



The Duck & Cover



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JASG-C brings Ehtifalat electric sub-station back to life

by Capt. Geoff Legler, JASG-C Office of Public Affairs

When was the last time you flipped on a light switch in your house and nothing happened? How about the last time you had to go an entire summer without air-conditioning? As Americans, we expect the electricity in our homes to be working 24/7. Many Iraqis, on the other hand, feel fortunate to have electricity for an hour a day. The Joint Area Support Group-Central's (JASG-C) Department of Public Works (DPW) has been working for years to eliminate electricity problems in the International Zone (IZ). On April 22, a major step was made with the re-opening of the Ehtifalat power sub-station.

The sub-station, like most Iraqi infrastructure, suffered from years of neglect and had been the target of looters. Both of the 33/11 Kilovolt transformers

had ruptured allowing 1,585 gallons of cooling oil to flood out on to the ground and eventually into the cable trenches.

The sub-station's build-

windows had been broken out. The building's deterioration had lead to the near total loss of the equipment inside.

Late last year, the DPW team completed a site survey of the sub-station and, after deciding that the station could be repaired, put the project out for bid with local Iraqi contractors. The contract was awarded to the Al-Naba Al-Shafi Construction Company and the renovation began on December 17.

For the first two months of the project, Petty Officer 1st Class Billy Weir was the project lead. Under his guidance the project took shape and the site clean up began. In Febru-

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Photo provided by DPW

The same transformer in April of this year after being completely rebuilt and brought back online.

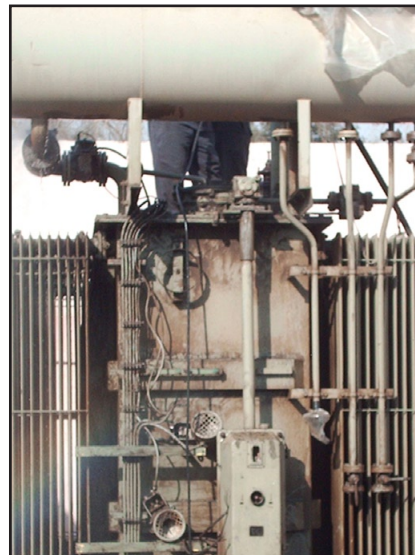


Photo provided by DPW

One of the sub-station's two electrical transformers shown in December 2007 as work on it began.

ers were missing their control panels, the transformers' cables had come out of their supports and the transformers' cooling sys-

ing had not faired any better. The entire roof had been destroyed, many of the rooms were full of trash and dirt and all of the

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BRIGADIER GENERAL

★ MYLES L. DEERING ★

Another month of our time has already come and gone here in Baghdad. April passed by very quickly, and I witnessed many great accomplishments over that time. I continue to receive compliments on your professionalism and outstanding work on a daily basis.



at home that support us. Take every advantage to let them know you appreciate their support. J's Hallmark in Oklahoma City sent nearly 200 greeting cards to the JASG for Mother's Day, as well as sending cards to the rest of the 45th soldiers throughout Iraq.

may be hard to find the time to reply to all of their letters, but it would mean a lot to those kids to receive a letter from one of you. It's very important to acknowledge our supporters and let them know that we are grateful for their encouragement.

As always, I want all of you to know that I appreciate your hard work. Your efforts are vital to our success. Continue to take care of yourselves and each other as we make more progress in the International Zone.

"ALWAYS FORWARD"

God bless each of you.
BG Myles L. Deering

Your endeavors are furthering the progress of the country of Iraq, and your actions are creating a lasting impact on its people. You are doing great things, keep it up!

While we're doing great things here, it's important to remember the people

They donated almost \$10,000 worth of greeting cards to us! I hope you get a chance to thank them. Also, on a regular basis, I receive care packages from elementary schools throughout the Oklahoma City area with letters of support from the students. I know it

COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR



DEAN BRIDGES



We are firmly planted within our jobs performing task and accomplishing missions as needed. This is the time when self discipline will be needed by all, we must stay focused, and professional in all that we do, do not allow standards to drop. I have asked you all to maintain standards and I will continue to do so, however some think they can pick and chose the standards to abide by – this must stop! Review the MNF-I uniform standards and ensure you are not the one that is failing to uphold those published standards, do not em-



barrass yourself or the command.

As we now start the period of leave and passes each of us will need to step up and help out when our battle buddies are gone. Missions and tasks will not decrease due to Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen being gone,

so continue the hard work we have started, and continue to represent the JASG-C with pride. I am very pleased with the jobs you have been doing and it is a great honor to be working for and with each of you, do not allow yourself to falter now.

The 45th IBCT has Soldiers throughout the country of Iraq and I continue to receive positive comments on the job the Soldiers are doing. I want to take this time to also thank those that are not here in the IZ. Our Soldiers are doing a myriad of tasks and they are representing the Brigade well – Thank you. Your hard work and dedication is seen by many – stay diligent, and know that your professionalism is not going unnoticed. I am very proud of you all – and the reputation of the Thunderbirds rests with us, always remember that as you complete the missions assigned to you.

"ALWAYS FORWARD"
CSM J. Dean Bridges





CHAPLAIN (COLONEL) JACK BYAS



Once during the “Great Depression” a little boy, whose father had died, was selling apples on the streets of New York City. He was trying to help his mother put food on the table. A businessman came out of one of the buildings and did not see the little boy. He stumbled over him and knocked the little boy down and scattered his apples on the sidewalk and out into the street. He got up and dusted himself off and cursed the little boy and then walked off. The little boy began to cry but then another businessman who had



seen what happened came up to him. He took out his handkerchief and wiped the little boy’s tears away. He then gave the little boy some money for his ruined apples and then patted him on the head and walked down the street. The little boy with tears in his eyes called out to the man saying, “Mister, mister are you Jesus?” The man came back and put his arms around the little boy and said, “No, son, I am not. I am just a member of his family.” That is how we should treat others.

We should treat them with the kindness of Jesus, which would make this a better world in which to live.

Prayer

O Lord, we have been called to be in this place at this time. May we be mindful of the responsibility which is ours as military personnel - to maintain order, to establish a rule of law, to protect the peace. Make us obedient always to the laws of God. Grant that in the hour of temptation we may exercise self-control and not be guilty of living an immoral life. Help us to use our skills for the strengthening of the nation. Give us faith in God, and help us to demonstrate our faith through worship and daily life. *Amen*

Worship times and locations

Protestant Worship Schedule

Sunday
1030
General Christian Worship

1815
Contemporary Protestant Worship

Ecumenical Worship Schedule

Friday
1830
Jewish Shabbat

Saturday
1000
Orthodox Worship Service

Sunday
1200
Episcopal/Lutheran/Anglican

1400
Latter Day Saints

2000
Spanish Latter Day Saints
@ Chapel Annex

2000
Church of Christ @ Embassy Annex
RM# S-214B

Catholic Worship Schedule

Monday-Friday
1200
Mass at Embassy Annex Chapel

1900
Rosary at Embassy Chapel

Saturday
1100
Mass at CSH (Hospital)
(Confession available before Mass)

1830
Mass @ Embassy Annex Chapel
(Confession available before Mass)

Sunday
0915
Mass @ Camp Prosperity
(Confession available before Mass)

1630
Mass @ Embassy Chapel
(Confession available before Mass)

2000
Spanish Mass at Embassy Chapel



Military mothers enjoy SPA day on Mother's Day

by Lt. Col. Rhonda McGuire, JASG-C Office of Public Affairs

Military Mother's serving in the International Zone (IZ) were treated to some pampering on Mother's Day – thanks to Petty Officer 1st Class Sarah Langdon's sister Michelle Pasko. Pasko is the creator of HOME for Mother's Day (Helping Overseas Moms Enjoy...Mother's Day), a non-profit organization dedicated to trying to make the day more special for military Mothers serving in combat zones.

"What started as a small project among her friends, snowballed into something much more. As word spread, more and more people wanted to contribute and show support for the women serving in Iraq. My sister ended up with a website and a registered organization," said Langdon. Langdon works in the Media Operations Center in the U.S. Embassy Annex.

In early April ten boxes of SPA products were shipped to Langdon at the Embassy compound. Langdon garnered support from her leadership and a team of volunteers made the event possible. The team put together over 60 gifts bags with products for women. Military women signed up and provided pedicures, manicures, facials and back massages.



Photo by Lt. Col. Rhonda McGuire, JASG Public Affairs
Capt. Carrie Remer, JASG-C, provides a pedicure to a servicemember on Mother's Day at the Blackhawk conference center.

Capt Carrie Remer, human resources manager for the Joint Area Support Group-Central (JASG-C), gave pedicures for over four hours to servicemembers. "It was special to me because the mothers that participated really appreciated us holding the event for them and making

them feel special for the day," said Remer. Remer is the proud mother of 15 year old son Bryan who lives in Oklahoma City.

The event took place at the conference center located on FOB Blackhawk. "It was great getting to spend a couple of hours with the girls and away from the boys," said Staff Sgt. Tara Winder, Department of Public Works engineering technician.

Military Mother's snacked on fruit, pastries, cheese and drank beverages

while waiting for SPA services. While music played and magazines were read – women renewed friendships and visited with each other. "My 16 year old son sent me a rose sticker on a MySpace page. If I had been home we probably would

have gone to Sunday Brunch on the base," said Tech. Sgt. Marla Manyweathers. Manyweathers is on her second tour to Iraq. Her first tour was in Baghdad from Sept. 06 to Jan. 07. "This is a chance to meet more women, make connections and keep your sanity, we get to talk about girl stuff and mom's stuff," she said.

Decorations included an inflatable palm tree surrounded by containers with drinks and beverages for the women. Pink paper plates and napkins abounded as



Photo by Lt. Col. Rhonda McGuire, JASG Public Affairs
Petty Officer 1st Class Sarah Langdon (right) provides a pedicure to Tech. Sgt. Marla Manyweathers (left), DPW JASG-C. Langdon's sister Michelle Pasko runs a non-profit organization called HOME – Helping Overseas Moms Enjoy Mother's Day.

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Learn a new trade with DPW in the International Zone

by Lt. Col. Rhonda McGuire, JASG-C Office of Public Affairs

Apply within – no previous experience necessary. Oklahoma Guardsmen receive on-the-job experience managing public works projects in the International Zone (IZ). Staff Sgt. Christina Matlock, of Tuttle, a human resources specialist with the Guard, found out she would be the concrete project manager the day she stepped into the Green Zone.

Matlock describes her knowledge of concrete in the following way, “I watched them pour the sidewalks when my house was built.” Matlock was originally slated to be a budget analyst for the Department of Public Works (DPW) in Iraq. “I didn’t even know what was in concrete,” she said.

Now the slender, petite blonde supervises numerous concrete projects throughout the IZ. She is one of a dozen Oklahoma Soldiers working for DPW, managing work sites, communicating with contractors and ensuring quality control on projects. She is responsible for concrete pavement, sidewalks and curbs, pothole repair, speed bumps and concrete slabs. Matlock’s team also provides anti-ter-



Photo by Lt. Col. Rhonda McGuire, JASG Public Affairs
Local nationals spread concrete under the super vision of several members of the JASG-C’s Department of Public Works.

rorism and force protection measures for the IZ.

“I manage three Soldiers who oversee concrete, heavy equipment projects and moving barriers,” said Sgt. 1st Class Wally Cooley, of Enid. Cooley, an infantry Soldier, says his team has eyes on all projects. His Soldiers were involved in moving additional ‘duck and cov-

er’ concrete bunkers and barriers into the PX parking lot and throughout the IZ. Cooley, on his second deployment to Iraq, observed, “Where ever it’s identified for security purposes, we prioritize that mission.”

The department works with local Iraqi contractors and American companies to upgrade and maintain security checkpoints.

“I have actually got to sit down with the elders of a community and have Chai tea,” said Sgt. James Ellison, of Watonga. Ellison, an Army cook, oversees movement of concrete barriers throughout the IZ. Since the war began in 2003, equipment that functions at various checkpoints has worn out. Maintenance and upgrades take place on a regular basis.

These Soldiers are responsible for managing dollars toward projects that improve infrastructure in Baghdad. They provide quality assurance, project oversight and a final inspection to ensure all requirements have been met. The Soldiers are members of the Headquarters Company, 45th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, Oklahoma Army National Guard.



Photo by Lt. Col. Rhonda McGuire, JASG Public Affairs
Staff Sgt. Christina Matlock (center left) and Sgt. 1st Class Wally Cooley (center right) supervise local nationals as they pour and spread concrete.



The 'Son of the Mick' befriends 45th IBCT Thunderbirds

by Capt. Geoff Legler, JASG-C Office of Public Affairs

For more than 100 years Oklahoma has been the home of many well known people. Celebrities and sports stars like Will Rogers, Shannon Miller and Reba McEntire have called the Sooner State home. But, few of Oklahoma's native sons and daughters have the name recognition of Mickey Mantle. Known as the "Mick" by his fans, Mantle was one of the greatest baseball players of all-time and a native of Spavinaw, Okla.

Another Oklahoma institution that is well known from coast to coast is the 45th Infantry. Whether as a division, brigade or its current form as an infantry brigade combat team, the 45th has always been one of the greatest fighting forces in the U.S. Army and is purely Oklahoman.

You may be asking yourself what the "Mick" and the 45th have to do with each other? Well, to answer that question, there are two more names you should become familiar with . . . David Mantle, a.k.a. "The son of the Mick" and Brig. Gen. Myles Deering, the commander of the 45th Infantry Brigade Combat Team (IBCT).

In 2005, David Mantle and Deering met at the St. Louis Cardinals and Baltimore Orioles exhibition game at the Bricktown Ballpark in Oklahoma City. Both men, along with baseball hall of famer Red Schoendienst, threw out the first



Photo provided by David Mantle
David Mantle (left) and Brig. Gen. Myles Deering (right) pose for a photo together at the Lloyd Noble Center following the 45th's farewell ceremony.

pitches of the game. That night was also an Oklahoma National Guard appreciation night at the Bricktown Ballpark, so hundreds of Oklahoma Guardsmen were in attendance.

Mantle and Deering began talking and sharing stories during the game and instantly hit it off. Before the night was over, Deering was introducing Mantle to members of the 45th that had recently returned from deployment.



Photo provided by David Mantle
Photo of the "Thunderbird" David Mantle had tattooed on his chest in honor of the brave men and women of the 45th.

Mantle was impressed by the brave men and women he met that night. "He spent a great deal of time talking to the Soldiers and he thanked each of them for their service to our country," said Deering.

Since that night three years ago, Mantle and Deering have kept in touch through e-mails, phone conversations and the occasional get together. Deering invited Mantle to attend the 45th's deployment ceremony in October of last year. Mantle

was honored to be invited and soon after the ceremony had the 45th's Thunderbird tattooed on his chest.

"I am proud to be a friend of the 45th", said Mantle. "I keep Brig. Gen. Deering and all of his Soldiers in my thoughts and prayers every day and I am reminded of the sacrifices they are making for our freedom every time I look at the Thunderbird tattoo on my chest."

Since the 45th's arrival in Iraq last February, Mantle and Deering have kept in close contact through e-mail and the occasional phone conversation.

"Mickey Mantle, like the Thunderbirds, is a big part of our Oklahoma history and heritage. David has chosen to link the two through our relationship, and I am very glad he has. He has shown tremendous support and a kind spirit towards our Soldiers. For that I will be eternally grateful," said Deering.



Military academy graduates bring unique skills to JASG

by Sgt. Shawn Riley, JASG-C Office of Public Affairs

The nature of our mission in the Joint Area Support Group-Central (JASG-C) provides us with a unique opportunity to work with many different people. Servicemembers of the JASG-C interact with local nationals, third country nationals, American contractors, U.S. State Department officials and many other organizations from around the world. The JASG-C has its own form of diversity to offer to the International Zone community. Within the JASG-C there are alumni from three military academies, Cmdr. Scott Langley, U.S. Naval Academy, Lt. Col. Louis Gibson, U.S. Military Academy, West Point N.Y., Lt. Col. Monte Harner, U.S. Air Force Academy.

These three officers greatly value their military educations. They believe starting their military careers in one of our nation's military academies gave them solid foundations to build a successful career. Harner says "The unique challenges associated with the service academy experience provide cadets with exposure to key concepts typically important for success in any organization: leadership principles, task prioritization, thinking clearly on your feet, and sustained performance in stressful

situations." Skills that make these men invaluable to the JASG-C and help them provide excellent leadership to the servicemembers working with them.

One of the challenges facing the JASG-C personnel is the need to be versatile in a wide range of skills. Many servicemembers must adapt

ties, prioritization and having a well rounded education. One must also have depth of character that comes with being an honorable individual. At the U.S. Military Academy the Honor Code states "A cadet will not lie, steal or cheat or tolerate those who do." Gibson says "There are very few colleges that emphasize

the moral-ethical development of the individual as much as the academies. The staunch discipline and lack of many freedoms of normal campus life, aimed at developing self-discipline and good character are missing at other institutions of learning. When you graduate, you are prepared to lead other young men and women into the hell of war, to ultimately make split-second life or

death decisions, often on sheer instinct that comes from the "muscle memory" of four years of being stressed and strained; being pushed and challenged mentally, spiritually and physically."

The training these men received is an important part of the success the JASG-C is experiencing. The proof of their invaluable leadership is evident in the products their Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen produce everyday for all the residents of the International Zone, Baghdad, Iraq.



Photo by Sgt. Shawn Riley, JASG Public Affairs

(Left to right) Lt. Col. Louis Gibson, U.S. Military Academy, Lt. Col. Monte Harner, U.S. Air Force Academy and Cmdr. Scott Langley, U.S. Naval Academy stand together in the U.S. Embassy Annex compound, Baghdad, Iraq.

their military training in a particular field to make it applicable to their current duties which may not be what they are trained to do. At the military academies that is precisely how these men were trained. Langley says, "The education is not just about school. The overall education emphasizes the well rounded person. You are required to be educated morally, physically and militarily."

Being a good leader takes more than having good leadership abili-



IZ Police assist Iraqi Police with credentialing officers

by Lt. Col. Rhonda McGuire, JASG-C Office of Public Affairs

Security continues to be an evolving process in the International Zone (IZ) as the Coalition Forces turn over authority to Iraqi Forces. Under current conditions Iraqi Police are vetted through the Ministry of the Interior for security credentialing. This process can take several months. Recently the head of the Iraqi Police, Commander Ali, asked Lt. Col. Paul Cairney, commander of the IZ Police, to assist in screening new Iraqi police officers. Since the IZ Police and Iraqi Police interact daily, it was a win-win for both organizations.

"The Iraqi Police want to keep the best employees and would like to weed out other ones," said Cairney. Some applicants can have ulterior motives and become security threats. "The Iraqis want to build a solid and stable police force in the country. Turning [the Iraqi Police] into a professional and competent group – incorporating

integrity," stated Cairney.

In order to assist the Iraqis, Cairney received approval from the IZ Badge Office to sign off on initial

gerprint System connected to the FBI database. "We are moving toward implementing a standardized biometrics system throughout the theatre," said Paul.

Joint patrols are currently conducted with the Iraqi Police. "We are pushing the Iraqi Police to take on a bigger piece of the police work," said Cairney. When an accident or situation occurs involving only local nationals, Iraqi Police are called to handle the situation.

The Iraqi's police leadership wanted credentialing with biometrics

and everyone stands to benefit. Roughly, 150 Iraqi Police are not credentialed and this causes escort issues in the International Zone. There are currently 45 Air Force personnel who work 12 hour police shifts. "As the International Zone shrinks, the Iraqi Police will take on more areas of responsibility," said Cairney.



Photo by Sgt. Shawn Riley, JASG Public Affairs

Staff Sgt. Kory Grant (left) and Airman 1st Class Marcia Hayden (right) of the IZ Police work with an Iraqi police officer during a routine traffic stop in the IZ. Both police forces work together to ensure the safety and security of the IZ.

paperwork for the Iraqi police officers to obtain a security badge for the IZ. Next applicants report to the badge office and are vetted through a biometrics system.

Zoe Paul, of the Civilian Police Assistance Transition Team (CPAT), a biometrics contractor, is using biometrics to help set up an Integrated Automated Fin-

Mother's Day SPA

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women waited in chairs for their names to be called for a manicure or pedicure. Lt. Col. Maura Gillen, Media Operations Center chief, emailed family members to send paper products – which included paper tiaras. "My friends and family have always come through when I ask for help," she said.

Staff Sgt. Cheryl Williamson, a

JASG-C volunteer, provided facials to dozens of women on Mother's Day. "I enjoyed giving the facials more than I would have getting one, because those ladies were 'thrilled' to be getting pampered, and to step out of the 'war zone' for just a couple of hours and be treated like a 'Mom', said Williamson.

The idea for this project came while Langdon was serving on the USS Ashland (LSD 48) off the

coast of Africa for Mother's Day 2007. She organized a SPA day aboard the ship and it was a big hit. Langdon's sister thought it was a great idea and that's how HOME began. Military Mom's serving in the IZ were grateful to be a part of the second Mother's Day SPA in 2008. If you would like more information on HOME for Mother's Day please visit their website at: info@homeformothersday.org



Ehtifalat Sub-station

Continued from page 1

ary, Weir completed his tour of duty and Petty Officer 2nd Class Chevaris Jennett, of Rocky Mount, N.C., took over the project. Jennett oversaw the refurbishment of the transformers and all of the equipment necessary to route the power out of the sub-station and into the electrical grid. He also managed the completion of repairs to the sub-station building and beautification of the surrounding grounds.

Throughout the course of the project Weir, and then Jennett, visited the sub-station everyday for more than 16 weeks to ensure that the contractors were on schedule and to assist them as needed.

Thanks to the hard work of the Al-Naba Al-Shafi Construction Company, the project remained on schedule and the results were even



Photo by Capt. Geoff Legler, JASG Public Affairs
Sabah Al-Jumaily, a DPW consultant engineer and local resident, shows several before and after pictures of the Ehtifalat sub-station to Ghalib Baqir, director general of the Al-Karka electrical department of the Iraqi Ministry of Energy.

better than expected. The rooms and the equipment all look better than new and the sub-station is expected to provide power to the Ehtifalat area of central Baghdad for 20 to 30 years.

After the sub-station's rededication ceremony on April 22nd, the owner and General Manager of the Al-Naba Al-Shafi Construction Company, Ali Shafi Asaad, said, "This sub-station is our contribution to Iraq. We are pleased to aid in the rebuilding of our infrastructure at such an important time."

Jennett indicated that 80 percent of the sub-station's power is being used in the IZ, while the remaining 20 percent is going to households and businesses in the Red Zone.

"Until now, most people have been getting their power from small diesel fueled generators," said Jennett. "With the re-opening of the Ehtifalat sub-station people will have electricity 24 hours a day and will no longer have to buy diesel fuel everyday to run their generators."

Capt. Josh Lawson, of Fort Gibson, Okla., who serves as the DPW zone officer, stressed the importance of doing all he and his fellow servicemembers could to help the Iraqi people.

"We are here to help the Iraqi people," said Lawson. "But, it's not just about security - we also want to help the Iraqi people have a better life."

Maj. Eric Tuck, also of Fort Gibson, operations officer for the DPW, said the sub-station will provide reliable power to approximately 20,000 households both inside and outside of the IZ.

Tuck also said the station will have a superintendent who will work and



Photo by Capt. Geoff Legler, JASG Public Affairs
Ghalib Baqir (right), director general of the Al-Karka electrical department of the Iraqi Ministry of Energy, cuts the ribbon during the re-opening ceremony of the Ehtifalat sub-station. Standing next to Baqir is Petty Officer 2nd Class Chevaris Jennett who was the project lead during the project's final two months.

live at the station and 12 other Iraqi employees who will operate and maintain it.

Sabah Al-Jumaily, a DPW consultant engineer and local resident, works as an advisor to the DPW. His knowledge of the Iraqi power system was an instrumental component to the on time completion of the project.

When asked how he thought having this sub-station back on-line would help the Iraqi people Al-Jumaily said, "Having this sub-station back in operation will help to stabilize the electrical network in the IZ. With each sub-station we get on-line the Baghdad electrical grid becomes a little more reliable."

The Ehtifalat sub-station is one of more than 20 infrastructure improvement projects completed by the JASG-C in recent years.





Staff Sergeant Tara Winder

by Sgt. Shawn Riley, JASG-C Office of Public Affairs

Staff Sgt. Tara Winder has a side to her personality that you may not know about. Not only is she a highly skilled engineer, with the Joint Area Support Group's Department of Public Works, but she also has a deep love for horses.

Winder grew up in Justin, Texas, and graduated from Lewisville High School, in 1998. Prior to joining the Air Force in 2003, she owned Sweetheart Carriage Service a horse drawn carriage company in downtown Dallas and attended Richland College.

One of her horses, Mellie, is currently in professional training for an American Paint Horse Association show taking place in October. Winder says, "It's a lot of money [preparing a horse for a show] but I'm really hoping the investment will pay off."

Winder has loved horses since she was eight years old. Winder says, "I grew up doing 4-H and competing in 4-H shows, then I joined the rodeo team in high school after that I started my own horse drawn carriage company which I ran for two years before joining the Air Force."

Since she doesn't have her horses in Iraq, she spends her free time in other ways. She likes to watch movies and sing Karaoke with her friends. Right now she is continu-

ing her college educations through DeVry's University online program. She already has an associate degree

chology. She is working towards a bachelor's degree in Technical Management with an emphasis in Project Management.

Winder has been to many different places with the Air Force. She was previously stationed at Aviano Air Base, Italy, but now lives in Washington D.C. and is stationed at Bolling Air Force Base. Due to a deployment to Qatar from May to September 2005 and her current deployment to Iraq, she hasn't spent much time at home in recent years. Winder planed to leave the Air Force after her initial enlistment ended but decided to re-enlist so she could deploy to Iraq.

Presently Winder is an engineer assigned to the Installations Directorate. One of her current projects is an addition to the Iraqi Fire Stations. She designed a plan to add a day room, showers, lockers and beds to accommodate forty firefighters. Winder says, "This is one of the neatest things I've worked on."

Winder finds her work in the JASG worth while, "Getting to work with other branches of the service is very rewarding." She doesn't know how much longer she

will serve in the Air Force, but if she decides to re-enlist, she would like to be near her horses and her family in Texas.



Photo by Sgt. Shawn Riley, JASG Public Affairs



Photo by Sgt. Shawn Riley, JASG Public Affairs

in photography and another in construction technology. Since her arrival in Iraq, she has taken classes in Technical Management and Psy-





Sergeant Shawn Hill

by Spc. Leslie Goble, JASG-C Office of Public Affairs



Sgt. Shawn Hill began his military career while still in high school when at age 17 he joined the U.S. Marine Corps. After graduating from Anadarko High School, he left Anadarko, Okla., for boot camp at the Marine Corps Recruit Depot (MCRD) in San Diego. Hill has seven brothers, but he was the only one to follow in his father's foot steps and join the military. Hill's father, Bobby Hill, served in the U.S. Air Force as a crew chief on the B-29 bombers in Korea.

Hill served in the Marines for six years and was stationed at Camp Pendleton, Calif., where he served as an NBC specialist in an artillery unit. "I remember while in artillery school, at Fort Sill, Okla., I would go home to Anadarko on the weekends and bring eight to ten Marines with me and we would just hang out," Hill explains. A lot of them were from big cities on the east and west coasts. Hill, who is a member of the Kiowa tribe, introduced his fellow Marines to country life and Native American traditions such as powwows. On Sunday evening, when they got back to the barracks they would call home and tell their families what they had seen and done that weekend with Hill.

In 1995, after serving in the Marines for six years, Hill decided he was ready to try something differ-

ent and left the Marine Corps.

Hill started college at Haskell University and played basketball for them. Soon after September 11, 2001, Hill decided to go back on active duty with the Marines but he was told he would have to wait for 18 to 24 months while they reviewed his records, so Hill

wanted to get an international lifeguard license. In order to qualify for the license each applicant is required to swim at least 50 miles in six months. Hill was the first American in 22 years to finish the 50 miles in a month and 10 days. He ended up swimming a total of 98.5 miles in the Red Sea.

Hill is the second youngest of nine children. He has seven brothers and a sister. "Growing up as the second youngest was cool. There was always someone to fight with and always an older brother or his friends to play basketball with."

In his spare time, Hill spends time at the gym. Not only does it keep him fit but it is a great way to relieve stress. In addition to exercise Hill likes to read and draw.

Drawing isn't all fun and games for Hill. Back

home he is majoring in architecture at the University of Oklahoma. The ability to sketch is important for an architect and Hill has been working on his sketches nearly every evening since he arrived in Iraq.

Hill is also studying Native American history at OU and is a member of the Oklahoma and Kiowa Blackleggings Society which is a Kiowa Warrior Veterans Society. After Hill finishes college he hopes to become a Commissioned Officer in the Oklahoma Army National Guard.



Photo by Spc. Leslie Goble, JASG Public Affairs

visited an Army National Guard recruiter in Lawton, Okla., and became a member of the 45th Infantry Brigade.

By joining the Guard, Hill could pursue his civilian education while serving his country. And, he could attend any state funded college in Oklahoma tuition free through the Oklahoma Army National Guard's tuition fee waiver program.

In Oct. of 2003, Hill deployed to Egypt where he had the unusual job of lifeguard. While serving as a lifeguard, Hill decided he



Adjudication and Badge offices work together to keep IZ safe

by Maj. Gill Shaw, JASG-C Adjudication Office

The International Zone (IZ) identification and access badge issuance process is one of the most challenging and enduring efforts of the entire JASG-C and has a great impact on the safety and security of everyone who lives and works in the IZ. Several years ago the JASG Security Directorate created two separate teams. These teams are known as the Badge office and the Adjudication office. While the Badge office is focused on tasks which involve customer and sponsor interface, with very high daily volume, the Adjudication office focuses on the daily, unfinished result of all Badge office applications.

The Adjudication office's primary responsibility is to conduct security assurance on 100% of the badges processed through the Badge office. The name Adjudication is somewhat of a misnomer because most of the badges processed are done so as part of routine security assurance and as a means of double-checking the type of badge being requested to the actual needs of the applicant. In a very small percentage of cases the adjudication office is required to conduct more detailed research and coordination to finalize badge approval.

In order to accomplish the Adjudication office's mission, members must work closely with the Badge office, the JASG-C Intelligence section and a directorate of Strategic Operations (STRATOPS). Multi National Forces-Iraq (MNF-I) provides significant support to the Adjudication office in the form

of professional interviewers and several different computer databases and software programs.

Essentially, the Adjudication office receives each data-processed badge application from the Badge office and verifies it against the requirements and standards set forth by MNF-I. Those standards were designed so that the Badge system is able to balance two very important goals which are constantly interacting - security and access. Adjudication's role reflects that constant interaction because there must always be a balance between security and access.

Accordingly, a basic tenet of operations in the Adjudication office is: It is as important to make sure a qualified applicant receives a badge, as it is to deny a badge for one who does not meet minimum security standards. Stated another way, the goal of the Badge and Adjudication offices is to provide the best possible access for badge applicants, especially Iraqi citizens, while maintaining adequate security for sensitive operations, duties or facilities. The Badge and Adjudication missions operate with the principle that eventually, Iraqis will take over most or all responsibilities currently held by U.S. and Coalition forces and contractors.

A secondary mission of the Adjudication office is to assist with the issuance of badges to U.S.

Embassy personnel. Specifically, to provide assistance to the U.S. Embassy's Regional Security Office (RSO), ensuring that Department of Defense customers are properly processed and screened prior to reaching the final approval of the RSO.

The Adjudication office has the ability to rapidly analyze applications from U.S. and Coalition military, Department of Defense civilians, and Department of Defense contractors because of a military background. This is of great assistance to the State Department because of the large number of Department of Defense customers. In this way, the Adjudication office provides one additional level of screening to assist the RSO in maintaining the highest possible security in the Embassy compound.

An interesting fact regarding the Embassy badge duty is that the current arrangement in the U.S. Embassy is very unique in the recent history of joint Department of Defense -State Department operations. It is very unique because of the relatively great number of Department of Defense personnel who share office space and responsibilities with the State Department. In fact, nowhere else in the world is there such a high ratio of Department of Defense personnel to State Department personnel, as there is at the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad.

We are looking for story ideas.
Do you have one? If so, send it to us at:
geoff.legler@iraq.centcom.mil



Department of Public Safety assists Iraqi firefighters

by Sgt. Shawn Riley, JASG-C Office of Public Affairs

The Department of Public Safety (DPS) has a mission statement that states "Facilitate a joint planning effort to protect lives, property and the environment through timely, professional, humanitarian services essential to the health, safety and well-being of the community."

The DPS under the command of Col. Jane Curtis is accomplishing this by working with Iraqi fire fighters to accomplish a first in the International Zone (IZ). During the last four months Curtis' team as worked to prepare the Iraqi Fire Department to respond to emergencies within the IZ. In order to get the men ready to

fight fires they needed to develop a rapport with the fire officials. Maj. Muneer the Iraqi Fire Chief learned to trust the assistance of Lt. Col. Phillip Wynn and Sgt. Jeff Mackey. These two soldiers have helped the department to overcome multiple obstacles standing in their way of becoming operational.

IZ identification badges are a critical part of an organization's ability to conduct operations within the IZ. The process of getting badges is quite lengthy. The first step involved filling out applications. The problem is the Iraqis write in Arabic so the forms needed translation. After the translation of the applications, appointments needed to be set for the men. Curtis

team facilitated special times outside the normal business hours of the Badging Office.

Previously, Muneer didn't have an expedient way of moving his men and their trucks through the IZ. At checkpoints the security forces would re-

the checkpoints and coordination with other emergency authorities to complete the missions. With the assistance of the DPS, Maj. Muneer was able to lead his men in accomplishing this first for the IZ.

In honor of their first missions and

all the planning and preparation that went into it, Maj. Muneer organized a dinner. Those in attendance were the Lt. Col. Paul Cairney and Capt. Jeffery Becker of the IZ police and the staff of DPS. All preformed crucial roles in the success of these first missions. Because of the hard work of DPS Iraqi Fire Department has

taken the first steps towards providing fire and rescue support for the entire International Zone.



Photo by Sgt. Shawn Riley, JASG Public Affairs

Col. Jane Curtis (center) presents a certificate to Maj. Muneer (right), chief of the Iraqi fire department, during a dinner at the Iraqi firehouse in the IZ.

quire an inspection of fire trucks in route to fires. The team worked with Sgt. Maj. Michael Scott non-commissioned officer in charge of Installations, Scott says, "We want to make the Iraqi fire department an asset and part of IZ community." Scott coordinated with IZ police, JASG-C security, Triple-Canopy and KBR Fire Department to establish a plan for the Iraqi Fire Department to respond to fires.

During the recent indirect fire attacks the fire department responded to their first emergencies. The Iraqi Fire Department was finally able to use their training and the fire fighters performed remarkably. They had the needed equipment, clearance through

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Public Affairs Officer
Lt. Col. Rhonda McGuire

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New DoD policy encourages mental health counseling

by Col. Kyle Goerke, JASG-C Office of the Judge Advocate General

On April 18, 2008, Secretary of Defense Robert M. Gates announced a new policy implemented by the Department of Defense which will encourage Servicemembers' to seek mental health care without fear of losing their security clearance.

Specifically, the policy affects all individuals completing form SF86, Questionnaire for National Security Positions. The form is required to be completed by all applicants seeking security clearances or renewals of clearances.

The new policy changes the response which will be provided by some applicants to Question 21 of the questionnaire.

Question 21 currently reads, "In the last 7 years, have you consulted with a mental health care professional (psychiatrist, psychologist, counselor, etc.) or have you consulted with another health care provider about a mental health related condition? If the answer to the question was yes, the applicant was required to disclose the treatment on the form.

As a result of the question and the related requirement for disclosure of mental health counseling, many Servicemembers, for fear of not obtaining or simply losing a security clearance in the application or renewal

process, chose to forego mental health counseling or treatment.

The new policy will cause a change in question 21. The revised question will read:

Mental health counseling in and of itself is not a reason to revoke or

*strictly marital, family, grief not related to violence by you; or
*strictly related to adjustments from service in a military combat environment.

In issuing the policy, the Department indicated that it reaffirmed

that it strongly endorses the practice of seeking professional help to address all health-related concerns, whether mental or physical. It is considered a mark of strength and maturity to seek appropriate health care, whenever required and it is especially important for the DoD, whose members are routinely exposed to traumatic events with psychological and physical impact beyond those encountered in other environments.

Until the revised language to the question is reflected on the actual form, applicants are instructed to respond to question 21 using the revised language (set out above) which was announced in the policy.

In its conclusion of its policy statement, the Department

encouraged the seeking of care when necessary, knowing that getting professional assistance as needed is the best way to sustain one's ability to perform. "A grateful Nation entrusts you with its safety and wellbeing, and counts on you to maintain your mental and physical health."

21 YOUR MEDICAL RECORD

In the last 7 years, have you consulted with a mental health professional (psychiatrist, psychologist, counselor, etc.) or have you consulted with another health care provider about a mental health related condition?

If you answered "Yes," provide the dates of treatment and the name and address of the therapist or doctor below, unless the consultation(s) involved only marital, family, or grief counseling, not related to violence by you.

Month/Year	Month/Year	Name/Address of Therapist or Doctor	State	ZIP Code
To				
To				

Yes No

Standard Form 86
Revised September 1995
U.S. Office of Personnel Management
5 CFR Parts 731, 732, and 738

Form approved:
OMB No. 3208-0007
NPN 7540-00-824-4026
BS-111

Part 2
USE ONLY

19 YOUR MILITARY RECORD

Have you ever received other than an honorable discharge from the military? If "Yes," provide the date of discharge and type of discharge below.

Month/Year	Type of Discharge

Yes No

20 YOUR SELECTIVE SERVICE RECORD

Are you a male born after December 31, 1959? If "No," go to 21. If "Yes," go to b.

a. Have you registered with the Selective Service System? If "Yes," provide your registration number. If "No," show the reason for non-registration below.

Registration Number	Legal Exemption Explanation

Yes No

21 YOUR MEDICAL RECORD

In the last 7 years, have you consulted with a mental health professional (psychiatrist, psychologist, counselor, etc.) or have you consulted with another health care provider about a mental health related condition?

If you answered "Yes," provide the dates of treatment and the name and address of the therapist or doctor below, unless the consultation(s) involved only marital, family, or grief counseling, not related to violence by you.

Month/Year	Month/Year	Name/Address of Therapist or Doctor	State	ZIP Code
To				
To				

Yes No

22 YOUR EMPLOYMENT RECORD

Has any of the following happened to you in the last 7 years? If "Yes," begin with the most recent occurrence and go backward, providing date first, quit, or left, and other information requested.

Use the following codes and explain the reason your employment was ended:

1. Fired from a job 2. Left a job by mutual agreement following allegations of misconduct 3. Left a job for other reasons under unfavorable circumstances
4. Quit a job after being told you'd be fired 5. Left a job by mutual agreement following allegations of unsatisfactory performance 6. Left a job for other reasons under unfavorable circumstances

Month/Year	Code	Specify Reason	Employer's Name and Address (include city/country if outside U.S.)	State	ZIP Code

Yes No

23 YOUR POLICE RECORD

For this item, report information regardless of whether the record in your case has been "sealed" or otherwise stricken from the court record. The single exception to this requirement is for certain convictions under the Federal Controlled Substances Act for which the court issued an expungement order under the authority of 21 U.S.C. 844 or 18 U.S.C. 3607.

a. Have you ever been charged with or convicted of any felony offense? (Exclude those under Uniform Code of Military Justice)

b. Have you ever been charged with or convicted of a felony or explosives offense?

c. Are there currently any charges pending against you for any criminal offense?

d. Have you ever been charged with or convicted of any offense related to alcohol or drugs?

e. In the last 7 years, have you been subject to court martial or other disciplinary proceedings under the Uniform Code of Military Justice? (Include non-judicial, Captain's mast, etc.)

f. In the last 7 years, have you been arrested for, charged with, or convicted of any offense(s) not listed in response to a, b, c, d, or e above? (Leave out traffic fines of less than \$150 unless the violation was alcohol or drug related.)

Month/Year	Offense	Action Taken	Law Enforcement Authority/Court (include city and county if outside U.S.)	State	ZIP Code

If you answered "Yes" to a, b, c, d, e, or f above, explain below. Under "Offense," do not list specific penalty codes, list the actual offense or violation (for example, arson, theft, etc.).

Enter your Social Security Number before going to the next page

Page 7

Question 21 (above) will be amended on future versions of the SF 86 to allow servicemembers to omit mental health counseling in certain circumstances.

deny a clearance. In the last 7 years, have you consulted with a health care professional regarding an emotional or mental health condition or were you hospitalized for such condition?

Answer "NO" if the counseling was for any of the following and was not court-ordered:



Improvements benefit FOB Blackhawk residents, shop keepers

by Capt. Matthew Butcher, FOB Blackhawk Mayoral Cell

FOB Blackhawk is one of the largest FOB's in the International Zone (IZ). It is located northwest of the U.S. Embassy annex and provides living quarters, workspace and recreational opportunities for over 2,000 people.

Blackhawk is managed by Capt. Matthew Butcher, Master Sgt. John Clifton and Sgt. Gregory Smitherman.

With such a huge customer base, constant maintenance is required to keep the FOB going. Not only have Butcher and his staff taken on the maintenance mission, they have also worked hard to improve the living and working conditions at Blackhawk.

Butcher first analyzed the major mechanical items on the FOB. He determined that many of the air conditioning units on the FOB were old, dirty and not functioning at peak performance levels. Many of the units could not get the proper level of air flow due to newly emplaced T-Walls that were too close to the units' air intakes. Many of the air conditioners were window units which have a tendency to suck in sand from newly emplaced sandbags near them.

Butcher contacted KBR and the DCMA and was able to get a \$145,000 contract approved to swap out the window based air conditioner units with "split" units that have an evapora-



Photo provided by FOB Blackhawk Mayoral Cell
New "split" air conditioner units provide cooler air to the FOB's tenants and use less energy than previous models.

tor and blower unit that is placed inside the office or living quarters and a separate condenser unit that can be placed outside the T-Walls and thus increase the air flow and reliability of the units.

Butcher and his team then focused on how they could improve the quality of life for the Servicemembers that live and work on the FOB. They turned their attention to the gym and discovered that 35%



Photo provided by FOB Blackhawk Mayoral Cell
FOB Blackhawk's gym has been completely modernized and now features multiple treadmills and elliptical machines.

of the equipment was broken. They also conducted a thorough inspection of the Internet Café and found it to be cramped with uncomfortable folding chairs and "rickety" tables.

Butcher worked with the DCMA for a \$335,000 contract to modernize the gym and install state of the art body building equipment and perform routine maintenance on the cardio equipment.

The Internet Café was redesigned and cubicles are being built to replace the folding chairs and card tables. Butcher also arranged for an old storage building to be totally renovated and made into a 35 person theater. The theater now boasts fabric walls; a drop ceiling; tile floors with carpet runners; leather couches mounted on an elevated sub-floor and a new sound system.

Butcher and his team also wanted to provide the Iraqi business owners that operate shops on the FOB with a few upgrades to the infrastructure of their buildings. He consulted with the JAG and drew up contracts to have the electrical systems replaced, along with many of the air conditioner units and had a new water system installed for the Barber Shop.

Through their hard work, Butcher and his team have successfully established a true business park at FOB Blackhawk.



Working and playing in the International Zone



Above: Staff Sgt. Christina Matlock, of the DPW, tries her hand at some concrete work.



Below: Tech Sgt. Christopher Wilson (right) Petty Officer 1st Class Gary Barber (center) and Petty Officer 1st Class Jason Micklewright inspect a water pumping system in the IZ.



Center: Sgt. Rowdy Prather fires AK-47 at the RSO range in the IZ.



Sgt. Robert Pineiro (standing) instructs a mixed martial arts class. Pineiro is the 4th ranked mixed martial arts fighter in the U.S. Army.



Lt. Col. Philip Defenbach jams-out in the Green Bean cafe during a performance with his band.



Awards



Lt. Col.
Monte S. Harner
Bronze Star Medal



Capt. Billy S. Allen
Joint Service
Commendation Medal



Capt. Leroy H. Banes
Army Achievement
Medal



Staff Sgt.
Tara M. Winder
Army Achievement
Medal



Staff Sgt.
Douglas Collins
Army Commendation
Medal



Staff Sgt.
Cesar Cuellar
Joint Service
Achievement Medal



Tech. Sgt.
Christopher Wilson
Joint Service
Achievement Medal



Petty Officer
1st Class
Romulo Bahamon
Joint Service
Commendation Medal



1st Lt.
Jason Palatas
Officer of the Month



Staff Sgt.
Kory Grant
NCO of the Month



Airman 1st Class
Joseph Donahue
Enlisted Servicemember
of the month



Staff Sgt.
Xuan Bohlman
Certificate of
Appreciation



Promotions



Sgt. 1st Class John Clifton
promoted to
Master Sergeant



Spc. Devon Biggs
promoted to
Sergeant



Spc. Shawn Hill
promoted to
Sergeant

Opinions

"What is your favorite thing to do after work?"



Lt. Col. Redmond Raux
Ministry

"I enjoy reading."



Lt. Col. Miguel Ramos
Support Operations

*"I go to the house of pain-
AKA the gym."*



Staff Sgt. Victor Montilla
Installations/DPW

*"I like to study, work out
and smoke a cigar."*



Lt. Cmdr. Michael Brand
Security/JDOC

*"Right now I'm taking
college classes."*



Petty Officer 2nd Class Craig Hill
Security/Badge Office

*"I go to the gym. That's pretty much
all I do. Get big or go home."*



Spc. Shea Weise
Support Operations

*"I like to play games like
Connect four, pool and poker."*



JASG-C Birthdays May 15th to June 14th

Sgt. Kenneth Slaughter
Support Operations
May 16th

Master Sgt. John Clifton
Support Operations
May 27th

Col. Kyle Georke
Command/JAG
June 5th

Sgt. John Young
Security/JDOC
May 21st

Sgt. James Ellison
Installation/Operations
May 28th

Lt. Col. Michael Thompson
Command
June 11th

Sgt. Charlotte Washington
Installation/Operations
May 25th

1st Lt. Teresa Gaines
Security/Badging
May 28th

Master Sgt. Joel Wakefield
Support Operations
June 12th

Sgt. Christopher Wilson
Security/JDOC
May 26th

Spc. Travis Bechtol
Security/Adjudication
June 2nd

Maj. Douglas Merritt
Security
June 14th

The JASG-C & the 45th IBCT wish to thank J's Hallmark in Oklahoma City for donating Mother's Day cards to Oklahoma National Guardsmen serving in Iraq.

