



The Duck & Cover



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JASG-C members get their Thunderbird combat patches

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

The 45th Infantry Brigade Combat Team has a long and well documented history of service to our Nation. From the Spanish-American War through World War I, World War II and the Korean War the 45th has fought bravely. Since May of 1939 the 45th has worn the Thunderbird with pride as they fought in places like Anzio and Pork Chop Hill. More recently the Thunderbird has seen service in Bosnia, Kuwait, Egypt, Iraq and Afghanistan.

In early February the Thunderbird returned to Iraq on the left shoulders of nearly 3,000 members of the 45th Infantry Brigade Combat Team. Most of

these brave men and women were sent to two detention facilities to perform detainee operations, but the 45th's Headquarters Company was assigned as the lead element for the Joint Area Support Group-Central (JASG-C) in Baghdad.

On April 3rd, members of the 45th's Headquarters Company received their Shoulder Sleeve Insignia – Former Wartime Service (SSI-FWS) patches also known as a combat patches. The SSI-FWS is worn on the right shoulder of the uniform by Soldiers who have served in a designated combat zone. Once awarded, the SSI-FWS may be worn on the right shoulder for the remainder

of a Soldier's career.

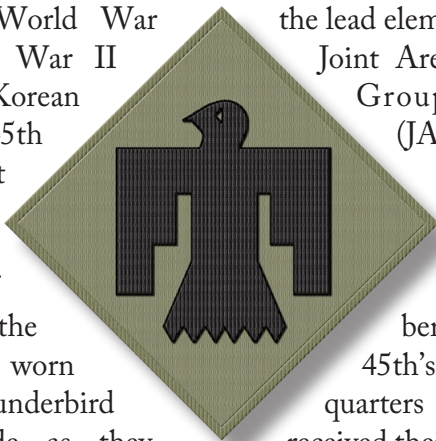
The 45th Soldiers serving with the JASG-C were awarded two combat patches during their patch ceremony. The first was the 45th's Thunderbird making all 45th Soldiers who wear it "double Thunderbirds". The second was the Multi National Force – Iraq (MNF-I) patch. The JASG-C is a subordinate unit of MNF-I.

The 45th's Thunderbird patch has a red square turned up on end with a yellow Thunderbird. The patch was first worn by the 45th Infantry Division on May 22, 1939. At the time, the 45th was composed of Army National Guard

troops from Colorado, Oklahoma, New Mexico and Arizona. As the territory was originally explored and settled by the Spanish, the insignia is gold and red, the Spanish colors. The Thunderbird is an Indian symbol meaning sacred bearer of happiness unlimited. The four sides of the insignia represent the four states comprising the predecessor Division.

The MNF-I patch has a black shield with a gold border surrounding two crossed silver scimitars (swords). Behind the sword tips is a wreath of palm branches joined at the bottom with three loops of

Continued on page 3



In This Issue

Thunderbirds take the money
Page 5

Locals aid IZ Police during IDF attack
Page 6

Easter service continue despite rocket attacks
Page 7

JASG-C helps local school; attends graduation
Page 5



BRIGADIER GENERAL

★ MYLES L. DEERING ★

Well, here it is April 2008, and we are nearly half way through our 12 month tour. I point that out, not for you to set your sights on home particularly, but rather to set your sights on what we have left to accomplish.

As I have told you before, we want to leave this mobilization with the indelible mark of the 45th Infantry Brigade on the country of Iraq. In order to accomplish this goal, we must continue the tremendous efforts we have begun. Many races have been lost as a result of a strong beginning but less than a stellar finish. We must focus on the task at hand, and continue to focus all of our energies until the day we depart. I know that I can depend on all of you to provide that effort. I have had marvelous comments concerning your professionalism and work ethic since we have arrived. We must continue the standard we have set and raise the bar to higher levels.

I want to express to each of you what a tremendous honor it was for me to award you your combat patch during our recent ceremony. Wear it with honor, because you have earned it. I could see the pride in your faces and your smiles as I put that right shoulder patch on your sleeve. We stand as the benefactors of the famous 45th Infantry "Thunderbird" Division.



Everyday we are here, we add a page to the remarkable history begun by our predecessors. Each of us in this organization understands what it means to wear the Thunderbird, and more importantly, what we must do to preserve its long and illustrious heritage.

Every individual from this organization—Army, Navy and Air Force-- make me tremendously proud because of the dedication you

exhibit to your duties, the pride you display in your work, and the enthusiasm in which you have always performed your mission. Keep up the GREAT work!

Finally, we have been reminded over the past several days that we are still in a combat zone. While we must still perform our mission, we must be ever vigilant of the fact that there are those who wish us harm. You must remain courageous in your duties and continue to focus your efforts on the task at hand, all the while maintaining a keen sense of awareness of your surroundings and the dangers that lurk around us. As always, it is vital that we look out for one another, take care of one another, and continue to encourage one another in the midst of challenging days. As I have always said, look to your right and look to your left, because those are the people who will take care of you, and those are the soldiers that you will take care of.

In closing, I want you to know the tremendous pride I have in each and every one of you and the job you are doing here in the International Zone. We will forever be bonded by our experiences here. Stay focused on your mission, look out for yourselves and for one another, and remember our motto:

"ALWAYS FORWARD!"

God bless each of you.
BG Myles L. Deering



Photo by Capt. Geoff Legler, JASG Public Affairs
Brig. Gen Myles Deering present a 45th IBCT Thunderbird to Air Force Tech Sgt. Stefanie Pickering during the JASG-C's combat patch ceremony on April 3.





COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR DEAN BRIDGES



Well, Thunderbirds if you have not yet noticed we are in Iraq!!! The last few weeks have proven to be trying to say the least. Within the IZ we have experienced 90 plus Indirect Fire impacts and the numbers grow each day. I am very proud of you all; due to these actions against us here in the IZ the completion of task slowed, but never did anyone quit. We must continue to stay focused and always moving forward in mission completion. I want everyone to know that we are among the best trained Army's in the world, if we remember our training, implement that



training and enforce the standards there is nothing that we can't accomplish. I ask all of you to review the standards for actions to be taken during indirect fire, know where duck and cover bunkers are, and the reporting procedures following attacks.

As the temperature continues to rise in the up coming months fluid intake is a must. During extreme heat, fluid and food intake is very important. Do not allow yourself or your battle buddies to skip meals, doing this will only increase your chances of becoming a heat casualty. We have been given a mission by our

Nation and I am confident that we will continue to accomplish that mission. However, we also have a mission from our friends and loved ones back home, to come back to them. You as individuals must ensure you take the correct steps, making sure that safety is addressed when completing your tasks.

Remember the great history and pride of the Thunderbirds who came before us – uphold their great tradition and know that you are making a positive impact for the lives of many!

"ALWAYS FORWARD"
CSM J. Dean Bridges

JASG patch ceremony

Continued from page 1

brown twine. In the center is a gold human-head winged bull of Mesopotamia below a gold seven pointed star.

The MNF-I patch was authorized for wear on the Army uniform on January 7, 2005. The star at the top of the patch represents a vision of unity for the seven peoples of Iraq (Sunni, Shia, Kurd, Turkoman, Assyrian, Yazidi, Armenian) leading to a more secure, prosperous and free future for Iraqis.

The crossed scimitars of the insignia recall the partnership between Multinational Forces and Iraqi Security

Forces essential to bringing a democratic way of life to Iraq. The palm fronds symbolize peace and prosperity for a new nation. The colossal statue of the Mesopotamian human-headed winged bull recalls the rich heritage of Iraq and underscores strength and protection for the people of Iraq.

1st Lt. Brent Weece, aide de-camp to the JASG-C Commander, was

very pleased to be a double Thunderbird. "It's good to finally get a combat patch. It's a pretty big honor to be able to wear such a historic patch on my right sleeve," said Weece.

For many of the Soldiers, this is their second or third time to deploy with a 45th unit, so they are already double Thunderbirds. But, they will now have the option to wear the MNF-I patch.

"As a Guardsman, I am proud to wear the Thunderbird on both shoulders," said Cpt. Jeremy Bolyard. "But, it is also an honor to have earned the right to wear the MNF-I patch."

Members of the 45th's Headquarters Company have completed two months of their nine month deployment to Iraq. The entire brigade is expected to return to the US in October.



Photo by Capt. Geoff Legler
Brig. Gen Myles L. Deering (right) "patches" Staff Sgt. James Barnett during the JASG-C's combat patch presentation ceremony on April 3.





CHAPLAIN (COLONEL) JACK BYAS



During World War II an American fighter pilot was flying back to England from a bombing mission. His plane came under heavy fire and his plane was badly hit. Soon the plane began to spin out of control and he thought he was going to die. He prayed to God to help him survive.



Finally, the plane crashed in the English Channel. He was thank-

ful to God that he had survived. But, soon he discovered that his leg was missing below the knee. He began to question God. God had let him survive the crash but was going to let him die in the water. But, just at that moment a piece of the plane floated by with the first aid kit on it. He got it and made a tourniquet. Finally, the bleeding stopped. Again he

thanked God.

Then he thought, I can not survive in the water. Again he thought he was going to die. Again he questioned God. But at just that moment an American ship came by and rescued him. God had taken care of him at every step of the way. He had provided for him at just the right moment.

God will provide for us as well. We need to trust Him to provide for us. He will just at the right moment of our need.

Worship and Bible study times and locations

Roman Catholic Program Schedule

Monday-Friday

1200

Mass at
Embassy Annex Chapel

Tuesday

1800

RCIA/Adult Education at
Embassy Annex RM# S-111

1900

Rosary at
Embassy Chapel

Wednesday

1900

Adult Faith Formation at
Embassy Annex RM# B-104

1900

Catholic Bible Study at
Embassy Annex RM# M-109

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

2100

Spanish language RCIA at
Embassy Annex Chapel

In the April issue of The Duck & Cover the times and locations for Catholic services were accidentally omitted. We would like to apologize for this omission and thank all those who brought it to our attention.

– The Duck and Cover staff



Thunderbirds take the money and return it to Iraqis

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

*"Now here's a story about billy joe
and bobbie sue
Two young lovers with nothing
better to do
Than sit around the house, get high,
and watch the tube
And here is what happened whey
they decided to cut loose

They headed down to, ooh, old el
paso
That's where they ran into a great
big hassle
Billy jo shot a man while robbing
his castle
Bobbie sue took the money and run"*

Go on take the money and run! Oklahoma soldiers had the chance to take the money and run. Instead, soldiers walked out of an undisclosed location with million dollar bundles.

JASG soldiers supported a special mission to turn over \$24.5 million dollars of 'Oil For Food' money, to the Iraqi government. The soldiers were summoned

for the mission without knowledge of the service they would perform.

"Prior to expiration of our authority, Joint Contracting Command-Iraq/Afghanistan presented payment packages for all remaining

contracts to the Ministry of Finance for payment," said CDR Stephen Hall, JCC-I/A office. The authority for the US to manage the funds expired on December 31, 2008 and it was directed that all funds being held by the US be returned to the GoI.

The special mission was coordinated by Lt. Cmdr Michael Tinsley of the JASG Comptroller



Photo by Capt. Geoff Legler, JASG Public Affairs

1st Lt. Lavonda Cathey (left) accounts for non-bundled \$100 bills as Staff Sgt. John Hernandez (right) waits to load them into secure containers.



Photo by Capt. Geoff Legler, JASG Public Affairs

Approximately \$2.4 million dollars sits in the Presidential Palace vault just before being loaded for transport to the Government of Iraq.

ler office and Maj. Jim Gill, security operations.

"In 2003, under UN Resolution 1483, Iraq gave the United States the authority to manage the Oil for Food funds," said Lt. Cmdr. Michael Tin-

sley, of the Comptroller's office. The funds were used to pay contracts on behalf of the Iraqi government. The contracts consisted of security, construction and paying contractors. In the early days after the war, people were paid in cash, over time \$225 million was paid out.

As Iraq's banking system improved, it implemented the Electronic Fund Transfer process. "It really doesn't make sense to pay people in cash," said Tinsley. As EFT improved people were paid in a more safe and secure manner. It is important to note that before the invasion, Iraq had only six government controlled banks. Their primary function was to pay government salaries. There was no EFT system in place.¹

The JASG security directorate knew of the mission before arrival in theater. "We executed in a four day window," said Maj.

Continued on page 13



Locals aid IZ Police during indirect fire attacks

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

Eerily quiet best described the streets in central Baghdad Saturday.

The curfew imposed during recent fighting in Baghdad and Basra reduced traffic, but young airmen of the Air Force 732nd Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron, who police the International Zone, still conduct patrols, even under the heightened security measures.

Immediately following an attack, the IZ Police respond and assess the damage. They disseminate information to the control center and take pictures, getting on and off the site as quickly as possible.

Since March 23, there have been more than 80 indirect fire attacks in the IZ. Capt. Thomas Rains, JASG-C liaison to the IZ Police said, "It has been harder to do pure law enforcement; now we are first responders giving first aid and taking care of people."

During the recent indirect fire attacks, Iraqis living in the International Zone report point of impact directly to the local airmen. The airmen, who perform daily patrols on the streets of the International Zone, work hard to build community relationships.

Airman 1st Class Clinton McCarley knows many of the local business

owners in the IZ. "There is a tobacco shop, liquor shop, tactical gear shop and we try to visit the shops and ask about unusual activity."

McCarley patrols with Airman 1st Class Erik Tycksen, both deployed from RAF Mildenhall, U.K., and on their first combat tour. "We help locals with humanitarian aid. We have one family in the IZ who has

been challenged to think outside the box," said Senior Master Sgt. Clayton Christiansen, a senior noncommissioned officer in the 732nd.

For many of the airmen, the best part of their mission are the interactions with the locals, particularly delivering soccer balls, toys and clothes to children in the IZ. The relationships that are built in the four-

square-mile community yielded fruitful information during the indirect fire attacks the week following Easter Sunday.

"We build community relations – build a friendly positive rapport. There is an extra set of eyes working with us," said Christiansen.

"I am the community relations guy; I am happy to meet people and build trust.

The people here know that I'm not gonna do them wrong", said Staff Sgt. Kory Grant.

Numerous neighborhood children crowd around Grant's parked vehicle. The children hug him and ask, "What is your name?" to newcomers.

Since Easter, more than 30 local Iraqis have contacted Grant with information about incidents in the IZ.



Photo by Lt. Col. Rhonda McGuire, JASG Public Affairs

Airman 1st Class Clinton McCarley puts out a fire under a bridge in the International Zone on March 29, 2008. McCarley is a member of the International Zone Security Forces in Baghdad, Iraq.

three children with dwarfism – we got them a wheelchair. Our families from back home also send clothes and toys," said Tycksen.

The airmen work alongside the Secret Service, FBI, DEA, Department of Justice, Department of State and foreign military personnel.

"This duty is a challenge for young airmen. Iraqis need to have a say in the area. Going back to the U.K. will be boring, because they have



Easter services continue despite rocket attacks

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

Easter Sunday served as a rude awakening for the thousands of military and civilians who reside with in Baghdad's International Zone (IZ). At a little after 5:00 a.m. that morning rockets began impacting within the zone. With in seconds of the first impact the "big voice" announced "duck and cover-this is not a drill". This was the first borage of what would be more than a week of shelling from Sadr City.

Following the first attack, smoke from a warehouse fire could be seen for miles. The flames were quickly extinguished and there were no serious injuries among JASG-C personnel only the loss of several thousand rolls of toilet paper.

The rockets, which fell on the IZ during all five Easter church services, didn't cause the cancellation of a single service. Even amongst the incoming rounds, Chaplain Jack Byas maintained composure and finished the opening prayer. As soon as he said Amen, the duck and

cover alarm sounded and everyone got down and headed to the bunkers.

"After the prayer, I was going to



Amen, hit the dirt!

make it a point to tell everyone in the chapel to get down and head to the bunker. But they were so well trained that they did it without me saying it." Byas said.

In the small bunker outside of the

chapel, there were heads bowed and lips moving in prayer. "When in the bunker, I was thinking about what seemed to be a deliberate attempt to disrupt our celebration of Easter," Said Lt. Col. Warren Griffis, the deputy director for installations. "But I wasn't going to let it ruin my attitude or spirit of celebrating Easter." After the all clear was announced everybody made their way back into the chapel and the service picked up where it had left off.

Upon reentering the chapel "Come, now is the time to worship" was being played. After the song, Byas took his place behind the podium and picked up where he had left off. He said he felt like Bill Maudlin, a cartoonist of the World War II era. Referencing a picture he once saw in the 45th infantry museum in Oklahoma City, of a Chaplain in a foxhole ministering to several Soldiers while rocket exploded in the distance. "I wanted to cut the prayer short." Byas said.



Photo by Spc. Leslie Goble, JASG Public Affairs

Sgt. Jim Ledford (left) and Staff Sgt. Ogbo Oku (right) stand in front of an Easter display at the main DFAC in the U.S. Embassy Annex.



Photo by Spc. Leslie Goble, JASG Public Affairs

Lt. Col. Warren Griffis (center) stands in a "duck and cover" bunker outside of the Embassy chapel on Easter morning. All five Easter services were interrupted by indirect fire attacks on the International Zone.



JASG-C helps local school; attends graduation

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

On the morning of March 22, the Al-Watan Elementary School located near the Al-Qadisiyah area of Baghdad held its annual celebration for their sixth grade graduates. This year's attendees differed from past years as members of the Government of Iraq and the Joint Area Support Group-Central (JASG-C) sat in the front row as honored guests of the Al-Watan Elementary School and its Principal.

Among the guests were Gen. Salih Sarhan, the chief of staff for the Minister of Defense, as well as, members of the JASG-C to include Brig. Gen. Myles Deering, commander of the JASG-C, Lt. Col. Michael Thompson, executive officer for the JASG-C and Lt. Col. Warren Griffis, the deputy director for installations.

The school graduated more than two dozen students during the hour and 15 minute celebration. A number of the students wore costumes and recited Arabic poems from memory. The students also performed several songs in Arabic.

The JASG-C and its subordinate

directorates have given a great deal of support to the school in recent months. The Department of Public Works (DPW) has administered and supervised a Commander's Emergency Response Fund (CERP) contract that authorized the JASG-C to purchase air conditioners, back-up generators, educational equipment, materials, basic school supplies and perform limited maintenance for the staff and students.

Col. William Phillips, the previous commander of the JASG-C, authorized the use of CERP funds on November 3, 2007, and the JASG-C began work at the school in early February of this year.



Photo by Cpt. Geoff Legler, JASG Public Affairs

Al-Watan Elementary School students sing the Iraqi national anthem during the opening of their graduation ceremony on March 22.

Sgt. Tara Winder, of Justin, Texas, joined the DPW team and began to assist Wolfe with the school project. In February, Wolfe and his unit returned to the States and Winder took over the project.

"It's really great to provide all of these services and educational materials for the children and to have made their educational experience a little better," said Winder. "I am amazed at how many students attend the school. We are really helping a lot of children."

Winder has visited the school nearly everyday for the past six months and has overseen the installation of the air conditioners, back-up generators, white boards and the delivery of numerous school supplies. She was recently joined by Chief Warrant Officer Doug Izer, of Edmond, Okla., who assumed Wolfe's duties as the project developer in early February when the 45th IBCT took over the JASG-C mission.

Izer, who is a controls project engineer back in Oklahoma, brought a



Photo by Cpt. Geoff Legler, JASG Public Affairs

Children at the Al-Watan Elementary School take turns shooting baskets in the school's play area. The basketball goals were purchased and installed by the JASG-C's department of public works.

The program was originally administered by Staff Sgt. Duane Wolfe, of Stratton, Va., who was the senior enlisted project officer for the previous JASG-C. He began the initial coordination for the project in July 2007. In August 2007, Staff

Continued on page 16





Staff Sergeant James Barnett

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



Staff Sgt. James Barnett is a member of the 45th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, Oklahoma Army National Guard. In Oklahoma he serves as non-commissioned officer in charge of a forward observer detachment. Barnett is a family man he and his wife, Jennifer, have a five year old daughter, Vanessa. Originally of Knightstown, Ind. he now lives in Tulsa, with his family.

Barnett earned his criminal justice degree in Indiana, where he worked in the prosecutor's office. When his wife, Jennifer, originally from Oklahoma, completed her degree; they agreed to move to Tulsa. Barnett then began to pursue a law degree. Barnett says "I went to law school because I like to argue." For three years while going to school part time he worked as operations director for Diversion Services, Inc. His company had a contract with Tulsa County to run a state program called Community Sentencing. Barnett says "The program was essentially private probation that dealt with alcohol and drug rehabilitation and cognitive rehabilitation for criminals." After graduating from the University of Tulsa he began his private practice. He and his partner Sean R. Hood own Hood and Barnett PLLC, a general law practice.

Why would a soldier with a Juris Doctorate stay enlisted? Barnett says "I had a goal of making E-7 and being NCOIC of my detachment I have been in my detachment for six years with about 35 guys and we're real tight. The most rewarding part of my career was be-

Barnett says "I have thoroughly enjoyed my experience in Iraq so far. I have a really good and interesting job." In the Joint Area Support Group-Central he works in anti-terrorism force protection. Barnett believes that his role in force protection during the first 30 days in Iraq was his most important work. Brig. General Myles Deering, the JASG-C commander has a requirement to do an assessment on the area of operation. Barnett was instrumental in the vulnerability assessment process. Barnett says, "That was a really good learning experience."

Barnett's life has been influenced by his father, he says "My father taught me to be honest and have integrity." Even beyond his father his grandfathers served in the military during the Korean War then later in the Kentucky National Guard. Barnett says, "I always knew

I would be in the military."

In his free time Barnett likes to read, play golf and spend time with his family. Sometimes he even combines playing golf and spending time with his family, he takes his daughter, Vanessa, to the course with him. Barnett says "She has her own clubs and she likes driving the cart more than anything." Staff Sgt. James Barnett is definitely a soldier you should know.



ing NCOIC of that detachment." His dream of making Sergeant First Class wasn't coming quickly enough. After 12 years of service and since he accomplished his goal of being NCOIC he decided it was time submit a JAG Corps packet in January 2007. Barnett's packet was kicked by due to the upcoming deployment to Iraq. However, he now has a packet ready to be submitted to the Air Force.





Specialist Shea Weise

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



“Secretary of Defense” That is what Spc. Shea Cheyenne Weise is known by in her office. As the administrative clerk for the support operations directorate of the Joint Area Support Group-Central, she does most of the dirty work for her office. Taking the vehicles to get maintenance, planning meetings for her bosses as well as sitting in on a few of the meetings to take notes. One of her most important duties is to make sure the boss gets where he needs to be when he needs to be there.

A typical morning for Weise starts off with making a pot of coffee; then it’s off to get the mail for the directorate. After that, she checks the daily meeting calendar to see what meetings will take place during the day. For the remainder of the day Weise is handling numerous tasks from her supervisors.

It’s hard work running a city and that’s pretty much what the support operations directorate does. In order to be successful support operations needs its own support element. That’s where Weise comes in with her positive attitude and strong values, she stays on top of everything that goes on and makes sure everything happens according to the schedule.

Weise was born in San Antonio and lived there until her family had to move due to the closing of Kelly Air Force Base, where her father was employed. At the age of 12 her family packed up and moved to Oklahoma. “I didn’t want to move at first because I was only 12 and San

Antonio was all I had ever known but I knew it would be a new experience for me and for the best,” said Weise.

She finished her seventh grade year in Edmond, Okla. Then moved to Oklahoma City while her dad finished off the house he was building in Newalla. “On the weekends, I’d go out there and help him. We



Photo by Spc. Leslie Goble, JASG Public Affairs

put up the framing on our house, cut wood, put up sheetrock and installed insulation,” said Weise. About a year later the house was livable and they moved in.

In a new town it was a new beginning for Weise. She didn’t know anyone and nobody knew her. All she had was her family. It was then that she met her best friend JJ. They spent a lot of time together and did everything together. Through him she learned to like her new surroundings.

Weise finished up high school in Oklahoma City. Shortly after that a friend invited her to a youth service at Crossroads Cathedral. That ended up being a turning point in her life “I knew nothing about God or Jesus and wasn’t interested in learning either but I went anyway to check it out,” Said Weise. “I fell in love with the people and fell in love with God and wanted to know more about him so I went back and dedicated my life to him.”

Weise had been interested in the military since she was a little girl. In October of 2005 she enlisted in the Oklahoma Army National Guard as a Chaplains assistant. At this point, she had completed one year of college but could not decide on a major. Her best friend, JJ, had other plans so they went their separate ways but they remain close

Through her military service and deployment to Iraq with the 45th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, Weise will have enough financial support when she returns home to return to Oklahoma City Community College and continue her education.

“Duty is always important, you have to remember where you are and you have to put that first,” said Weise.

When asked to explain what values are most important to her, Weise said, “Put the mission first, right? Then everything comes next. That’s what separates an average Soldier from a great Soldier. You also have to trust your comrades. That’s where

Continued on page 16



Joint Defense Operations Center serves critical function

by Maj. Chuck Booze, JASG-S Security Directorate

The International Zone (IZ) Joint Defense Operations Center (JDOC) serves a critical function within the Joint Area Support Group-Central's (JASG-C) security directorate as the command and control center for the security of the IZ. Formally known as the International Zone Base Defense Operations Center (BDOC), the JDOC recently underwent a large reorganization of their workspace and an evaluation of the standard operation procedures.

"The International Zone is not just a base; it is a collection of Iraqi and coalition, military and civilian organizations and installations contributing to the rebuilding and stability of Iraq," said Lt. Col. Michael Kinnison, director of security for the JASG-C.

The JDOC conducts operations seven days a week, 24-hours a day and provides incident management, movement control, emergency services response and a variety of other services to the tenant organizations

of the International Zone and JASG-C subordinate elements.

The center is fully manned with operations and intelligence sections, IZ Police desk sergeants, as well as, contractor liaison officers for major contractors in the IZ such as Kellogg, Brown & Root (KBR) and Triple Canopy.

The transition to the new JDOC concept came in the nick of time. Shortly after the transition occurred the IZ received some of the heaviest in-direct fire attacks in the five years since coalition forces began operating in the area.

"The new layout, equipment and procedures we have established during this transition have greatly increased the effectiveness of the JDOC in conducting command and control operations and incident management within the IZ," said Capt. Shane Riley, JDOC



Photo by Sgt. Shawn Riley, JASG Public Affairs

Sgt. 1st Class Scot Thompson (left), Maj. Andy Ballanger (center) and Maj. Chuck Booze (right) work together to gather and analyze intelligence information in order to eliminate any possible threats to the IZ and its residents.

battle captain.

Airman 1st Class Delroy Wilson, who worked in the original BDOC with the 116th Infantry Brigade Combat Team and remains as a communications specialist said, "The JDOC is now more efficient and better facilitates communication between the battle captain, communications specialists, IZ Police and intelligence sections."

When asked if there were any other changes for the JDOC on the horizon Maj. Chuck Booze, chief of operations said, "We are constantly looking to refine our current procedures to insure we are operating at an optimal level, we see this as just the beginning for the JDOC."

Future plans for the JDOC include a larger workspace, better displays, communications equipment and bringing in more liaison elements from organizations within the IZ who can contribute to its unique operations.



Photo by Sgt. Shawn Riley, JASG Public Affairs

Coordination and cooperation is the key to success in the JDOC. The revised workstation layout has greatly improved the staff's ability to coordinate their efforts.



Department of Public Works uses team concepts

by Lt. Col. Warren Griffis, JASG-S Installations Directorate

The Installations Directorate has one of the most diverse group of folks in the JASG-C, joint billets that is. I'm referring to the Department of Public Works (DPW). There is a healthy mix of Navy, Air Force and Army folks in uniform. DPW also employs three Iraqi civilian engineers who double as linguists.

The DPW is managed by a dynamic leader who runs his team much like a football or basketball coach. Make no mistake, everyone in DPW knows who is boss, but namely by title. Maj. Jerry Sanchez is an Air Force civil engineer with a knack for calling plays that get the most out of his team. Sanchez infuses fun and energy into the DPW working environment. The supporting cast, or assistant coaches, are also engineering officers. The senior engineer is Lt. Cmdr. Dan Rochford, a Navy aerospace engineer—a true Rocket Scientist. The senior operations officer is Maj. Eric Tuck, an Army National Guard combat engineer,

comes to the team from the 120th Combat Engineer Battalion. The senior maintenance officer is Capt. Billy Allen, another Air Force civil engineer. Rounding out the team is Capt. Josh Lawson, who is also a combat engineer from the 120th Combat Engineer Battalion. These guys call the plays for Sanchez and the DPW team charges down the field.

One of the most colorful members of DPW team is Chief Warrant Officer Doug Izer, who is an artilleryman and an engineer project manager in his civilian career back in Oklahoma.

The non-commissioned officers (NCO) are headed up by Master Sgt. Louis Gonzalez or "Gonzo" as he is affectionately called. Gonzalez has an easy job, since he has a team full of highly motivated and skilled NCOs and enlisted servicemembers. Sanchez and Gonzalez



Photo by Sgt. Shawn Riley, JASG Public Affairs

Military and Iraqi civilian membs of the DPW team pose together near the crossed sabers. Pictured are (left to right) Petty Officer 1st Class Ricky Jones, Mr. Ahmed, Petty Officer 2nd Class Chavaris Jennet, Mr. Sabah, Ms. Shafah and Mr. Basam.

are supported by Staff Sgt. Cesar Cuellar who receives and evaluates statements of work and work requests, followed by processing for production.

The NCOs and enlisted in the DPW are arrayed with Navy and Air Force engineering-specific technicians joined by a cast of Oklahoma Army National Guard members to design projects and manage contracts with an annual budget of approximately \$30 million.

Among these awesome Airmen, Sailors and Soldiers are the folks that do the real work. Tech. Sgt. Tara Winder, an engineering technician, designs plans and manages many of our large projects. Petty Officer 1st Class Chevaris Jennett "Chevy" uses his electrical expertise as the project manager for the Ehtifalat power sub-station. Petty Officer 1st Class Ricky Jones, who is a Seabee, and Staff Sgt. Christina Matlock collaborate



Photo by Lt. Col. Rhonda McGuire, JASG Public Affairs

Petty Officer 1st Class Gary Barber inspects an electrical control panel at a water pumping station in the International Zone.

Continued on page 14



Many JASG-C members eligible for Combat Action Badge

by Master Sgt. Paul McElveen, JASG-C Office of Human Resource Management

The Combat Action Badge (CAB) was approved by Army Chief of Staff Gen. Peter J. Schoomaker on May 2, 2005, to provide special recognition to Soldiers who personally engage or are engaged by the enemy. September 18, 2001, is the effective date for the new award.

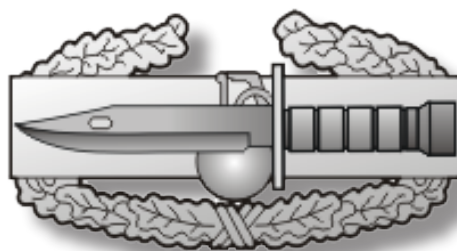
“Warfare is still a human endeavor,” Schoomaker said. “Our intent is to recognize Soldiers who demonstrate and live the Warrior Ethos.”

The CAB, whose design features both a bayonet and grenade, may be awarded to any Soldier performing assigned duties in an area where hostile fire pay or imminent danger pay is authorized, who is personally present and actively engaging or being engaged by the enemy, and performing satisfactorily in accordance with the prescribed rules of engagement, according to the specific eligibility requirements.

Award of the CAB is not limited by one’s branch or military occupa-

tional specialty; however, to receive the CAB, a Soldier must not be assigned or attached to a unit that would qualify the Soldier for the CIB or CMB.

Per MNC-I Wartime Awards SOP: In accordance with reference



AR 600-8-1 and for the purpose of awarding the CAB, attacks by mortars, rockets, rocket-propelled grenades, improved explosive devices, and suicide bombers qualify for the badge. However if the application is made for those specific incidents, the narrative must include the following: proximity of the service member to the impacted area in meters and whether the service

member could have reasonably been injured by the blast, detonation, or explosion.

The CAB may be awarded to members of the United States Air Force, United States Marine Corps, or Soldiers of a Foreign Service, but only if assigned to a U.S. Army unit and all basic requirements are met. Sister service personnel assigned to a joint activity are ineligible for the CAB. Awards to other U.S. Armed Forces must have concurrence from the respective service prior to awarding.

Members of the JASG-C who meet the qualifications for the CAB are encouraged to submit the following documents to request the award:

- Soldier’s 2823 with original signature
- 1 supporting 2823 with original signature, if a witness was present
- TCS Deployment Orders
- DA Form 4187-1-R and 4187

T-Birds take the money

Continued from page 5

Jim Gill, “We had contingency ops used for a short order notice.” All branches of the service were involved in the money move. Marines provided security, coordination with the IZ police, KBR and other entities allowed for fast execution.

“Soldiers were not briefed about the money move until the night of the mission,” said Gill. “We provide on-call support and do not discuss. It was one of those things you’ll never do – hold a million dollars – it’s a bundle only so big, it was exciting,” said Gill.



Photo by Cpt. Geoff Legler, JASG Public Affairs
Members of the JASG-C carry \$20,000 bundles of U.S. currency out of the Presidential palace to be packed into shipping containers.

Staff Sgt. Jonathan Carter provided additional security as the money traveled across Iraq. “I treated this mission the same as if I was protecting the commanding general – keep situational awareness – let no one close to the money – is anyone conspiring against us?” Carter said the mission reminded him of the movie *Three Kings*, which was about Saddam’s money and it made him think even more about security. It seems this mission was straight out of a movie.

¹ Lt.Col Laura Landes, “Follow The Money: the Army Finance Crops and Iraqi Financial Independence,” *The Military Review* (Mar-Apr 2008).



While away you may need a “Stay” to protect your interests

by Cpt. Joel Kintsel, JASG-C Office of the Judge Advocate General

Though not likely, it is possible that while you are away from home and deployed in a combat zone, someone may decide that your absence presents an excellent opportunity to take you to court. Not to worry, federal law provides specific protections for deployed service members under the Service Members Civil Relief Act (SCRA).


Under the SCRA, if you are on active duty or have been on active duty in the previous ninety days and have received notice of a judicial or administrative proceeding, you may make an application to the court or administrative body for a stay of the proceeding. You must make application before final judgment is pronounced by the court or administrative body.

Such application should include a letter stating that your current duty requirements with the military materially affect your ability to appear in court. You should include in the letter a date when you will be available to appear. Additionally, you should obtain a letter from your commanding officer stating that your current military duty prevents you from appearing and that the commander will not authorize military leave at the time the letter is written.

Once received, the court or administrative body must stay the proceeding for at least ninety days. If you are granted a stay, you may apply again for an additional stay based on the continuing material affect of military duty on your ability to appear in court. You must

submit the same information provided in the first application when seeking an additional stay. Keep in mind that the court has the authority to decide on its own to stay the action for an additional period beyond the initial 90 days.

If for some reason the court decides not to grant an additional stay, the SCRA requires that the court appoint an attorney to represent you as the proceeding moves forward without your physical presence.

Keep in mind the following: an application for a stay does not mean that you have agreed that the court has jurisdiction over you or your case and fines or penalties named in a contract cannot be imposed on you during the period of a stay. 

DPW team concept

Continued from page 12

and execute concrete projects from T-wall barriers to slabs for basketball courts; Petty Officer 1st Class Gary Barber, another Seabee, uses his expertise in the design and execution of contracts for water lines, plumbing, sewer lift stations and wells.

Also involved are Staff Sgt. Charlotte Washington who provides contract oversight of debris and area beautification through trash collection and street sweepers. Sgt. James Ellison and Spc. Bradley Johnson provide oversight and coordinate with KBR heavy equipment operators in emplacing, moving and reallocating thousands of concrete barriers and bunkers throughout the IZ. Tech. Sgt.

Christopher Wilson and Tech. Sgt. Emerson Bellamy, both Air Force civil engineer troops, Spc. Terrace Rose and the other DPW subject matter experts cover IZ zones and ensure infrastructure repairs and facility requirements are executed. In addition, Rose manages a construction escort contract that exceeds \$200,000 and Tech. Sgt. Stephanie Pickering manages the Iraqi Engineer contact worth \$150,000. Sgt. 1st Class Wally Cooley, as the Maintenance NCOIC, brings his HVAC and project management skills to supervise all Force Protection project and service contracts.

The DPW is fortunate to have the local expertise of Mr. Sabah Al Jumaily, Mr. Basim Al Madfai, and Mr. Furat Mumin who are

professional engineers and provide critical knowledge of Iraqi ministries and key leaders in the various trades, such as electrical contracting, mechanical and construction. Sabah and Furat serve as senior and lead engineers on several of our DPW projects.

It is not always business for DPW personnel...Fit-to-Fight and morale are also emphasized. They conduct physical training together, DPW-wide physical fitness and other internal competitions.

The DPW has gelled very well and function as a team as though they've served together for years. Sanchez is the winningest coach in DPW history. His leadership and attitude toward teamwork has produced a very effective team that is hard to beat.



Flying the not so 'Friendly Skies' over Iraq

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

Intra-theatre air travel in a combat zone presents challenges anytime. Personnel can find friendly faces in the Embassy Air office to tackle travel requests. Despite the recent pounding of indirect fire attacks, customer air requests for the month of March remained high. Initially organized in 2004, Embassy Air provides air transportation to Department of Defense, Department of State, and the U.S. Ambassador for movement in and around Iraq.

Command Sgt. Maj. Jack Musgrove is the transportation manager; he oversees all the air and ground transportation. Musgrove's primary mission is handling the U.S. Ambassador's rotor wing assets. He schedules the aircraft and crews for the Ambassador and his Chief of

Mission staff. The office has supported many Embassy Ambassadors to include: Turkey, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Qatar.

The recent IDF attacks have brought changes to the air mission. Helicopters now land briefly and timelines are tighter. "We lost an entire aviation company which got moved to support operations in Basra and that hurt us – less helos had a ripple effect all the way around," said Musgrove. There was damage to LZ Washington and equipment during the recent attacks. The danger from attacks led to changes in air procedures. Passengers now have five minutes to load; prior to this they had 15-20 minutes to load the helicopter.



Musgrove works closely with the Ambassador's staff in order to coordinate air movement dates and times. He builds

an Air Mission Request and sends it to the supporting aviation unit in Balad. Musgrove is in constant contact with the Aviation Battle Captains and flight crews to ensure they are on time to make appropriate pick ups. Musgrove also has a three person KBR team that handles all Department of State fixed wing assets.

Sgt. Michael Cook is the Rotary Wing NCO and handles all Department of Defense and Department of State personnel that require air transportation around Iraq. Individuals wanting air

transportation must fill out an Air Mission Request at least 96 hours prior to departure. Cook then submits it to one of the aviation assets Marne Express, Iron Horse, Catfish or Core Air that supports the mission. Cook also works with the liaison officers from different agencies, like the U.S. Agency for International Development, Italian, and British personnel that may need assistance getting flights.

"Attacks and weather have caused a cancellation of 120 flights," said Sgt. Michael Cook. Personnel have the option to schedule a Rhino ride, if air support cannot be provided. Cook said the flights he works for intra-theatre travel usually involve a two hour radius from the IZ.

"People have been frustrated, but understanding because of all the rocket attacks," said Cook. All customers were provided travel options during the recent IDF attacks.

On the average the office supports 600 individual transportation moves per month.



Photo by Sgt. Shawn Riley, JASG Public Affairs

Command Sgt. Maj. Jack Musgrove (above) and Sgt. Michael Cook (insert) manage the Embassy Air office which coordinates rotary wing travel throughout Iraq.

JASG-C Commanding General
Brig. Gen. Myles L. Deering

Public Affairs Officer
Lt. Col. Rhonda McGuire

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JASG-C Birthdays April 15th to May 14th

Staff Sgt. Alejandro L. Acosta
Command/ Headquarters Company
April 28

Staff Sgt. Jonathan H. Carter
Command
May 4th

Sgt. 1st Class Michael Treanor
Security/BDOC
May 6th

Staff Sgt. Tara Winder
Installation/ Engineering
May 8th

Maj. Jimmy J. Thomas
Security/Badging
May 10th

Master Sgt. Louis Gonzales
Installation/ Operations
May 13th

2nd Lt. Jared J. Mock
Support Operations
May 14th

Sgt. Richard E. Turlington
Command
May 14th

Shea Weise

Continued from page 10

integrity comes in as one of the more important of the Army values. And, with that comes respect. Because if you respect your fellow Soldiers then you can definitely trust them to do the duty that they enlisted to do.”

Where do these values come from? You can learn a lot from the people you look up to. Weise definitely looks up to her sisters Geneva and Sky. “They’re really strong spiritually and are very smart,” said Weise. “They’ve been through a lot and were able to overcome the obstacles in their lives and can always make me feel better.”

Jesus is probably the most influential person in her life, especially being a Chaplain’s assistant. She uses a lot of his values as her own. Geneva, her older sister still lives in San Antonio where she is currently having a house for her and her family. Even though her sister Sky or “bitsy” is younger she has taught her the power of prayer goes a long way, and how to stand up and fight for what she believes in. Sky is currently going to the University of Oklahoma.

Where are you going in life? What are your goals? Weise is very familiar with these questions. Her main goal

in the military is becoming a Commissioned Officer. She is planning on finishing up school and getting her commission. Getting more and more education is essential to climbing the ranks in the military. As an officer she will be able to learn how to become the effective leader she wants to be.

With no prior deployments before this one, she has a lot to learn about being an effective leader. When I asked if she had prior military experience she responded with, “No, Just hunting with my dad.” Weise’s father, Che Weise, spent three years in the Marines. Now he works at Tinker Air Force Base, and is about to retire from there.

Weise does have ambitions outside of the military. Her number one goal outside of the military is to build her relationship with God. She also plans on finishing up her college with a degree in biology. According to Weise, she doesn’t need much in life. “I don’t want to be rich or famous,” Weise said. “I just want to live comfortably.” Later in life she wants to move north and start a big family and own a big dog. Weise really likes the cold. And, after a burning hot deployment to Iraq who could blame her.

JASG helps local school

Continued from page 8

great deal of engineering expertise to the project. It is his job to ensure that the contractors follow the statement of work and don’t cut corners.

“It’s good to see the return on investment we get with projects like this one,” said Izer. I think the JASG is helping these children get a good education and at the same time creating a lot of goodwill between the Iraqis and the Coalition Forces.”

The Principal of the Al-Watan school is very appreciative for everything the JASG-C has done for her and her staff, but most of all for what they have done for the school’s students.

“I am very thankful for all of the help the JASG has provided [to the school],” said the Principal. “That help has allowed our students to improve in their school work. Whenever a member of the JASG visits the school, all of the students are very happy to see them and the students always thank them for making their school a better place.”

As of April 15, the Al-Watan School project is more than 70 percent complete and is scheduled to be fully completed by mid-May of this year.



JASG-C around the IZ



Above: Spc. Jarod Smith (left) poses with an Iraqi Soldier near the Assassins Gate.



Airman 1st Class Senior Airman Clinton McCarley checks a local Iraqi's drivers license during a routine traffic stop near in the IZ.



Left: Members of the JASG-C pose for a group shot before providing route security for Vice President Dick Cheney's visit to the IZ.



Staff Sgt. John Carter, 1st Lt. Brent Weece and Richard Turlington (left to right) stand in front of the Iraqi Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.



Below: Petty Officer 1st Class Ricky Jones poses near a fountain outside of the Al-Rasheed hotel.



Awards



Maj. Kerry Abbot
Defense Meritorious
Service Medal



Petty Officer
1st Class
Gary Barber
Defense Meritorious
Service Medal



Tech. Sgt.
Michael Perez
Army Achievement
Medal



Airman 1st Class
Joseph Donahue
Army Achievement
Medal



Airman 1st Class
Durward Cates
Army Achievement
Medal



Airman 1st Class
Erik Tycksen
Army Achievement
Medal



2nd Lt.
Lavonda Cathey
company grade
officer of the month



Staff Sgt.
Stephen Roberts
NCO of the month
(February)



Staff Sgt.
James Stone
NCO of the month
(March)



Spc. Terrace Rose
Enlisted Soldier
of the month
(February)



Airman 1st Class
Durward Cates
Enlisted Soldier
of the month
(March)



Staff Sgt.
Vaughn Wilcox
Commander's Coin



Lt. Cmdr.
Michael Tinsley
Commander's Coin



Maj.
James Gill
Commander's Coin



Spc. Jennifer Oliver,
Sgt. Michael Cook,
Sgt. John Young
Certificates of
Appreciation



Promotions



Maj. Cary Bryant
promoted to
Lieutenant Colonel



Master Sgt. Jeff Hale
promoted to
Sergeant Major

Opinions

What is the number one thing you miss from home?



Sgt. Brandon Williamson
Human Resource Management

"Being able to unwind with the family, Going back to the CHU after work just isn't the same."



Petty Officer 1st Class Romulo Bahamon
Human Resource Management

"Family, I miss my wife and kids."



1st Sgt. Sammy King.
Directorate of Information Management

"I miss the children."



Sgt. Muriel Irwin
Judge Advocate General

"Just my freedom to do what I want."



Lt Col. Philip Defenbach
Comptroller

"Beer."



Capt. Scott Glenn
Directorate of Information Management

"I miss mowing the lawn."

