

AnacondaTimes

APRIL 23, 2008

PROUDLY SERVING LSA ANACONDA



Photo by Spc. Anthony Hooker

Working together

Army uses hands off approach to train Iraqis

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Courtesy photo

100 years of service

Timeline of the 100 year history of the Army Reserve

Pages 8-9



Courtesy Image

History in the making

A highlight of four Reserve Soldiers who are making history

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Photo by Spc. Charlotte Martinez

Members of the 316th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) stand behind Commanding General, Brig. Gen. Gregory E. Couch, and Command Sgt. Maj. Stacey E. Davis during a cake cutting ceremony to celebrate the Army Reserve's 100th Anniversary.

America's Army Reserve: 100 years of tradition continues with 316th

by Maj. Christopher E. West

Anaconda Times Staff

LSA ANACONDA, Iraq—As we prepare to celebrate the 100th anniversary of U.S. Army Reserve, it is only befitting that we remember the selfless service, sacrifices, and dedication to duty that countless warrior-citizens have made—and continue to make—to sustain our nation, secure our freedom and prolong our prosperity.

Since its humble inception as a small reserve contingency of about 360 medical professionals, the Army Reserve has transformed into a federal combat support and combat service support-focused operational, expeditionary, and homeland defense force that is an integral part of the total Army.

Without question, the warrior-citizens of today's Army Reserve are the best trained, best led, and best equipped fighting force our Nation has ever fielded, and the patriotic men and women who comprise the 316th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) is no exception to this precept. The history-making unit is the first U.S. Army element of its kind to test the validity of modular force logistics in a wartime environment.

Modular force logistics is an evolutionary concept, which emphasizes streamlining the process of how supply resources are procured, distributed, and replenished. This new concept helps military logistics elements forecast resources needed more effectively and efficiently.

It also helps diminish redundancies by reducing unnecessary layers. Operational command and control improves by providing leaders total visibility of the distribution system, its content, and the theater infrastructure.

Prior to assuming its pioneering role as the senior logistics command in Iraq last August, the unit trained extensively for several months to ensure it was poised and battle ready to help combat units achieve and sustain the

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332nd ESFS brings justice for servicemembers at LSAA

by Spc. Jay Venturini
Anaconda Times staff

LSA ANACONDA, Iraq – Being in a war zone, you must remain aware of possible threats the enemy can throw at you. However, you also have to protect yourself and property from the threat of crime.

Unfortunately, crimes and regulation violations do happen and it is the job of the provost marshal’s office to investigate the incidents and bring the culprit to justice.

“The most important thing after an incident has occurred is securing the site,” said Tech. Sgt. Jeromy Frisk, 332nd Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron investigator. “Then you gather as much information as you can.”

The investigators get information from many different sources; however, most of it comes from the victims and eyewitnesses.

“It can be hard to prove a case without getting good information from the people in the area,” said Frisk. “If you do get good information, you run with it.”

They also take pictures of the crime scene and dust for fingerprints. Then, the evidence goes to a crime lab in Baghdad and the fingerprints are processed through a database. When there is enough evidence collected to arrest someone, the case moves to the legal department where the investigators are often required to testify.

During the first four months of their tour, the PMO solved 73 percent of their investigations. The investigators would like a 100 percent success rate on their cases but are proud of the ones they have solved.

“My guys are doing an outstanding job,” said Air Force Capt. Julia Jefferson, 332nd ESFS officer in charge. “They are out there every day protecting and serving the residents

of Anaconda.”

There are some ways to make yourself less a target for a crime. For example, you can fill out a high dollar value sheet for all your valuables and turn it into your first sergeant. You can also label everything you own that is valuable.

“The best way to prove something is yours is by putting your name on it,” said Frisk. “Use a permanent marker or carve your name into things like your TV or video game systems.”

The PMO urges all residents here to show courtesy to your fellow servicemembers and respect their property and help take a bite out of crime.

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Provost Marshal Office: Weekly police blotter Week of 7-13 April

The Provost Marshal Office conducted: (185) Security Checks, (19) Traffic Stops, issued (20) DD Form 1408 Armed Forces Traffic Tickets, registered (350) vehicles on the installation, and responded to (eight) traffic accidents. Thirty one Common Access Cards were reported lost and (two) individuals were barred from LSAA.

The Provost Marshal Office is currently investigating: Five larceny cases and six General Order I violations.

If you have any information about any of these crimes, please contact the crime stoppers line at 433-8602 or notify the Military Police Investigations at 443-6190

PMO Recommendations: Secure all government and personal equipment; do not leave items unattended inside doorless vehicles. Personal safety awareness: travel with a battle buddy, avoid walking in between buildings or along 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 such as MP, fire department and medical are equipped with lights and sirens. Yield to all emergency responders when lights 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).

Crime Prevention: 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 Tech Sgt. Mirta Jones



Courtesy Photo

Servicemembers conduct an inspection of the living quarters of local nationals and foreign nationals in an attempt to promote health & welfare among LSA camps.

17th CSSB ensures all vehicles reach their final destination

Combat logistics patrol readiness center completes last check to ensure vehicle readiness

by Spc. Thomas Keeler
Anaconda Times staff

LSA ANACONDA, Iraq – The 17th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion at Forward Operating Base Q-West is using an additional pre-combat check to ensure that convoy vehicles leaving the wire reach their destination.

The unit operates a combat logistics patrol readiness center, also referred to as a CLP RC. Convoys leaving Q-West are required to make one last stop at the CLP RC before meeting the supply trailers and leaving the wire.

The maintenance check conducted at the CLP RC is the fourth and final step in the process of performing the preventive maintenance checks and services, said Spc. Brendan Reyna, a mechanic with the 17th CSSB.

“The first step [in the maintenance process] is going to be the operator of course, the ten level, and then it’s going to be the mechanics” at the 20 and 30-level, said Reyna.

After the unit’s operator-driver performs a PMCS, the unit’s mechanic follows with the standard 20-level unit maintenance. At many FOBs, and given the skill with which Soldiers run their convoys, the checks need not go outside the unit. But an incident a couple years ago caused commanders here to reconsider–Reyna told the story of a Humvee wheel that spun off the hub when the lug



Photo by Spc. Thomas Keeler

Spc. Brandon Reyna, a mechanic with the 17th CSSB, kicks (pushes) out from under a Humvee during his pre-convoy maintenance checks prior to a combat logistics patrol leaving the wire March 26.

nuts went unchecked and had become too loose.

So, while the convoy team is conducting the intelligence brief and battle drill, the inspection team is out on the line, performing the final check.

Each vehicle’s communications equipment is also checked.

“We’ve been doing this so long that we usually know what we’re looking for,” said Spc. Jacob Maxwell, a signal support systems specialist with the 17th CSSB.

Maxwell says he has gotten to know just

about every convoy that passes through, and usually only has to remind truck commanders to turn on their radios.

Noncommissioned officers working at the CLP RC say that almost all fixes and adjustments are done on the spot, and that the inspection team has built a friendly relationship with the convoy commanders who pass through here. Very rarely does the inspection team “circle x” a vehicle; that is, recommend to the convoy commander that a vehicle not continue on the convoy. Each convoy brings an extra vehicle of each type to the CLP RC

just in case the truck crew needs to switch vehicles.

One instance has caught Reyna’s attention since he’s been here.

“The half shaft bolts [were bad], and they [will] spin out,” he said.

“The half-shaft is still turning underneath there, and of course it’s solid steel so it’s going to break the brake-pads,” said the mechanic.

In that case, an extra maintenance check came in handy and prevented a possible mishap and loss of various resources and time.

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 (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—SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST

Saturday	9 a.m.	Provider
Sunday	3:30 p.m.	Castle Heights (4155)

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,Wed,Fri	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	6 p.m.	Gilbert Memorial (H-6)
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ISLAMIC SERVICE

Friday	Noon	Provider 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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Please note, schedule is subject to change.

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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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.

Major takes to transition, fights for freedom with Army Reserve

by Spc. Anthony Hooker
Anaconda Times staff

LSA ANACONDA, Iraq – Early in 2004, Major Mark Loyola, currently the S-3 operation officer for the 55th Sustainment Brigade, had a decision to make. Stationed at Ft. Bragg with the 82nd Airborne Division, Loyola had just completed service in Operation Iraqi Freedom, his second overseas tour in the last three years. With a break of only two months between deployments and a blossoming relationship with his girlfriend, he was not satisfied with the options Army life was offering and realized he would probably have to resign from active military service.

“There was no way to maintain my relationship (by staying in),” said Loyola, 32, who went on to marry his sweetheart. Establishing a relationship along with a grandmother who was having growing health concerns, Loyola decided he needed to be in a better position to help his family.

“I wanted to stay in,” said Loyola, who joined the Army in 1997. “If I was single, I would have stayed on duty as a lifer.”

To meet a healthy compromise, Loyola joined an Army Reserve unit at Ft. Belvoir, Va. When he began attending battle assemblies, Loyola said the experience was an eye opener.

“Coming from the 82nd, it was difficult to not to see the same level of base knowledge coming from the troops,” he said. “On active duty, the Soldiers are always getting reacquainted with their military duties. Every drill weekend it seemed like we were having to re-educate troops on the unit’s priorities. It was like re-inventing the wheel.”

Loyola began to see that the challenge was not the Soldiers’ competency, but the ability to maximize the training time. Meeting with fellow Soldiers at battle drills once a month as opposed to duty in the regular Army also caused problems.

“The tactics, training and procedures were different from the regular Army,” he said. “I even had trouble remembering names of fellow Soldiers—I had to re-acquaint myself with them.”

Four years later, after a series of drills and mobilization training, Loyola is singing the praises of his fellow warriors.



Photo by Spc. Anthony Hooker

Army Reserve Major Mark Loyola of the 55th Sustainment Brigade kneels next to a crater while charting the design of the improvised explosive device course here April 18. Reading over his shoulder is Sgt. 1st Class John Pennamon.

“We will always have to try to condense our training during battle assemblies,” said Loyola, “but I’ve been surprised by the versatility Reservists bring to the job.”

One of the most significant discoveries is learning troops’ abilities that are not listed on an Army job identifier file.

“I have soldiers who serve as quartermasters but are physician’s assistants in their civilian life,” said Loyola. “I also have a guy in an infantry unit who is an engineer back at home, not to mention others who have handy skills like woodworking.”

This informal training convinced Loyola to look beyond the unit’s military information sheets and use his non-commissioned officers’ guidance in finding people with mission-capable skills.

“If I have a guy who is proficient in computers, I identify him and decide what sort of way I can incorporate his ability be-

cause he has become a combat-multiplier for me.”

Another hurdle was dealing with the surges in personnel once Soldiers were cross-leveled into the unit. Assembling Soldiers from a large number of different commands, Loyola knew poor information flow could compromise the mission, so he challenged himself to make certain the tasks would be understood and appreciated.

Loyola said his unit’s human resource office was pro-active, pushing out newsletters and information packets so Soldiers would have up-to-date information before arriving at the unit for mobilization.

“It’s important to create a level of predictability,” Loyola said. “Everyone’s role is relevant.”

Loyola said reservists’ ability to juggle careers changed his opinion of their sol-

diering ability.

“I used to look at reservists as second-hand Soldiers,” Loyola said. “Now I understand the challenges reservists face.”

“It’s hard to be a diplomat to your civilian employer, your chain of command, and your family. You have to be good at balancing your priorities. It requires a lot of sacrifices to make sure all those priorities are managed. Dedicating too much on any one area can put the other two in jeopardy.”

Loyola, a Memorial Bataan Death-march participant in 2006, is humble enough to say what he believed once wasn’t necessarily right.

“If you have guys who do it right (reserve training), they can really be a benefit to your unit,” Loyola said. “I have love for the active and reserve Soldiers, but I’ll tell critics (of reservists) be careful – these guys can make you money.”

Mobile Parts Hospital prevents Soldier readiness from flat lining

by Spc. Jay Venturini
Anaconda Times staff

LSA ANACONDA, Iraq – Have you ever been in a situation where you desperately needed a part for a vehicle but the wait time was 30 days or more to have it shipped from the United States? Did you know there is a place on post that can make the same part in less time?

That is where the Mobile Parts Hospital comes in. The MPH is a self-contained, self-sustaining mobile manufacturing system that efficiently fabricates standard and unique parts.

“We make everything from screws to weapons mounts,” said Mr. Kevin Lewis, MPH site coordinator. “Basically, anything that a Soldier needs within a six inch diameter, we can make it.”

The MPH, which has been in operation since 2005, sup-

ports every branch of service and all military installations in Iraq. There are two other MPHs in Southeast Asia; the others are located at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, and Bagram Air Force Base, Afghanistan. Since the beginning of production, the three units have produced more than 70,000 mission essential parts.

“As the government program manager for the Mobile Parts Hospital, there is no doubt in my mind that we have become a critical part of the fight and the forward response manufacturing system that we provide has become a combat multiplier,” said Mr. James Uribe, MPH program manager.

When making a request for parts, the requester must send an example of the part or a picture or drawing with dimensions of the part. The average wait time is two to three weeks; however, if the part is mission essential it usually

takes precedence and will have a quicker turnaround.

“We try to work with the Soldiers,” said Lewis. “If they have a large order we see if it is possible to spread the production of a few months so it doesn’t monopolize the machines and we can complete other orders as well.”

The MPH also takes ideas from servicemembers on how to improve existing parts, which they design and test. If the new design is better, it is sent back to the U.S. to be mass produced and put into the military supply system.

By providing these parts the MPH ensures servicemembers and their vehicles are mission ready as they travel the dangerous roads of Iraq.

“It feels great knowing that we are supplying parts to servicemembers so the can conduct their missions to keep us safe,” said Lewis. “This is our small part of the overall picture.”

100 missions down Less than 60 days left for 1203rd

by Spc. Charlotte Martinez
Anaconda Times staff

LSA ANACONDA, Iraq – Members of the 1203rd Engineer Battalion’s personal security detail completed their 100th mission during a trip to Qubbah with the 2nd Battalion, 23rd Infantry Regiment, 4th Infantry Division to help with a humanitarian aid mission April 9.

The 1203rd’s primary role in the mission was site security, but they also distributed water, food and toys to the citizens of Qubbah. The Sons of Iraq helped the Soldiers maintain the crowd and ensured the lowest income families got food and necessary items first.

“I feel like we accomplished something during our tour here,” said Cpl. Cory Jaynes, a petroleum supply specialist and the lead gun truck commander. “I have been out on all the missions so far, with the exception of my two week block leave.”

The 1203rd PSD has traveled all over Iraq during their tour, including bases like Normandy, Aries, Basra, Talil, Speicher and many more.

“We have (driven through) everything on Tampa from here to Basra,” Jaynes said.

The 1203rd has escorted many missions to include securing battalion assets, equipment

around theater and providing security en route as well as on the ground.

In their spare time, the 1203rd usually escorts humanitarian aide missions, like the one April 9, said Staff Sgt. Larry Baldrige, the PSD operations noncommissioned officer and convoy commander.

“Our number one priority is to transport the battalion commander from point A to point B. We are also responsible for his security en route and on the ground,” Baldrige said.

The 1203rd has logged close to 10,000 miles since they arrived in early September, said Baldrige.

“Since then, I have seen a big difference in the security of our (area of operations),” he said. “I just hope it stays that way.”

With less than two months left here, Baldrige says he plans on helping the incoming unit to the best of his ability by passing on all of the information he has gathered since he has been here.

“I feel the battalion as a whole has made our area of operation safer for the Soldiers,” he said. “We have seen what the route clearance missions have done, and the Sons of Iraq are stepping up and setting up all new checkpoints. I hope the time we have spent here has put a positive light on the Iraqi people.”



Photo by Spc. Charlotte Martinez

Members of the 1203rd Engineer Battalion’s personal security detail set-up a truck to pass out food and water to citizens of Qubbah during a humanitarian aid mission April 9.

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victory.

“We’re versatile and mobile, can cater to several military branches -- whether U.S., Coalition or Iraqi and can manage logistics at every level in theater, from the individual Soldier to the collective unit mission,” said Brig. Gen. Gregory E. Couch, commanding general of the 316th ESC. “Our job is to ensure that proper planning has taken place, that each unit we support can fulfill its mission, that their movements go smoothly, and that they have the best equipment and supplies,” he added.

The command’s motto, “Sustain the Victory,” translates into providing everything from bullets to beans, from fuel to maintenance parts to coordinating certain human resources. The command oversees 20,000 logistical Soldiers, providing support to United States forces, Coalition partners and Iraqi forces in theater.

“The Army Reserve is no longer simply a force in reserve. We are a vital part of our nation’s defense. We are no longer a strategic force that stays in reserve until we are needed to supplement other forces. Today’s Army Reserve is a skill-rich, operational force, complementing the joint force where and when needed,” said Command Sgt. Maj. Stacey E. Davis, the senior enlisted leader of the 316th. “That is what we do here daily, around the clock. We provide the resources needed to maintain our combat effectiveness whether in Taji, Baghdad, Tikrit, Kuwait, or here,” Davis further remarked.

As evident by their conspicuous performance of duty, the men and women of the 316th are continuing the proud tradition of selfless service to our nation and to freedom loving people everywhere that makes the Army Reserve such a special and renowned organization. Like previous warrior-citizens of times past, they, too, have answered the call to duty, put boots on the ground, and demonstrated to both friend and foe that they are indeed Army Strong.

Proud of their past and confident in their future, the Army Reserve Soldiers currently serving are part of the next greatest generation of Americans who have served our nation in the military. And they are serving with pride and distinction. Happy Anniversary Army Reserve!

Son re-enlists father



Photo by Spc. Thomas Keeler

LSA ANACONDA, Iraq – From the United States, 2nd Lt. Chase Kochkodin, executive officer with the 628th Aviation Support Battalion, Pennsylvania National Guard, administers the oath of enlistment to Sgt. 1st Class Mark Kochkodin – his father. The rest of the Kochkodin family looks on. Mark Kochkodin, who joined the Army in 1976, is the finance and human resources noncommissioned officer-in-charge for support operations of the 316th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary). Kochkodin called it “fantastic” to have his son administer the oath. The younger Kochkodin joined the Army in 2003 while his father was deployed to Iraq as a platoon sergeant with a cargo transfer company that ran logistics convoys. After performing his first re-enlistment, the younger Kochkodin said he hoped that it met the strict standards of the NCO corps.



An Iraqi Army mechanic ground guides a classmate out of a motor pool bay March 26 at Camp Yassir.

Photo by Spc. Anthony Hooker

Al Asad MITT team gears up Iraqi Army mechanics

MITT team uses hands-off approach to train Iraqi Army’s 7th Motor Transport Regiment

by Spc. Anthony Hooker

Anaconda Times staff

Camp Yassir, Iraq – A motor pool door is raised so a hum-vee or 2 1/2-ton cargo truck can be parked. Cabinets are opened and tool kits are pulled out. After a quick inventory, creepers and wheel jacks are collected as Soldiers prepare to begin services or repairs on the designated vehicles for the day. It’s a common occurrence for a wheel mechanic in the Army, but not for the 2107th Military Transition Team who work alongside their Iraqi counterparts in an advisory role.

Since November 1, the MiTT team has practiced a hands-off approach with the Iraqi Army’s 7th Motor Transport Regiment. In an effort to follow through on the Coalition Forces’ plan to return responsibility of Iraq to its citizens, the MiTT team has gathered and assigned a group of Soldiers as augmentees to strengthen the Iraqis’ capability to handle logistical missions.

One of the 2107th major projects is training local mechanics with some of the U.S. Army’s standard practices. That means helping the Iraqis with execution and familiarization.

After a half-hour’s worth of physical training, the Iraqi mechanics report to duty at a shared motor pool at 8 a.m. A bay is reserved so the Iraqis can work freely on a designated vehicle. The classes are mainly operator and unit level maintenance, ensuring the group gets thorough training. The augmentees, a small group of Soldiers pulled from the 730th Quartermaster Company based out of Tennessee, provide the day’s instruction, usually some task that the Iraqis must identify and troubleshoot.

Some tasks the Iraqis mechanics are evaluated on are replacing alternators, learning how to fill out reports, and occasionally ground guiding vehicles in and out the motor pool bay. Fuel handlers are trained how to handle and extract fuel.

The morning session usually lasts until eleven. Depending on taskings, the Iraqis may come back at 2 p.m.

Sgt. Brian Aikins, a Mitt team motor sergeant, said the Iraqis are proficient when doing preventive maintenance checks and services. “Our guys (are) excellent with their PMCS and inserting the run flats (helps tires continue running when flattened),” he said.

Aikins said they also show initiative.

“The mechanics had a bad alternator in one of the trucks, picked up an older one to replace it, but couldn’t put it on because the tools weren’t available. They were unable to do it on their own, so then they decided to put the item on the services form.”

One of the challenges the augmentees face is reducing the mechanics’ bad habits. The Iraqis were taught to use safety equipment such as safety glasses and gloves when handling or working on parts. Aikins said it was also a struggle to get them to use their time wisely.

“The Iraqis are group-oriented – they like to work together,” said Aikins. “We could have two (or) three vehicles that needed services . . . they would naturally gravitate to one and concentrate on it.”

Aikins and his primary assistant, Spc. Malcomb Watson, try to keep the group apart, helping them to remain focused on a problem they discover on their own. They admit to getting frustrated at times, as simple directions are misunderstood or occasionally ignored. The remedy is getting away from the group to research the problem, then returning and reintroducing a solution.

A second concern is literacy. Even though Iraqi placards and books are placed in the bay, Aikens said only a few trainees are literate. He judges which mechanics have formal education by which ones study signs and pull technical manuals.

Because these are men with personal pride, Aikins assigned one of the students, a 24-year old named Hany, as the group’s foreman.

“Hany is very capable of performing higher level maintenance,” said Aikins. “He can translate and read instructions.”

Hany’s role is simple yet complex. He must be responsive to his peers but also provide pressure when jobs require urgency. Also, problems like a shortage of tools stunt the training. Hany must tell his American advisors and Iraqi chain of command of issues the group encounters and what needs have arisen. Additionally, an interpreter is needed to help explain some of the issues to the augmentees.

Hany said initially this was tough, but the training is worth it because of all the good cross-training they get to do.

“It’s really good to work with Americans,” he said through an interpreter. “I have really good workers who can normally fix problems; if they run into problems, they will let the Americans know.”

Watson said the relationship is reinforced by offering verbal appreciation or snacks and drinks to show gratitude. If there is some correction needed, Hany is pulled aside with an interpreter so the augmentees can use discretion.



Photo by Spc. Anthony Hooker

MITT team advisor Spc. Malcolmb Watson observes as Iraqi mechanics tighten engine parts on a 2 ½ ton truck.

“(Hany) can point out problems without people getting offended. As the group leader, he can become the hammer.”

Even though his job is only to observe, Watson said the guys bonded through just the basic activities.

“We share cigarettes and drinks on the job,” Watson said. “When we have down time, we’ve gotten together and drank chi, played soccer, even ate barbecued sheep.”

“I’ve been able to learn about the people – who they are and where they are from,” said Watson, a 23 year old father of two girls.

Twelve mechanics are currently fully trained by the MiTT team. Major Loi Nguyen, the MiTT team commander, said the objective is to train 64 mechanics within six months to a year’s time.

Nguyen said the students will ultimately become the teachers. Once the mechanics complete their training, they will take an active role in preparing the next class.

“The challenge now is getting the vehicle parts,” said Nguyen. “It’s been a slow progression but we’re making strides.”

Air to ground LSA Anaconda transfers authority

by Staff Sgt. Les Newport

76th Infantry Brigade Combat Team Public Affairs office

LSA Anaconda, Iraq—After months of training, thousands of miles and a short period of adjustment, units of the 76th Infantry Brigade Combat Team are taking control of their areas of responsibility and turning to the very real work of counterinsurgency.

Col. Courtney Carr, commander of the 76th, said in a recent interview that replacement plans have gone smoothly throughout the brigade. With a few minor adjustments in mission assignments, the BCT has in most cases already taken on a majority of the responsibilities of redeploying units.

The twenty-eight companies of the 76th have spread out across Northern Iraq and received a large piece of convoy security missions as well as force protection missions.

“It’s time for them to go home,” said Carr. “The folks we are replacing have done amazing things, they have set the bar pretty high and they have earned their way home. Now it’s up to us to build on what they have done. We owe them that.”

At a recent Transfer of Authority ceremony, Carr accepted control of the Mayor Cell of Logistical Support Area Anaconda as garrison commander from Air Force Col. Ralph Romine, commander of the 332nd Expeditionary Mission Support Group.

Romine was awarded the Bronze Star by Brig. Gen. Gregory E. Couch, commanding general of the 316th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), during the ceremony.

“My dad always taught me to give back a borrowed tool in better shape than you found it,” said Gregory C. Couch, “and that’s what the 332nd ESG proudly did.”

Romine thanked the Soldiers of the 322nd in an emotional farewell and placed



Photo by Staff Sgt. Les Newport

Col. Ralph J. Romine (left) and Command Chief Master Sgt. Kristine Mullaney case the colors of 322nd Expeditionary Mission Support Group during a transfer of authority ceremony at Logistical Support Area Anaconda.

credit for their success where he plainly felt it belonged.

“This award is not mine,” he said. “This (represents) the hard work of the 332nd.”

Romine said every task he gave the 322nd was accomplished without hesitation. The unit served as the Mayor Cell, overseeing the logistical support of more than 30,000 coalition personnel of the largest logistical support area in Iraq.

Carr and command personnel of the 76th Infantry Brigade Combat Team will assume Mayor Cell responsibilities for the remainder of the unit’s year-long deployment.

Couch gave encouragement to the 76th, reminding them of the stakes involved in their mission:

“We must continue to deliver unsurpassed force protection and basic life support to all who live and work here,” said Couch. “...point the way to continued operational success.”

Bronze Star awarded to outgoing Mayor Cell members



Photo by Spc. Charlotte Martinez

LSA ANACONDA, Iraq – Outgoing members of the 332nd Expeditionary Mission Support Group Detachment 1 Mayor Cell were awarded Bronze Star medals for their hard work and the advancements they achieved during their tour here. The medals were awarded during the Transfer of Authority ceremony April 7 at the eastside Morale, Welfare and Recreation center. From left: Chief Master Sgt. Kristine Mullaney, Mayor Cell Command Chief Master Sgt.; Lt. Col. Mary Toohey, former garrison deputy commander; and Col. Ralph Romine, former garrison commander.

316th moves one step closer to redeployment



Photo by Spc. Jay Venturini

LSA ANACONDA, Iraq – Sgt. Tracy Wilson-Goldwire, a 316th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) supply noncommissioned officer, inventories the rifleman kit from Spc. John Friend, 316th ESC cook, during the phase one turn in, in preparation of redeployment. The 316th ESC, which is in the tenth month of its deployment, will redeploy to Coraopolis, Pa., when their year long tour is complete in late June.

Retention conference:

Keeping Soldiers “Army strong”

by Spc. Jay Venturini

Anaconda Times staff

LSA ANACONDA, Iraq – For the past few years, one of the major points of emphasis for the Army has been recruiting new Soldiers and the ability to retain current ones. Though at times it’s been a struggle, the Army has continually met its retention goals.

One of the major factors in keeping Soldiers in the Army is having retention non-commissioned officers at the battalion and company level.

Because of this, LSA Anaconda held a week long retention NCO conference to give those at the battalion and company level the tools needed to confidently talk to Soldiers about their retention options.

“We had NCOs from eight different installations throughout Iraq come here for the conference,” said Master Sgt. Michael Frederickson, 316th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) career counselor. “We gave them the basics where they don’t know everything about retention, but they know where to find the answers.”

The job of a retention NCO is more than just getting Soldiers to stay in the Army. It also deals with career choices and goals.

“If a Soldier wants to become a warrant officer or a drill sergeant, they talk to us and we make a career plan to get them where they want to go,” said Frederickson.

With the Army offering so many benefits to Soldiers who reenlist, it is imperative

that retention NCOs know the benefits and how they apply to Soldiers. A major point of emphasis to the attendees was to actively go out and talk to Soldiers about retention and what their career goals are.

“This job is taking care of a Soldier’s wants, needs and desires and trying to match them up to the needs of the Army,” said Sgt. 1st Class Germen Marrero, 63rd Expeditionary Signal Battalion career counselor. “The great thing is, every Soldier is different, so you have to be ready for any question thrown your way. This is a 24 hours a day, seven days a week job.”

“Retention NCOs also have to come across as confident and trustworthy,” added Marrero. “If a Soldier doesn’t trust you, you’re not going to get anywhere with him or her.”

As the retention NCOs leave the conference and go back to their respective installations, they leave with the skills and confidence to keep the current generation of Soldiers Army Strong.

“I learned so much from the conference,” said Sgt. Isabel Tino, Alpha company, 44th Expeditionary Signal Battalion. “They gave us some good tools to reel the Soldiers into the benefits of staying in the Army.”

If you would like more information on retention, please contact Master Sgt. Frederickson at DSN: 433-2502, via e-mail at Michael.Frederickson@iraq.centcom.mil or stop by the Warrior Support Center at the corner of New Jersey Avenue and Hawk Boulevard.

Army Reserve History

100 Army strong years



1908– Medical Reserve Corps is formed, creating the first reservoir of trained officers in a reserve status. The Army Reserve birthday is April 23, 1908.

1940-1944– World War II: 200,000 members of the ORC participate. Army Reserve officers provide 29 percent of the Army's officers.



1916-1920 – National Defense Acts of 1916 and 1920 create the Officers Reserve Corps and Enlisted Reserve Corps, later named the Organized Reserve Corps, forerunners of the current Army Reserve.

1948– President Truman signs Women's Armed Services Integration Act granting women the right to an Army career full-time active duty or part-time in the Army Reserve. Retirement pay and drill pay for ORC members also enacted.

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

1991– Persian Gulf War: More than 84,000 Army Reserve Soldiers provide combat support and combat service support to the Army.

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

1968– Vietnam Conflict: 5,900 Army Reserve Soldiers are mobilized.

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

1910

1920

1930

1940

1950

1960

1970

1980

1990

2000

2008

1920– Funding limits training for Reserve officers to two weeks every three to four years.

1930– Civilian Conservation Corps: More than 30,000 Army Reserve Officers help manage 2,700 CCC camps.

1950– Korean Conflict: 240,500 members of the ORC are called to Active Duty. More than 400 Army Reserve units serve in Korea.

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

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

1992– Somalia: Army Reserve Soldiers provide postal, logistical and other assistance to support U.S. relief efforts.

1999– Army Reserve sends units to Central America in support of New Horizons '99 (Nuevos Horizontes '99), the relief effort for Hurricane Mitch.

2000 - 2001–Kosovo: Army Reserve Units support North Atlantic Treaty Organization 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 Federal Emergency Management Association, state and local agencies in defending the American homeland against terrorist attacks, providing resources and training to "first responder" organizations across the nation.

1914-1918–World War I: 89,500 officers from the Officers Reserve Corps participate; one-third are medical doctors. 80,000 members of the Enlisted Reserve Corps serve; 15,000 are in medical units.



CSM Davis: ‘One Army, one fight’

by Spc. Anthony Hooker

Anaconda Times staff

LSA Anaconda, Iraq – Growing up, Command Sgt. Major Stacey E. Davis of the Army Reserve’s 316th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) believed he would be a career military man.

“The military runs through my veins,” said Davis. “My father and brothers were military men.”

Fulfilling a childhood belief, Davis carved out a military career that has spanned almost 30 years. Davis, 49, was also able to create a successful life in the civilian sector. He is currently employed as an information technician program manager with the Department of Commerce’s Economic Development Administration in Washington D.C.

The Silver Springs, Maryland native views the arrival of the Army Reserve’s 100th anniversary celebration as a reflection of his life’s work: The emergence of the citizen-Soldier.

Part of a staff that is the single logistical command in Iraq, Davis said the Army Reserve has evolved to being more than an augmentation force. Reserve units have provided services throughout theater and numerous members have participated in multiple deployments. “We can’t be called second-stringers anymore,” Davis said. With extended overseas duty becoming a expected part of service, Davis said the Army Reserve is getting as much responsibility as Regular Army assets.

“Today’s Army Reservists can call themselves veterans,” said Davis. “(There were) twenty-year Reservists who hadn’t done six months in a combat zone. But now there are annual-training exercises being held in places like Germany, Korea that are combined-unit campaigns.”

Davis added that the powers-that-be have deemed units such as the 316th as capable as any other command. “There used to be three components (Regular Army, Army Reserve and National Guard) but now there is only one,” he commented. “We’re truly becoming ‘One-Army, One-Fight.’”

Davis thought about giving up that fight a long time ago. Enlisting in the Army in 1978, he changed duty stations 11 times in six years and was getting frustrated with the inability to get stabilization for his family. “I needed to stabilize but I was anxious to use the skills I’d learned,” Davis said.

Davis, a divorced father of two, including a son who also serves as a reservist, decided that the

Reserve could meet his appetite for achievement. “I wanted to test what the Reserve had to offer; I didn’t want my service to end,” he said. “I felt I was missing structure, the esprit de’ corps of being in a great organization.”

Davis joined the Reserve a day after leaving active duty. Happy to know the change would give him the mobility he desired, he got the opportunity to pick a home station as well as finding units that allowed him to participate in battle assemblies if his civilian job compelled him to relocate.

Davis said the move allowed him to pursue his original desire of becoming a command sgt. major.

“I treated the Reserve like I was still on active duty,” Davis said. “I wasn’t satisfied just being in. I went and found challenging jobs for (myself), positions with increasing responsibilities. I was comfortable doing the hard jobs.”

Davis said that passion and the flexibility the Reserve offer has helped make him handle his current job successfully.

“(Regular Army) Soldiers usually have one or two military occupational specialties’ their entire military career,” Davis said. “Reservists have participated in multiple deployments. “We can’t be called second-stringers anymore,” Davis said.

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Command Sgt. Maj. Stacey E. Davis



Photo by Spc. Jay Venturini

1st Lt. Thomas Bourne, adjutant for Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 316th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and a member of the U.S. Army Reserve pistol team, keeps his marksmanship skills sharp while serving a year tour in Iraq.

316th Soldier aims to be one of top shooters in U.S.

by Spc. Jay Venturini

Anaconda Times staff

LSA ANACONDA, Iraq – “A Soldier that can’t shoot isn’t a real Soldier, plain and simple.”

Those are the words 1st Lt. Thomas Bourne, adjutant of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 316th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), who took it to heart when he raised his hand and joined the Army, and then took it a step farther.

Bourne’s love of shooting started at a young age where he would game hunt in the woods of northern Virginia; however, he didn’t fully pursue it until joining the Army in 2001.

Through the years, Bourne has been a trainer for the National Rifle Association and at the Small Arms Firing School at Camp Perry, Ohio. While training to be a certified trainer on the laser marksmanship training system in 2004, he met a person that changed his life.

“I met person with a president’s hundred tab on his uniform for the first time. The tab is given out to the best 100 shooters in the U.S.,” explained Bourne. “The tab is something I’ve always strived to get and that’s when I decided to go to the national competition.”

At the competition, Bourne quickly learned that competition shooting is very different from combative shooting.

“I didn’t know what I was doing my first time at the nationals,” said Bourne. “The good that came of it was I met the coach and team captain of the Army Reserve pistol team.”

Following the competition, Bourne trained with Lt. Col. Alan Toler, Army Reserve pistol team captain, in preparation for the following national competition. Shortly after, Bourne was asked to join the pistol team.

On his second crack at the nationals in 2005, Bourne improved greatly, jumping more than 200 places in the rankings from the previous year.

He continued to train and compete in various competitions throughout the country to keep his skills sharp and move closer to earning the presidents hundred tab. After inching closer to the top 100 in 2006, Bourne was put on mobilization orders to Iraq and was unable to compete in 2007.

Bourne still trains every night as he dry fires in his room and goes to the firing range every opportunity he can. Not only has he improved his skills here, he has also improved many of his Soldiers’ marksmanship skills as well.

“When we were qualifying at Fort Bragg, I showed a Soldier who never shot a pistol before the proper techniques and he shot 39 out of 40 targets,” said Bourne.

As the 316th moves closer to redeployment, Bourne is hoping to be home in time to compete in the 2008 nation competition.

“I feel I could have achieved the presidents tab in 2007, but I am looking forward to Nationals this year and representing the 316th ESC. I hope that I can make the unit proud,” said Bourne.

Comsec Chief tells all

by Spc. Thomas Keeler

Anaconda Times staff

LSA ANACONDA, Iraq – As the communications security team chief for the 316th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), and with 40 years total of reserve, active duty and national guard experience behind him, Chief Warrant Officer Tony Kennedy understands the smallest details about protecting sensitive information.

Currently, Kennedy operates the comsec account for Balad, issuing encryption keys for communications equipment.

“The key is an electronic key,” said Kennedy. “Ones and zeros.”

These encrypted keys allow convoys on the road to communicate with the joint operations center, allow commanders to call back to the United States, and allow helicopters to talk to forces on the ground. All without letting the enemy listen in.

Kennedy was drafted in 1968 by the Marines at just about the same time he had the idea to enlist in the Army. After basic training, Kennedy joined the Army Security Agency as a radio operator, spending the next 18 months between Vietnam and Okinawa and finishing as the noncommissioned officer-in-charge for the major relay at Okinawa.

Upon returning to Ft. Hood, Texas Kennedy served in the Honor Guard for veterans returning from the war, and at his next stop, Ft. Knox, Ky., he met his wife.

After fulfilling his active duty obligation, Kennedy joined the Pennsylvania National Guard. He was part of the computing expansion in the 1980s, and he remained with the guard for more than 25 years, serving as the 28th Infantry Division comsec custodian for 15 of those years. He wrote the standard operating procedure for emergency evacuations, which is still is used today.

His career hasn’t been all about communications, however.

For a few years in the early 1990s, Kennedy’s rifle marksmanship team from Pennsylvania was the nation’s best.

“We won the All Army Combat Rifle Team Championship—took it from the 82nd Airborne,” he said.

In 2002 he was asked to join a Combined Joint Task Force in the event of war. Arriving in Kuwait, Kennedy joined servicemembers from the other branches and was the forward area communications chief for a consequence management team. His team patrolled Kuwait with Coalition Forces, doing reconnaissance and testing Iraqi missiles for chemical or biological agents.

“If the Iraqis dropped chemical weapons, our job was to go out and find out what we could do to clean it up,” he said.

Kennedy and his team made the push up to Baghdad with Coalition Forces in 2003, and when Baghdad was secure, he was released from duty.

“It was the first time I actually sat down and worked with people from every branch of service,” he said. “You get a wrong impression, the Marines are like this, the Air Force is like this, but when you get together and you work together, they’re the same as working with anybody else.”

Kennedy returned to his civilian job and life until 2006, when he permitted himself one last tour of duty with the comsec team. He redeployed home in June.

“Then I’m done,” he said, intending to return to his position as a safety and training director for a travel and tourism company.



Chief Warrant Officer Tony Kennedy

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From Vietnam to OIF

CSM still leading, helping troops

by Spc. Charlotte Martinez

Anaconda Times staff

LSA ANACONDA, Iraq – Command Sgt. Maj. James F. Hill, a Pittsburgh native and Command Sgt. Maj. of the 55th Sustainment Brigade, has accomplished many things in his lifetime as a Soldier in the Army Reserve.

Hill has been a reservist since 1978 and has served in the Marine Corps prior to that.

“Patriotism and a love of country for America is something that was instilled in me as a child,” Hill said about his reasons for joining the military. “My family used to go to all of the Veteran’s Day parades, the American Legion events as well as the (Veterans of Foreign Wars) halls all the time.”

Hill said he grew up in the blue-collar, steel working town of Pittsburgh and his father was a Marine in the Pacific during World War II, as well as both of his grandfathers serving in Europe during World War I. He also has an uncle that served during WWII in Okinawa and another uncle who served in the Army National Guard. Hill said his family’s military background was a great influence for him to join the military.

“I love our country and our Soldiers and that’s why I came back (to the military as an Army Reservist),” Hill said. Hill joined the Reserve in 1978 as a corrections specialist. He was unable to re-enlist in the United States Marine Corps because of a wound sustained in Vietnam, so he said the Army Reserve gave him a second chance at life in the military-as long as he could pass a physical fitness test.

Initially, Hill did not consider the Reserve as a career opportunity until he went through the Primary Leadership Development Course, which is now known as the Warrior Leadership Course. “PLDC instilled the basics of what it would be like to be a (noncommissioned officer) in the Army,” Hill said. “That is what set the tone for the rest of my career, as well as confirmed my decision to stay in the Reserve.”

Hill has now served three tours overseas. During his first tour, he served in Vietnam as a Marine Force Reconnaissance scout where he gathered intelligence, equipment, data, documents and prisoners, he said. For his second deployment, he went to Baghdad between Feb. 2004 and March 2005 as a command sgt. maj., where he went on route clearance missions alongside the 2nd Brigade Combat Team and members of the 1st Cavalry Division.

Hill recently arrived here with the 55th SB for his second tour and plans on ensuring his Soldiers



“We can teach one another and learn from one another and that’s what makes this Army strong,”

**Command Sgt. Maj. James F. Hill
55th Sustainment Brigade**

diers are trained to standard in their basic Soldier skills and in their military occupational specialties skills.

“I wanted one more opportunity to come back to Iraq and be with Soldiers,” said Hill. “It makes my heart grow watching them mature and develop as Soldiers and NCOs.”

As a command sgt. maj., Hill said he tries to focus on the health and welfare of his Soldiers, but training is the biggest focus. He said he wants to ensure his Soldiers are trained to the standard and each Soldier knows their duties and responsibilities.

Hill said it is vital for a Soldier to know not only their Soldier skills, but their MOS skills as well. He also said that each Soldier should feel confident to go to their NCOs and officers if they have a question.

“Each Soldier should take the opportunity to walk the walk,” he said. “They need to do what they can to increase their knowledge in that MOS and seek out opportunities to learn as much as they can.”

According to Hill, becoming a command sgt. maj. and having the opportunity to serve not only with a combat engineer battalion in Iraq, but also with a sustainment brigade, is one of his biggest military achievements.

“Running into junior officers and enlisted Soldiers years later that I have helped to mentor and they are now Lt. Cols. and other CSMs,” Hill said, “that’s a crowning achievement, knowing that I have helped them become the officer or NCO that they are today. It always brings a smile to my face.”

Hill said he has witnessed the “caliber of Soldierdom” improve a great deal since he joined the Reserve.

“I think (Soldiers) are more motivated and more intelligent. They learn quicker and they are better educated in both the civilian world and military,” he said. “Soldiers know what the military has to offer them and they take advantage of extra courses and training.”

“There are more schools and courses offered now than...before,” Hill said, “I find the training now a lot more intense than

when you just did two weeks a year. There has been a big change since 1978.”

Hill also said that Soldiers, no matter what their ranks, should be able to learn from one another.

“Once you get to a point where you can not learn from someone else, it’s time to hang up your spurs,” he said.

In his civilian occupation, Hill is a licensed professional counselor and works for the Commonwealth Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry as a rehabilitation counselor.

In the future, you may also see him volunteering at the Combat Stress Center here.

Hill said that his family has always been his hobby. Hill has a 10 month old grandson and two daughters who he loves to spend time with.

“I am also an avid Steelers fan,” he said. “I hold season tickets, even when I don’t go to a majority of the games.”

Hill said he started going to the games when he was 6 years old and has been going ever since.

When he is not with his family or at a game, Hill said he thoroughly enjoys swimming, hiking and mountain biking. He said he may have sustained injuries back in Vietnam, but he is still walking and talking and not afraid to throw on his body armor and go out with his Soldiers.

“I love being in the company of Soldiers; it keeps me young and they keep me on my toes,” Hill chuckled.

Hill has been a member of the Army Reserve for one third of the 100 years it has existed, and said he is proud to serve.

“One thing that continues to make us the best Army in the world-look at our motto-Army Strong, we can teach one another and learn from one another and that’s what makes this Army strong,” he said.

Command Sgt. Maj. Hill has many medals and achievements under his belt from his service to both the Marines as well as the Army Reserve.

With 30 years in the Reserve, Hill remains an active Soldier who is ready to get down on the ground with his troops as they continue to learn from one another.



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class David Zerbe

LSA Anaconda, Iraq – Soldiers with the 215th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment attempt to catch their opponents off guard to gain an advantage in the Fire Muster competition at Holt Stadium March 13.

Surprise !

Legal office gives Soldiers one less thing to worry about

Paralegals ensure Soldiers taxes are done right

by Spc. Anthony Hooker

Anaconda Times staff

“Our staff is so knowledgeable that they could resolve most of the issues our customers have...”

Sgt. 1st Class Michael Powell
316th Consolidated Legal Center

LSA Anaconda, Iraq – Spc. William Estrada, a military justice paralegal with the 316th Consolidated Legal Center, has made a bunch of new acquaintances this year. Since volunteering to file taxes in January, Estrada has been able to provide a variety of solutions to servicemembers.

Combining the services provided by Task 49, over 600 servicemembers from all five branches received some sort of tax assistance here. Estrada said he has helped customers file federal and state returns, persuaded clients to file extensions on tax claims prior to 2007, and helped acquire documents to help married service members file jointly or separate.

“We’ve made it simple for couples who aren’t together,” said Estrada. “Everything is online now so a lot of people can pull up documents, especially for their children.”

With the sessions averaging only 10 to 15 minutes, Estrada said the digital age has allowed him to service almost all of the people who visited the office in some fashion.

“With our access to international calling, we can take care of problems in minutes,” Estrada said. “We had a customer that needed an estimate on their daycare expenses, so I was able to call up the daycare center and get the results in a short time.”

Spc. Brock Radkte, a member of the 5th Special Forces Group, said he heard about the tax center while reading the base newspaper. Radtke, whose duties have found him working in seven cities throughout his deployment, was appreciative of the center’s approach.

“They were convenient, fast and friendly,” said Radtke. Returning to the United States within a month, he said it was one less thing to worry about.

Sgt. 1st Class Michael Powell, the legal center’s senior noncommissioned officer, said he was surprised by the number of customers they have received.

By being in theater, servicemembers automatically receive a 180-day extension that activates after leaving the combat zone. By choosing to file in country, however, conveniences such as free service and the ability to get faster turnarounds on refunds were attractive incentives.

“I believe the reason why so many people showed up was . . . mainly an impulse reaction,” said Powell, noting that people traditionally press to meet the tax filing deadline of April 15.

The center also spent considerable time educating personnel on how to activate the stimulus package offered by the government, dealing with compliance actions such as audits and enforced collections, and informing which taxpayers qualify for combat zone relief.

“Our staff is so knowledgeable that they could resolve most of the issues our customers have,” said Powell. “The (servicemembers) benefit if they chose to use the service or took the option of doing it later.”

The center did not do rollover tax filings, usually referring people with tax issues prior to 2007 to a point of contact at the Internal Revenue Service.

“I’m not a CPA – that’s too advanced for me,” Estrada said, “but I don’t want (people) leaving the office scratching their head. I want them to have some sort of direction if they sit down with us.”

Estrada said the time spent with each person is important because it is rewarding providing a service.

“Doing this is rewarding because my goal is to see people satisfied,” Estrada said. “I’m dealing with people’s money so (the tax service) is really personal.”



Photo by Spc. Thomas Keeler

Col. Therese M. O'Brien and Command Sgt. Maj. James F. Hill uncased the colors of the 55th Sustainment Command at their transfer of authority ceremony here April 9.

Passing the torch

The 213th Area Support Group hands over authority to the 55th Sustainment Brigade

by Spc. Thomas Keeler

Anaconda Times staff

LSA ANACONDA, Iraq – The 55th Sustainment Brigade assumed authority from the 213th Area Support Group during a transfer of authority ceremony at the Morale, Welfare and Recreation center here April 9.

Originally activated in 2000 as the 55th Theater Material Management Center (Multi-Component), the 55th SB will provide a cell of more than 100 Soldiers to assume the responsibilities of the 213th ASG, including issuing orders, executing combat logistics patrols and recovery missions, issuing meals and ice, and conducting humanitarian assistance missions.

The 213th ASG also provided technical and advisory assistance for units working with Iraqi Security Forces.

The 213th “moved aside for us, helped us, trained us, and they set us up for suc-

cess,” said Col. Therese M. O'Brien, commander of the 55th SB.

O'Brien brings a wealth of experience to the fight, having already commanded a military police battalion during Operation Iraqi Freedom and a military police company during operations Desert Storm and Desert Shield.

Command Sgt. Maj. James F. Hill, who joined the Armed Forces in 1967 as a Marine, brings prior battle experience from both OIF and Vietnam.

Both Col. O'Brien and Command Sgt. Maj. Hill come from Pennsylvania, and the 213th ASG returned to Allentown, Pa., earlier this month.

Col. Brian K. Leonhard of the 213th ASG thanked his subordinate units, staff, and especially his Soldiers during his remarks to the assembly.

“Since the time of Abraham Lincoln, the 213th Area Support Group has answered the call to defend our nation,” he said. “We’ve always been there in time of need, and this mission was no exception.”

The 55th SB will lead a dozen companies under two battalions – the 13th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion and Task Force 1-293, which assumed command April 11 from Task Force 106.

MESSAGES FROM HOME

TO: Glen Felde

Hi Honey!! I miss you and love so much!! I'm ecstatic that you'll be home soon and can't wait to be in your loving arms!!!

You are the love of my life!! Your forever sweetheart, Kelli Ann

Josh,

When you get back you are learning how to play golf. Know your loved and thought of everyday.

Love, Dad

To SFC David Logan of G/1-9 FA Battalion.....

Hi Dave we all love and miss you very, very, very much!!!!!!...see you in July..we can't wait!!!!.be safe.....!!!!

Love your bamber and the kids and all the animal babies.....

James Dansby

Hey Babe, just wanted to let you know that we miss and love you dearly. We pray for your safe return everyday. Your son has gotten so big and smart, your daughter has become such a diva princess (Get Ready!) and your baby girl is so sweet and excited to get to know her daddy. We are counting the days till we get to wrap our arms around you again and drown you with hugs and kisses. I love you for what you do for us and our country - YOU ARE FOREVER OUR HERO.

Love,

Christina, Zachary, Sierra & Savannah

Rodney Santiago

hi my love we wanted to tell you how much we love you and miss you. we are very proud of you . come home soon. xoxoxo your family

JJ II

Hey Babe, your girls "miss u much" and can't wait until we have you in our arms again. If we can just get past the next two months, the count down to R&R can begin. I will continue giving the girls, "Daddy hugs and kisses" to warm their hearts and souls.

Stay encouraged and be blessed.

Let's Do This,

Lots of Love KJ, JJ, & AJ

Thank you,

Kenyetta Johnson

A shout out to my wife, DR.LTC Kimberly Cater, I love you sweetie take care my love.

Messages From Home

Tell your Soldier how much you miss them and how you can't wait to see them.

Contact the 316th Public Affairs Office to print your message.

E-mail Anaconda.Times@iraq.centcom.mil

Army fields new Army Combat Shirt



LSA Anaconda, Iraq – 1st Lt. Daniel Lowe of A Company, 4th Battalion, 9th Infantry Regiment of the 2nd Infantry Division, sports the new Army Combat Shirt while taking a break at the East Morale, Welfare, and Recreation facility March 10. The ACS, constructed with two highly breathable flame-resistant fabrics, is an addition to the Army Combat Uniform. The shirt is designed specifically for use with Interceptor Body Armor in warm and hot weather.

Photo by Spc. Anthony Hooker

SHOUT OUT!!!

TELL YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS HOW MUCH YOU MISS THEM

Contact the 316th Public Affairs Office for scheduling.

E-mail Ronald.Reeves@iraq.centcom.mil

America’s warrior

A snapshot of servicemembers in the Global War on Terrorism



Spc. Malcomb Dewey Watson

Full Name and rank: Spc. Malcomb Dewey Watson.

Unit: 730th Quartermasters.

Job Title: 63 Bravo, Light Wheel Mechanic.

Time in Service: Six years.

Age: 23.

Hometown: Summertown, Tenn.

Family: Two daughters: Katelyn three, and Kylie Jo, two.

Pastimes: Working on equipment and jacking up four-wheel drives.

Life-changing event/moment: Coming to Iraq.

Lesson learned: Working with Iraqi mechanics and learning their troop training procedures.

Person I admire the most: My father.

Why I joined the military: To earn college money.

If I wasn’t in the military I would be: Working in a factory.

The one thing I would change about the Army: The promotions.

The one thing I think the Army got right: The bonuses.

What makes a good soldier: Someone who shows initiative, follows orders and shows up to work on time.

What makes a good leader: Someone who does not have subordinates do something they wouldn’t do; someone who consistently supports their Soldiers.

Unusual fact about you: That my fiancé doesn’t know that I’ve re-enlisted in the Army for six more years.

Goals: Would like to become a sergeant and do another tour in Iraq.

Hardest part of my job here: Trying to get through to the Iraqi mechanics I supervise (the language barrier).

Best part of being here: Working with Iraqis, learning their culture.

ANACONDA ACTIVITIES

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

EAST FITNESS CENTER
Basketball League: Monday-Friday – 7 p.m.
Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu: Monday, Wednesday, Friday – 8 p.m.
Kyu Kyu Kempo: Sunday- 2 p.m.
Modern Army combatives: Tuesday and Thursday- 8:30 p.m.
Open court volleyball: Sunday- 6 p.m.
Shotokan Karate Do: Thursday- 6:45 p.m., Saturday- 8:30 p.m. and Sunday- 5:30 p.m.
Soo Bahk Do: 6 p.m.
Step Aerobics: Monday, Wednesday, Friday – 5:30 p.m.
Wrestling & physical fitness class: Tuesday- 6 p.m. and Saturday- 7 p.m.
Swing dance: Sunday- 7:30 p.m.

EAST RECREATION CENTER
8-ball tourney: Monday- 3 p.m. and 8 p.m.
9-ball tournament: Wednesday- 3 p.m. and 8 p.m.
Game Console Tourney: Thursday- 8 p.m.
Country Dance Class: Thursday- 7 p.m.
Dominoes: Friday- 8 p.m.
Karaoke: Monday- 8 p.m.
Model building: Sunday- 1 p.m.
Poetry/ open mic: Sunday- 7:30 p.m.

Poker tourney: Sunday- 6 p.m.
Salsa dance class: Saturday- 8:30 p.m.
Swing dance: Tuesday- 7p.m.
Ping pong tourney: Tuesday- 3 p.m. and 8 p.m.

WEST RECREATION CENTER
8-ball tourney: Wednesday- 1 p.m. and 8 p.m.
9-ball tournament: Monday- 1 p.m. and 8 p.m.
Dungeons & Dragons: Saturday- 8 p.m.
Friday nights in Balad: Friday- 8 p.m.
Foosball: Tuesday- 1 p.m. and 8 p.m.
Green Bean karaoke: Wednesday and Sunday- 8 p.m.

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



SUSTAINER REEL TIME THEATER

Movie Times

Wednesday, April 23
5 p.m. College Road Trip
8 p.m. Jumper
Thursday, April 24
5 p.m. Semi-Pro
8 p.m. Prom Night
Friday, April 25
7 p.m. Live Play
The Wedding Party
Saturday, April 26
2 p.m. 10,000 B.C.
5 p.m. 88 Minutes
8 p.m. The Bank Job
Sunday, April 27
2 p.m. 88 Minutes
5 p.m. Doomsday
8 p.m. 10,000 B.C.
Monday, April 28
5 p.m. The Bank Job
8 p.m. 88 Minutes
Tuesday, April 29
5 p.m. 88 Minutes
8 p.m. 10,000 B.C.

(Schedule is subject to change)

Movies Coming Soon

Iron Man

Movie Synopsis

The Bank Job



Martine targets a roomful of safe deposit boxes worth millions in cash and jewelry. But Terry and his crew don’t realize the boxes also contain a treasure trove of dirty secrets - secrets that will thrust them into a deadly web of corruption and illicit scandal that spans London’s criminal underworld, the highest echelons of the British government, and the Royal Family itself...the true story of a heist gone wrong...in all the right ways.

88 Minutes



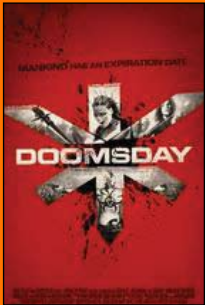
Jon Avnet directs Al Pacino in the thriller 88 Minutes. Pacino plays a university professor who occasionally assists the FBI in matters of forensic psychiatry. As the film opens, the professor learns that someone plans to kill him in 88 minutes. As with the like-minded thriller D.O.A. (both the original and the remake), the protagonist must use his skills in order to track down who has hatched this evil plot and hopefully prevent his own demise.

10,000 B.C.



A young outcast from a primitive tribe is forced to defend his people from a brutal onslaught in Independence Day director Roland Emmerich’s fast-paced period adventure. Despite the fact that he is low man on the totem pole in his tribe of fearless hunters, a brave young boy (Steven Strait) longs to win the heart of a beautiful princess (Camilla Belle) who is well above his station in life. When an overwhelming horde of powerful invaders forces the hunters into slavery and abducts the princess, the once-aimless boy suddenly finds his destiny taking an unexpected turn. Now, if he has any hope of saving his tribe from certain extinction, this young boy will have to fight for the future to his dying breath.

Doomsday



Authorities brutally quarantine a country as it succumbs to fear and chaos when a virus strikes. The literal walling-off works for three decades – until the dreaded Reaper virus violently resurfaces in a major city. Captain Eden Sinclair (Rhona Mitra) leads a group of elite specialists, urgently dispatched into the still-quarantined country to retrieve a cure by any means necessary. Shut off from the rest of the world, the unit must battle through a landscape that has become a waking nightmare.

STUPID STATE LAWS

Ever wonder just how dumb things can be? Does your state have dumb laws? Read on and find out. The next few weeks, the Anaconda Times will have a series of dumb and stupid laws for each state. Many of the laws have been verified, but many have been taken from sources which do not include law citations. The laws cited below have been taken from news groups, web sites and city governments. Remember, something had to have happened to get these laws passed. Some laws have been repealed, but not all; some are still on the books.

Michigan

- It is legal for a robber to file a law suit, if he or she got hurt in your house.
- There is a 10 cent bounty for each rat’s head brought into a town office.

Minnesota

- It is illegal to stand around any building without a good reason to be there.
- A person may not cross state lines with a duck atop his head.

Mississippi

- No one may bribe any athlete to “rig” a game, match, tournament, etc. with the exception of wrestlers.
- Cattle rustling is punishable by hanging.

Missouri

- Hard objects may not be thrown by hand.
- It shall be unlawful to provide beer or other intoxicants to elephants.

Montana

- It is a felony for a wife to open her husband’s mail.
- It is illegal to have a sheep in the cab of your truck.

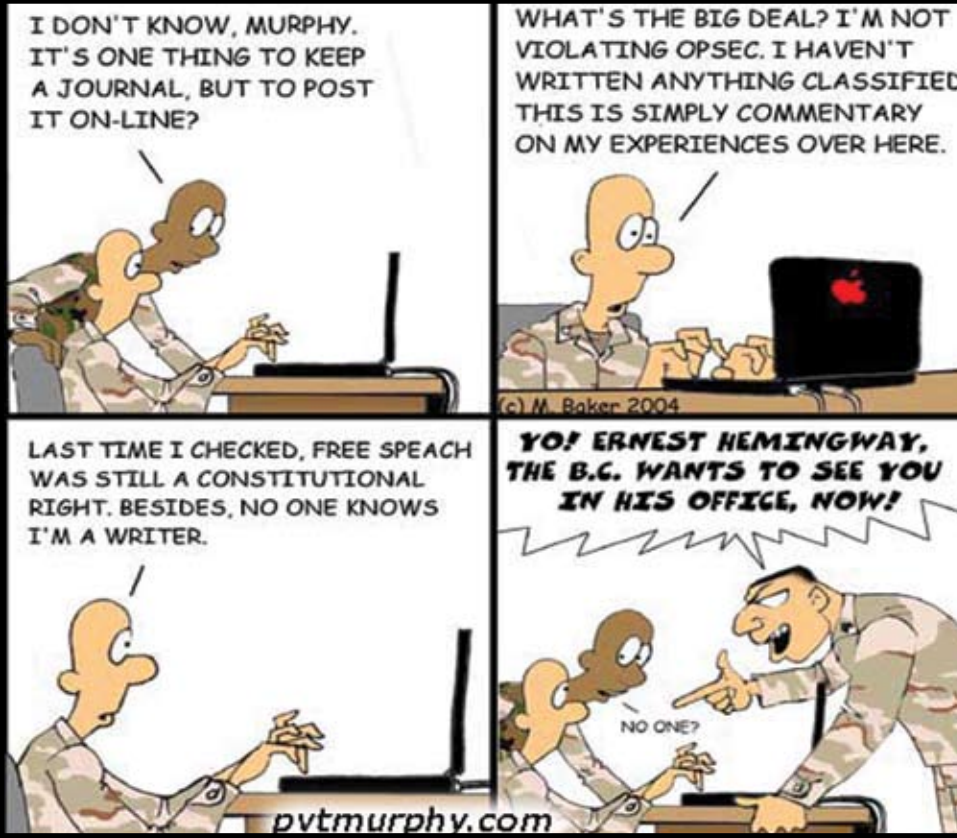
Nebraska

- It is illegal to go whale fishing.
- It is illegal for a mother to give her daughter a perm without a state license.

Nevada

- It is illegal to drive a camel on the highway.
- It’s still “legal” to hang someone for shooting your dog on your property.

PVT. MURPHY’S LAW



Upcoming sports on AFN

Wednesday 4/23/08

NBA: playoffs first round live 2:00 a.m. AFN/sports
NBA: playoffs first round live 4:30 a.m. AFN/sports
MLB: Los Angeles Angels @ Boston replay 10:00 a.m. AFN/sports

Thursday 4/24/08

NBA: playoffs first round live 2:00 a.m. AFN/sports
NBA: playoffs first round live 4:30 a.m. AFN/sports
MLB: Houston @ Cincinnati live 7:30 p.m. AFN/sorts

Friday 4/25/08

NBA: playoffs first round live 2:00 a.m. AFN/sports
NHL: playoffs second round live 2:00 a.m. AFN/xtra
NBA: playoffs first round live 4:30 a.m. AFN/sports
NHL: playoffs second round live 5:00 a.m. AFN/xtra
MLB: New York Yankees @ Chicago White Sox replay 10:00 a.m. AFN/sports

Saturday 4/26/08

NHL: playoffs second round live 2:00 a.m. AFN/xtra
MLB: New York Yankees @ Cleveland live 2:00 a.m. AFN/prime
NBA: playoffs first round live 3:00 a.m. AFN/sports
NHL: playoffs second round live 5:00 a.m. AFN/xtra
NBA: playoffs first round live 5:30 a.m. AFN/sports

NHL: playoffs second round live 10:00 p.m. AFN/prime
NFL: 2008 NFL Draft live 10:00 p.m. AFN/sports
MLB: New York Yankees @ Cleveland live 11:00 p.m. AFN/xtra

Sunday 4/27/08

NHL: playoffs second round live 2:00 a.m. AFN/xtra
NFL: 2008 NFL Draft live 3:00 a.m. AFN/sports
NBA: playoffs first round live 5:30 a.m. AFN/sports
MLS: Houston @ Columbus replay 8:00 a.m. AFN/xtra
NASCAR Nationwide Series: Aaron’s 312 replay 10:00 a.m. AFN/xtra
Tennis: 2008 Fed Cup: USA vs. Russia day 1 replay 1:00 p.m. AFN/sports
MLB: Arizona @ San Diego replay 1:00 p.m. AFN/xtra
NFL: 2008 NFL Draft live 5:00 p.m. AFN/sports
NASCAR Sprit Cup Series: Aaron’s 499 live 10:30 p.m. AFN/xtra
NHL: playoffs second round live 9:00 p.m. AFN/prime

Monday 4/28/08

NHL: playoffs second round live 2:00 a.m. AFN/xtra
MLB: Los Angeles Angels @ Detroit live 3:00 a.m. AFN/prime
NBA: playoffs first round live 3:30 a.m. AFN/sports
NHL: playoffs second round live 5:00 a.m. AFN/xtra
IndyCar: Kansas Indy 300 replay 8:00 a.m. AFN/xtra
PGA Tour: 2008 EDS Byron Nelson Championship replay 10:00 a.m.

AFN/sports
MLB: New York Yankees @ Cleveland replay 10:00 a.m. AFN/xtra
Tennis: Masters Series Monte Carlo Men’s final replay 1:00 p.m. AFN/sports
Tennis: Fed Cup: USA vs. Russia day 2 replay 6:00 p.m. AFN/sports

Tuesday 4/29/08

NHL: playoffs second round live 2:00 a.m. AFN/xtra
NBA: playoffs first round live 2:00 a.m. AFN/sports
NBA: playoffs first round live 4:30 a.m. AFN/xtra
NHL: playoffs second round live 5:00 a.m. AFN/xtra
MLB: New York Yankees @ Cleveland replay 10:00 a.m. AFN/sports
AFL: Dallas @ Philadelphia replay 8:00 p.m. AFN/sports



Baseball predictions for the post-steroid era

Anaconda sports writer takes a swing at baseball predictions

by Spc. Thomas Keeler
Anaconda Times staff

LSA ANACONDA, Iraq – It’s spring again – at least in the United States – which means it’s time for baseball.

Who cares, you say?

Lots of people.

A projected 80 million paying customers this summer will spurn their televisions and march themselves off to a ballpark to watch a game in person. That’s more than will go to either a professional basketball, football or hockey game - combined.

I’ll even throw in fighting and motor sports for you. And Major League Soccer.

So, then, why do people care about baseball?

We all have our reasons.

Some people like the rich history of the game. Some enjoy the individual battles that arise, the classic pitcher versus batter confrontations. And some folks just appreciate the slowness of the game, sitting outdoors on a warm summer day.

It’s a long season, and the baseball fan learns to accept the good with the bad. In no other team sport can a 61 percent success rate win you a championship, as it did the Boston Red Sox last year, and baseball has always led from the front on issues concerning American society. Jackie Robinson might have changed the face of baseball (and America) 61 years ago, but then so did Sammy Sosa and Mark McG-

wire, when, seemingly from nowhere, they both demolished Roger Maris’s record of 61 home runs in a season. In the years that followed, allegations and innuendo about banned substances swirled around the sport like the winds of Candlestick Park. And after Barry Bonds knocked down Hank Aaron’s all-time home run record last year, the truth came out. The Mitchell Report linked some of baseball’s biggest stars to steroids, human growth hormones, and other illegal drugs. Game over: Baseball will no longer tolerate performance-enhancing drug use among its players.

The 2008 season will evermore be regarded as the beginning of the post-steroid era.

So, in this year 2008, the 100-year anniversary of both the Army Reserve and the Chicago Cubs last World Series championship, I offer you the analysis below, set to the tune of a song written in 1908, *Take Me Out to the Ballgame*.

Playoffs

The American League has been fairly static lately and is likely to include either Boston or Detroit (or both) in its league championship series for a few more years. The National League, however, is much more competitive. Four teams from the NL West alone are good enough to win the pennant, not to mention the odd-on favorite from the NL East, the Mets. But in a short playoff series, two good starting pitchers are capable of carrying a team. That’s why I’ll take the Arizona Diamondbacks over the Detroit Tigers in five games in the 2008 World Series.

Anaconda celebrates Army Reserve 100th Anniversary with fun run



Photo by Spc. Jay Venturini



Photo by Spc. Jay Venturini

Top: Before the race began, all the participants in one voice wished the Army Reserve a happy 100th anniversary. More than 500 servicemembers from every branch participated in the event.

Left: Runners make their way to the finish line of the Army Reserve 100th anniversary 5K fun run at Holt Stadium. The event was to honor the 100 years of Army Reserve Soldiers defending their nation.

Baseball predictions

AL East Last year Comments

Boston	1	Returns 23 of 25 players from last year’s Championship.
New York	2	A-Rod stays, aging lineup but young pitchers show promise.
Toronto	3	Making ground, but it’s another year of chasing the top two.
Tampa	5	Ready to take next step behind Crawford and Kazmir.
Baltimore	4	New GM McPhail will rebuild farm system.

AL Central Last year Comments

Detroit	2	Ignore slow start; underrated staff adds Willis; Cabrera a star.
Minnesota	3	More needed from offense with pitching staff in flux.
Cleveland	1	Rebound year from Hafner will keep them contenders.
Chicago	4	Ozzy and his aging group do not instill confidence.
Kansas City	5	Reason for optimism but still years away from competing here.

AL West Last year Comments

Los Angeles	1	Acquisition of Hunter helps; must fight through early injuries.
Seattle	2	Pitcher signings keep them competitive, need offense.
Oakland	3	Rebuilding year for stable franchise.
Texas	4	Will new team pres. Nolan Ryan take the mound every fifth day?

NL East Last year Comments

NY Mets	2	Great talent hitting prime, and now Cy Young winner Santana.
Atlanta	3	Still depending on old, gritty vets.
Philadelphia	1	Hamels, potent lineup beneficiary of Mets collapse last year.
Florida	4	Strong middle infield, entire team is paid less than A-Rod.
Washington	5	Feels like an expansion team.

NL Central Last year Comments

Chicago Cubs	1	Pitching carries revamped lineup; Wood lurks in bullpen.
Milwaukee	2	Explosive offensive carries them with consistent pitching.
Houston	4	New focus on speed; Tejada must produce.
Pittsburgh	6	New management, some talent, few expectations.
St. Louis	3	Must find offensive support for Pujols.
Cincinnati	5	Unmotivated mix of mediocre veterans mails it in.

NL West Last year Comments

Arizona	1	Webb, Haren enough to deliver title in pitching-elite division.
Los Angeles	4	Torre a steadying influence for stubborn veterans.
San Diego	3	Must find run producer for best pitching staff in league.
Colorado	2	Mile high hangover? Expect big things in future.
San Francisco	5	Can spend for the future with Bonds off payroll.