



# The Duck & Cover



INTERNATIONAL ZONE, BAGHDAD, IRAQ

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## 45th IBCT "Thunderbirds" take command of JASG-C

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

The Headquarters Company of the 45th Infantry Brigade Combat Team (IBCT), Oklahoma Army National Guard, arrived in Baghdad in early February to begin their duties as the Joint Area Support Group (JASG) at the U.S. Embassy Annex.

The 45th is now responsible for the administration of the International Zone (IZ), formally known as the Green Zone, which is located in the heart of Baghdad.

There are an estimated 30,000 civilians currently living in the five square mile IZ. In addition to the civilians, there are also more than 10,000 individuals working and living in the IZ that are employed by the Department of Defense, Department of State, Government of Iraq, as well as, more than 20 other agencies and or-

ganizations.

A large portion of the 45th's Headquarters' mission over the next eight months will be to prepare Iraqi owned properties

and living space and will be returned to the Iraqis in a better state than they were found. The 45th is also involved in overseeing the construction of several

Griffis, deputy director of installations for the International Zone Transition. "We are fortunate to have a number of individuals on our team that deal with property management and new construction in their civilian occupations. Their civilian skills will have a direct impact on the number of properties we return to the Iraqi government and the number of new construction projects that we are able to complete."

The 45th is also responsible for the administration of five Forward Operating Bases (FOBs) within the IZ. These FOBs know as FOB Freedom, Freedom Compound, FOB Blackhawk, FOB Union I and FOB Union III house and feed numerous military and government agencies that operate within the IZ and greater Baghdad.

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Photo by Capt. Geoff Legler, JASG Public Affairs

**Command Sgt. Maj. Dean Bridges (left) and Col. Lawrence Fleishman unfurl the 45th IBCT colors during a transition of authority ceremony on February 11th.**

in the IZ currently being used by Coalition Forces to be returned to their rightful owners.

Most of the properties are currently being used by Coalition Forces for office

schools, an electrical transformer station and more than two dozen other construction projects.

"We have an extremely intricate piece of the puzzle," Said Lt. Col. Warren

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BRIGADIER GENERAL

# ★ MYLES L. DEERING ★

The Thunderbirds are finally here! After 12 months of preparation, we are here and conducting our mission as the Joint Area Support Group – Central for Multi-National Force- Iraq. I have every confidence that we will accomplish this mission in the same superb fashion as Thunderbirds throughout history have accomplished theirs – with pride, enthusiasm and distinction. We carry the legacy and tradition of the 45th wherever we go and our performance reflects our pride in that tradition, our great State, and our Nation.



task at hand, always remember that the relationships we build and the experiences we garner as we go will be with us, not only over the next few months, but throughout the remainder of our lives. The work we do here

over the next several months will help build a nation for generations to come. It will provide the people of Iraq with the tools necessary to carry on long after we have departed. Very few people have that opportunity. You do.

I ask you to always remember your family, friends and fellow soldiers at home. It is not an easy time for them. It is important that

you assure and console your families and friends, much as they do you. Our family and friends are the cornerstone of our readiness. Without their love and support, our jobs would be far more difficult. Their support for you as soldiers, sailors and airmen allow us to be what we are. Thank them for that.

To our fellow services working with us in the JASG – welcome to the Thunderbird Team! I want each of you to know that you are an integral part of what we do and who we are. I want you to feel at home with us.

Always Forward!  
BG Myles L. Deering

The Command Sergeant Major

COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR



# DEAN BRIDGES



With our arrival in Baghdad we as the 45th Infantry Brigade Combat Team have yet again added to the proud history of our origination. In defining that history our actions, dedication and commitment to our mission is what will be remembered. I have full confidence every one of you will do what is right, but I must remind



you that our success not only affects our history but the history of Iraq. As time goes on we must constantly look for ways to improve, continue to challenge ourselves in all aspects of our jobs and believe that due to these actions Iraq and the world will be a better place. This mission truly shows that we are part of something bigger than

ourselves. This mission is a great opportunity to contribute to an overall good. I have trust and confidence that we as an organization will add to the unparalleled history of the Thunderbirds. Always remember the responsibilities, and honor that is associated with wearing the Thunderbird.

“ALWAYS FORWARD”  
CSM J. Dean Bridges



# CHAPLAIN (COLONEL) JACK BYAS



In the 1930's a missionary woman was having a series of Bible Studies for women in Ethiopia. As the meetings were concluding on the last day, the missionary noticed an Ethiopian woman running down the road toward her.

As the woman arrived, she was sweaty and out of breathe. She kept saying, "Thank you, Lord, for letting me arrive on time." The missionary thought this was strange since the meetings were

over. Finally, the Ethiopian woman, catching her breath, explained. The missionary had said during the meetings that they should give offerings from what God had blessed them. She had nothing to give. So she sat up at night after the meetings, when everyone was asleep, and wove cotton into thread.

She, then on the last night, after the meeting was over and everyone

was asleep, walked miles to sell her thread when the market opened.

It took her over half a day to walk back. Thus she said, "Thank you, Lord, for letting me arrive on time." She then opened her hand and gave her offering, all that she had earned, the equivalent of 4 U.S. cents.

Sometimes we may think we don't have anything to give or we can't serve others. But God in heaven was touched and pleased by this woman's gift, and He is pleased when we give to him and his cause in serving others even when it may seem small to us.



## Worship and Bible study 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

### Bible Study Opportunities

**Monday**  
1930

Women's Bible Study  
@ Embassy Annex  
RM# S-214B

**Tuesday**  
2015

Topical Bible Study  
@ Embassy Annex Chapel

**Wednesday**  
2000

Bible Study  
@ Embassy RM# S-111

**Thursday**  
1900

Men's Fellowship  
@ Embassy RM# M-109

**Friday**  
1730

Topical Bible Study  
@ Embassy RM# M-109



# Installations puts new focus on public safety

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

The JASG is an ever changing entity. As the tactical and political environment of Iraq changes, the JASG must adapt to it. The latest adaptation is the addition of the Department of Public Safety under the supervision of the Installations Directorate. The Officer in Charge of the new department, Col. Jane Curtis said, "Our number one priority is to stand up the Iraq Fire Department".

This newly formed section faces a number of obstacles. As everyone knows, to work in the International Zone (IZ) one must have a badge. Sgt. Jeff Mackey, non-commissioned officer in charge of the Department of Public Safety, is currently processing a number of badge applicants for members of the Iraqi fire department.

In addition to the challenge of getting the fire fighters badges, Curtis and her deputy, Lt. Col. Phillip Wynn, must facilitate the fire department in their communication needs. The Iraqi Fire Department doesn't have any form of communication at this time. When there is an emergency in the IZ, there is no way to coordinate a response between

local authorities. In addition to not being able to communicate with one another, local Iraqi authorities are currently unable to communicate with elements of the Multi-National

Public Safety is working with local authorities to help them understand the importance of first responders being trained in first aid. Curtis' staff has already assisted the Iraqi

Fire Department in their efforts to bring a new fire/rescue truck into the IZ.

Fire safety is not this new department's only responsibility. Curtis is currently

revising the Mass Casualty plan for the Embassy Annex. She is attempting to produce a comprehensive plan to encompass



Photo by Sgt. Shawn Riley, JASG Public Affairs

**Lt. Col Phillip Wynn (right) talks to the Iraqi IZ Fire Chief (left) shortly after Wynn assisted in the delivery of the new fire/rescue truck behind them.**

Force or local contractors.

Wynn is also attempting to get Iraqi Fire Fighters additional emergency first aid training. To most Americans the idea of a firefighter having first aid skills and even being paramedics is common place. Here in Baghdad many of the fire fighters believe that having some knowledge of how to treat a medical emergency is far out of their scope of practice. The staff of the Department of

the entire IZ.

Her goal is to bring all the organizations in the IZ into a cohesive team to help with triage, treatment and evacuation of casualties. The tasks these soldiers have been given may seem daunting, likewise the importance of these projects are equally enormous. What the service members of the JASG are doing today will affect the Iraqi people for years to come.

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



# Good communication skills make a tough job easier

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

One thing that distinguishes the Army National Guard and Reserve from the active Army is the wide range of civilian skills Guard and Reserve soldiers bring to their military occupations. Dealing with the general public is not something that most active duty soldiers do on a regular basis. But, many reserve component soldiers interact with the public as part of their civilian jobs. This interaction helps build good communication skills, which can prove invaluable when dealing with the local populace everyday in a place like Baghdad.

Staff Sgt. Mark Auld, a member of the 45th Infantry Brigade Combat Team currently deployed in Baghdad, knows how important good communication skills are when dealing with the general public. And in his case, it is the Iraqi general public.

Auld is the non-commissioned officer in charge of the International Zone badging office. It is his office's responsibility to issue identification and access badges to local nationals needing admittance to the International Zone (IZ).

Individuals receiving IZ badges can range from a local electrician to a member of the Iraqi Council of Representatives. In an average day, the IZ badging office issues 150-200 badges.

Being a recruiter back in Oklahoma has taught Auld how to re-

main at ease and maintain control of a tense situation.

"Keeping your cool can sometimes be difficult when the person you are dealing with speaks Arabic and is not very pleased to learn that their badge application has been delayed or rejected," said Auld.

Auld didn't actually have to deploy to Iraq with the 45th, in fact he had to convince his chain of

we have to finish it," said Auld.

Auld joined the Army in 1987 as a field artillery forward observer at Fort Drum, NY. In 1992, Auld left the Army as a single parent of three children. He soon went to work as a photographer for the National Labor Relations Board, taking photos of labor disputes and strikes. After that, in order to spend more time at home with his children, he went to work for C&C Machine as a computer added drafting specialist.

"Out of all my accomplishments in life, I believe my children have to be the best one," Auld said.

Auld joined the Oklahoma Army National Guard in 2003 after stopping at a National Guard recruiting office to ask directions. The recruiter gave him directions, and as Auld was leaving said, "You carry yourself like you've been in the army before." Auld reenlisted that very day. And within a year, he replaced the recruiter that recruited him. Auld has spent his entire recruiting career with Company D, 180th Infantry in Shawnee, Okla.

As a recruiter, Auld had found his niche, communicating the virtues of the Oklahoma Army National Guard to perspective recruits, and he soon became one of the best recruiters in the nation.

Last June, Auld found himself tied for 10th place in the nation



Photo by Sgt. Shawn Riley, JASG Public Affairs

command back home that it was a good idea to let him go.

Auld wanted to deploy with the 45th because he felt it was only fair that he should spend some time in one of the places that his recruits have been sent to. He also said he believes in what we are doing in Iraq. "We are here and we have to help the Iraqis get back on their feet. We started the job and now

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# IZ servicemembers volunteer at Iraqi scout camp

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

Nestled in the heart of the International Zone (IZ), lies Saddam Hussein's former hunting grounds. A seven acre piece of ground devoted to hunting various prey while he was in power. Many years ago, the acreage was taken by force from the rightful land owners by Saddam's regime. In 2003, Ambassador Paul Bremer formed the Green Zone Council for boy and girl scouts living in the IZ. Shortly after the council was formed, Bremer gave them the hunting grounds so they would have a place to conduct their activities.

Recently, servicemembers from all branches serving in the IZ came together to support the Iraqi Scouts at the hunting grounds during a one day scout camp. In addition to servicemembers, other volunteers including state department employees, government contractors and local Iraqi teachers and interpreters came out to lend a hand.

"There are around 150,000 boy and girl scouts throughout Iraq,"

said 1st Lt. Amy Staub, outgoing Joint Area Support Group scouting coordinator. On the day of the camp, the scouts, who reside in a nearby apartment complex, were escorted to the scout camp by their Iraqi school teachers.

The scouts spent the day playing games, learning how to tie knots; weaving bracelets and learning a number of important first aid techniques. Spartan furnishings populate the camp which contains some picnic tables and concrete duck and cover bunkers. The Green Zone Council volunteer committee hopes to upgrade the camp in the near future with more equipment.

Ramazan Kuvly, of Nashville, Tenn., works as an Iraqi liaison for the scouts under the advisor for the Iraqi Minister of Education. "There is a deed problem for this piece of land, some people still claim parts of the land and some land is okay to be given to the scouts,"



Photo by Cpt. Geoff Legler, JASG Public Affairs

Sgt. Shawn Riley (kneeling) and Capt. Katina Minor (laying down) demonstrate the proper way to assist an unconscious person for the Green Zone Boy Scouts.

said Kuvly.

Kuvly, a US citizen of Kurdish background, left Iraq for the US in 1992. He returned to his native country nearly 18 months ago to serve as a civilian contractor. He is part of a group of scouting advisors that would like to see the land purchased for the scout program.

One of the Green Zone Council's goals is to get the Iraqi scouts readmitted to the World Scouting Organization. "The Iraqi Council of Ministry wants to organize young minds to be the future of Iraqi society," said Kuvly.

Capt. Jeff Becker, a member of the Air Force security police flight assigned to the IZ, provides security to the buses which bring the students from their apartment complex to the camp. "My predecessor was heavily involved in the scout program. It was easy to continue since we provide escort to the vehicles that bring the scouts to their camp."

Maj. Tom Sadiq, a member of the



Photo by Capt. Geoff Legler, JASG Public Affairs

Members of the Green Zone Girl Scouts work on a team building exercise during which they must rope and a bicycle inner tube to lift a can and move it out of the circle.

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# Embassy Annex and JASG-C celebrate Black History Month

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

What does black history mean to you? Well Derno McCary Sr., from Louisiana, who is a regular at the Embassy Annex chapel, could tell you that it is an opportunity to look back and reflect on the contributions that the African American community has contributed to the history of America as a whole.

"The significance of us celebrating Black History Month in Iraq is letting the Iraqis know that we are helping them and fighting for their freedom," McCary says. "Just like the African Americans did in America." He was the master of ceremony for the Black History Month celebration on the evening of February 28th in the Palace lounge.

Chaplain (Col.) Jack Byas opened



Photo by Spc. Leslie Goble, JASG Public Affairs  
Col. Verb Washington, tells the Black History Month celebrantes, "This is not a night to praise me. This is the night to give thanks for the African Americans that led the way to what we have today".



Photo by Spc. Leslie Goble, JASG Public Affairs

**Civilian contractors, US government employees and JASG-C servicemembers raise their voices in song during the Black History Month celebrating held in the Green Bean Cafe on February 28th.**

the evening's celebration with a prayer, and then handed the microphone off to the Multi-National Voices of Praise Choir who sang on multiple occasions throughout the night. Among the songs they sung were "High and Lifted Up" and Holy Spirit/I Will Sing Halleluiah. Members of the audience joined in and sang each song with an energy that was electrifying.

After the first song, McCary introduced the guest speaker, Col. Verb Washington, who serves as the MNF-I STRATOPS (PM-NOC). Washington began his comments with, "This is not a night to praise me. This is the night to give thanks for the African Americans that led the way to what we have today".

During his comments, Washington spoke about his life growing up and what the African American

community was going through at the time. He also touched on how the African American struggle for equality in America could teach the Iraqis something about themselves.

Following Washington's remarks, the choir and audience sang another song, and then McCary and the attendees paid tribute to the civil rights activists of the '50s and '60s and other well known African Americans. Among those honored were Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Rosa Parks and Jackie Robinson.

With the night drawing to an end, the choir's last song of the evening was the Negro National Anthem, "Lift Every Voice and Sing". First sang in 1900, the anthem was later sung by children in Jacksonville, Fla., in 1912 to celebrate Abraham Lincoln's birthday.

# Badging office working hard to keep IZ safe, secure

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

Our badging personnel have one of the most challenging jobs in the JASG-C. This section processes all the badge applications for the local Iraqis that require access to the International Zone and other locations throughout the nation.

applicants. Spec. Trisha Haynes conducts the check. "We check about 200 applicant backgrounds a day," said Hayes. The background check serves a dual role. First, it clears the applicant so they can gain access to the IZ. Second, it allows for the col-

bio-metric information is stored on their badge. When the Iraqi's come through the check points to gain access to designated areas their biometrics will be checked on site and compared to the information stored on the card. This prevents unauthorized personnel from obtaining a fake identification. In also prevents someone who wishes to gain unauthorized entry into the IZ from doing so.

The badge office is located near the Government of Iraq offices and Convention Center in the area known as Ocean Cliffs. Due to the high profile nature of this mission only the very best of the JASG-C are represented here. Many of the applicants are average Iraqi citizens but can also be a distinguished Iraqi government official. Pfc. Lisa Olivas produced two badges using a remote biometric enrollment system. "She traveled to the Iraqi Council of Representatives (COR) and did two enrollments for the 1st and 2nd deputy speakers of the COR. One enrollment was completed in the deputy's office and the second at the official's home. We had tea and visited also," said Maj. Jimmy Thomas, Badge OIC. Soldiers must remain patient and courteous to the Iraqis. In many cases these service-members are the first impression that the Iraqis see of many Americans.



Photo by Sgt. Shawn Riley, JASG Public Affairs

**Pfc. Lisa Olivas inputs data from a badge application so that a background check can be completed on the badge applicant.**

In order to get an IZ badge, the Iraqis must first have a sponsor that has authorization to escort local nationals into the IZ. The application must then be submitted in person and background check completed.

The Judication Section then conducts a background check of the Iraqi

lection of human intelligence which can be used to see if the people applying have any kind of association to insurgent groups.

The person's identity is then checked through bio-metrics. Such bio-metric information includes photograph, fingerprints and retinal scans. Their

## Iraqi Scout Camp in IZ

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Multi-National Security Transition Coalition, said, "The goal is for the Iraqis leaders to be at the forefront, while the (coalition) volunteers prefer to be coordinators."

Steve Mehringer, a scouting volunteer stationed in the IZ with

the State Department, recently coordinated the shipment of \$25,000 worth of donated popcorn from the States to help raise money for the scouts. Free shipping for the popcorn from the US to Baghdad has provided by DHL. Popcorn sales raised more than \$3,600 for the scout program according to

Mehringer. "We are working on a second event to fund raiser for the program," said Mehringer.

If you would like to volunteer with the Green Zone Council, please attend a council meeting. Meetings are held at 11:30 each Wednesday in room B104 in the Embassy Annex.



# BURP team working to consolidate International Zone

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

What is BURP? No, it's not the gastric reaction you experience while chugging down those soft drinks at the chow hall. It's the catchy acronym for JASG-C's Department of Basing and Urban Planning which falls under the Installations Directorate. The department was formed in February of 2008 via a merger of the former International Zone (IZ) Transition Team and the Real Property Office.

command of the JASG in late January of this year, BURP received an influx of extremely motivated, high-impact individuals who quickly gelled into a productive, joint team. Of course, adjusting to an engineering role did require a bit of enlightenment for our newly added Infantrymen.

"As an Artilleryman, I couldn't have been more excited when they told me that I would be the project officer on a project to demolish

Lt. Col. Dan Fuller, basing officer for basing and urban planning, is conducting the detailed unit-by-unit planning necessary to execute the IZ Consolidation Plan. Capt. Terry Hale, environmental officer for basing and urban planning, also provides critical support to the Basing Branch by overseeing the environmental program and enforcing standards. "My work with the FOB Mayor Cells has been a great learning process. The challenge is to program the consolidation of the FOBs and continue to provide billets and mission support for the IZ. It has been a great learning experience," said Fuller.

Gibson is developing urban renewal, utilities and infrastructure improvement projects to benefit the entire IZ. He has already completed a demolition package requesting \$120M to remove many of the bombed out hulks currently littering the IZ. This is the first step toward a new and more attractive IZ. With the assistance of Maj. Kris Evans, assistant basing officer, Gibson also leads four infrastructure teams, leveraging the expertise of the US Army Corps of Engineers, Iraq Transition Assistance Office, Joint Operations Center for Reconstruction, Provincial Reconstruction Teams, and Baghdad municipal agencies, to plan complete overhauls of the IZ's power, water, wastewater, communications and transportation systems.

Capt. Roy Banes, real property officer, skillfully manages 93 individual property leases supporting



Photo by Spc. Leslie Goble, JASG Public Affairs

**Staff Sgt. Steve Roberts (left), the BURP non-commissioned officer in-charge of the BURP, and Spc. Bradley Johnson, also a member of the BURP team, supervise the off-loading of duck and cover bunkers at FOB Freedom.**

BURP's mission is to execute the extremely complex task of comprehensively planning the consolidation of US military forces in the IZ, facilitating the return of real property to the Iraqi government, and leading community planning efforts to revitalize the IZ into a vibrant Iraqi federal government and diplomatic center.

When the 45th Infantry Brigade Combat Team rolled in, taking

some of the landmark structures of Hussein's regime. Of course, then they popped my bubble when they said we couldn't use explosives - Rats!" said Lt. Col. Louis Gibson, planning officer for basing and urban planning.

Now fully engaged, the BURP team is progressively stepping out to accomplish the mission, identifying and surmounting obstacles along the way.

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# The JASG-C Command Directorate serves many functions

by Lt. Col. Louis Wilham, JASG-C Office of Command Directorate

The question I have received more than any other since our arrival in Baghdad is: "So, what is the 'Command Directorate'?" I am always happy to answer and spread the gospel, if you will, of our mission. The Command Directorate is one of the four directorates of the Joint Area Support Group - Central, or JASG-C.

We are a joint operation comprised of 55 personnel in five sections. We have Army, mostly comprised of members of the 45th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, Navy and Air Force personnel, along with one civilian employee. Our sections are broken down as follows:

Command Judge Advocate (Rm M207) - Just like the television show "JAG," our Judge Advocate General officers and NCO support personnel spend most of the day jetting around the IZ trying to solve crimes. However, when they are not doing that, Col. Kyle Goerke ensures that his folks are providing legal assistance on a wide variety of topics to Department of State, military, and civilian personnel. His office also provides Notary services for the US Embassy.

Chaplaincy (Rm S112) - The

chaplain's office is one of the busiest in the JASG-C. Col. Jack Byas and Maj Abbott conduct a total of 12 protestant and Catholic services per week at three locations in the IZ. They also lead numerous weekly Bible study and Christian fellowship and faith formation meetings. Sgt. Travis Haddock and Spc. Daniel Garrett stay busy in distributing the many care packages that arrive for our servicemembers as well as the humanitarian assistance items donated for the Iraqi people.

Comptroller (Rm M107) - Billions, with a capitol "B." That's the amount of funds that Lt Col Defenbach has been responsible for since his arrival in Baghdad. The comptroller's office also has responsibility for the Developmental Funds for Iraq (DFI). They are the primary validation officials for the distribution of funds, and they work with both US Military and Department of State issues.

Public Affairs Office (Rm M111) - The PAO has the only "undercover" officer in the JASG-C. Cpt. Geoff Legler has the authority to wear civilian clothes to certain events so that he can take photos for the US Embassy staff. In addition to this mission, Lt. Col. Rhonda

McGuire ensures that the JASG-C members are covered with as much media exposure as possible.

Human Resources Management (Rm M114) - As with most HR departments, CPT Remer's section deals with the total lifecycle management of our Servicemembers - arrivals and departures, evaluations, awards and decorations, etc. Additionally, because they issue the Common Access Cards (CAC), HR personnel interact large numbers of US Military, US Government, and US contract personnel on a daily basis. While all of these areas are key to the success of the JASG-C, the most important piece of the HR office may be the Postal Detachment. Headed by Senior Master Sgt. Dwayne Atkinson, the Air Force postal detachment here at the Embassy Annex processes more mail than any other military post office in the CENTOM area of operations.

The bottom line is, we are here to guide you for legal, spiritual, financial, public relations, and personnel issues; and when you write that letter home telling your spouse that you have all those issues figured out, we'll even mail the letter for you for free.

## Good communications

Continued from page 5

for National Guard recruiters and he was the top recruiter in the state of Oklahoma. He was one of only 48 recruiters in the Nation to win the "Aloha Challenge" which earned him a free trip Hawaii.

Recently, Auld was invited to the Chief's 54 banquet, where the

top 54 National Guard recruiters are honored and awarded a ring and a plaque. Unfortunately, Auld had already mobilized for deployment and was undergoing post-mobilization training near Ft. Bliss, Texas. In fact, the very night the banquet was held; Auld had to perform staff duty. "It's all worth it to be here with my re-

cruits", said Auld.

Through his communication skills, Auld has distinguished himself as one of the Army National Guard's top recruiters, and over the next eight months, he will surely prove himself to be a great asset to the IZ badging office and to the coalition's efforts to bring democracy to Iraq.



# New JASG-C HRM office in place and ready to serve you

by Cpt. Carrie Remer, JASG-C Office of Human Resource Management

The Human Resources Management (HRM) office located in the U.S. Embassy Annex, Room M-114 is manned by a great team of Service Members. Captain Carrie Remer, Master Sergeant Paul McElveen, Sergeant First Class Mike Powell, Petty Officer (Navy) Romula Bahamon, Staff Sergeant Cheryl Williamson, Staff Sergeant Xuan Bohlman, Staff Sergeant (Air Force) Keith Lucas, Sergeant Jake Turner, Sergeant Brandon Williamson and Specialist Shannon Boyd play an integral role in Human Resources support to the Joint Area Support Group – Central (JASG-C), Multi-National Force – Iraq (MNF-I), Department of State (DoS) and Department of Defense (DoD) personnel working in the U.S. Embassy Annex and the International Zone (IZ) in Baghdad, Iraq.

The HRM is responsible for:

- Postal oversight to the United States Air Force TACON (Tactical Control) Postal Unit
- Inspecting and auditing the Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) program
- Producing over 700 Common Access Cards (CACs) per month for DoD/DoS personnel and U.S.

Contractors

- Handling all Real-Time Automated Personnel Identification System (RAPIDS) and Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS) data transactions
- Assisting with U.S. Passports
- Producing individual Isolated Personnel Reports (ISOPREPs)
- Processing joint service member officer and non-commissioned of-

ghanistan, Kuwait and the Balkans are eligible is the Savings Deposit Program (SDP). It is a simple savings plan that earns 10% interest annually. Interest is compounded at 10 percent annually, compounded quarterly at 2.5 percent (interest is based on average quarterly balance to include interest and principle). Interest accrued on earnings deposited into SDP is taxable.

Members must be in country for a period of 30 days before becoming eligible to participate in the (SDP) program. Methods of deposit include cash, money orders, personal checks, Eagle Cash Cards and allotments. Members have up to 90 days after redeploying to withdraw their funds. Members that have a fam-

ily emergency may withdraw their deposits; but must have a signed letter from their commander stating that a family emergency does exist before any withdrawals are allowed. Deposit statements should become available within 30 to 60 days after the deposit was made. Members can check their deposit statements on Mypay.dfas.mil. For additional information, stop by the HRM (Room M-114) or Embassy Finance office (Room B-132).

The HRM section looks forward to working with each of you.



ficer evaluations

- Processing joint service awards
- Managing the daily unit Joint Personnel Status and Casualty Report (JPERSTAT)
- Managing monthly Electronic Military Personnel Office (eMIL-PO) reports
- Managing the JASG-C Joint Manning Document (JMD)
- Supporting various MNF-I activities with Official Mail funds

A program for which all military members deployed to Iraq, Af-

# Powers of Attorney can be good or bad for you

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

The Command Judge Advocate's Office is located in the Embassy Annex, Room M-207. We are available to assist not only service-members, but also civilian personnel assigned to the JASG-C. Legal services offered include powers of attorney, notary services, and legal consultations.

What is the difference between a General Power of Attorney and a Special, or Limited Power of Attorney?

The purpose of a power of attorney is to give someone of your choosing the "power" to act on your behalf. A General Power of Attorney authorizes your appointee to enter into any agreements in your name, granting this person virtually unlimited power to act on your behalf. A Special Power of Attorney authorizes your appointee to perform certain specific actions on your behalf as outlined in the contents of the document.


The Desert Storm conflict in the early 1990s taught many institutions to be wary of General Powers of Attorney. It became clear that someone supposedly acting on behalf of a soldier could severely abuse a General Power of Attorney. Troops were coming home from their deployment to find enormous amounts of debt taken out in their name.

From a legal standpoint, since the service member granted the spouse, friend or other family member that authority, there was no simple recourse for the soldier to take to undo the damage.

Because of these issues, your financial institution may not be willing to accept a General Power of Attorney, the institution may require a Special Power of Attorney specifically listing the action your designee may take on your behalf. A Special Power of Attorney typically is sufficient for most situations you will encounter and it does not carry the same level of risk associated with a General Power of Attorney.

Finally, as we approach tax season, please keep in mind that you may need a Special Power of Attorney to send home in order to have someone file your federal and state income tax return on your behalf. The IRS does not accept what would be considered a typical Special Power of Attorney. The IRS requires you to use IRS Form 2848, for your federal tax return, which is a specific type of power of

attorney created by the IRS itself. While the JASG-C cannot provide tax services, we will gladly provide you with IRS Form 2848 and assist you with proper completion of the form.

If you believe that you need any type of Power of Attorney, please drop by the JASG-C Office of the Command Judge Advocate. We look forward to assisting you with your legal needs. 

## Attention JASG-C military servicemembers

If you are having pay problems or have a pay question please visit the Embassy Finance Office.

The Finance Office is managed by Detachment B, 24th Finance, and is located in the Embassy Annex basement in room B-132. They can also be contacted by phone at DSN: 318-239-8570

### Hours of operation are as follows:

Sun	0900-1600
Mon	0900-1600
Tue	0900-1600
Wed	0900-1600
Thur	0900-1600
Fri	0800-1200
Sat	0900-1600
LUNCH 1200-1300	

Air Force personnel should contact their home base Financial Services Office (FSO) for pay issues. If they have problems getting the necessary support from their base, they may contact Lt. Col. Philip Defenback in the Comptroller's Office.

For all other branches, if the Embassy Finance Office is unable to resolve your pay issue, you may visit the Comptroller's Office.

## T-Birds take command

Continued from page 1

Each of the FOBs has an Army Captain as its "mayor" and a senior NCO as its "deputy mayor" both of whom are members of the 45th.

"The 45th is extremely fortunate to have received this historic mission," said Brig. Gen. Myles Deer-

ing, commander of the 45th IBCT. "We have the rare opportunity to help build a new nation from the ruins of an old one. The work we do here over the next eight months will benefit the people of Iraq and all peace-loving nations for decades to come."

The 45th's Headquarters Com-

pany only accounts for about 5% of the 2,600 Thunderbirds called to active duty last October. The remainders of the brigade's soldiers are performing security and detainee operations at other locations within Iraq. All members of the 45th are expected to return to Oklahoma by mid-October of this year.



## Forward Operation Base “Freedom”

I’m Capt. Tonia Toben the FOB Freedom Mayor. I manage FOB Freedom with Staff Sgt. Russell and Sgt. Slaughter. FOB Freedom can accommodate approximately 400 permanent residents. We have 12 local vendors to include a barber shop, local artist/painter, and a soon to open small café. Within in the FOB is the “infamous” Freedom Rest compound which is managed by 4th Infantry Division, for sol-

diers that are on combat missions to get four days of R&R within their tour.



The FOB residents include a tenant military police unit which conducts personal security detail missions 24 hours a day in locations throughout Baghdad, as well as, the IZ Veterinary Clinic and Combat Stress Clinic.

FOB residents also include working dog handlers, as well as, several groups that provide training to Iraqis

on modern police techniques.

The FOB also encompasses ROWPU water purification units which are operated by KBR and produce water for services throughout the IZ.

Among our recently completed projects are improvements to the fitness center and a newly opened internet café.

The mayor cell staff is responsible for all billeting, life support and security measures on FOB Freedom. Future projects include improvements to our entry control point which is manned by Triple Canopy.

## Forward Operation Base “Union III”

I’m Capt. Teanna Twilley FOB Union III Mayor. I manage Union III with Deputy Mayor Sgt. 1st Class Gregory Dannels and Assistant Deputy Mayor Spc. Christina Black. There are currently 20 multi-national units on Union III. Members of the Australian army provide our QRF and VIP

Escort. The remainder of our units provide security services and contracting support. Peruvian nationals with Triple Canopy provide the security for our FOB and many local nationals serving as interpreters and screeners for local units live here. We also house elements of the Army, Navy, Air



Force and Marines with a total of 700 personnel living and working on Union III.

Union III has two historic buildings the former Ba’ath party headquarters and the Mausoleum of Michel Aflaq, considered to be the Ba’ath party ideological founder. Our FOB offers 16 shops and restaurants to include the Oasis coffee shop, general store, barber shop, beauty shops, rug shop and others. We also have a great workout facility and dining facility.

## Forward Operation Base “Union I”

I’m 2nd Lt. Jared Mock, the FOB mayor for Union 1. Sgt. 1st Class Eddie Simpkins, the deputy mayor, and I both reside on FOB Union 1 and with aid from select interpreters make up the Mayor Cell staff here. The Mayor Cell is located within Building 6 inside the southeast entrance way. Union 1

consists primarily of soldiers from the Georgian 3rd Brigade Light Infantry Developed Company. Other residents include interpreters, local national workers, and contract personnel. Union 1 is located lakeside, has two local national stores, an internet café, and the remnants of the water palace.



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

Public Affairs Officer  
Lt. Col. Rhonda McGuire

Duck & Cover Layout  
CPT Geoff Legler

Duck & Cover Staff  
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Pfc. Leslie Goble

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The contents of the Duck & Cover are not necessarily the official view of, or endorsed by the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense, Dept. of State, the Department of the Army, Department of the Navy or Department of the Air Force.

## Forward Operation Base “Freedom Compound”

I’m Cpt. Danny Golden mayor for Freedom Compound. Command Sgt. Maj. Clinton Sturdevant and I manage and oversee the life support for the tenants that live and work within the Freedom Compound area.

This compound contains nearly 700 billets, a three- conjoined seven story complex, dog kennels, power plant and a former prison area currently utilized for maintenance operations. Approximately 700 personnel reside on the compound and more than 1,200 personnel work on the com-



pound.

Day to day mayoral functions include: processing compound badge documents, tower, villa, and billeting serviceability oversight, interaction with the program manager, administering contracting officer, contracting officer’s technical representatives and the life support contractor, assuaging customer complaints, facilitating meetings, negotiating occupancy requirements, strategic planning/ implementation, force protection evaluation and representing the United States Army

by upholding the highest military standards.

The complex also hosts an Iraqi Café opened during lunch but closed on Friday. Two Iraqi rug shops opened from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Every Friday the GRD complex, across the street Freedom Compound, hosts a bazaar from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Personnel can also find a barber shop and Green Bean coffee shop. The barber shop is known for stringing, which everyone should try to experience once during their tour in country.

Future attraction includes a small TFE post exchange and a new Iraqi coffee shop.

## Forward Operation Base “Blackhawk”

The Mayor of FOB Blackhawk is Cpt. Matthew Butcher, the Deputy Mayor is Sgt. 1st Class John Clifton, and the Assistant Deputy Mayor is Sgt. Greg Smitherman.

The three man Mayor Cell office is located in what is left of the Believers’ Palace. FOB Blackhawk

has a population of approximately 1,200 at night and 2,000 during the day. This FOB is the main housing base for MNSTC-I personnel and their supporting contractors and is also home to the Iraqi Counter Terrorism Center (CTC) and various other life support service and se-

curity service contractors that work throughout the International Zone.

FOB Blackhawk is host to eight Local National Vendors that consist of a barber shop, restaurant, antique shop, and an array of shops that sell electronics, DVDs, jewelry, hookah’s, rugs and Iraqi souvenirs.

### BURP Team

*Continued from page 9*

organizations across the IZ. In his first 30 days, his dedicated team has already executed numerous land lease renewals for high-profile agencies and assisted private contractors in resolving land disputes with the Government of Iraq. “Staff Sgt. Leigh Airey, our real estate management sergeant, and Staff Sgt. Brian Enright, our graphical information systems sergeant, have both enthusiastically accepted the challenge of their assignment and are making improvements to build on

the accomplishments of our predecessors,” said Banes.

And binding us all together is Staff Sgt. Steve Roberts, the BURP non-commissioned officer in-charge. In addition to his duties administering the office and ensuring we have the facilities and equipment necessary to accomplish the mission, Roberts also enthusiastically pitches in to support surge requirements. As he says, “Building Iraq one conference table, satellite system, map drawer and bike rack at a time,” said Roberts.

As the organization responsible

for planning the comprehensive consolidation of US military forces and community redevelopment in this region of Baghdad, BURP is facilitating revolutionary change in the IZ. The team plays a critical and substantial role supporting the creation of a new and economically sustainable Iraq.

“I am extremely proud to have the privilege of leading this outstanding team of professionals through this pivotal time in our military history,” said Lt. Col. Monte Harner, director of basing and urban planning.



# It's all about the kids!!!



*Photo by Sgt. Shawn Riley, JASG Public Affairs*

Staff Sgt. Kory Grant & Amn. Ryan Doyle of the JASG-C Security Force give out candy to children near the 215 apartments.

(Top right) Sgt. Robert Pineiro, a member of the JASG-C Security Directorate, holds an Iraqi boy during a humanitarian mission in the IZ.



*Photo by Sgt. Shawn Riley, JASG Public Affairs*

Staff Sgt. Hugo Lopez, a member of the Iraqi Assistance Group, teaches two Iraqi boy scouts how to braid 550 cord into a bracelet during a scouting event held in early February in the IZ.



*Photo by Capt. Geoff Legler, JASG Public Affairs*



*Photo by Sgt. Shawn Riley, JASG Public Affairs*

Pfc. Nickalous Mitchell performs a magic trick for two Iraqi boys during a break from his duties at the JASG-C Badge Office.



## Awards



Lt. Col. Steve Sugiyama  
Force Protection  
Bronze Star



Lt. Col. Philip Defenbach  
Comptroller  
Bronze Star



Staff Sgt. James Barnett  
Force Protection  
Army Accommodation Medal



Master Sgt. Tony Chappell  
Cmd. Sgt. Maj. Jack Musgrove  
Sgt. Mathew Randall  
Support Operations  
Certificate of Appreciation

## Promotions



Maj. Steve Sugiyama  
promoted to Lieutenant Colonel  
Force Protection



Spc. Zachary Reavis  
promoted to Sergeant  
Command



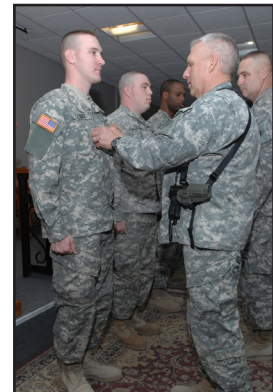
Spc. Matthew Miller  
promoted to Sergeant  
DOIM



Pvt. 1st Class Jefferson Gray  
promoted to Specialist  
Security/Badging



Pvt. 1st Class Terrace Rose  
promoted to Specialist  
Installations



Pvt. 1st Class Leslie Goble  
promoted to Specialist  
Public Affairs



# JASG-C Birthdays March 15th to April 14th

Staff Sgt. AIREY, LEIGH D.  
Installation  
March 16th

Command Sgt. Maj. BRIDGES, JAMES D.  
Command  
March 24th

Lt. Col. WILHAM, LOUIS W.  
Command  
March 31st

Spc. SMITH, JACOB L.  
Command  
March 16th

Sgt. MCKINZIE, AMANDA K.  
Security/Badging  
March 24th

Sgt. WILLIAMSON, BRANDON N.  
Command/HRM  
April 2nd

Lt. Col. KINNISON, MICHAEL R.  
Security  
March 18th

Maj. SHAW, GILBERT T.  
Security/ Adjutant  
March 25th

Maj. HARSHA, MATTHEW J.  
Security  
April 11th

Staff Sgt. WILCOX, VUAGHN L.  
Command/COMP  
March 18th

Sgt. COOK, MICHAEL D.  
SPO/ DOL  
March 26th

Staff Sgt. CUELLAR, CESAR  
Installation  
April 11th

Cpt. GONZALES, JUAN J.  
Security/BDOC  
March 19th

Sgt. TURNER, JAKE  
Command/HRM  
March 28th

Cpt. LAWSON, JOSHUA D.  
Installation/ OPS  
April 13th

## Opinions

# “What do you think of life in the IZ?”



Command Sgt. Maj. Joe Stover  
Support Operations

*“With the uniqueness of the palaces and unusual types of building structures, it is very easy to become complacent. You just have to remember that we are in a combat area.”*



Tech. Sgt. Christopher Wilson  
Department of Public Works

*“These are the best working conditions I have ever encountered on a deployment.”*



Lt. Cmdr. Michael Tinsley  
Comptroller

*“The International Zone is relatively safe and affords ample amenities. Regrettably these same qualities are not yet extended elsewhere throughout this country.”*



Sgt. Uvonne Mitchell  
Billeting/Support Operations

*“The military as well as civilians are very nice, all open and warm.”*



Staff Sgt. Keith Lucas  
Human Resource Management

*“Its not that bad, you could have to walk to use the bathroom.”*



Staff Sgt. Vaugh Wilcox  
Comptroller

*“Its great, but you have to be careful.”*