

# AnacondaTimes

FEBRUARY 20, 2008

PROUDLY SERVING LSA ANACONDA



Photo by Sgt. Jasmine Chopra

## Soldiers save Iraqi lives

Many killed, injured in recent VBIED explosion

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Air Force Photo by Staff Sgt. Travis Edwards

## Building bomb for fighters

Ammo personnel provide fighters with munitions

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Photo by Spc. RJ Gilbert

## 9-line MedEvac operations

Troops get birds off ground, help faster for wounded

Page 8



Photo by Spc. Thomas Keeler

Contractors position jersey barriers on a rural road at an Iraqi checkpoint near Jamboriah, Iraq, Feb. 8. Two checkpoints were established in the Sheik Jamil area in order to sustain security gains. The checkpoints are operated by Mukhtar Sa'ad, a local civic leader.

## CLC checkpoints set up near Jamboriah

by Spc. Thomas Keeler

*Anaconda Times staff*

**JAMBORIAH, Iraq** – A group of local Iraqis, with assistance from Concerned Local Citizens and the Archangel platoon of Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 2-320th Field Artillery Regiment (FAR), established two new checkpoints Feb. 8 in the Sheik Jamil area near Jamboriah, Iraq.

The new checkpoints are supervised by Mukhtar Sa'ad, the civic leader of the area.

Despite the recent attack on a checkpoint at nearby Balad, these checkpoints along an irrigation canal will be an improvement to security in the area, according to 1st Lt. Mike Handlan,

"I think at this point in the war, they're starting to turn away from [the anti-American sentiment], trying to get this place set up so that we can leave and they can take over on their own."

Sgt. Calvin Anderson  
2-320th FAR

Archangel platoon leader. Many Concerned Local Citizens helped out with the construction, and many more will receive training on searching vehicles and staffing the checkpoints in the following days and weeks.

"Workers here are working hard, they're aggressive, and they want to work," said Handlan.

Handlan and his platoon

have observed the people of Jamboriah moving about in the streets more often, not flinching at the opportunity to do something constructive despite the small number of al-Qaeda types still in the area, trying to cause trouble. Handlan praises the relationship between his platoon and Mukhtar Sa'ad.

"It's an outstanding relationship. He tells us what he needs, and we tell him what

we can give him," said Handlan. "He and I both see eye to eye on the goals for the area."

This is the first time the Archangel platoon of the 2-320th FAR has trained Iraqis in every phase of constructing and staffing a checkpoint, said Sgt. Calvin Anderson, a 2nd squad team leader with the Archangel platoon.

"We've plussed up some, given them extra bunkers," said Anderson. "It's the first time we've actually sat down and built one from scratch."

Contractors here supplied and delivered the materials for the checkpoints, which

See CLC, Page 7

# Farewell 302nd, 215th MPAD takes Anaconda's public affairs mission

by Sgt. 1st Class Dave Zerbe

215th MPAD

I like to take a moment to introduce my unit, the 215th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment (MPAD) who will be taking over the public affairs mission here at LSA Anaconda. But, first, I would be wrong if I did not recognize the 302nd MPAD for doing an outstanding job here.

The 302nd came here about 10 months ago with a 20-person detachment, but soon after they were split. Eleven of their Soldiers were sent to provide public affair support to the 3rd Infantry Division in Baghdad, leaving nine Soldiers to cover-down on the 316th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) (ESC) and all of its down trace units. If you are part of the 316th ESC or one of the down trace units, you already know the footprint this command has throughout Iraq, so in turn you understand the vast responsibility the 302nd had in reporting the news about this command's Soldiers and their



File photo

**Pictured above are Soldiers of the 302nd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment. The 302nd provided print and broadcast products in support of the 316th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) theatre-wide logistics mission.**

accomplishments.

I have been doing Army public affairs for over 30 years; this is my sixth deployment, plus many other shorter public affairs tours under my belt. I have never fallen in on a more professional or organized unit like the 302nd MPAD. After seeing first hand the extent of their public affairs mission for the 316th ESC and the

products they were producing and it was all being down by just nine soldiers, I was totally amazed. I was amazed at the fact that only nine Soldiers were producing award winning news products with this small staff. This included the Anaconda Times weekly, the 316th ESC magazine, two video news reels a month and numerous other internal and external news products.

It was way beyond anything I have ever seen before with such little manpower, totally amazing.

As we started to correspond with 302nd via email, their willingness to assist us was almost hard to believe. Because falling in on my other five deployments was not more than just handing us the keys to the building and the other unit going home.

As the 215th deployed through Fort Dix, N. J., Capt. Kevin McNamara, the 302nd MPAD executive officer, came to visit us, providing us the most up-to-date information on the 316th ESC and LSA Anaconda mission. This enabled us to get a head start on planning our public affairs strategies, which was to tell the story of the servicemembers assigned to support the logistics mission in Iraq.

After landing at LSA Anaconda, McNamara's team welcomed us with open arms. As they worked on getting us settled, they still continued with their mission working long hours to make both

happen and always keeping a professional attitude.

Now the 215th MPAD is here. We are excited to take on this mission. Although we have a little more of an advantage with 18 Soldiers to do what nine has done, we are looking at exploring many other facets of our public affairs mission, such as moving toward aggressively marketing the Soldier's stories back in the states. These are areas the 302nd could not do with the limited number of Soldiers they had.

As you probably notice, I did not do much of an introduction of the 215th MPAD. We have large boots to fill, so before I blow our horn I will say this, "the proof is in the pudding." Let us first fill the boots and the Kudos will come.

As for the nine Soldiers of the 302nd MPAD, even though your mission is not complete and you're going to Baghdad for another two months, we wish you farewell and thank you for paving the way for our success.

## Provost Marshal Office: Weekly police blotter

(Week of Feb. 4-10)

**The PMO conducted:** (200) Security Checks, (21) Traffic Stops, issued (31) DD Form 1408 Armed Forces Traffic Tickets, registered (167) vehicles on the installation, (7) Minor Traffic Accidents, (23) Common Access Cards were reported lost and (4) stray rounds were reported.

**The PMO is currently investigating:** (5) General Order #1 violations and (4) Larceny Government/Personal Property cases.

**PMO Recommendations:** Always practice weapons retention; you never know whose hands your weapon could end up in. Remember to always wear your seat

belt while in a vehicle. All Gator, ATV and Ranger operators must be in possession of authorization approval letter obtained through the Mayor Cell.

**Crime Prevention:** Secure all Government and Personal equipment; do not leave items unattended inside of doorless vehicles. Personal safety awareness; travel with a battle buddy, avoid walking in between buildings or alone on roads with poor lighting. All personnel should continue to take reasonable precautions to protect themselves; lock doors at all times, don't open the door for strangers, ensure exterior quarters lighting is illuminated during hours of darkness, etc. Emergency Responder vehicles i.e. MP, Fire Dept. and Medical are equipped with lights and

sirens. Yield to all emergency responders when lights and/or sirens are used (pull vehicle to shoulder of road). If you are stopped for a traffic violation, stay in your vehicle for your safety and the safety of the on-scene officer(s).

Report all suspicious activity and crimes immediately to the Provost Marshal Office Law Enforcement Desk. Dial 911 for emergencies and 443-8602 for all others.

**Lost & 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

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

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3rd Sustainment Brigade  
1/82nd Brigade Combat Team  
7th Sustainment Brigade  
332nd Air Expeditionary Wing  
20th Engineer Brigade  
213th Area Support Group  
402nd Army Field Support Brigade  
507th Corps Support Group  
CJSOTF-AP  
Task Force 49

**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.

# USO drives to connect deployed troops with Valentines

by Stephanie Rush  
*Army News Service*

**WASHINGTON** — The USO of Hampton Roads, Va., did their part to keep loved ones who are separated by overseas deployments, close this Valentine’s Day, by collecting recycled cell phones for Soldiers.

More 100 used cell phones, batteries, chargers and cell phone accessories were collected at USO centers, local AT&T mobile stores and online to support Hampton Roads area couples separated by the war on terror.

The recycling drive was held as part of the nationwide used-cell-phone-collection initiative, Cell Phones for Soldiers. The organization collects used cell phones and accessories, sells them to a recycling agency and uses the money to buy prepaid calling cards for servicemembers.

AT&T, one of the organization’s national sponsors, donated 500 prepaid calling cards to the Hampton Roads USO, for distribution to servicemembers and



Photo by Ruth Hendricks

**Staff Sgt. Alfred Landry and Staff Sgt. Lina Alvarez empty a basket of Cell Phones for Soldiers at a collection point in Newport News, Va., on Valentine’s Day. Jon Thompson, president and CEO of the Hampton Roads USO, examines the phones.**

their Families.

“What a better day than Valentine’s Day, the day that hearts speak, to give our military families another way to stay connected,” said Erik Hernquist, AT&T spokesperson, “We are proud to present over 10,000 free minutes of talk time from Iraq to the USO of Hampton Roads as a token of our continued appreciation for all that your loved ones do for our country.”

Megan Chessner, whose husband Todd is currently serving in Iraq, was chosen to receive 25 of the prepaid phone cards. Her husband has been deployed since September 2007, leaving Megan at home with their two young children.

“There is no way for me to ever tell you how much it means for us to hear from our loved ones,” Megan said. “I thank you from the bottom of my heart for

these extra 500 minutes, especially on days like today, when the extra ‘I love you’s’ and the security of knowing that our Soldiers are okay means more than you will ever know.”

Sister and brother Brittany and Robbie Bergquist found Cell Phones for Soldiers in 2004 when they were 13 and 12 years old, respectively. They saw a newscast about an Army Reserve Soldier who had a \$7,600 cell phone bill from calling home to his family. At the time, Brittany and Robbie had a cousin serving overseas in Iraq and realized how important it is to keep in touch with loved ones.

With \$21, Brittany and Robbie went to their local bank in hopes to help pay the Soldier’s phone bill. The bank manager was so impressed that he threw \$500 of his own money toward the effort. Brittany and Robbie began to hold fundraisers, with the hope to send used cell phones with prepaid minutes to servicemembers.

Unfortunately, due to security issues, cell phones weren’t able to be sent to servicemembers. With hundreds of used cell phones taking up space in the family’s garage, den and hallway, the idea of recycling them to buy calling cards was born.

Since 2004, the organization has raised more than \$1 million in donations. More than 400,000 prepaid calling cards have been distributed to servicemembers stationed overseas. Cell Phones for Soldiers process 20,000 cell phones each month.

Cell Phones for Soldiers was founded on three principles: There are a lot of cell phones sitting around in people’s homes, most would donate an old phone for a good cause, and as Brittany says, “Everyone has a right to call home.”

Editor’s note: Cell Phones for Soldiers accepts donations of all makes and models of cell phones, chargers, batteries, cell phone accessories, BlackBerry personal digital assistants and pagers. For more information, visit [www.cellphonesforsoldiers.com](http://www.cellphonesforsoldiers.com).

Please note, schedule is subject to change.

## Worship services

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>PROTESTANT – TRADITIONAL</b><br>Sunday 7:30 a.m. Air Force Hospital Chapel<br>9:30 a.m. Provider Chapel<br>10:30 a.m. Freedom Chapel (West Side)<br>11 a.m. Castle Heights (4155)<br>5:30 p.m. Gilbert Memorial (H-6)<br>7:30 p.m. Air Force Hospital Chapel                       | <b>PROTESTANT – PRAYER SERVICE</b><br>Saturday 7 a.m. Signal Chapel  |
| <b>PROTESTANT – GOSPEL</b><br>Sunday 11 a.m. MWR East Building<br>Noon Freedom Chapel (West Side)<br>2 p.m. Air Force Hospital Chapel<br>3:30 p.m. Gilbert Memorial (H-6)<br>7 p.m. Provider Chapel   | <b>PROTESTANT – SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST</b><br>Saturday 9 a.m. Provider  |
| <b>PROTESTANT – CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP</b><br>Sunday 9 a.m. MWR East Building<br>10:30 a.m. TOWN HALL(H-6)<br>8 p.m. Eden Chapel<br>2 p.m. Castle Heights (4155)<br>7 p.m. Freedom Chapel (West Side)<br>9:30 p.m. Freedom Chapel (West Side)<br>Wednesday 8 p.m. Tuskegee Chapel (H-6) | <b>PROTESTANT – CHURCH OF CHRIST</b><br>Sunday 3:30 p.m. Castle Heights (4155)   |
| <b>PROTESTANT – LITURGICAL</b><br>Sunday 9 a.m. EPISCOPAL Freedom Chapel<br>11 a.m. LUTHERAN (Chapel Annex)<br>3:30 p.m. EPISCOPAL (Tuskegee H-6)   | <b>ROMAN CATHOLIC MASS</b><br>(Sacrament of Reconciliation 30 min prior to Mass)<br>Saturday 5 p.m. Gilbert Memorial (H-6)<br>8 p.m. Freedom Chapel (West Side)<br>11 p.m. Air Force Hospital Chapel |
| <b>PROTESTANT --MESSIANIC</b><br>Friday 8:30 p.m. Freedom Chapel (West Side)  | <b>Sunday</b> 8:30 a.m. Gilbert Memorial (H-6)<br>11 a.m. Provider Chapel<br><b>Mon-Fri</b> 11:45 a.m. Provider Chapel<br><b>Mon-Thur</b> 5p.m. Gilbert Memorial                                     |
|   | <b>LATTER DAY SAINTS-(LDS)-(MORMON)</b><br>Sunday 1 p.m. Provider Chapel<br>3:30p.m. Freedom Chapel (West Side)<br>7 p.m. Gilbert Memorial (H-6)   |
|   | <b>JEWISH SHABBAT SERVICES</b><br>Friday 7 p.m. Gilbert Memorial (H-6)   |
|   | <b>ISLAMIC SERVICE</b><br>Friday Noon Freedom Chapel (West Side)   |
|   | <b>PAGAN/ WICCAN FELLOWSHIP</b><br>Thursday, Saturday 7 p.m. Eden Chapel   |
|   | <b>BUDDHIST FELLOWSHIP</b><br>Tuesday 7 p.m. Eden Chapel   |

# Servicemembers compete during knowledge bowl

by Spc. Jennifer L. Sierra

Anaconda Times staff

**LSA ANACONDA, Iraq** — Who was the first African American woman to receive a patent? Jackie Robinson played for which team in the Negro Baseball League? Stumped? So were some of Anaconda's residents.

Servicemembers answered these questions and much more difficult ones during round one of the Black History Knowledge Bowl held at Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) East center here, Feb. 7.

"(Black history) is something that everyone should learn about. It's fun to see everyone come together to have fun and learn," said Air Force Master Sgt. Nicole D. Williams, the finance noncommissioned officer in charge for the 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing, Detachment 1, Mayor Cell.

"One of our goals is to get people to do research and read literature," said Williams, who is a member of the Black History Month planning committee which spearheaded the knowledge bowl activities.

"I was surprised at some of the difficulty of the questions... I wrote them down so I can research them later," said Sgt. 1st Class Michael Powell, the legal assistance noncommissioned officer in charge of parale-



Photo by Spc. Jennifer L. Sierra

(From left to right) Wild Cats team members 1st Lt. Thomas Bourne, adjutant for the 316th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) (ESC), and Sgt. Brandi Palmer, the contract liaison office noncommissioned officer for the 316th ESC, enthusiastically raise their paddle to answer one of the questions during the Black History Knowledge Bowl as Sgt. Mindy Schlimm, the trail defense noncommissioned officer in charge for the 316th ESC, looks on.

gal for the 316th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) (ESC).

Powell and fellow "Three the Hard Way" team members, Lt. Col. Michael A. Matthews, the deputy chief

of Iraqi Security Forces for the 316th ESC, and Maj. Samuel Chisolm, the brigade adjutant for the 20th Engineer Brigade (Combat) (Airborne), won the knowledge bowl. Powell

credits his personal experiences with winning this competition.

"This is the stuff that we lived," said Powell, "personal experience has a lot to do with (us winning)."

The jeopardy-style game consisted of four different teams: the Smart Guys (Sgt. 1st Class DeVictor Powell, Charlie 864th Engineers, Sgt. Mark Almendares, 155th Medical Detachment, and Spc. Craig Behrendt, 551st Medical Company); the Ruff Ryders (Capt. Rachel Springer, 56th Multifunctional Medical Battalion (MMB), Sgt. 1st Class Stan Crowder, 56th MMB, and Sgt. 1st Class Jeffrey Jenkins, 56th MMB); the Wild Cats (1st Lt. Thomas Bourne, 316th ESC, Sgt. Mindy Schlimm, 316th ESC, and Sgt. Brandi Palmer, 316th ESC); and Three the Hard Way.

Round two of the Black History Knowledge Bowl is scheduled to take place on Feb. 21, which will include four new teams. The championship which will be the face-off between "Three the Hard Way" and

"I think it is important to educate people of all ethnicities and backgrounds on the rich history of African Americans in the United States and their contributions to society."

2nd Lt. Cindy C. Serrano  
332nd AEW, Det. 1



Photo by Spc. Jennifer L. Sierra

Air Force 2nd Lt. Cindy C. Serrano, a team member with the 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing, Detachment 1, Mayor Cell, gives high-fives to members of the Wild Cats after they correctly answered one of the questions during the Black History Knowledge Bowl. Serrano was the master of ceremonies for the event which took place at Morale, Welfare and Recreation East center here Feb. 7.

the winners of round two is scheduled for Feb. 28. Both events will take place at MWR East.

"I think it is important to educate people of all ethnicities and backgrounds on the rich history of African Americans in the United States and their contributions to society. The knowledge bowl is a great way to allow legacies to live on," said Air Force 2nd Lt. Cindy C. Serrano, a team member with the 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing, Detachment 1, Mayor Cell, who served as the emcee for the event.

# American, Iraqi Soldiers save lives after VBIED

by Sgt. Jasmine Chopra

Anaconda Times staff

**BALAD, Iraq** – Surrounded by mournful villagers dressed in traditional Iraqi garb, Six foot-five inch, Spc. Barrett Kerr towers over the crowd; but no one is afraid of him. His presence among the weary and angry townsfolk seems to provide them comfort as their facial expressions soften and body postures relax. Just behind the crowd lay the remains of a bustling marketplace. Twisted and contorted steel beams jut out of the debris among broken concrete, paper, plastic and blood-stained glass shards.

Kerr is a medic with 1st Squadron, 32nd Cavalry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division. This is his third tour in Iraq and he has saved many lives, most recently on Feb. 10, at approximately 4:15p.m., a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device detonated in a bazaar killing 21, injuring 32 and decimating several buildings in the marketplace. Among the wounded were small children. The attack was the most severe to impact Balad in recent months.

“Looking at the destruction, it looks like they just got innocent civilians, (and) families shopping,” said Navy Master at Arms Sergio Sandoval, who along with his partner, an explosives detection dog



Photo by Sgt. Jasmine Chopra

**A 1st Squadron, 32nd Cavalry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division Soldier pulls security among decimated remains of a marketplace which was attacked by vehicle-borne improvised explosive device Feb. 10. Initial reports indicate 21 people were killed, 32 were wounded and dozens of shops were destroyed. In the background, townspeople congregate to discuss the attack with Iraqi Army and American Army leadership.**

named Sven, scoured the blast site for explosive materials. Kerr was one of the first American Soldiers on the scene of the attack.

“It was absolute carnage when we arrived. There is no way to sugarcoat it. If it wouldn’t have been for ev-

eryone, Iraqi Army included, working so hard and so well together, a lot more people might have died,” said Kerr.

An adjacent Iraqi aid station served as the site from which Kerr and other medics bandaged wounds,

opened airways, treated burns and much more, but soon the station overflowed with casualties. Many servicemembers, American and Iraqi alike regardless of job specialty, began delivering care.

“Everybody from E-1 to E-7 to officers were hauling stretchers, patching people up. Everyone did what needed to be done,” said Capt. Philip Fisher, an intelligence officer with 1st Squadron, 32nd Cavalry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division.

Many of the critically wounded were airlifted to the Air Force Theater Hospital on LSA Anaconda.

Feb. 11, just one day after the attack, local Iraqi leaders including the mayor of Balad and an Iraqi Army colonel, came to the hospital to visit the wounded.

“Innocent people were targeted. That is sabotage. I would like to see my country free and safe,” said Iraqi Colonel Hamad through an interpreter.

The mayor of Balad, Amer Mrhown Al Obedy, expressed gratitude to the

hospital staff for their dedication to healing the injured.

“We thank you in the name of humanity,” he said through an interpreter.

One of the survivors was a little girl Fisher and Kerr had helped save.

Her skull was cracked and she was unconscious when the Soldiers encountered her.

Fisher made an effort to check on her status when he traveled through the hospital.

She was indeed there, healing under the care of Air Force doctors and nurses.

“It was gratifying to know that she was OK,” said Fisher.

Kerr added that while it is especially painful for him to have to work on children, he is glad he has the skills and experience required to save lives.

“I can’t say I like this job, especially when you’ve got wounded kids, but I do it because people are relying on me to help them when they need help the most,” said Kerr.



Photo by Sgt. Jasmine Chopra

**Surrounded by mournful villagers dressed in traditional Iraqi garb, six foot five inch, Spc. Barrett Kerr towers over the crowd. No one is afraid of him, rather his presence among the weary and angry townsfolk seems to provide them comfort. Kerr, a medic with the 1st Squadron, 32nd Cavalry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division Soldier, was among the first to provide medical care at a marketplace Feb. 10 that was attacked by a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device.**

# Ammo keeps fighters supplied in quest for Iraqi freedom

by Staff Sgt. Travis Edwards

332nd Air Expeditionary Wing Public Affairs

**BALAD AIR BASE, Iraq** – The Air Force prides itself on its ability to fly, fight and win in any wartime 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, 332nd EMXS conventional maintenance noncommissioned 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 Jamison. “Our guys love knowing that what they are building



Air Force Photos by Staff Sgt. Travis Edwards

(Above) Airman 1st Class Justin Porter, 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. Porter is deployed from Spangdahlem Air Base, Germany.

(Below) Staff Sgt. Tom Meyers, 332nd Expeditionary Maintenance Squadron Ammunitions Flight conventional maintenance crew chief, secures GBU-38 GPS weapons to a munitions transport trailer. Meyers is deployed from the Colorado Air National Guard.

is being used. And seeing video on the news gets them all wired up because they know they made those bombs.”

Jamison said having multiple Airmen from different bases leads to different ideas on how things should be han-

dled. 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.

He added the biggest difference in the deployed environment is the amount of real bombs they make.

“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 Dunlavey, a 332nd EMXS conventional maintenance technician.



## Airmen help maintain Fighting Falcons



Air Force Photo by Senior Airman Julianne Showalter

**BALAD AIR BASE, Iraq** – Airman 1st Class Jason Kahawaiolaa, 332nd Expeditionary Maintenance Squadron aircraft structural maintainer, uses a pneumatic grinder to fabricate a metal repair plate for an F-16 Fighting Falcon here, Feb. 6. Airmen in the structures shop are responsible for body maintenance on all aircraft based here and any transient aircraft. Airman Kahawaiolaa is deployed from Spangdahlem Air Base, Germany.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Dave Lankford

A young Iraqi man offers a glass of tea to Pvt. Jonathon McLaren of the 2-320th FAR Feb. 10 at a traffic checkpoint near Jamboriah, Iraq. The 2-230th helped Concerned Local Citizens establish two checkpoints in efforts to improve security around the area.

### CLC, from Cover

will be operated 24 hours a day. Workers will be paid directly from the Mukhtar.

The risk of retaliation by an insurgent minority hasn't deterred the locals from wanting to man the checkpoints. Although the possibility exists that some of the Iraqis working at the checkpoints might have once harbored anti-American sentiment, some Archangel platoon members did not express concern about that.

"I think at this point in the war, they're starting to turn away from [the anti-American sentiment], trying to get this place set up so that we can leave and they can take over on their own," said Anderson.

Traffic passed smoothly and without incident during the first days of operation.

"The leadership at the checkpoints is doing a good job," said Handlan. "It's been a very good experience."

## 412th ASB takes part in IED lane training



Photo by Staff Sgt. Dave Lankford

LSA ANACONDA, Iraq – Soldiers of the 412th Aviation Support Battalion took part in an exercise at the Sgt. Germaine DeBro IED Training Lanes here recently. The lane is set up to emulate the roadways of Iraq where IEDs are a common threat. The training covers recognizing and reacting to possible IED threats as well as casualty evacuation.

## Airmen custom fit fighter pilot visors



Air Force Photos by Senior Airman Julianne Showalter

BALAD AIR BASE, Iraq – Tech. Sgt. Christopher Kelley, 23rd Expeditionary Fighter Squadron air crew flight equipment technician, marks a helmet visor before grinding it down to the right shape here, Feb. 14. The clear visor is used for nighttime missions and can take up to two hours to custom fit to F-16 Fighting Falcon pilots.

# Do you have a story idea?

**Contact the Anaconda Times**

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# Medical Evacuation Operations co



Photos by Spc. RJ Gilbert

(Above) Four 600th Trans. Co. Soldiers carry the casualty on a fold-out litter from the Humvee to the UH60 Medevac as the functional exercise portion of the Medevac Operations course at COB Adder, Iraq. (Four Soldiers from left to right Staff Sgt. Eric J. Gregor, Sgt. Stephen T. Condon, Sgt. Scott E. Else and Sgt. Walter R. Shumate.)

(Background) UH 60 ascends with two 600th Trans. Co. casualties in tow during the practical exercise portion of a Medevac Ops. course on COB Adder, Iraq.

by Spc. RJ Gilbert

7th Sustainment Brigade

**COB ADDER, Iraq** – Though pre-deployment training in nine-line Medical Evacuation (MEDEVAC) and landing zone (LZ) procedures is thorough and comprehensive, the tactics behind the training are continually being refined due to the observations and After Action Reviews (AAR) of medics and helicopter flight crews.

On Contingency Operating Base Adder (formerly known as Camp Adder), the 600th Transportation Company underwent extensive training in the MEDEVAC Operations course. Two areas of emphasis in the course focused on teaching the nine-line MEDEVAC and landing zone (LZ) procedures directly resulting from in-theatre experience.

“Nine-line is a medical request that ground units use to evacuate injured Soldiers from their place of injury,” said Sgt. 1st Class Ty Barnett, platoon sergeant and standardization instructor with C/2-238 General Support Aviation Battalion.

The nine-line MEDEVAC includes: grid location of pickup site, radio frequency or call sign, number of patients by precedence, special equipment, number of patients by type, security of pickup site (only in wartime), number and type of wounded or injury (only in peacetime), method of marking pickup site, patient’s nationality and status, NBC/terrain description (only in wartime) and detailed terrain feature description (only wartime).

“I learned more about the nine-line and the way they (medics and flight crews) like it sent out as opposed to the way you’re taught in ‘mob’ (mobilization) training,” said Spc. Daniel S. Sampek, a gunner for convoy security with the 600th Transportation Company. “When we were going through our mobiliza-

“This training more efficient way those ground units a smoother transi line to our arrival o

C/2-238 General S

tion training at Ft. Brag tors) wanted all nine lin you failed the nine-line ing.”

Barnett added that “T that we have to have b the pad. I know that w of the nine lines, but yo four critical lines to us we can get off of the pa sible.”

“The course consists tion procedures, LZ se and aircraft safety proce

“Most of these convoys limited personnel and t sally geared towards la the smaller amount of f rity we’ve had to revam training procedures) for LZ with less security.”

On the security side o ing mission focus is the

“As far as LZ and PZ rity goes, Sgt. 1st Class cused on the medical sid on the security side,” sa der, crew chief and sta tor with the C/2-238 G seems like somebody g



# Course enhances life saving skills

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Sgt. 1st Class Ty Barnett  
Support Aviation Battalion

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of Medical Evacua-  
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of the class, maintain-  
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(pick-up zone) secu-  
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id Spc. John C. Sny-  
andardization instruc-  
SAB. “In the past it  
ets hit, we get called

and people would frequently be more focused on what is going on with their buddy instead of pulling security. So I have been forced to remind them to focus on security rather than their buddies. I tell everybody, ‘when we get a nine-line call and the initial call says we’re picking up one patient, than I expect to deal with only one patient. I don’t want to have to pick up one or two more because of the security issue.’”

Though the course was informative it was also an exhilarating experience for 600th TC members.

“We used actual commos (communications) with the bird (UH 60): none of it was simulated,” said Staff Sgt. Eric J. Gregor, convoy commander and squad leader with the 600th TC. “It was how it would be in a real situation; the extraction and the loading of the patient on the helicopter was fun.”

The 600th TC Members are not the only ones benefitting from the training; the flight crews and medics are also reaping the rewards.

“Those Soldiers who have taken the course respond (to an emergency) faster because they are better familiar with what we have to have in place in order to launch the aircraft,” explained Barnett. “This training is providing a more efficient way of working with those ground units, and it provides a smoother transition from nine-line to our arrival on-scene.”

The course may be tough but the training is critical and at the same time rewarding.

“With this group attending this class it puts the number of Soldiers we have trained to approximately 800 coalition troops,” explained Barnett. “If you could see the Australian troops and all the units calling in nine-lines, it is just amazing to see how much progress they have made.”



Photos by Spc. RJ Gilbert

(Above) 600th Trans. Co. Soldiers load their casualty on the UH60 Medevac during the Medevac Operations course at COB Adder, Iraq.  
(Below) 600th Trans. Co. pulls security on landing zone as the UH60 Medevac lifts off during Medevac Operations training at COB Adder, Iraq.



# One man determined to make a difference

by Staff Sgt. Dave Lankford

Anaconda Times staff

**KIRKUK, Iraq** – It has been said many times one man can't make a difference but a Soldier here is doing everything he can to prove that myth wrong.

Sgt. Helmi Sassi, 240th Quartermaster Company Military Transition Team (MiTT) maintenance advisor, has brought the motor pool here at the Kirkuk Iraqi Army Training Camp (K1) to near independence in a language they can understand... his native Tunisian Arabic.

Step one was to establish a working standard operating procedure (SOP) the Iraqis would understand and adhere to. Step two was to initiate a tracking system to insure parts get to where they are needed rather than the black market.

Establishing an SOP was no easy task. Simply to translate an American SOP into Arabic would have done no good. So, Sassi sat down with the Iraqi maintenance chief and started from scratch. The process was long and tenuous and required a lot of negotiating, but the end result was the first Iraqi maintenance SOP in theater.

"This SOP explains what every member of the team does all the way up to the maintenance commander," said Sassi.

Naturally, when a new SOP is introduced into a unit, American or otherwise, the Soldiers must be thoroughly trained to the new standard. Once again, Sassi was up to the challenge. This meant learning their tools and equipment like his own.

"If you're teaching them to do service on a Humvee you've got to teach them on their Humvee with the equipment they have. Showing them how we do PMCS won't do any good," said Sassi.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Dave Lankford

**Sgt. Helmi Sassi, 240th Quartermaster Company Military Transition Team (MiTT) maintenance advisor, has no trouble taking charge of any situation. His Iraqi counterparts have seen his proficiency and accept his guidance as though he were one of their own.**

Staff Sgt. Jody Rowe, 213th Area Support Group, LiTT maintenance advisor, attributes much of Sassi's success to his grasp of the Arabic language as well as his leadership skills.

"He's a good asset because he speaks the language," said Rowe. "We don't need an interpreter; and talk about a strong headed guy."

The second aspect of Sassi's success has been insuring the parts needed to keep the fleet of vehicles in the Iraqi motor pool running don't wind up on the black market. Historically, the selling of supplies to the black market has been seen as sort of a bonus system for the upper echelon of the Iraqi army.

"Parts for Humvees are pretty easy to get because we're the only ones that use them. Parts for the civilian vehicles are like gold because they'll take them out and sell them," said Sassi.

The answer to this problem has been a strict tracking policy which Sassi has implemented and strictly enforces. If parts turn up missing someone is held accountable.

Because of his skill, leadership, hard work and determination one man truly is making a difference.

"He's a real hard charger. The Iraqis trust him and they like him. They treat him like family," said Rowe. "I'd be glad to have him working in my motor pool."

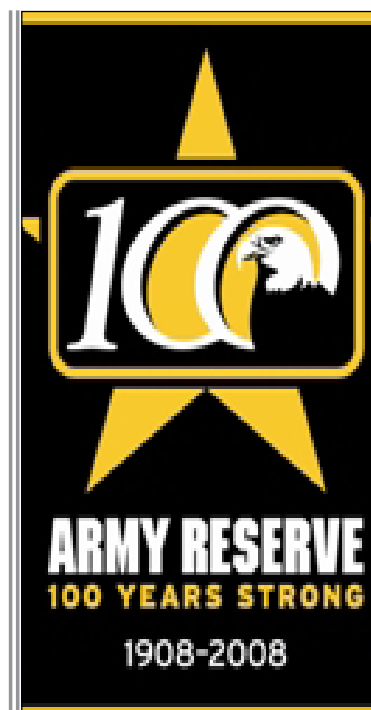
## "There will be a controlled detonation..."



Photos by Spc. Thomas Keeler

**(Above) LSA ANACONDA, Iraq** – An EOD (explosive ordnance disposal) team detonates a rusty, high explosive 82mm mortar round discovered by Iraqis near a field about 2,000 meters south of here Feb. 10.

**(Left) LSA ANACONDA, Iraq** – An EOD (explosive ordnance disposal) team detonates an unexploded mortar about 2,000 meters south of here Feb. 10.



## U.S. Army Reserve Timeline

**2000 - 2001** Kosovo - Army Reserve units support NATO forces.

**2001 - Present** Operation Enduring Freedom - Army Reserve mobilizes thousands of troops in the global war on terror. Providing key support for combat operations in Afghanistan and elsewhere.

**2001 - Present** Operation Noble Eagle - Army Reserve becomes a major partner with FEMA, state and local agencies in defending the American homeland against terrorist attacks, providing resources and training to "first responder" organizations across the nation.

**2003 - Present** Operation Iraqi Freedom - Army Reserve Soldiers participate by the thousands in the march to Baghdad and the stabilization and reconstruction of Iraq.



# “Durable” pays visit to customer in Rustamiyah

by Staff Sgt. Bryant Maude

1st Sustainment Brigade

**CAMP RUSTAMIYAH, Iraq** – Col. Kevin O’Connell, the commander of the 1st Sustainment Brigade, took an early morning flight to Camp Rustamiyah with a few of his team members in an effort to gauge the logistical support his Soldiers are offering to one of their numerous customers throughout Multi-National Division-Baghdad; the 94th Brigade Support Battalion (BSB).

A short briefing given by the command team of the 94th BSB, led by their commander, Lt. Col. Sam Russell, allowed O’Connell to get a snapshot of where the newly deployed 94th BSB sits, now that they are in the driver’s seat at Rustamiyah.

“It takes a while to get your steady state,” said O’Connell, “(They) continue to find ways to improve, continue to communicate, and find a counterpart at the 1st SB who you can bounce ideas off,” continued O’Connell.

Later, the team navigated their way around the base talking with Soldiers of



Photo by Staff Sgt. Bryant Maude

(Left to right) Col. Kevin O’Connell, the commander for the 1st Sustainment Brigade, tours the Supply Support Activity with Philadelphia native, Chief Warrant Officer Joseph Stewart, the accountability officer for Company A, 94th Brigade Support Battalion and Sparkman, Ark., native Staff Sgt. Carlet Williams, the warehouse noncommissioned officer in charge.

the 94th BSB. One of their stops was at the newly renovated Supply Support Activity run by Company A, 94th BSB.

Chief Warrant Officer Joseph Stewart, the accountability officer for the 94th

BSB, has been impressed with the efforts one of the 1st SB battalions is offering.

“The 168th has been providing outstanding support,” stated Stewart. “Last month alone we pushed

49,000 requisitions back into the system – an estimated \$59 million.”

The 168th Brigade Support Battalion, or “Make it Happen,” is one of five battalions under the 1st SB serving throughout the

“It takes a while to get your steady state. (They) continue to find ways to improve, continue to communicate, and find a counterpart at the 1st SB who you can bounce ideas off.”

Col. Kevin O’Connell  
1st SB

Multi-National Division-Baghdad.

Stewart noted that since their arrival in early December 2007, the SSA was able to process an estimated 72,000 material release orders (repair parts, office supplies or engineer equipment) at a value of \$127 million thanks to the support of the 168th BSB.

The tour also included stops at maintenance operations, medical facilities, and fuel operations of the 94th BSB where O’Connell had time to listen and discuss support with Soldiers.

“Logistics is a team effort. Use us to assist you,” stated O’Connell.

## America’s warrior

by Spc. Jennifer L. Sierra

### A snapshot of servicemembers in the Global War on Terrorism



Photo by Spc. Jennifer L. Sierra

**Full name and rank:** Staff Sgt. John R. Bates Jr.  
**Unit:** 213TH Area Support Group.  
**Job Title:** Battle Desk Sergeant/Acting Equal Opportunity Advisor.  
**Time in service:** 23 Years.  
**Age:** 42.  
**Hometown:** Harrisburg, PA (by way of Philadelphia).

age them through those tough times.

**If I wasn’t in the military I would be:** Unemployed (smile), I probably would be employed as a civilian in one of the Department of Defense agencies.

**The one thing I would change about the Army:** The age in which the Reserve Component receives retirement pay, to commence at the completion of twenty years of service. The reserve component de-

ploys just as often and has proven it’s availability to the defense of our nation when called just like the active component.

**The one thing I think the Army got right:** Bonuses; rewarding soldiers for the commitment to serve and defend our great nation.

**What makes a good Soldier:** The ability to understand the scope of the mission, think, make good decisions and adopt the “SAME TEAM” attitude.

**What makes a good leader:** Trust in the training of subordinates, the ability to empower subordinates, and not micro manage the task after it has been delegated. Trust your people, give them the opportunity to do the job they are trained to do and adopt the “SAME TEAM” attitude.

**Unusual fact about you:** I was a champion gymnast. I won the floor exercise 2 years in a row at city championships in Philadelphia.

**Motivations in life:** To be a blessing to those who are in need. To uplift and encourage others, and to help how and when ever I can.

**Goals:** To be the best Husband, Father, Brother and friend on the planet.

**Hardest part of my job here:** Knowing I have the skills, education and experience to do so much more, but having to stay in my lane.

**Best part of my life:** God, my Wife, my children, my family and friends.

# Couple celebrates in downrange ceremony

by Sgt. 1st Class Eric Reinhardt

Task Force 49

**LSA ANACONDA, Iraq-** Sgt. Alhaji Savage and Spc. Karma Savage of the 412th Aviation Support Battalion were determined to get married, even when a deployment to Iraq intervened last summer.

When their unit arrived in Iraq in July, the two were assigned to separate locations: Alhaji at LSA Anaconda as a technical supply NCO, and Karma to Ar Ramadi, as an aircraft refueler.

Even that didn't stop them. Once in Iraq, the couple applied for a civil marriage by proxy. So technically, though living apart, they were married.

"We wanted the blessings of a formal wedding ceremony," Alhaji said.

The couple was reunited just days after Christmas when Karma was rotated to LSA Anaconda, and they started making plans for their ceremony.

Their Jan. 15 nuptials at the Freedom Chapel drew a packed house of well wishers from the 412th and other Task Force 49 units.

Like the Army itself, it was a crossroads of many cultures.

The 412th Chaplain, Capt. Gabriel Mizerani,

raised in Italy and Israel, conducted the couple's Messianic Jewish ceremony. The faith combines

Jewish rituals, beliefs and symbolism with Christian beliefs and traditions.



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Eric Reinhardt

**Sgt. Alhaji Savage and Spc. Karma Savage, both Soldiers in the 412th Aviation Support Battalion, exchange vows in a Jan. 15 wedding at the Freedom Chapel on LSA Anaconda. The newlyweds were granted a civil marriage by proxy.**

## Mail room in Hammer provides 'excellent' service



Photo by Staff Sgt. Bryant Maude

**FOB HAMMER, Iraq –** (Left to right) Army Reservist and Gadsden, Ala., native Staff Sgt. Christopher Wallace, a postal clerk with the 461st Postal Company, Special Troops Battalion, helps Miami native Pfc. Luis Pedraza with a package. "I'm here to mail a package for my friend to his wife," said Pedraza. "The service here is excellent!"

The Savages' Battalion Commander, Lt. Col. Sam Hamontree, provided the music for the service, playing the bagpipes and dressed in a formal kilt.

Savage, a native of Sierra Leone, moved with his family to Blackwood, New Jersey in 1999 and joined the Army in April 2003.

Karma Savage was born and raised in Colon City, Panama, and moved to Lansing, Mich., in 1998.

She joined the Army Reserve in 1998 but transferred to the active-duty Army in 2006.

The two met when they were assigned to the 412th in Germany last year.

Alhaji said they had thought of waiting until they returned to their home base to have the wedding, but they're glad they had it here.

"The wedding was a very special occasion – it was a blessing," Savage said. "We got a lot of support from everybody – our friends and our whole chain of command."

# Upcoming sports on AFN

|  |  |  |  |   |  |
|--|--|--|--|---|--|
| <b>Wednesday 2/20/08</b><br>NCAA BB: Purdue @ Indiana, 3:00 a.m. live AFN/sports<br>NHL: Chicago @ St. Louis, 4:00 a.m. live AFN/xtra<br>NBA: Boston @ Denver, 5:00 a.m. live AFN/sports<br>NBA: Atlanta @ L.A. Lakers, 6:30 a.m. live AFN/xtra<br>NBA: Houston @ Cleveland, 11:00 a.m. tape delay AFN/sports<br>NBA: Orlando @ Detroit, 1:30 p.m. tape delay AFN/sports<br>NCAA BB: Georgia @ Kentucky, 6:00 p.m. tape delay AFN/sports                                       | <b>Friday 2/22/08</b><br>NCAA BB: Pittsburgh @ Notre Dame, 3:00 a.m. live AFN/sports<br>NCAA BB: Michigan @ Minnesota, 5:00 a.m. live AFN/xtra<br>NCAA BB: Oregon @ USC, 7:00 a.m. live AFN/xtra | <b>Saturday 2/23/08</b><br>NBA: Philadelphia @ Orlando, 3:00 a.m. live AFN/xtra<br>NHL: Colorado @ Phoenix, 5:00 a.m. live AFN/prime<br>NHL: St. Louis @ Anaheim, 6:00 a.m. live AFN/xtra<br>NHL: N.Y. Islanders @ New Jersey, 9:00 p.m. live AFN/xtra<br>NCAA BB: Oregon @ UCLA, 11:30 p.m. live AFN/xtra | <b>Sunday 2/24/08</b><br>AMA Supercross: San Francisco, 2:00 a.m. tape delay AFN/xtra<br>NASCAR: Stater Bros 300, 3:30 a.m. live AFN/xtra<br>NBA: L.A. Lakers @ L.A. Clippers, 6:30 a.m. live AFN/xtra<br>NCAA BB: Rutgers @ Marquette, 9:00 a.m. tape delay AFN/xtra<br>NCAA BB: Oklahoma @ Texas, 11:00 a.m. tape delay AFN/xtra<br>NCAA BB: Nebraska @ Texas A&M, tape delay 1:30 p.m. AFN/xtra | <b>Monday 2/25/08</b><br>NASCAR: Auto Club 500, 12:05 a.m. live AFN/xtra<br>NHL: St. Louis @ Phoenix, 4:00 a.m. live AFN/xtra<br>NCAA BB: Penn State @ Minnesota, 6:30 a.m. tape delay AFN/xtra<br>NBA: Boston @ Portland, 8:30 a.m. tape delay AFN/xtra<br>NCAA BB: Alabama @ Auburn, 11:00 a.m. tape delay AFN/xtra<br>NHRA: Checker Schuck's Kragen Nationals, 6:00 p.m. tape delay AFN/xtra | <b>Tuesday 2/26/08</b><br>NHL: Philadelphia @ Buffalo, 3:00 a.m. live AFN/xtra<br>NCAA BB: Marquette @ Villanova, 3:00 a.m. live AFN/sports<br>NCAA BB: Texas @ Kansas State, 5:00 a.m. live AFN/xtra<br>NBA: Boston @ L.A. Clippers, 6:30 a.m. live AFN/xtra<br>NFL: 2008 NFL Scouting Combine, 9:00 a.m. live AFN/xtra |
| <b>Thursday 2/21/08</b><br>NCAA BB: North Carolina @ N.C. State, 3:00 a.m. live AFN/sports<br>NBA: Dallas @ New Orleans, 4:00 a.m. live AFN/xtra<br>NBA: L.A. Lakers @ Phoenix, 5:00 a.m. live AFN/sports<br>NBA: Boston @ Golden State, 6:30 a.m. live AFN/xtra<br>NCAA BB: Penn State @ Michigan State, 11:00 a.m. tape delay AFN/sports<br>NBA: L.A. Lakers @ Phoenix, 3:00 p.m. tape delay AFN/sports<br>NCAA BB: Kansas State @ Nebraska, 5:00 p.m. tape delay AFN/sports |  |  |  |   |  |

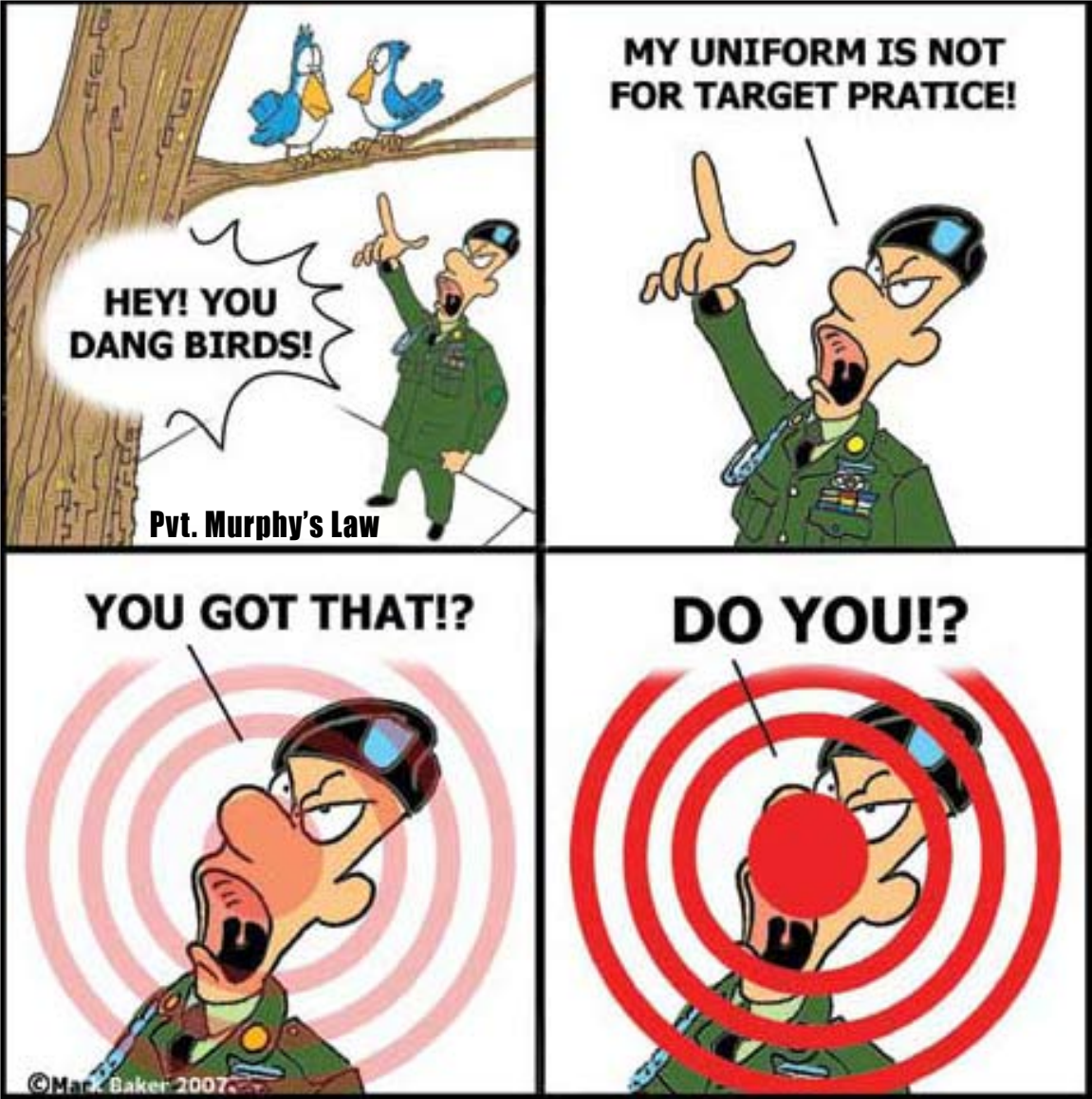
For more sports programming on American Forces Network, go to <http://myafn.dodmedia.osd.mil/ScheduleSports.aspx>



## SUSTAINER REEL TIME THEATER

(Schedule is subject to change)

|           |  |
|-----------|--|
| 5 p.m.    | <b>Wednesday, Feb. 20</b><br>One Missed Call (PG-13)   |
| 8 p.m.    | The Waterhorse (PG)                                    |
| 5 p.m.    | <b>Thursday, Feb. 21</b><br>One Missed Call (PG-13)    |
| 8 p.m.    | Fool's Gold (PG-13)                                    |
| 1 p.m.    | <b>Friday, Feb. 22</b><br>NCO Induction Ceremony       |
| 5 p.m.    | The Great Debaters (PG-13)                             |
| 8:30 p.m. | Jumper (PG-13)   |
| 2 p.m.    | <b>Saturday, Feb. 23</b><br>The Great Debaters (PG-13) |
| 5 p.m.    | Jumper (PG-13)   |
| 8 p.m.    | One Missed Call (PG-13)                                |
| 2 p.m.    | <b>Sunday, Feb. 24</b><br>Jumper (PG-13)               |
| 5 p.m.    | The Great Debaters (PG-13)                             |
| 8 p.m.    | National Treasure II (PG)                              |
| 5 p.m.    | <b>Monday, Feb. 25</b><br>Jumper (PG-13)               |
| 8 p.m.    | A.V.P. Requim (R)                                      |
| 5 p.m.    | <b>Tuesday, Feb. 26</b><br>Veggie Tales (G)            |
| 8 p.m.    | Jumper (PG-13)   |



# 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.

day- 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.

## Budget request funds 43,000 more Soldiers

by C. Todd Lopez

Army News Service

**WASHINGTON** — The Army's budget request went forward to Congress Feb. 4 as part of President Bush's fiscal 2009 budget. The request includes funding for an across-the-board pay raise of 3.4 percent and money to increase the service's end strength by 43,000 Soldiers.

The request for the Department of Defense base budget this year exceeded \$515 billion, including some \$140.7 billion for the Army -- an increase of about \$11.8 billion over what Congress enacted for the service in 2008.

Included in that budget is about \$51 billion for military personnel expenses, \$40.2 billion for operations and maintenance spending, and \$24.6 billion for procurement.

The Army's \$51.8 billion request for military personnel funding represents a sizable increase over last year's request. That stems mainly from an increase in end-strength of about 43,000 Soldiers for a total of about 532,400 by the end of fiscal 2009. In past years, funding for those extra Soldiers has been included in the supplemental budget request.

Also part of the personnel budget is an increase in National Guard end-strength of about 1,300, an across-the-board pay raise of about 3.4 percent and funding for other incentive programs. Many incentive programs to support recruiting and retention, however, will be included in the supplemental budget request, said Lt. Gen. David Melcher, the military deputy for budget to the assistant secretary of the Army for Financial Management and Comptroller.

"This budget supports many of the incentives that support the all-volunteer force, (including) the pay raise, although I will tell you that not all incentives for recruiting and retention are contained in the base (budget)," he said.

"A pretty sizable amount of incentives are in the supplemental funding, attributable to the fact that in this particular period of time, given the stresses we are under, we are having to pay a little bit more incentives to folks to come in and retain."

Army operations and maintenance funding in the 2009 budget request comes in at about \$40 billion. That funding supports recruiting and training, maintenance of equipment, and quality of life initiatives such as child care, youth programs and community services, Melcher said.

"These are some real increases in the amount of operations and maintenance funding available to the Army. Some of the things these accounts are doing is supporting the readiness of the forces and our combined arms training strategy," he said. "They support ten rotations at the National Training Center, ten rotations at the Joint Readiness Training Center, 8 rotations at the Joint Multinational Readiness Center and also fund our battle command training program. Also rolled in the account is funding for base operations and support."

The general said the greatest preponderance of the Army's operations and maintenance funding will be in the supplemental budget.

The Army has asked for about \$24.6 billion for procurement funding in fiscal 2009. Included in that is about \$6 billion for tactical and support vehicles, \$5 billion for new aircraft, \$5.3 billion for communications and electronics, and \$3.6 billion for weapons and tracked vehicles.

Some of the funding for aircraft has come from termination of the Comanche program, Melcher said, adding the Army has tried to keep those funds in the budget.

In the fiscal 2009 budget, the Army funds about 28 Army reconnaissance

helicopters to replace the ageing HH-58D Kiowa Warrior helicopter, 63 UH-60M/HH60-M Black Hawk helicopters, seven C-27J Joint Cargo Aircraft, 32 AH-64 Apache helicopter upgrades and conversions, and 36 UH-72A Lakota Light Utility Helicopters. The service will also pay for the conversion of 23 CH-47D Chinook helicopters into F models and will also buy an additional 16 new Chinooks.

"There's a lot of money in here for Army aviation, which is of course needed and appreciated," Melcher said.

The Army has also wants to fund 108 Patriot Advanced Capability-3 missiles and two additional battalions of Patriot-3 to give the Army a total of 15.

"This gives us a sustainable rotational base upon which to implement our Army force generation model," Melcher said.

The fiscal 2009 budget request includes \$3.9 billion for weapons and tracked combat vehicle funding. That includes about \$330 million in Future Combat Systems procurement -- a difference from past years where most FCS funding was for research, development, testing and evaluation, Melcher said.

"This is one of the things you begin to see in the '09 budget," he said. "Whereas FCS was previously mostly an RDT&E venture -- and there is still about \$3.3 billion in RDT&E -- this year you begin to see about \$330 million in procurement, which is principally oriented to the Non-Line-of-Sight Cannon and also some spinout we are looking to procure in order to test -- first at Fort Bliss with the evaluation task force we



Photo by C. Todd Lopez

**As part of its fiscal 2009 budget request, released Feb. 4, the Army hopes to purchase additional Stryker nuclear, biological and chemical reconnaissance vehicles, like the one displayed Dec. 17, at the Pentagon.**

have forming down there, and then later to go into units."

Additional weapons and tracked combat vehicle funding is aimed at Strykers -- including mobile gun systems for Strykers -- and the nuclear, biological and chemical reconnaissance vehicle. The Army also hopes to procure Abrams system enhancements and 21 additional M-2A3 Bradley vehicles.

In fiscal 2009, the Army will pay for an additional 5,000 Humvees, night vision devices, thermal weapons sights and funding for the Warfighter Information Network - Tactical.

One of the largest increases in the Army's budget request is funding for facilities. The total Army facilities funding request amounts to about \$11.3 billion. That money covers about \$5.4 billion for military construction, \$1.3 billion for Army family housing and \$4.5 billion for construction related to Base Realignment and Closure.

"If you add that all up, it's really a pretty big year," Melcher said. "This is a big year for the Army, because we are trying to meet the BRAC timeline and get it done by fiscal 2011. We also have a pretty sizable plus-up to military construction -- a lot of that attributable to 'Grow the Army.'"



## Black History Month events

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

**Feb. 22:** Prayer breakfast 7 a.m. DFAC 4

**Feb. 23:** Soul Food Night Dinner @ DFAC 1 and 4

**Feb. 24:** Poetry Slam, 8 p.m. MWR East  
Soul Food Sunday Lunch @DFAC 3

**Feb. 24:** 5K Run 6 a.m. Holt Stadium,

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

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

**Feb. 29:** Sgt. Debra Gipson in an original stage play, 7p.m.- 9 p.m. at the Sustainer Theater

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

(Please note schedule is subject to change.)



# New protective vest makes mobility easier for Soldiers

by Spc. Jay Venturini

Anaconda Times staff

**LSA ANACONDA, Iraq** – Since the beginning of the war in 2003, there has been an active pursuit to create a protective vest that would protect servicemembers in combat situations but also allow them freedom to move around comfortably.

The improved outer tactical vest (IOTV) is the newest creation to come out which is not only lighter than the currently used interceptor body armor (IBA) but is also easier to remove during emergency situations.

"PM (Project manager) Soldier Equipment is always looking to improve the performance and protection of Soldiers," said Lt. Col. John Cinsey, PM Soldier Equipment/ Program Executive Office (PEO) Soldier, fielding chief theater operations. "The IOTV is not only a better protective vest; it is also a tactical vest."

There are quick release tabs that make it possible to remove the IOTV in seconds, which could mean the difference between life and death in dire situations.

"The quick release allows the Soldier to quickly remove their

"This design significantly decreased the vest's profile and should increase mobility, and we believe mobility equals survivability."

Maj. Carl Fulmore  
Soldier Survivability

IBA during emergency situations," said Cinsey. "Vehicle rollover, river operations, and treating injured Soldiers are all examples of when the quick release could be deployed to help save a life."

Comfort and utility features are also part of the new design. An internal waistband provides a tight fit and moves much of the weight from the Soldier's shoulders to his waist.

"This design significantly decreased the vest's profile and should increase mobility, and we believe mobility equals survivability," said Maj. Carl Fulmore, Assistant Product Manager Soldier Survivability.

The first units to be fitted with

the IOTV arrived in theater April 07. The initial feedback from the Soldiers has been mostly positive.

"All the Soldiers I have spoken with have given me positive feedback," said Cinsey. "In general, they really like how it rides on the body better than the old vest. It just feels right."

The IOTV is made of the same ballistic material as the old vest, but it covers more of the Soldiers body while weighing three pounds less. It also offers more sizes for the taller Soldiers. The additional sizes are medium-long, large-long and extra large-long.

Distribution to units already in theater will begin within the next few months. Units that routinely go outside the wire and units working in close proximity to water will most likely be the first to receive the IOTV due to the missions they run.

Active duty units will turn in their old vests to their installation central issue facility while National Guard and Army reserve Soldiers turning them in at home station.

For more information on the IOTV go to <http://peosoldier.army.mil/mediaalerts/iotv.asp>.

## Soldiers on Taji celebrate Black History Month



Photo by Spc. Andrea Merritt

**CAMP TAJI, Iraq** – One Voice, a choir on Camp Taji, sings during the Black History Month observance Feb. 9. "Events like these are very important because they not only celebrate our differences, but they also strengthen the team," said Col. Kevin O'Connell, commander of the 1st Sustainment Brigade.

# NFL Bench Press competition pushes weight lifters to limits



Photos by Emily McGovern

(Above) Sgt. Aaron Deck, the motor sergeant for the 13th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, Headquarters and Headquarters company, won the male portion of the competition by performing 34 correct repetitions. He out performed second place by 10 repetitions.

(Right) Capt. Marilyn V. Keene, the battalion S-4 for the 56th Multifunctional Medical Battalion, Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, stands by ready to help a fellow competitor during the NFL Bench Pressing Competition.

(Below) Todd Floore, a participant in the NFL Bench Press Competition, performs proper repetitions during the competition.



Photo by Spc. Jennifer L. Sierra

Air Force Capt. Julia Jefferson, the provost marshal with the 332nd Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron, exerts all her strength as she reaches the end of her bench pressing repetitions during the NFL Bench Press competition held at the West Morale, Welfare and Recreation Combo Center here Feb. 9. Jefferson won the female portion of the competition by executing 40 correct repetitions.



Photo by Spc. Jennifer L. Sierra



Photo by Spc. Jennifer L. Sierra

Spc. Heather J. Alojado, a chaplain assistant for the 56th Multifunctional Medical Battalion, shows fierce determination as she executes bench pressing repetitions during the NFL Bench Press Competition held Feb. 9.