason replay 8:00 a.m. AFN/xtra
Boston Celtics @ Miami Heat replay 11:00 a.m. AFN/sports

Thursday 1/31/08
Anaheim Ducks @ Minnesota Wild live 3:00 a.m. AFN/xtra
Virginia @ Maryland live 3:00 a.m. AFN/sports
Cleveland Cavaliers @ Portland Trail Blazers live 5:00 a.m. AFN/sports;
replay 11:00 a.m. AFN/sports
Chicago Blackhawks @ Colorado Avalanche live 5:30 a.m. AFN/xtra
Villanova @ Pittsburgh replay 8:00 a.m. AFN/xtra



Friday 2/1/08
Boston College @ North Carolina live 3:00 a.m. AFN/xtra
Dallas Mavericks @ Boston Celtics live 4:15 a.m. AFN/sports
Indiana @ Wisconsin live 5:00 a.m. AFN/xtra
San Antonio Spurs @ Phoenix Suns live 6:30 a.m. AFN/sports
North Carolina State @ Duke replay 11:00 a.m. AFN/sports

Saturday 2/2/08
Colorado Avalanche @ Detroit Red Wings live 3:30 a.m. AFN/xtra
New Orleans Hornets @ Sacramento Kings live 6:00 a.m. AFN/xtra
Syracuse @ Villanova live 8:00 p.m. AFN/sports
Kentucky @ Georgia live 9:00 p.m. AFN/xtra
Pittsburgh @ Connecticut live 9:00 p.m. AFN/prime
Oklahoma State @ Texas Tech live 10:00 p.m. AFN/sports
Stanford @ Washington State live 11:30 p.m. AFN/xtra
Miami (Fl.) @ Duke live 11:30 p.m. AFN/prime

Sunday 2/3/08
Auburn @ Vanderbilt live 1:00 a.m. AFN/xtra
Ohio State @ Iowa live 2:00 a.m. AFN/prime
Tennessee @ Mississippi State live 3:00 a.m. AFN/xtra
Michigan State @ Penn State live 4:00 a.m. AFN/prime
Arizona @ UCLA live 5:00 a.m. AFN/sports
Maryland @ Georgia Tech replay 9:00 a.m. AFN/xtra
Baylor @ Texas replay 11:00 a.m. AFN/xtra
Kansas @ Colorado replay 1:00 p.m. AFN/xtra
Oklahoma @ Texas A&M replay 3:30 p.m. AFN/xtra
Houston Rockets @ Milwaukee Bucks replay 5:30 p.m. AFN/xtra
Los Angeles Lakers @ Washington Wizards live 8:00 p.m. AFN/xtra
Dallas Mavericks @ Detroit Pistons live 10:30 p.m. AFN/xtra
PGA Tour: FRP Open live 11:00 p.m. AFN/prime

Monday 2/4/08
Super Bowl XLII: New England Patriots vs. New York Giants live 2:00 a.m. AFN/sports; replay 12:00 p.m. AFN/sports; replay 8:00 p.m. AFN/sports
Army @ Bucknell replay 5:30 a.m. AFN/xtra

SUSTAINER REEL TIME THEATER

(Schedule is subject to change)

Wednesday, Jan. 30
5 p.m. Meet The Spartans (PG-13)
8 p.m. I Am Legend (PG-13)

Thursday, Jan. 31
5 p.m. The Golden Compass (PG)
8 p.m. Meet The Spartans (PG-13)

Friday, Feb. 1
2 p.m. Aliens Vs. Predator, Requiem (R)
5 p.m. Alvin & the Chipmunks (PG)
8:30 p.m. Cloverfield (PG-13)

Saturday, Feb. 2
2 p.m. Charlie Wilson's War (R)
5 p.m. Cloverfield (PG-13)
8 p.m. Aliens Vs. Predator (R)

Sunday, Feb. 3
2 p.m. Cloverfield (PG-13)
5 p.m. Aliens Vs. Predator Requiem(R)
8 p.m. Charlie Wilson's War (R)

Monday, Feb. 4
5 p.m. Charlie Wilson's War (R)
8 p.m. Cloverfield (PG-13)

Tuesday, Jan. 5
5 p.m. Cloverfield (PG-13)
8 p.m. Alvin & the Chipmunks (PG)



Pvt. Murphy's Law

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.

CIRCUIT GYM

Floor hockey: Monday, Wednesday, Friday - 8 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- 7 p.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.

Karaoke: Wednesday - 8 p.m.

Hip-Hop Dance Class: Saturday- 9 p.m.

Ice Ball Tourney: Thursday- 4 p.m.

Jam Session: Tuesday, Thursday- 7:30 p.m.

Open Mic Night: Sunday- 8 p.m.

Ping pong/Foosball: Tuesday- 1 p.m. and 8 p.m.

Spades, Chess and Dominoes: Friday - 1 & 8 p.m.

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

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

High Impact Step Aerobics: Tuesday, Thursday- 7 p.m.
Open court basketball: Thursday- 7 p.m.

Power Abs Class: Saturdays- 8 a.m. & p.m.
Zingano Brazilian Jui Jitsu: Tuesday, Thursday- 8:30 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

Army aims to better identify soldiers with brain injuries

By C. Todd Lopez

Army News Service

WASHINGTON- The Army released a report Jan. 17 that outlines how services can better identify and help Soldiers who have suffered traumatic brain injuries (TBI.)

The report contains some 47 recommendations to help the Army better prevent, screen, diagnose, treat and research traumatic brain injury, said Brig. Gen. Donald Bradshaw, who led the task force charged with investigating TBI.

"Our report indicates that, like our civilian counterparts, the Army has done well in the identifying and treatment of severe or penetrating traumatic brain injury, but is challenged to understand, diagnose and treat personnel who have suffered short-term or persistent symptoms of mild TBI," Bradshaw said. "The task force identified opportunities for improvement as well as best practice guidelines."

Today, eight of the recommendations made by the

task force have already been implemented, said Col. Judith Ruiz, Deputy Director Rehabilitation and Reintegration, Office of the Surgeon General. "We have made significant progress to take care of Soldiers and to standardize practices across the Army medical department," she said.

Some of the recommendations that have already been implemented include:

-- Working with inter-agency and civilian groups to better define TBI.

-- Implementing in-theater TBI screening and documentation for all Soldiers exposed to brain injury inducing trauma.

-- Adding TBI specific questions to the various deployment-related health assessments.

-- Developing a proposal on the appropriate functions of a "TBI Center of Excellence."

-- Proposing the Defense and Veterans Brain Injury Center as the core of the new center of excellence.

-- Optimizing the positioning of clinical, educational and

research activities.

-- Centralizing the evaluation of the scientific merit, clinical utility, and priority of new treatment strategies, devices or interventions.

-- Adapting the Military Acute Concussion Evaluation overprint as an approved Department of the Army form to document mild TBI closest to the point of injury.

Col. Ruiz said 31 additional recommendations are in progress, four are planned, and four are in the process of being transferred to other agencies.

For Soldiers in theater, the most common cause of brain injury is a blast, such as from an IED. Sometimes such blasts do not cause visible external injuries.

"Brain injury does not have to have outside symptoms, such as bleeding," said Bradshaw. "It may, but doesn't have to. That is one of the compounding things -- folks may look totally normal, but be dazed."

Because some victims of



Photo Illustration by Sgt. Jasmine Chopra

Eighty percent of those who suffer from mild traumatic brain injury, recover completely. Some 10 to 20 percent of servicemembers returning from Iraq and Afghanistan with experience in combat, may have suffered mild TBI.

an IED or other blast do not have external injuries, they may feel they have not been injured at all. "It's hard to identify TBI when Soldiers don't come forward

and don't identify," said Bradshaw. "Some of the actions that have been taken (include) a very big ongoing education process for leaders, Soldiers and family members."

Bulk fuel farm undergoes transformation at Victory

by Staff Sgt. Bryant Maude

1st Sustainment Brigade

VICTORY BASE COMPLEX, Iraq – One year ago, the bulk fuel farm here was dirty, inefficient and in serious need of repair. Today, thanks to the hard work and diligence of some dedicated Army Reserve Soldiers the bulk fuel farm is clean, orderly and highly efficient.

“This place was in shambles,” said Spc. Chris Griffith, a native of Stockbridge, Mich., and fuel specialist with the 192nd Quartermaster (QM) Company, 68th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, of Milan, Ohio.

“I think we hauled over 30 tons of trash out of here in our first month,” said Sgt. 1st Class Wilfredo Velez, the platoon sergeant for the 192nd QM Co.

“This place was neglected for years.”

As they developed their plan of attack they decided early on recycling would need to be a part of the clean-up strategy.

“We created a program where not everything went to the dump,” explained Velez. “We wanted to recycle materials and return unused equipment back into the Army inventory.”

In the process of cleaning up the farm they separated materials into different categories like vinyl, wood,



Photo by Staff Sgt. Bryant Maude

Sgt. Janell Brown (left), of Tallmadge, Ohio, and Staff Sgt. Brett Nelson, of Fostoria, Ohio, both fuel specialists with the 192nd Quartermaster Company, adjust one of the many fuel containers in an effort to continually improve the facility. One year ago, the facility was in serious need of repair. Today, the bulk fuel farm is clean, orderly and highly efficient.

plastics and aluminum.

They also returned an estimated \$100,000 worth of discarded equipment back to the Army supply system.

The problem ran deeper than trash though.

The fuel farm is the sole source for aviation fuel,

diesel, and gasoline for the greater Bagdad area and at the time it was operating at about 25 percent of its capacity.

Very few pumps worked properly and the berms surrounding the fuel bags were in severe need of re-

“We created a program where not everything went to the dump. We wanted to recycle materials and return unused equipment back into the Army inventory.”

Sgt. 1st Class Wilfredo Velez
192nd QM Co.

15th TC prepares to be on the road



Photo by Spc. Andrea Merritt

CAMP TAJI, Iraq– Pvt. Cory Datrice, a motor transportation specialist with the 15th Trans. Co., 1103rd Combat Support Sustainment Battalion, 1st Sustainment Brigade, conducts a pre-combat check and inspection on a vehicle before leaving on a mission to transport supplies to different locations within Multi-National Division-Baghdad. “We make sure the mission gets done whether we get to sleep or not. Whatever the mission dictates is what we do,” said Datrice before heading out on the mission, which was estimated to take about two weeks.

pair.

“When we arrived, six pumps worked,” stated Velez.

Early on the team went to work on the pumps. They increased the number of pumps from six to 12 and doubled the capacity of each individual pump allowing 24 trucks to receive fuel at once instead of six.

“We went from one truck taking three hours to get fuel to fifteen minutes on a bad day,” said Velez proudly.

The goal of Maj. Phil Sharp, commander of the 192nd QM Co., was to focus on increased customer service and improving the overall look and functionality of the farm.

“We ran our ideas through our chain of command...and they supported our ideas,” said Velez. “We couldn’t have done it with-

out their support. We totally reconstructed 66 fuel berms.”

With just 34 Soldiers and 24 civilian contractors, the 192nd QM Co. did the work required by 100 people.

The Soldiers had it rough. They worked 12-hour shifts, traveled back and forth from work by bus and ate most of their meals at the farm, but they rarely complained.

“Their motivation comes from within,” said Velez. “They would be standing out in 130-degree temperatures working and still have a smile on their face.”

As they prepare to leave Iraq, the Soldiers of the 192nd QM Co., talk about the things they are looking forward to most upon their return home. The little things like driving, shopping, and finishing their college degrees.

Convoy Guardians prep for deadly roads



Photos by Sgt. Jasmine Chopra

LSA ANACONDA, Iraq- (Above) Pfc. Kelly Perham, a medic with the 297th Combat Support Company, adjusts the headlights on a hum-vee. As part of a convoy security team, Perham helped save the life of a civilian truck driver who was shot Jan. 14. Look for the full story about the 297th's mission in next week's Anaconda Times. (Below) Since Soldiers in the 297th must travel the deadliest roads in Iraq each day to provide supply trucks and their drivers security, many of them carry lucky charms with them to ward off potential attacks, while others attach lucky charms, such as their daughter's blue My Little Pony pictured below, to their vehicles.



Photo by Sgt. Jasmine Chopra

LSA ANACONDA, Iraq- Spc. Dennis Alakayak, with the Alaska National Guard's 297th Combat Support Company, provides convoys with security several nights each week. Ensuring all parts of his Armored Security Vehicle, including hatches, work properly is part of his job.



Photos by Sgt. Jasmine Chopra

LSA ANACONDA, Iraq- (Above) A gunner with the Alaska National Guard's 297th Combat Support Company, adjust a M2 50 caliber machine gun into place before a convoy security night mission. (Below) Pfc. Veronica Alfaro, a medic and driver with the 297th Combat Support Company, inventories supplies in her medical bag before a night mission guarding supply trucks and drivers. While on a convoy security mission Jan. 14, Alfaro provided care to a civilian driver who was shot repeatedly, but his wounds were too severe and he died on the scene.

