

AnacondaTimes

APRIL 30, 2008

PROUDLY SERVING LSA ANACONDA



Photo by Spc. Andrea Merritt

Soldiers show true bravery

Soldiers awarded for valor after an EFP attack

Page 3



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Eric Reinhardt

Brighten smiles

Soldier takes donation for dental hygiene

Page 6



Photo by Spc. Charlotte Martinez

Rebuilding Iraqi's economy

Naval Lt. Commander works with locals to improve their economy

Pages 8-9



Photo by Spc. Thomas Keeler

Members of the 2-147 Assault Helicopter Battalion change rotor blades on a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter as part of 120-hour maintenance.

Delta Co. keeps 2-147 flying

by Spc. Thomas Keeler

Anaconda Times Staff

LSA ANACONDA, Iraq – For Pfc. Cody Lowe, a 22-year-old Black Hawk mechanic with the 2nd Battalion, 147th Assault Helicopter Battalion, Minnesota National Guard, being away from home isn't a big deal. If asked about it, he'll just shrug his shoulders.

Perhaps that's because the biggest influence in his family is deployed here with him – his father.

"He and I are very comfortable here," said the father, Staff Sgt. John Lowe, a quality control technician in the same maintenance company with his son.

Staff Sgt. Lowe inspects the maintenance work of Pfc. Lowe and the rest of the aircraft mechanics.

The younger Lowe enlisted a few years ago, knowing the possibility of getting deployed was real, and performed well enough on his Army entrance exams that he was offered the chance to become a pilot. But he

chose to follow his father's path instead and work in maintenance.

"One of the things I said to him was, if he were to get deployed, I would deploy with him," said the senior Lowe.

While the pilots get the glory, the mechanics are getting dirty – the care and maintenance of the 30 or so helicopters in the 2-147 falls mainly to Delta Company, commanded by Capt. Jeremy Chiglo.

The goal of D Co., said Chiglo, is "to provide flight companies the best product that we can down here, a fully mission-capable aircraft that's ready to go on a moment's notice."

When the 2-147 arrived in theater in September 2007, its mission was to support the III Corps with battlefield circulation, mobility, and general support missions. When the XVIII Airborne Corps took command in December, the 2-147 began flying more Combined Joint Special Operations Task Force air assault night missions. The 2-147 battalion commander, Lt. Col. Gregory Thingvold, calls these missions "routine" – though they

See **BIRD**, Page 11

Warrant Officer recruiting drive



Photo by Spc. Thomas Keeler

LSA ANACONDA, Iraq – Spc. Howard Neely (left) and Spc. Robert Inabinett, mechanics with the 8th Ordnance Company, stand in the dust storm discussing Army career fields behind their M-1083 Medium Tactical Vehicle after attending a warrant officer recruiting brief April 17 at the East Side Morale, Welfare and Recreation building. Soldiers interested in a warrant officer career can go to the Warrant Officer Career Center website at <http://www.leavenworth.army.mil/wocc/> for more information.

Provost Marshal Office: Weekly police blotter
Week of 14-20 April

The Provost Marshal Office conducted: (202) security checks, (43) traffic stops, issued (39) DD Form 1408 Armed Forces Traffic Tickets, registered (183) vehicles on the installation, and investigated (seven) traffic accidents. Twelve Common Access Cards were reported lost, and (six) individuals were barred from LSA.

The Provost Marshal Office is currently investigating: Seven larceny cases.

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 LSA 190- Non-Standard Military Commercial Designed Vehicles include Gators, Polaris, golf carts, etc. These types of vehicles will be restricted to individual unit's area of operations (motor pools, airfield, etc.). They will not be operated on paved roads unless granted an exception to policy waiver. NMCDVs will not be driven on sidewalks and operators will not utilize any

roadway to cross from one unit area of operation to the other.

Units will register the NMCDV with PMO pass and Registration Office.

NMCDVs must adhere to the following standards:

1. Equipped with operational flashing beacons lights and operational seat belts for all individuals. Flashing beacons lights will be utilized at all times.

2. All personnel must wear Kevlar helmets (no hard hats), eye protection and a reflective belt

3. Personnel requesting to register a NMCDV must have a letter signed by the Garrison Safety Office stating the NMCDV meets all safety requirements.

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

By Air Force Tech Sgt. Mirta Jones

‘At ease’
with the 316th CSM

As the weather continues to change and temperatures increase, servicemembers and civilians working and residing here can become potential casualties of heat stroke and heat exhaustion, which can sometimes be fatal. As such, it is imperative that everyone drink sufficient quantities of water throughout the day, particularly during and after periods of heavy exercise.

Dehydration is a major factor in causing heat injuries. Therefore, vary your work activity and exercise regime accordingly. For example, start your running times during the early mornings or late evenings in the coolest hours of the day. Avoid running at lunchtime, and in the afternoon hours when the temperatures are at or above 90 degrees. Keep in mind that intense heat and bright radiant sunshine are factors, which increase your risk of a heat injury. Also during periods of physical fitness training and heavy exercise, take frequent rest breaks in shady, cool areas. Increase training gradually and set reasonable goals. Stop running when you feel any sign of dizziness, nausea, delirium, or disorientation. If you are overweight and/or over 40 years of age, you are at increased risk of a heat injury.

Persons with a family history of heart disease should consult a medical doctor before attempting strenuous physical activities. Consider fast walking or another form of aerobic exercise as an alternative to high impact running. Swimming in a lifeguard-monitored pool is also an excellent nonimpact exercise. In addition, wear lightweight protective clothing, hats, and sunscreen to protect you from skin cancer.

Let us not get weary in our well doing by failing to remain safety conscious. As I stated on numerous occasions, it is the responsibility of leaders at all levels to ensure that all servicemembers and civilian workers you supervise are aware of and are practicing these fundamental heat injury prevention measures. If we are to maintain a strong and available fighting force, then we, as leaders, must set and enforce the established standard without fail. I am convinced that most accidents can be avoided if we, collectively, make safety an unending part of our daily routine. Whether you are a commissioned officer, an enlisted servicemember, or a civilian employee, I am counting on you to do exactly that. Until then, carry on, think safety first, and continue to sustain the victory.



Command Sgt. Maj. Stacey E. Davis

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Fort Sill Soldiers awarded for valor

by Spc. Andrea Merritt

1st Sustainment Brigade PAO

CAMP TAJI, Iraq – Personal courage and the other Army values are drilled into Soldiers throughout their military careers; and although it is last mentioned on the list, it often presents itself first in a time of chaos and crisis.

Four Soldiers from the 15th Transportation Company, a Fort Sill, Okla., unit attached to the 1103rd Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, which is attached to the 1st Sustainment Brigade, were awarded military medals for their personal courage in a ceremony April 14.

The quick actions they took after their convoy underwent an explosively formed projectile attack Sept. 2, 2007, ultimately saved the lives of two wounded Soldiers.

On the night of the attack, the Soldiers of the 1103rd were conducting a mission to deliver ammunition and vehicles to Forward Operating Base Hammer.

Even though the unit they replaced had traveled the same route without any incidents, they knew something wasn't right.

"Normally, you will see people. They're supposed to be out, but they're not out," said Sgt. Michael Johnson, a Dickson, Tenn., native and truck driver with the 15th TC.

Some of the Soldiers' intuition went into overdrive as they entered into Sadr City because they noticed the town was not bustling with activity like it was when they passed through it the previous night.

"That night we headed back from (FOB) Hammer coming into Sadr City the hair on the back of my neck stood up," said Ocala, Fla., native, Staff. Sgt. Colin White, a squad leader with the 15th TC. "It was like a ghost town. We were just saying, 'Something is about to happen,' then the whole block lit up like Christmas."

An EFP had detonated within five meters of the first vehicle in the convoy, causing it

to erupt in flames. As Soldiers went to assist those who were trapped inside, a gunman atop a roof targeted the troops with small arms fire.

White took action and engaged the gunman. After suppressing the sniper fire, White made his way to the burning vehicle, where he was informed there was a Soldier still inside.

As he attempted to enter the vehicle and rescue the Soldier, the intense heat from the fire caused rounds inside to explode. White sustained cuts to his face from the debris, but continued his efforts to rescue the Soldier.

Johnson, a trained combat lifesaver, initially pulled security for White during the attack. When he was relieved of his security duties he noticed another Soldier near the burning vehicle was injured. Johnson moved him away from the flames and began treating the life-threatening wounds.

"Honestly, I don't think anything runs through your mind. You look out for your buddy and make sure nothing has happened to him," said Johnson. "If you take fire, you fire back and take care of the people who are hurt."

After receiving the call to put out the fire, Sgt. Brandon Stovall, a Philadelphia, Miss., native and truck driver with the 15th TC, moved forward in his fire-suppression truck.

Unfortunately, Stovall was unable to get the pump to work. After several failed attempts to get it started, he began pulling security and noticed another injured Soldier was lying on the ground. Stovall, who is also a trained combat lifesaver, began rendering aid to the Soldier, who kept going in and out of consciousness.

"You do what you are trained to do. It's instinctive," Stovall said. "(The training) is redundant, but it's embedded in the back of your mind so when something happens, you don't have to think about it. You know what to do."



Photo by Spc. Andrea Merritt

Clinton, Md., native Col. Kevin O'Connell awards Staff Sgt. Colin White, an Ocala, Fla., native and squad leader with the 15th Transportation Company, a Bronze Star Medal with Valor and a Purple Heart.

In the midst of the chaos, New Iberia, La., native Spc. Joshua Dupuis, the night operations noncommissioned officer in charge for the 15th TC, served as the primary link between the convoy and the battalion due to limited communication abilities at the time.

"When they said that (Dupuis) was the only communication the (combat logistic patrol) had between us and battalion, they're not exaggerating," White said.

The information Dupuis provided to the battalion on the attack enabled them to get help to the convoy and medical evacuation for the wounded Soldiers.

For their actions that night, White was awarded a Bronze Star Medal with Valor and a Purple Heart. Johnson and Stovall were awarded an Army Commendation Medal with Valor; and Dupuis was awarded an Army Achievement Medal.

Although many may consider these four men heroes for their actions that night, it is a term they quietly reject. They simply think of themselves as Soldiers who performed

their duties.

"We got an award for doing our job. These guys would have done it for me. Any of these guys would have done it for anybody," Johnson said.

Dupuis, Johnson, Stovall and White received the awards, but they recognize that the efforts of other Soldiers such as Spc. Clayton Barnfield and Sgt. Larry Scott, who pulled security, and Sgt. Cherlanda Auzenne, who ran down the convoy to gather medical supplies, also contributed to the wounded Soldiers being saved.

"Those two men were hurt ... and they acted without hesitation," said White.

Even though the Soldiers accepted the awards, they wished the incident for which they received them had never occurred; because along with the medals are haunting memories from the attack.

"It's a lot to deal with. Our biggest satisfaction out of that whole mess out there was those two men made it home to their families," White said.

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 LSAAnaconda 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.

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 Chapel
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PROTESTANT—CHURCH OF CHRIST

Sunday	3:30 p.m.	Castle Heights (4155)
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ROMAN CATHOLIC MASS

(Sacrament of Reconciliation 30 min prior to Mass)

Saturday	5 p.m.	Gilbert Memorial (H-6)
	8 p.m.	Freedom Chapel (West Side)
	11 p.m.	Air Force Hospital Chapel
Sunday	8:30 a.m.	Gilbert Memorial (H-6)
	11 a.m.	Provider Chapel
Mon-Fri	11:45 a.m.	Provider Chapel
Mon,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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Protestant – Spanish Non–Denominational

Saturday	8 p.m.	Provider Chapel
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*Please note, schedule is subject to change.

Buddy system provides lift to Academy

by Spc. Anthony Hooker
Anaconda Times staff

Al-Asad Air Base, Iraq – Sgt. 1st Class Evert Herrick had a problem. A lead instructor for the Combat Logistics Patrol Academy, Herrick needed an instructor to train students on communication devices.

A request was made to obtain a subject matter expert from the base’s communications community. The response was to assign Christopher Benson the task. That’s Pfc. Christopher Benson. He would be assisted by another private first-class, Kristen Hernandez.

Herrick was less than pleased. With four days until classes, there was no time for newbies.

“My initial response was ‘Are they the subject-matter experts?’,” said Herrick.

After more consideration, Herrick decided that bringing in privates was not going to be a good solution.

“Pfc’s are generally young, immature and, if coming from AIT (advanced individual training), limited in experience,” Herrick said. “They are trained, but normally don’t have a lot of experience in real situations.”



Photo by Spc. Anthony Hooker

Pfc. Christopher Benson instructs class at the Combat Logistics Patrol Academy March 25 at Al-Asad Air Base.

Soldiers connect with their spiritual side at LSAA

by Capt. Penny Zamora
Anaconda Times staff

LSA ANACONDA, Iraq– Staying connected spiritually is as important as staying connected to friends and family.

“Regardless of what religion, you and I as fellow believers of the same faith need, and are designed, to be in fellowship,” said Chaplain Maj. Mark Nuckols, Command Chaplain, 316th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary).

What is it about religious studies that draw such attention? Although a worship place can provide such a setting for the spiritual nourishment at a communal level, religious instruction outside a formal setting can provide a more intimate fellowship.

“There are more than 25 religious study groups available here that allow servicemembers to tap into for fellowship and spiritual growth,” said Nuckols.

Benson, a communications specialist with the 548th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, had just graduated from AIT in January and wasn’t necessarily chomping at the bit to be thrown in front of total strangers with little warning.

“I do well with small groups,” said Benson, “but it’s tougher with a large group I didn’t know.”

Enter Hernandez. Working in the same office, she had previously given classes on the Blue Force Tracker and single-channel ground and airborne radio systems along with unit-level maintenance for each. With a short window, the two immersed themselves into the job.

“We stayed up to 1(a.m.), 2 a.m. for three nights in a row preparing our slides,” said Benson. “I was exhausted.”

With classes in the morning and evening, the two shared tips on what points would be necessary to emphasize. Good visual and oral information, along with being able to keep a group’s attention, were the focus

“Death by power point,” said Benson, smiling while shaking his head. “People try to show you a bunch of different slides right after chow, and you’re fighting to stay awake.”

Images were presented with the most basic information attached to help Soldiers retain what they saw and read.

Herrick said the effort was exactly what he wanted out of the class.

“I want meat with no potatoes when someone’s putting out information,” said Herrick. “Some people are too technical. (Benson’s work) was better than a lot of non-commissioned officers.”

During the hands-on training inside the armored security vehicles, Hernandez showed her mettle. One of two vehicle displays became unserviceable and Benson found himself with Soldiers who were losing training time. After trading trouble-



Photo by Spc. Anthony Hooker

Pfc. Kristen Hernandez, an instructor for the CLP academy, shows Soldiers how to use communications equipment during a comunicaton class.

“There is nothing we won’t do for each other and the section.”

Pfc. Christopher Benson
Combat Logistics Patrol Academy

each other, but when it comes to work, we are always professional. There is nothing we won’t do for each other and the section.”

After training, class members talked about the privates’ effectiveness.

Staff Sgt. Jerry Blaine with the 1st Battalion, 152nd Calvary Regiment, said it was ‘eye-opening’ to see privates in charge of classes.

“It’s not something you see every day . . . it’s pretty motivating.”

Cpl. Michael Davis suggested the privates’ ability to lead a course is proof that the Army is doing a better job of training from the bottom up.

“Today, you need privates that under-

standing suggestions with Benson, Hernandez assumed responsibility of instructing all 40 class members, a tough job since the vehicle only allowed five observers at a time.

Benson said he expected no less from his battle buddy.

“(Our section) is a family,” said Benson. “We pick and fight with

stand as much as NCOs,” said Davis.

Herrick, pleased with the day’s events, was generous in his compliments to his interim instructors.

“They went above and beyond what I expected,” Herrick said. “I was very pleased.”

“(Benson) was very proficient . . . it is very pleasing to know that I may have been mistaken about lower enlisted Soldiers,” Herrick added.

Hernandez also had words of praise for her buddy. “The class went beyond my expectations,” she said. “(Benson) hit his target points, answered questions and was concise. He did an outstanding job.”

Benson was glad to hear the good remarks but cautioned that the instruction is only as valuable as the students make it. “If you don’t have self-discipline, it doesn’t matter what I’m trying to teach you,” Benson said. “I can have the best intentions but if you don’t take in the information, the training has been lost on you.” Each Soldier said consideration for the other is why they were successful.

“There is no ‘I’ in team,” said Hernandez. “I hope that (Benson) would assist me if I were in his situation . . . I know he would.”

Taking time outside her day to further the spiritual growth of others has paid off for Capt. Wilson, as she was expecting only four people to attend the class. The overwhelming response from across all services and civilians has prompted Wilson to consider a follow up women’s study.

The positive response is a reminder for all faiths to gather in fellowship to continue their spiritual growth.

“It’s a sanctuary. It’s a place to get away from things of the world and meditate on God, and fellowship and talk to people who love God the same way you do,” said Spc. Aurelio Flores of the 118th Maintenance Company.

The stress of being deployed away from loved ones, friends, and family does not have to be faced alone.

“We’re in a combat zone, but this is where you grow . . . spiritually, and opportunities are there for you to learn more,” said Flores.

Whether it’s singing in a choir or meeting with a core group of people, the chapels of LSA Anaconda offer a spiritual outlet for all denominations. There is a connection every day of the week.

Although servicemembers come and go, the friendships of such fellowship can last a lifetime.



Photo by Spc. Andrea Merritt

Soldiers of Company A, 168th Brigade Support Battalion, a Fort Sill, Okla. unit attached to the 1st Sustainment Brigade, check a shipment of repair parts in the receiving section of the Supply Support Activity on Camp Liberty, Iraq.

168th Brigade Support Battalion aims to be the best

by Capt. Paul Brown
168th Brigade Support Battalion

CAMP LIBERTY, Iraq – The 168th Brigade Support Battalion is quickly approaching its goal of changing the meaning of the acronym BSB from Brigade Support Battalion to Best Support Battalion.

The 168th BSB is assigned to the 214th Fires Brigade at Fort Sill, Oklahoma, and provides direct support to the unit. The battalion is currently deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and attached to the 1st Sustainment Brigade, providing support to Multi-National Division – Baghdad.

While the 168th BSB is designed to provide direct support to the 214th Fires Bde., which has about 2,000 Soldiers, it is currently providing direct support to more than 80,000 Soldiers throughout Baghdad.

The 168th BSB has three primary missions in support of MND – B and Multi-National Division – Central. The 1,000 Soldiers of the “Make It Happen” battalion provide supply, maintenance, and distribution support throughout Iraq.

The battalion has received praise from every corner of their supported footprint.

“The 168th BSB provides the best support I have ever experienced,” said Lt. Col. Barry Diehl, the senior logistician for the 4th Infantry Division.

The battalion established a goal to improve operations every day and Soldiers have seized upon the battalion mot-



Photo by Spc. Andrea Merritt

Spc. Keith Knoll, an all-wheel mechanic with Company B, 168th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, installs spot lights on an Armored Security Vehicle

“We are proud of the hard work that our Soldiers do, but we are even more proud of the manner in which they perform it

Capt. Curtis Yankie
Company A, 168th BSB

to of “Make It Happen” and have succeeded in providing unmatched support. The battalion is responsible for distributing supplies to many of the brigade combat teams in the Baghdad area.

In that capacity, the 168th BSB has completed more than 2,000 combat logistics patrols, covering more than 1.2 million miles without a single accident, serious injury, or death.

Lt. Col. Todd Heussner, the commander of the 168th BSB, attributes this amazing accomplishment to the establishment and enforcement of high standards and discipline of his Soldiers.

“It’s no accident that we don’t have accidents. Our Soldiers understand that they are their brother’s keeper and they don’t let any of their team mates take shortcuts,” Heussner said.

The warehouse, which is manned and operated by the Soldiers of Company A, 168th BSB, is the busiest supply support activity in all of Iraq. The Soldiers who run the warehouse are proud of the fact that while they are busiest, they also lead the Army in several key performance metrics.

“We are proud of the hard work that our Soldiers do, but we are even more proud of the manner in which they perform it. We routinely receive positive comments from our supported units about the positive and aggressive service they receive at our warehouse,” said Capt. Curtis Yankie, commander of Company A, 168th BSB.

The mechanics of Company B, 168th BSB, are also performing amazingly well. The maintenance shops of Company B completed more than 2,800 jobs in the past month and none of the repairs took more than 30 days.

“I have never seen a battalion-level maintenance activity perform so much work, so effectively and efficiently,” said Heussner.

The battalion has also achieved some important milestones that are clear indicators of a unit with high morale and strong leaders. The 168th BSB received the 4th Infantry Division Re-Enlistment Award for being the “top battalion” in the division.

The battalion accomplished its re-enlistment mission for the year in four months. In addition to retaining Soldiers, the battalion has also retained all of its officers while adding another 21 Soldiers to their ranks.

The 21 Soldiers were accepted into Reserve Officers’ Training Corps, Green to Gold, or Officer Candidate School, all of which are designed to train and commission officers into the Army.

“Soldiers are getting the training, discipline, and challenge they signed up for and they are excited about continuing their Army careers,” Heussner added.

All of these accomplishments are clear indicators of a high performing organization.

While the deployed Soldiers provide outstanding support in theater, the rear detachment and the Family Readiness Group combined forces to take care of the families back at home.

The rear detachment started the deployment with a strength of 82 in July 2007. Since that time, they have successfully helped Soldiers get required medical attention and either deployed them to join the team in Iraq or helped them transition from the military.

The 168th BSB’s FRG is the largest, most active, and most supportive group that Yasmine Malone, Fort Sill’s Army Family Team Building coordinator, has seen since she has been working with the Army. The FRG understands that they are as important to the war as the Soldiers who are deployed.

“If our spouses are concerned about what is going on at home then they can’t focus on their mission in Iraq, so we take care of the Families, while they take care of the mission. Together, we make it happen,” said Donna Rivera, the wife of Command Sgt. Maj. Miguel Rivera, the 168th BSB command sergeant major.

The Soldiers of the 168th BSB have exceeded established Department of the Army standards in every measurable area and they have been recognized in a number of other ways that, when combined, make a strong case that the battalion is about to attain their goal of becoming the best support battalion in the Army.

Soldier’s aim to brighten Iraqi smiles

by Sgt. 1st Class Eric Reinhardt

Task Force 49 PAO

LSA ANACONDA, Iraq—Lately, when Capt. Scott Sorquist hears the slogan “support the troops,” he thinks of the people back home who are helping him to help the children of Iraq.

Sorquist, who works on Task Force 49’s operations staff, has begun a service project to collect donations of basic dental supplies like toothbrushes, floss, and toothpaste for Iraqi children.

We might take those things for granted, but Sorquist said he’s learned those things can be relatively scarce in the local economy.

After this deployment, he’s planning to go back to school to become a dentist and go right back into the Army to begin his new profession, hence his interest in the project.

“I wanted to do something related to dentistry,” Sorquist said, “and I wanted to help improve the lives of Iraqi children – that was my initial thought.”

He has enlisted the help of family and friends from all across the United States. He said his wife, Robin, who’s in Alaska with their 8-month-old daughter, Josephine, has been instrumental in building support for the project on the homefront.

“She told friends of hers and they wanted to help through church groups and other organizations,” Sorquist said.



Capt. Scott Sorquist
Task Force 49

“I wanted to help improve the lives of Iraqi children”

He has also received packages of dental supplies from a retired couple, Bob and Evie, in Sun City, Ariz., who “adopted” Sorquist through a troop-support program during his last deployment to Iraq in 2005 and sent care packages to him and his Soldiers. When he deployed this time, they asked what they could send. He wrote them back about his project and Evie told her social group, “The Sun City Grannies,” and soon a large

package of supplies was in the mail.

Sorquist has been involved in the medical profession throughout his military career.

A medical evacuation pilot by trade and a former enlisted pharmacy specialist, he is on his second tour to Iraq. During his first tour here, he was a MEDEVAC team leader, based at Forward Operating Base Caldwell in central Iraq, about 10 miles from the Iranian border.

Throughout the school application process, he’s been trying to learn as much as he can about dentistry. He has volunteered with military dentists here and attended professional development classes for Army dentists at Camp Victory in Baghdad. Several local Iraqi dentists also attend the seminars, so it has also been an opportunity to find ways to distribute the supplies to the local community.

“They’re the people who would know where dental supplies are needed most in the community,” Sorquist said.

In his conversations with the Iraqi dentists, he also found they are eager to learn about new techniques and procedures in the profession.

“They’re very interested in what they can learn from us about things like restorative dentistry techniques and possibilities for prosthodontics,” he said. “One of the needs they identified is for current dental textbooks.”

He contacted Dr. D. Dennee Thomas, the Associate Dean for Student Affairs at The University of Texas Health Science Center Dental School in San Antonio, Texas, to gauge interest in donating dental textbooks.

“The first shipment of books has already arrived,” he said.

Thomas has also informed her colleagues about Sorquist’s project, and reports that there’s much interest in it.

“A lot of people back home are eager to do something for the people over here,” Sorquist said, “so the project keeps growing day by day.”



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Eric Reinhardt
At a continuing education seminar for U.S. Army and Iraqi dentists March 19 in Baghdad, Capt. Scott Sorquist bags donated dental items to distribute to local children.

Airmen respond to fire

by Air Force Staff Sgt. Nathan Gallahan

407th Air Expeditionary Group Public Affairs

ALI BASE, Iraq -- Airmen from the fire department and provost marshal’s office, along with Army medics responded to a structure fire in the Romanian Coalition Force Camp here at 8:26 a.m., April 11.

The 407th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron firefighters and military police from the 407th Provost Marshal’s office immediately responded to the scene after a wooden building in the camp caught fire only minutes beforehand. There were no injuries or deaths.

To combat the fire, the fire department deployed every available truck to “safeguard our Romanian brothers,” said Master Sgt. Jay Watts, 407th ECES assistant fire chief, deployed from Springfield Air National Guard Base, Ill.

“The building was fully engulfed when we arrived and there were flames shooting out of the eaves and windows about 15 to 20 feet and there was massive amounts of smoke,” said Watts.

The team immediately dispatched a majority of the firefighters to the rear of the building because that was where most of the fire was. Watts said they then sent the remaining firefighters to the front of the building to begin pushing the flames toward the rest of their team.

“We caught the blaze in a crossfire and attacked it with everything we had,” said

Watts. “Within forty minutes of the initial call, we had the fire completely extinguished.”

The emergency response forces remained on scene until 10:26 a.m. while they “went through the building to clear any hot spots and remove any salvageable items,” said a 407th ECES firefighter.

According to fire department officials, the cause of the fire is still under investigation.

Air Force emergency response forces respond to all emergencies here including those involving coalition partners, such as the Romanians, or other services, like the U.S. Army and Navy.

“They’re our coalition partners; they are our brother-in-arms,” said Capt. Kevin Lombardo, the 407th provost marshal, deployed from Peterson Air Force Base, Colo. “They help us outside the wire so we are doing everything we can to help them inside the wire.”

The Air Force firefighters and military police regularly train with Army medics stationed here and respond to emergencies.

“We work hand-in-hand with these guys during training and almost every emergency on [Contingency Operating Base] Adder,” Lombardo said. “We are a fully trained, equipped, and disciplined emergency response force here to assist anybody from any country requiring help and assistance.”

Iraqi bazaar fosters good relations while saving Soldiers money

by Spc. Jay Venturini

Anacanda Times staff

LSA ANACONDA, Iraq – Anyone who has spent time here has probably made their way to the Iraqi Bazaar and saw the endless money-saving deals offered. However, the real winners are the local Iraqis and their economy since up to 1,500 people per day browse through and often buy their products.

The Iraqi bazaar opened in July 2006 when the garrison commander made an agreement with the local sheiks to sell their products on base. The bazaar was created to foster good relations with the sheiks by providing positive economic and employment growth in the local communities.

“The bazaar has been a huge success for both the Iraqi vendors and the Soldiers of Anacanda,” said Sgt. 1st Class Nicholas Relacion, a 316th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) civil affairs noncommissioned officer.

The bazaar started out selling mostly DVDs; however, it has recently started featuring more cultural products such as hookahs, Iraqi currency, and hand made wooden boxes. A customer can also have a portrait painted.

The facilities have also improved over the years. When it first opened, the bazaar grounds were open to the harsh elements and weren’t very organized. The mayor cell personnel took it upon themselves to improve the facility, which now features climate controlled tents with the vendors tables neatly organized.

There are currently 39 vendors and 22 booths, each booth representing a different local community. Many of the vendors have worked at the bazaar since the grand opening and have fostered good relations with regular customers and gained valuable skills.

“Many of the vendors are learning to speak English, which makes them good candidates to become interpreters,” said Relacion. “They also talk to the Soldiers about their culture and vise versa, which builds friendships.”

The idea of adding a second bazaar on the west side is being thrown around, which would only aid the local economy that much more.

When the 316th ESC redeploy, the mayor cell will take control of the bazaar.

SLCR teams help Soldiers stay fresh and clean

by Spc. Andrea Merritt

1st SB PAO

PATROL BASE MURRAY, Iraq

– A few months ago, the ability to take a nice, hot shower after a long day of conducting patrols did not exist for the Soldiers on Patrol Base Murray.

Before help arrived, the base was not equipped with shower and laundry facilities. Soldiers had to take make-shift showers, which often left them and their morale out in the cold.

“Before the shower and laundry units came in, all we had for showers were wooden hut structures, and we would use bottled-water (to wash up),” said Tallahassee, Fla., native Spc. Jacob Kersey, a medic attached to Company C, 1st Battalion, 30th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division.

“When it was cold outside and all you could expect was a bottled-water shower, we dreaded it,” Kersey added.

At one point, they didn’t know when their next shower would be because the supply of bottled-water became limited. There was not enough water for the Soldiers to drink and bathe with, so they often found themselves making a choice of which was more important.

In order to have clean clothes, Soldiers either had to wash them by hand or send them on a convoy to Forward Operating Base Falcon, then wait three to four days to get them back.

In November, a team of shower, laundry, and clothing repair specialists from the 549th Quartermaster Company, 68th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, which is attached to the 1st Sustainment Brigade, arrived to PB Murray from Camp Liberty, Iraq, to install and operate shower and laundry systems.

Within 24 hours of their arrival, the SLCR team had set up a functional site and boosted the morale of the Soldiers on the base.

“When you’re coming off a hard day’s work and you can take a shower and relax, it’s awesome,” Kersey said.

Now, Soldiers on PB Murray enjoy hot showers and they only have to wait 24 hours to get their clothes back from laundry.

“When we originally got here, we had taken some of the cold showers they were experiencing and it wasn’t fun at all,” said Pfc. Todd Tyler, a Sarasota, Fla., native and SLCR specialist with the 549th



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Eric Reinhardt

At a continuing education seminar for U.S. Army and Iraqi dentists March 19 in Baghdad, Capt. Scott Sorquist bags donated dental items to distribute to local children.

“It’s given me a little bit of pride in our (military occupation specialty).”

Pfc. Todd Tyler
549th Quartermaster Co., 68th cSSB

Quartermaster Co., 68th CSSB.

“Getting the opportunity to come out here and set up the hot showers and the laundry site was nice,” Tyler said. “It’s given me a little bit of pride in our (military occupation specialty).”

The 68th CSSB has SLCR teams in eight different locations throughout Iraq and services thousands of Multi-National Division – Baghdad and Multi-National Division – Central Soldiers on a weekly basis.

The SLCR team in Iskandariyah is as highly praised and appreciated as the one at PB Murray.

“In my 19 years of service, being both enlisted and officer, this is



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class C. J. Sheely

A group of Iraqi men sits at a roadside stand having tea. The scene is similar in many parts of the city where the Iraqi Army and Police have brought a quiet calm to several districts of Basra, Iraq, April 17.

Operation Charge of the Knights brings Peace to Daily Life

by Sgt. 1st Class C. J. Sheely

Anacanda Times Staff

Basra, Iraq – Peace and order have returned to the streets here in southern Iraq since Operation Charge of the Knights began clearing out criminal elements.

With that peace comes a return to normalcy for the people of Basra.

Shops are open all over the city as the citizens go about their daily lives. Some of the locals took time to walk the river front of the Shatt al’ Arab or just spend some time talking together at roadside stands. Children make their way to and from school as the streets are patrolled by Iraqi Police and the Iraqi Army. People in many parts of the city feel safe on the streets and are able to go about their daily lives working, shopping or just taking a walk. Without question, the presence of Iraqi authority: has brought calm to a once troubled area.

Improved fuel flow powers fight

by Air Force Staff Sgt. Nathan Gallahan

407th Air Expeditionary Group Public Affairs

ALI BASE, Iraq –Coalition forces here may never see it, but the capability to fuel the fight that’s bringing safety and stability to the Iraqi people has been improved here.

Airmen of the petroleum, oil and lubricants flight increased their fuel storage capabilities by coordinating the construction of two additional fuel bladder berms, enabling them to store 33 percent more fuel. As for receiving that fuel, they have that under control also.

“We installed two more offloading points and redesigned the fuel receiving system,” said Staff Sgt. David Sayre, the 407th Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron non-commissioned officer in charge of fuel storage, who is deployed from Spangdahlem Air Base, Germany.

“The redesign increased our offloading flow rate by 100 gallons a minute. With the new layout of the equipment we are able to perform the fuel receipt operation with fewer people, allowing more of the Airmen to help maintain the vehicles and refuel the aircraft,” he said.

“The new receiving system allows us to offload the trucks a lot faster and because of that we can get back to doing what we’re here for, to put fuel on planes” said Airman 1st Class Bobby-Ray Lauderdale, 407th ELRS, refueling unit operator, deployed from Ramstein Air Base, Germany.

The increased capability isn’t limited to the Air Force. To some extent, everyone on Contingency Operating Base Adder and Ali Base are fueled by the POL team.

“We go around and fill up ten sites just on the diesel route,” said Bobby-Ray Lauderdale. “But over the course of the week we keep more than 50 sites fueled - and that’s not including any of the aircraft.”

Lt. Commander generates local business

Story and photos by Spc. Charlotte Martinez

Anaconda Times staff

LSA ANACONDA, Iraq – Naval Lt. Commander Greg Lask, the Navy’s Chief of Commodities for the Regional Contracting Center-Balad, walked around the city of Ad Dujayl to recruit business owners to help the local economy April 11.

Lask said his command does all of the contracting and purchasing in Iraq, from here to cities like Samara and Diyala. Lask works for the joint contracting command for Iraq and Afghanistan.

to local business owners.

“I am looking to find local sources around post so that we can get money into the local economy,” Lask said.

Lask said he has sources in Balad and Baghdad, but only a few local sources, so he is trying to generate a few to help locals benefit from coalition forces being in the area.

According to Lask, he talked to shop owners about how they can start registration with the RCC-Balad to get a contract with the government to sell supplies to coalition forces in the area.

Lask said the registration process takes about a month because each business owner must be registered with the Iraqi Ministry of Trade and the Iraqi Chamber of Commerce to ensure the business owner has a legitimate company and will do business properly.

“(During our walk through Ad Dujayl), I found people we could help and who were willing to go through the processes to do business with us,” Lask said. “We are trying to give them the building blocks to success.”

The Navy’s chief of commodities for RRC-Balad believes the whole

Right: Members of the 2nd Battalion, 320th Field Artillery Regiment, Alpha Battery pass out toys, pens, blankets, clothing and other items to children in a small village nearby Awara Lake.

Bottom: An Iraqi girl holds onto her stuffed animal as she watches Soldiers with the 2nd Battalion, 320th Field Artillery Regiment, Alpha Battery hand out toys, pens, blankets, clothing and other items to children in a small village nearby Awara Lake.



process is not going to be just a quick fix. It will take time to grow and so will the economy.

Lask said he started trying to recruit businesses in March and has been able to accomplish a lot with the help of the 2-320th.

“(The 2-320th) did a dismounted patrol in order for the Lt. Commander to gather names for future work and business contracts for (Logistical Support Area) Anaconda,” said Sgt. 1st Class Carlos Rosales, a member of the 2-320th.

The 2-320th helped provide security for Lask and they were also able to do some humanitarian aid while they were in the area.

After walking up and down the city and recruiting a few of the business owners, members of the 2-320th mounted their humvees and went to a little area near Awara Lake.

There, they gave out toys, pencils and other writing utensils, clothes and things like blankets to children and other citizens of the area.

“Toy drops here and there give the right impression early on in the child’s life by showing them we are here to help them and we want to give them things they need,” said Rosales.

“It is also a good thing (Lask) is trying to resource jobs locally,” he said, “It’s good for the local community.”

“(This entire process) has the potential to impact things (locally),” Lask said. “It is not going to happen overnight, it’s a process. My office spends millions of dollars a month and we are trying to get resources so we can portion some of that into the local economy. If we can get the resources, this whole process has the potential to make a big difference.”



Naval Lt. Commander Greg Lask, the Navy’s Chief of Commodities for the Regional Contracting Center-Balad, talks with the business owner in the city of Ad Dujayl, April 11, to help generate business for the local economy.



Lask takes a walk through the market of Ad Dujayl to find more store owners to talk about plans to help boost the cities economy.

NG Soldier serves in Vietnam, OIF

by Spc. Charlotte Martinez
Anaconda Times staff

LSA ANACONDA, Iraq – “I love the comradery, meeting different people and getting to travel,” said Sgt. 1st Class Thomas Fevold, the motor sergeant for the 833rd Engineer Company.

Fevold has been a member of the Iowa National Guard since 1982 and is serving here for his first deployment to Iraq.

Fevold has had one previous overseas tour. He served with the Marine Corps in Vietnam as a crew chief on helicopters. He received a total of 24 air medals, though is not sure of the exact number of medals he has received since he has been in the military.

“Joining the National Guard was something different to do,” Fevold said. “I wanted to get away from what I was doing at the time.”

He said he has always loved the special bond between troops and that he wanted to do something to help make the world better.

Fevold said he re-enlisted in the Army

because some of his friends from Vietnam were National Guard members, not to mention the closest Marine base was at least 500 miles from his house.

He said his first National Guard unit was a maintenance company based out of Camp Dodge in Iowa, and he was with them until a few months before his deployment.

With only nine months left until retirement, Fevold said he is ready to retire from the military, but will still maintain his civilian job.

Fevold is a semi-truck driver for Van Deist Supply Company, and has been driving trucks since 1972, he said.

“I plan on keeping in touch with most of the Soldiers here,” he said, “if I have to make a stop close to where they live, or if they are on my way to or between a stop, (I’ll) try and visit. That is how I have been able to keep in touch with my friends from Vietnam.”

Fevold said he likes working with members of his unit and he has learned much about the route clearance equipment sapper’s use.

per’s use.

According to Fevold, the main difference between a sapper and an engineer is the fact that the engineers build while the sapper finds, for example, route clearance.

One of the things Fevold focuses on for his Soldiers is ensuring they get the proper education they need and the proper tools for advancement. He said they need to take things like correspondence courses to get promotion points.

His personal advice to Soldiers is to take advantage of the benefits the Army has to offer and try to constantly improve yourself. He also said Soldiers should have a good understanding of their job in the unit.

Fevold’s proudest moments since he has been in the National Guard are seeing the accomplishments and advancements of the Soldiers that work for him.

“I have always had a good bunch of Soldiers working for me,” he said.

Fevold laughed as he said one thing he has gotten out the deployment is a brand new Harley Davidson motorcycle.



Sgt. 1st Class Thomas Fevold

“I plan on making my new bike a big hobby when I get home, alongside the snowmobiling, boating and skiing I already love doing,” he said.

After tours in Vietnam and now Iraq, Fevold will retire with 26 years in the National Guard.

“I have had really good support since I have been here,” he said. “It is much different than Vietnam.”

DFAC Soldiers do more than meets the eye

by Sgt. Dale Sweetnam
Task Force 49 PAO

Clicking, counting, and watching.

To the untrained eye, these appear to be the only responsibilities of the dining facility staff at Dining Facility 4, but there’s more to their mission than the average Soldier sees on a daily basis.

“Everyone who comes in here says all they see the cooks doing is clicking or standing [with the guards], but it’s way more than that,” said Sgt. 1st Class Shunnie Nuniss, Task Force 49 Brigade Food Service Advisor.

Nuniss said the duties of the dining facility Soldiers include dozens of behind the scene tasks that keep the Soldiers of LSA Anaconda healthy and safe.

Some of the tasks of dining facility Soldiers include monitoring the preparation of the food, monitoring the food setup, supervising the unloading of food trucks, working along side Ugandan guards outside the building and monitoring food distribution.

Spc. David Olson, 2nd Battalion, 147th Aviation Regiment, said one of the Soldiers’ jobs is to communicate with the third country nationals cooking the food to ensure they are preparing everything to standard.

“If it doesn’t taste right, we have no problem saying you can’t serve that,” he said.

The dining facility Soldiers are an easy target for criticism, but Nuniss said if it wasn’t for her Soldiers and their ability to make on-

the-spot corrections and watch for deficiencies in food preparation, the entire mission here would be compromised.

The 24-hour a day operation at DFAC 4 is not the only operation the dining facility staff is responsible for.

The 33 Soldiers working under Nuniss also run the Convoy Café and provide food for medical evacuation Soldiers.

The Soldiers are rotated around the three food locations to give them experience running each area.

Sgt. Jean Lesperance, 412th Aviation Support Battalion, currently provides food for MEDEVAC Soldiers.

He said this deployment helps each Soldier get an idea of what goes into making a dining facility run smoothly.

“We’re learning the ins and outs of management,” he said. “We’re learning how to run a DFAC and how to look for mistakes.”

When it comes to hygiene and quality control, Nuniss said any degree of complacency can be devastating.

Nuniss makes sure her Soldiers stay involved in every step of the food preparation process.

While the dining facility Soldiers say they catch their fair share of flack from fellow Soldiers, they all understand the importance of their job and Nuniss backs them every step of the way.

“Everyone looks at us like we’re not doing anything, but we have a very important job here,” she said.

New trends in re-enlistment ceremonies

by Spc. Charlotte Martinez
Anaconda Times staff

LSA ANACONDA, Iraq – When you think of re-enlistments, the first thing that comes to mind is raising your right hand as someone holds the U.S. flag in the background.

Nowadays, re-enlistments are done in many different ways and Soldiers are making their ceremony into a memory that will last a lifetime.

“Soldiers re-enlist in different ways because it is high-speed,” said the Iraq Theatre Retention non-commissioned officer-in-charge, Sgt. 1st Class Noel Chase with CFLCC Army Reserve Affairs. “They want to re-enlist in a fashion that will be remembered for the rest of their life.”

Staff Sgt. Amelia Baysden, a Wilmington, N.C., native and supply sergeant for the 824th Quartermaster Detachment, re-enlisted April 19 on a Chinook helicopter.

“(The Chinook) is my favorite aircraft to jump out of,” said Baysden, who is also a rigger in her unit.



Photo by Spc. Charlotte Martinez

Staff Sgt. Amelia Baysden, a rigger with the 824th Quartermaster Detachment, re-enlists for six more years in a Chinook helicopter above LSA Anaconda April 19. Baysden said she will remember it for a lifetime.

“...many Soldiers re-enlist because of the camaraderie, sense of duty and educational benefits, just to name a few”

Sgt. 1st Class Noel Chase
CFLCC Army Reserve Affairs

“(One of) the retention NCOs told me about (re-enlisting in a Chinook.)”

Baysden is one of eight riggers with the 824th and she is the only female. Members of her unit also attended her re-enlistment ceremony to show support.

“There are many reasons why Soldiers re-enlist,” said Chase. “The number one reason here are the tax-free bonuses the Soldiers receive. However, many Soldiers re-enlist because of the camaraderie, sense of duty, and educational benefits, just to name a few. Most Soldiers give more than one reason of why they are reenlisting.”

Soldiers are personalizing their re-enlistment ceremony by having their military family members re-enlist them or by going up and re-enlisting on an aircraft, such as Baysden’s, said Chase.

“There was recently a ceremony via video teleconference where a sergeant first class had his son re-enlist him from Pennsylvania,” Chase said.

There is also a Soldier who is going to re-enlist in the canal outside of one of the entry control points, said Chase.

“A typical re-enlistment is usually someone who has their boss re-enlist them in their workplace,” Chase said. “However, if you would like to make your re-enlistment more memorable, all you have to do is ask your retention office.”

So no matter what your reason or how you want it done, if you are looking to re-enlist, talk to your local retention office to see if they can help you make it happen.

“Sitting on the back of a Chinook (for my re-enlistment) was awesome,” Baysden said. “It was a good feeling up there, and I certainly will not forget it!”



Photo by Spc. Thomas Keeler

Spc. Isaac Schwehr, an airframe mechanic with the 2-147 Assault Helicopter Battalion, patches a section of cracked sheet metal on the tail cone of a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter here April 15.

BIRD, from Page 1

are routine due to the skill and professionalism of his pilots and of the Special Forces operators they carry, not to mention the Soldiers in the rear who keep the birds in mint condition – the Soldiers of D Co.

When the Black Hawks come in for service, it’s Chiglo’s job as company commander to manage and prioritize the repairs, both scheduled and unscheduled, as well as take input from the flight crews themselves. After the maintenance is complete, the quality control inspectors sign off on the work, and the helicopter is ready to go back into the air.

Chiglo is a pilot himself and flies whenever he can, which helps him immensely in his work as the maintenance unit commander.

“You have to get in and fly those missions to understand what the concerns of the pilots are,” said Chiglo. “The goal is to provide the flight companies the best product we can.”

Chiglo’s first sergeant, 1st Sgt. Juan Esquivel, provides the leadership for the mechanics, and the personnel at the aircraft shelter are always keeping busy. In a deployed environment with a high operations tempo, the bank time is critical and tracked closely. Bank time is a complex measure that tracks the amount of aircraft hours available before the next maintenance inspection. Optimal bank time in theater is 50 percent. Bank time for D Co. is at 61 percent.

“We’ve got more available flight time to fly on the aircraft than we will probably be able to fly, and that’s just a testament to the great support and great talent in Delta Company,” said Thingvold.

Delta Co. has several maintenance sections who work around the clock, but about a third of the Soldiers in the unit belong to a platoon of aircraft mechanics, whose primary task is the 120-hour phase maintenance check. One or two helicopters undergo this check every night.

Repairs do not often go beyond the aviation unit level maintenance, performed at the company level. Only when

“The goal is to provide the flight companies the best product we can.”

Capt. Jeremy Chiglo
Delta Company 2-147

a helicopter needs extensive engine work, for example, will the company send the helicopter up to brigade level or to a contractor for intermediate level maintenance.

“We try to keep the maintenance down here, instead of putting it on the

crew chiefs and others,” said Lowe.

About 40 percent of 2-147 is cross-leveled from Washington and Hawaii, including the Lowes, who live within 300 feet from Pearl Harbor and jump into a Black Hawk to fly to their drill every month.

Staff Sgt. Lowe, who served in Desert Storm, performs his same inspection job back home.

“In Hawaii, you’re looking for corrosion,” said the elder Lowe. “You have to have a good eye to look for all the pitting in your chrome, and you also get funguses.”

Water that gets into compartments can cause problems when exposed to the elements, he said.

But there is very little water here in Iraq – only sand. “Over here, you look for erosion,” said Lowe. “Erosion over here can wear the parts down to nothing.”

No part of the aircraft is overlooked during inspections and maintenance.

“Because of the amount of shaking an aircraft does, even small cracks can expand rapidly,” said Chiglo, “so it’s imperative that these cracks be identified early and be repaired as soon as possible.”

“This is the first patch I’ve done this tour,” said Spc. Isaac Schwehr, drilling rivets into a flush skin patch on the tail cone where a crack was discovered.

“I have a great team I work with, all the sheet metal guys,” said Schwehr, who volunteered for the deployment with a friend. “It’s been an experience.”

In addition to the Hawaii and Washington augmentees, the 2-147 has organic elements from both Iowa and Kentucky. Each of the states has its own flight facilities and full-time work force devoted to aviation maintenance.

Unlike the active duty Army, where personnel often attend schools and change assignments regularly, National Guard and Reserve Soldiers remain on the job for long pe-



Photo by Staff Sgt. Jess Wilson

Sgt. Michael Ricke, an airframe mechanic with the 2-147 Assault Helicopter Battalion, works inside the tail cone of a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter to help repair a section of sheet metal. Using a bucking bar, Ricke presses down on a rivet being drilled through the metal, creating a shophead which secures the patch to the frame.

riods of time. This brings a distinct continuity and depth of knowledge to the fight, according to Thingvold and other Guard and Reserve leaders.

“We find that, because of that depth of experience, I would say that our Delta Company is probably the best in the brigade, maybe best in the theater,” said Thingvold.

Do you have a story idea?

Contact the Anaconda Times

anaconda.times@iraq.centcom.mil



Photo by Spc. RJ Gilbert

Halal meals intended for Iraqi forces are unloaded at Basra Air Base's British-run class 1 yard April 5.

Bucca to Basra and back again

by Spc. RJ Gilbert

7th Sus. Bde. Public Affairs

COB Adder, Iraq – The 7th Sustainment Brigade recently established a Forward Logistics Element at Camp Bucca to support and sustain Coalition Forces in the Basra area.

An FLE is, “a package of people and equipment that are pushed forward closer to the operations in order to provide responsive logistical support to Soldiers and units conducting operations, in order to ensure that they have the proper supplies and equipment to conduct their mission,” said Maj. John A. Redinger, Forward Logistics Element officer-in-charge and support operations deputy of the 7th SB.

“We’re here because the Iraqi Prime Minister decided that he wanted to rid Basra of the Shiite extremists. He brought elements of the Iraqi Army to clear it out and we are providing logistical support to those elements that are engaged in the fight. So in order to best support them we are moving in an element forward to provide a more responsive logistical support to the units conducting operations. We’re here to

shorten the lines of supply. So when there is a requirement for supplies we can get them to there quicker.” Redinger said.

In the initial mission of the FLE, 14 flatbeds provided 5,000 cases of halal meals for Iraqi troops, high priority humvee tire assemblies, and aviation equipment for Task Force 49.

“Overall (the mission) was successful,” said Staff Sgt. Timothy J. Hubbard, a 206th Trans. Company Logistical Convoy Commander. “(The mission consisted of) a quick upload and download and nobody got hurt. Materials got to the destination, so you can’t ask for much more.”

The mission exemplified flexibility offered by the modular structure of today’s Army.

“The mission was a ‘turn and burn’ mission,” said Staff Sgt. Christopher J. Kidd, a 46th Chemical Company convoy commander. “Basically it is like, you’ll be on a mission and you’ll come off and be home for two or three days. Then you’ll be out on a mission again. When I was informed about this mission I came off a mission, prepared the next day and two days later we came on this mission.

Pilots contribute to one Millionth GWOT sorties statistic, much more

by Air Force 1st Lt. Lisa Spilinek

332nd Air Expeditionary Wing Public Affairs

BALAD AIR BASE, Iraq -- At 6 a.m., it’s another early Friday morning in Iraq as the two young men deployed from Hill Air Force Base, Utah, get ready to venture into harm’s way yet again.

It’s a day like many others the pilots assigned to the 421st Expeditionary Fighter Squadron have experienced since arriving here in January. Still, they listen to the briefings about potential threats and meticulously check over their F-16 Fighting Falcons before taking to the skies.

Today their mission will contribute to an important milestone for the U.S. Air Force—one million sorties flown in support of the Global War on Terrorism. But it isn’t historic events that Capt. B. and D., whose names were withheld for operational security reasons, are thinking about as they don their protective gear—their focus is on providing close air support to U.S. Army ground units by identifying improvised explosive devices and device emplacements in the area.

During their five-hour flight they will synchronize with the operations of three different groups of Army Soldiers in three different locations in central Iraq.

“The Army Soldiers are building all the contacts—they are shaping people’s minds and patriotism. I deal with the more ugly side—the people who can’t be changed,” Captain D. said. “We make the bad guys go away.”

In fact, since August 2007, fighter and unmanned aerial aircraft assigned to Balad have conducted more than 700 attacks on insurgents and dangerous targets, said Lt. Col. Stephen Pedrotty, 332nd Expeditionary Operations Squadron commander.

If the Soldiers below run into any trouble, the pilots flying above them can engage threats with precisely-targeted munitions. They can also provide valuable information on the information within the battlespace.



Photo by Air Force Senior Airman Julianne Showalter

Capt. B., 421st Expeditionary Fighter Squadron pilot, performs a pre-flight inspection on his F-16 Fighting Falcon here, April 18.

environment as much as you try. Being deployed gives you confidence in your abilities.”

Those abilities include working with ground liaison personnel—Army Soldiers who give pilots information about ground operations to prepare them before a flight.

“The GLOs tell us how comforting it is for the Army to know we are up there and the capabilities we bring to the fight. It’s worth doing all those circles in the sky,” said Captain B.

“The close air support is huge for ground units because it is a great benefit to have talented pilots providing aerial overwatch during operations. It gives Soldiers on the ground the good confidence that they are going to get their mission accomplished and that they have the assets available to them to do that,” said Sgt. 1st Class Mark Gordon, GLO detachment sergeant here.

Air Force pilots have actually been flying operations over the same terrain in Iraq since 1991, the beginning of the first Gulf War. While the tactics and technology have evolved, the goal of helping to keep ground warriors safe while integrating with their missions has remained the same.

While the Balad captains did not fly the particular one millionth GWOT sortie, they realize the importance of their work regardless of its numerical status.

“When [insurgents] start to see there are consequences to the actions they are taking and it’s fast and it’s furious and it’s very deadly, that’s going to help shape the battlefield and shape their mindset as well,” said Captain D. “For the military as a whole, the joint operations perspective is allowing us to progress further. It is truly a team effort.”

MESSAGES FROM HOME

James Dansby, Hey little cousin. The fish are starting to bite and Im itching to get a pole in the water. Your probably thinking... "Water? Whats that?" Im proud of you Jim. Thank you. Cousin Dave.	Jason Bartlett Hey honney, We are so proud of you and are very thankful for everything you are doing to protect not only your family but our country... You are our Hero! We love you and miss you so much. We cant wait until you return to us, your Boys all three need thier daddy. Forever and Always Teresa Bartlett	To my Honey Bunny West, Your always thought about even when you don't even know it. This has been a trying time for us and we can overcome any obstacles that is put in front of us. Don't worry about our future it is ours to take. You make me a better man and I thank you for that. Your Sugar
To James Dansby - We miss you and love you. Remember to go to church! (you know I just had to say that). Love, Aunt Sandy, Uncle Paul, and Jacob.	Love & Miss You Baby. ;-) Tonya Daddy we miss you and love you so much, we also want you to know that we are proud of you and the 155th MED DET. Can't wait to see you !! Love Jordon, Jacob & Brianna Nicole	Dear mommy, i love you very much and i miss you even more! i cant wait for you to come home and see what i can do now. ive learned so much you will be so proud. ive grown a lot to im almost your size. I miss my mommy! Love, teagan
Hello my LOVE....hurry home baby because we just Love & Miss YOU TOOOOOOO MUCH! Karen Codi Dillon		

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

Retraction

In the April 23 issue of the Anaconda times, in the story *332nd ESFS brings justice for servicemembers at LSAA*, we misidentified members of the Provost Marshal Office as the 332nd Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron.

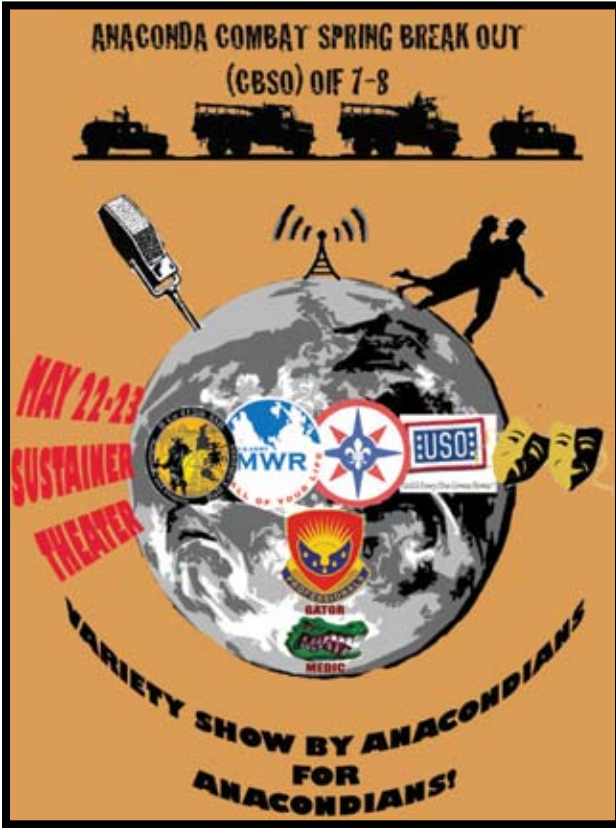
Help Catch the Port-a-John Arsonist

There have been 4 recent incidents of port-a-john arson on LSAA: 2 April (H-7 J Pod), 4 April (H-7 G Pod), 5 April (H-7 K Pod), and 21 April (H-7 G Pod). Estimated damages due to the arson exceed \$4,000.

Simple Arson, where the value of the property is greater than \$500.00, is a violation of Article 126 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice and has a maximum punishment of dishonorable discharge, forfeiture of all pay and allowances, and confinement for 5 years. Failure to report a crime is punishable under Article 92 of the UCMJ and has a maximum punishment of bad conduct discharge, forfeiture of all pay and allowances, and confinement for 6 months.

Don't let this juvenile prank ruin your career.

If you have any information in regards to the above incidents notify Military Police Investigator Brandi De La Hoz @ DSN: 312-443-6021, brandi.delahoz@blab.afcent.af.mil or contact the Provost Marshal Office MP Desk @ 312-443-8602.



SHOUT OUT!!!

TELL YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS HOW MUCH YOU MISS THEM

Contact the 316th Public Affairs Office for scheduling.

E-mail Lee.Fowler@iraq.centcom.mil

Spc. SPC Logan T McKee

America's warrior

A snapshot of servicemembers in the Global War on Terrorism

Full name and rank: Spc. Logan T McKee.
Unit: 1387th QM Water Purification Company.
Job Title: 19 Delta (Cavalry Scout).
Time in service: 2 years, 9 months.
Age: 20.
Hometown: Bogue Chitto, Miss.
Family (By name and Relation): Mike McKee (father), Carolyn McKee (mother), and Tabbitha McKee (sister).
Pastimes (Hobbies): Hunting, fishing, playing football.
Life-changing event/moment: A car accident that involved my mother, my sister and I had that hurt us real bad.
Lesson Learned: Everyday is not guaranteed, we must live life to the fullest and each day like it is our last.
The person I admire the most: Both of my grandfathers because they worked hard to get where they are and always gave 100 percent.

Why I joined the military: To prove to myself that I could be a Soldier.
If I wasn't in the military I would be: Either finishing a vocational technical program or working.
The one thing I would change about the Army: The facial hair policy.
The one thing I think the Army got right: Better technology to help equip the troops.
What makes a good Soldier: Someone who listens, does what they are told and is genuine.
What makes a good leader? Someone who is willing to serve and will lead by example; not just by words.
Unusual fact about you: I am an ordained minister in the Baptist Church.
Motivations in life: People that tell me I can't do something because that pushes me harder to do it.
Hardest part of my job here: Being away from home.
Best part of my life: The church, I love teaching and leading the young guys that are in my class.

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 30
5 p.m. 88 Minutes
8 p.m. 10,000 B.C.
Thursday, May 1
5 p.m. 88 Minutes
8 p.m. 10,000 B.C.
Friday, May 2
2 p.m. Definitely, Maybe
5 p.m. Iron Man
8 p.m. Forgetting Sara Marshall
Saturday, May 3
2 p.m. Never Back Down
5 p.m. Forgetting Sara Marshall
8 p.m. Definitely, Maybe
Sunday, May 4
2 p.m. Forgetting Sara Marshall
5 p.m. Never Back Down
8 p.m. Shutter
Monday, May 5
5 p.m. Definitely, Maybe
8 p.m. Forgetting Sara Marshall
Tuesday, May 6
5 p.m. Forgetting Sara Marshall
8 p.m. Never Back Down
(Schedule is subject to change)

Movies Coming Soon

Penelope
Drillbit Taylor
Meet the Browns
Speed Racer

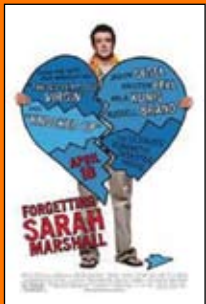
Movie Synopsis

Iron Man



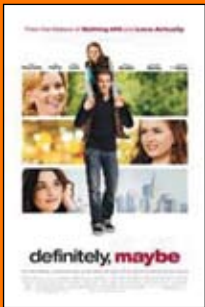
From Marvel Studios and Paramount Pictures comes Iron Man, an action-packed take on the tale of wealthy philanthropist Tony Stark (Robert Downey Jr.), who develops an invulnerable robotic suit to fight the throes of evil. In addition to being filthy rich, billionaire industrialist Tony Stark is also a genius inventor. When Stark is kidnapped and forced to build a diabolical weapon, he instead uses his intelligence and ingenuity to construct an indestructible suit of armor and escape his captors. Once free, Stark discovers a deadly conspiracy that could destabilize the entire globe, and dons his powerful new suit on a mission to stop the villains and save the world. Gwyneth Paltrow co-stars as his secretary, Virginia “Pepper” Potts, while Terrence Howard fills the role of Jim “Rhodey” Rhodes, one of Stark’s colleagues, whose military background leads him to help in the formation of the suit. Jon Favreau directs, with Marvel movie veterans Avi Arad and Kevin Feige producing.

Forgetting Sara Marshall



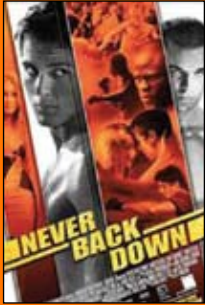
Peter Bretter (Jason Segel) may be just another struggling musician, but for the past six years he’s been dating Sarah Marshall (Kristen Bell), one of the hottest stars on television. Sarah is everything in the world to Peter, so when she kindly but firmly tells him that they should each go their separate ways, the wannabe rock star is absolutely devastated. Later, after attempting to salvage his ego by awkwardly attempting to become a womanizer and nearly losing his job because of a nervous breakdown, an emotionally fragile Peter attempts to put the past behind him by escaping to the sun-soaked beaches of Oahu. While at first it seems as if Peter has discovered the perfect prescription for a bad case of unrequited love, his plan soon turns to dust when Sarah and her new, rock star boyfriend Aldous (Russell Brand) turn up at the exact same resort.

Definitely Maybe



A political consultant in the midst of a bitter divorce attempts to delicately divulge the truth about his past relationships to his curious young daughter, who simply won’t stop asking questions until she’s satisfied with all the answers. Ten-year-old Maya (Abigail Breslin) is heartbroken to see her parents splitting up, but she’s determined to find out precisely how it was that mom and dad came together in the first place. In order to prevent his perceptive little girl from predicting the outcome before his story is told, Will carefully changes the names of his three romantic interests, creating a hopelessly romantic puzzle that highlights both the joys and hardships of true love.

Never Back Down



Jake Tyler (Sean Faris) has just moved with his family to Orlando, FL. While Jake isn’t exactly comfortable being the new kid in town, his younger brother, Charlie (Wyatt Smith), is an aspiring professional tennis star. But Charlie isn’t the only talented athlete in the family, because Jake used to be something of a hotshot on the gridiron -- at least back home. Here in Orlando, Jake is considered something of a hothead thanks to his penchant for brawling. In an attempt to better fit in with his new classmates, Jake accepts flirtatious classmate Baja’s (Amber Heard) invitation to a party. There, he is lured into a fight and badly beaten by local bully Ryan McCarthy (Cam Gigandet). But a beam of hope shines through the humiliation when a classmate who sees potential in the defeated fighter informs Jake of a local MMA (Mixed Martial Arts) program run by Jean Roqua (Djimon Hounsou). Despite Jake’s preconceived notions regarding MMA, he quickly discovers that it’s not just another form of street fighting but a rich new art form that he longs to master.

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.

New Hampshire

- It is illegal to pick seaweed up off of the beach.
- You may not tap your feet, nod your head, or in any way keep time to the music in a tavern, restaurant, or cafe

New Jersey

- It is illegal to wear a bullet-proof vest while committing a murder.
- If one is convicted of driving under the influence of alcohol, he or she may never again apply for a personalized license plate.

New Mexico

- State officials ordered 400 words of “sexually explicit material” to be cut from Romeo and Juliet.
- It’s forbidden for a female to appear unshaven in public.

New York

- It is against the law to throw a ball at someone’s head for fun.
- While riding in an elevator, one must talk to no one, and fold his hands while looking toward the door.

North Carolina

- Organizations may not hold their meetings while the members present are in costume.
- Elephants may not be used to plow cotton fields.

North Dakota

- Beer and pretzels can’t be served at the same time in any bar or restaurant.
- It is illegal to lie down and fall asleep with your shoes on.

Ohio

- It is illegal to get a fish drunk.
- The Ohio driver’s education manual states that you must honk the horn whenever you pass another car.

PVT. MURPHY’S LAW



Upcoming sports on AFN

Wednesday 4/30/08

NBA: playoffs first round live 2:00 a.m. AFN/sports
NHL: playoffs second round 2:00 a.m. AFN/xtra
NBA: playoffs first round live 4:30 a.m. AFN/sports
NHL: playoffs second round 5:00 a.m. AFN/xtra
MLB: Tampa Bay @ Baltimore replay 11:00 a.m. AFN/sports
MLB: Pittsburgh @ New York Mets live 8:00 p.m. AFN/sports

Thursday 5/1/08

NBA: playoffs first round live 2:00 a.m. AFN/sports
NHL: playoffs second round 2:00 a.m. AFN/xtra
NBA: playoffs first round live 4:30 a.m. AFN/sports
NHL: playoffs second round 5:00 a.m. AFN/xtra
MLB: Kansas City @ Texas live 8:00 p.m. AFN/sports

Friday 5/2/08

NBA: playoffs first round live 2:00 a.m. AFN/sports
NHL: playoffs second round 2:00 a.m. AFN/xtra
NBA: playoffs first round live 4:30 a.m. AFN/sports
NHL: playoffs second round 5:00 a.m. AFN/xtra
MLB: San Diego @ Philadelphia replay 10:00 a.m. AFN/sports

Saturday 5/3/08

NHL: playoffs second round 2:00 a.m. AFN/xtra

NBA: playoffs first round live 3:00 a.m. AFN/sports
NHL: playoffs second round 5:00 a.m. AFN/xtra
MLB: Baltimore @ Los Angeles Angels live 5:00 a.m. AFN/prime
NBA: playoffs first round live 5:30 a.m. AFN/sports
NASCAR Nationwide Series: Funai 250 replay 8:00 p.m. AFN/xtra
NHL: playoffs second round 10:00 p.m. AFN/prime
MLB: New York Mets @ Arizona live 10:30 p.m. AFN/xtra
HORSE: Kentucky Derby live 11:00 p.m. AFN/sports; replay 3:00 p.m. AFN/sports
PGA: 2008 Wachovia Championship live 11:00 p.m. AFN/prime

Sunday 5/4/08

NHL: playoffs second round 2:00 a.m. AFN/prime
MLB: Kansas City @ Cleveland live 2:00 a.m. AFN/sports
NASCAR Sprint Series: Dan Lowry 400 live 2:00 a.m. AFN/xtra; replay 6:00 a.m. AFN/xtra
BOXING: Oscar De La Hoya vs. Steve Forbes live 5:00 a.m. AFN/sports
NHL: playoffs second round 6:00 a.m. AFN/xtra
MLS: Chicago @ New England replay 8:00 a.m. AFN/xyta
MLB: Baltimore @ Los Angeles Angels replay 10:00 a.m. AFN/xtra
MLB: Chicago Cubs @ St. Louis replay 2:00 p.m. AFN/xtra
NBA: playoffs first round live 10:00 p.m. AFN/sports
NHL: playoffs second round 9:00 p.m. AFN/xtra

PGA: 2008 Wachovia Championship final round live 10:00 p.m. AFN/prime
NBA: playoffs first round live 11:30 p.m. AFN/sports

Monday 5/5/08

MLB: New York Mets @ Arizona live 12:00 a.m. AFN/xtra
NHL: playoffs second round 2:00 a.m. AFN/xtra
MLB: Chicago Cubs @ St. Louis live 3:00 a.m. AFN/sports; replay 6:00 p.m. AFN/sports
MLB: Milwaukee @ Houston replay 10:00 a.m. AFN/xtra

Tuesday 5/6/08

NBA: playoffs first round live 2:00 a.m. AFN/sports
NHL: playoffs second round 2:00 a.m. AFN/xtra
NBA: playoffs first round live 4:30 a.m. AFN/sports
NHL: playoffs second round 4:30 a.m. AFN/xtra
MLB: New York Mets @ Los Angeles Dodgers live 5:00 a.m. AFN/xtra



Sercivemembers learn Modern Army Combatives



Photo by Spc. Ryan Hohman



Photo by Spc. Ryan Hohman

Left: Modern Army Combatives instructor Sgt 1st Class Gustavo A Reina, a member of the 402nd Army Field Support Brigade, demonstrates to Capt. Sean Lehman, with the 2nd Battalion, 320th Field Artillery Regiment, to proper way to subdue an armed enemy, here, April 24.

Top: Reina discusses with Master Sgt. Susan Rodriguez , a member of the 244th Aviation Brigade, and Sgt. John Perrine, a member of the 4th Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 10th Mountain Division, the importance of fluid motion when knife fighting

Bottom: Rodriguez and Perrine take turns practicing the proper form of attack and defense when fighting an enemy with a knife.



Photo by Spc. Ryan Hohman



Photo by Spc. Ryan Hohman

Staff Sgt. Andre Davis, a member of Headquarters and Headquarters Battery 2-320th, practices his proper form in knife combat.



Photo by Spc. Ryan Hohman

Modern Army Combative instructor Alan Sidal, a civilian contractor from England, demonstrates to a servicemember how to conduct a proper counter attack when an enemy lunges with a knife.



Photo by Spc. Ryan Hohman

Sidal shows the class a proper stance when facing an armed enemy.