

AnacondaTimes

June 18, 2008

PROUDLY SERVING LSA ANACONDA



Training the trainers

Iraqi Air Force receives new training

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South Baghdad economy boom

Baghdad-7 rebuilds South Baghdad's economy

Page 7



IA receiving SWET training

Iraqi Army receives special training for sensitive site exploration

Pages 8-9



Photo by Spc. Jaime Avila

Iraqi Army Soldiers convoy to a house that is believed to contain explosives during a training scenario at Camp Mittica June 4. Paratroopers of the 1st BCT, 82nd Abn. Div. SWET trained Iraqi Army MPs for three weeks on SWET missions and responsibilities.

Romanians attend 7th Sus. Bde. CLP Academy

by Spc. RJ Gilbert

7th Sus. Bde.

COB Adder, Iraq – The Romanian Army's 151st Infantry Battalion, 15th Mechanized Brigade, 4th Army Corps, attended the 7th Special Troops Battalion's Combat Logistical Patrol Academy on Contingency Operating Base Adder May 19 through June 11.

The Romanians Soldiers attended the academy as part of an overall humvee familiarization process that included master driver's training and humvee egress assistance training after receiving 40 humvees that are on loan from the U.S. Army.

"The basic objective of their training is final training prior to their Soldiers actually going out on the road (in the newly acquired

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Chief Warrant Officer Ryan J. Dowling
7th Sustainment Brigade

humvees)," said Chief Warrant Officer Ryan J. Dowling, a member of the 7th Sustainment Brigade and the officer in charge of the academy. "We let them rehearse their

tactical training procedures...and up-to-date improvised explosive device training that is relevant to the areas they are responsible for."

The "black wolves" had two

interwoven objectives during their training; the first was to become familiar with the humvee, which provides many new rewards and some challenges compared to their previous patrol vehicle: the Armored Personnel Carrier

The humvee has newer armor, greater mobility, better vision for the driver, smaller crews and only one machine gun compared to the APC's two.

The second objective given the "black wolves" of the 151st In. Bn., as well as every other group attending the CLP Academy's IED portion of the training, is to not only become familiar with IEDs and their capabilities, but to also be able to discover their simulated

See **ACADEMY**, Page 5

Provost Marshal Office: Weekly police blotter Week of 2 June

The Provost Marshal Office conducted: (246) security checks, (29) traffic stops, issued (19) DD Form 1408 Armed Forces Traffic Tickets, registered (205) vehicles on the installation, responded to (eight) minor traffic accidents and (26) common access cards were reported lost.

PMO Recommendations: As we roll into the summer months, safety is an on going concern and needs to be a key part of everyone's day. If individuals fail to use good judgment and not practice safety, the mission is guaranteed to fail. We need to think before we act. If the risk outweighs the end product, then the outcome isn't worth the risk. With that, the Provost Marshals Office would like to continue passing on the following safety tips and regulations for the residents of LSA Anaconda to follow.

- Runners, when available, utilize sidewalks. In the event no sidewalks are present, runners will run on the soft shoulder of the road, facing

oncoming traffic. There will be NO running around Victory Loop or along the perimeter fence of the installation. Army personnel will utilize reflective belts or vests at all times. Air Force personnel are exempt from reflective belts when in PT gear. Formation runs are not authorized to be on the installation. Portable music devices (CD players, Ipods, etc) are not authorized while running outdoors. Finally all sponsored runs must be coordinated through the PMO and Force Protection offices and have received Garrison Commander approval.

Crime Prevention: Report suspicious activity and crimes immediately to the Provost Marshal Office Law Enforcement Desk. Dial 911 for emergencies and 443-8602 for all others.

Lost & Found: To find out if your lost item has been turned into PMO, contact PMO/Investigations at 443-6105 or 443-6021.

By Air Force Tech Sgt. Michael Hodgman

Vigilant eye over Iraq



Photo by Senior Airman Julianne Showalter

BALAD AIR BASE, Iraq -- A MQ-1B Predator from the 46th Expeditionary Reconnaissance Squadron takes off in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom here June 12. Since January 2008, more than 1,000 Predator sorties have been flown out of Balad, lasting more than 20,000 hours. The MQ-1 Predator carries the Multi-spectral Targeting System with inherent AGM-114 Hellfire missile targeting capability and integrates electro-optical, infrared, laser designator and laser illuminator into a single sensor package.

Kill the flame: Grills cause more than 2,000 fires each year

Courtesy Story

Army Safety Center

Backyard grilling accidents result in more than 2,000 fires, 300 grill-related injuries and 30 or more deaths in the United States each year, according to the Insurance Information Institute.

Fortunately, the number of gas grill fires has dropped by 50 percent since the required implementation of propane cylinder overfilling prevention devices in 1998, according to a recent release by the National Fire Protection Association

The safety device limits the release of gas should the cylinder become heated, reducing the chances of fire and possible injury.

However, the number of deaths associated with fires caused by charcoal grills remains the same.

More grilling accidents are to be expected with year-round grilling and the endless varieties of gas, charcoal and electric grills, along with fish cookers and turkey fryers. More than 14 million new barbecue grills were purchased nationwide in 2004, according to the Hearth, Patio and Barbecue Association.

Some of the leading causes of grill fires have been the ignition of combustibles or gas fuel, leaving the food unattended and grilling in an enclosed area, according to the NFPA statistics.

There are some cases where a combination of causes have been found, said Ronny Stallworth, fire inspector of the Fire and Emergency Services Division at Fort Rucker, Ala.

"There was one fire that involved a combination of improper charcoal lighter fluid—a possible mixture of gas and paint thinner," said Stallworth. "Also, the grill was being used under the carport, which is against local regulations."

Following a few safety and maintenance tips while using composite risk management can help to make outdoor grilling an easy and fun experience during these summer months, said Stallworth.

The following is a list of suggestions from the National Safety Council:

- Wear a protective apron and oven mitt that fit over forearms.

- Always follow the manufacturers' instructions that accompany grill.

- Never use a grill indoors. Use grill at least 10 feet away from any houses or buildings. Always use grills on level surfaces.

- Never leave grill unattended, especially when children and pets are nearby.

- Keep fire extinguisher handy and know how to properly use it.

- Make sure the gas cylinders from gas grills are always stored outside and away from houses. Valves should be turned off when not in use. Check regularly for leaks in connections using a soap and water mix that will show bubbles where gas escapes.

- When using charcoal grills, use a limited amount of starter fluid designed for those grills. Never use gasoline. Never add more liquid fuel, which could result in a flash fire. Beware of carbon monoxide poisoning.

- Always remember that grills remain hot even after cooking is completed.

- Be aware of local fire codes.

- If someone is burned, run cool water over the injury for 10-15 minutes. Fast medical attention should be administered if a serious burn occurs.

"Also, remember that grilling safety does not end after the food is cooked," said Stallworth. "Make sure on gas grills, that the valves are turned off and on charcoal grills, ensure that the ashes are totally extinguished and left in place. There are two incidences I have seen lately, where charcoal was moved from the grill to a metal container and a fire started. Remember that charcoal can burn up to 48 hours after the grilling part is complete."

For more information about grilling safety, visit the National Fire Protection Association Web site at www.nfpa.org, Hearth, Patio & Barbecue Association Web site at <http://hpba.org>, or the New York City Fire Department safety tips and Web site at <http://www.nyc.gov/html/fdny/html/safety/barbeque.shtml>.

ANACONDA TIMES

316th ESC Commanding General, Brig. Gen. Gregory E. Couch

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Mission Statement: Produce a weekly newspaper that provides the command leadership team a means of disseminating command information to servicemembers on Logistical Support Area Anaconda and subordinate 316th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) units throughout Iraq. Contents of the paper will target enlisted servicemembers, officers, and civilian staff as well as primarily highlight the mission and experiences of 316th ESC units and personnel, with a secondary objective of detailing the activities of the LSA Anaconda community.

Iraqi Air Force enhances capabilities with instructor school

by Senior Airman Eric Schloeffel
506th Air Expeditionary Group

KIRKUK REGIONAL AIR BASE, Iraq -- The Iraqi Air Force has continued rebuilding efforts to become a credible and capable military entity by recently establishing the Flight Instructor School for Iraqi pilots.

The school puts the most experienced of Iraq's operational pilots into the classroom and cockpit at the Iraqi Flying Training Wing here in an effort to teach the fundamentals of flight instruction.

The Coalition Air Forces Training Team - a collection of U.S. servicemembers who advise and train Iraqi Airmen - took the lead on planning and implementing the new program. The school is a new edition to CAFTT's mission at the training wing here, which opened in October 2007.

Seven Iraqi pilots are currently enrolled in the first class at the school, but more pilots will make their way through classes planned for the future.

"This is a huge step for us - six months ago we were figuring how to get the initial students off the ground, and now we're building an instructor course for the entire Iraqi Air Force," said U.S. Air Force Maj. Scott McCartt, 52nd Expeditionary Flying Training Squadron instructor pilot and FIS flight commander.

"All the pilots attending the Flight Instructor School are very

excited about this opportunity," said an Iraqi Air Force captain attending the course. "This is a new course for us, and we hope to learn how to instruct so we can make Iraqi pilots better."

The school is designed to model the U.S. Air Force Air Education and Training Command program on grooming operational pilots to become flight instructors.

Course instruction includes a mixture of academics, simulator-time and flying the Cessna 172 aircraft. The last portion of the training places a U.S. pilot in the pilot seat, while an Iraqi Airmen puts practice into play as an instructor.

Operational pilots flying CH-2000 and Cessna 208 aircraft were chosen for the class and are expected to bring their newfound knowledge back to their units.

"The Iraqi Air Force established this course because of their need for instructor pilots," said U.S. Air Force Lt. Col. Mark Bennett, 52nd EFTS commander. "Flight Instructor School will take experienced pilots who flew in the former Iraqi regime and make them instructors. Once they graduate, the pilots will go back to their units and get top-off training in their specific airframe."

"It's very similar to how we do instructor training in the states," Bennet added. "In the U.S. Air Force, a pilot must go back to the schoolhouse to get the foundations of instruction before returning to their squadron for airframe-spe-



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Jeffrey Allen

Capt. Jamie Riddle, 52nd Flying Training Squadron instructor pilot, and an Iraqi Flight Instructor School student engage in conversation prior to a recent sortie here.

cific mission training."

A few students who complete the course are expected to stay at Kirkuk's Iraqi Flying Training Wing to help new pilots earn their wings in the Cessna 172 and 208 aircraft during undergraduate pilot training.

In addition to operational enhancements, feedback provided from Iraqi pilots hinted at the need of an instructor school.

"The Iraqis asked us to help them create a credible course to qualify their pilots to be instructors," said Bennett, deployed from Randolph Air Force Base, Texas. "In the old Iraqi Air Force, there was a tremendous amount of prestige associated with being an instructor pilot within a flying unit, so this school is very important to

them."

As part of the school's initial phase, the Iraqi pilots are currently undergoing extensive English training before delving into more technical material. While the Iraqi pilots have just begun their instructor training, they have been working extra hours to learn the new material, said McCartt.

"The pilots are very interested in everything we're teaching -- a very encouraging sign" said McCartt, deployed from Columbus AFB, Miss. "Once the Iraqi pilots can bring back this baseline knowledge of instruction back to their squadrons, skills levels throughout the Iraqi Air Force will improve."

"We are giving them the skills needed to take ownership of their air force," he added. "The faster

we can get them ownership, the better it is for everybody. The Iraqi Air Force is reaching a point where it can show the Iraqi public they have a credible force that can carry out a variety of missions."

The students also seem to feel they are genuinely benefiting from their coursework and look forward for opportunities to use their new instructor skills in the field.

"This is another example of the successful relationship between the (U.S.) Air Force and the Iraqi Air Force," said the Iraqi Air Force captain. "The information I'm learning here will allow me to share the best flying techniques with other pilots, which will help our Air Force. I think all of the pilots at the instructor school will really improve their skills."

WORSHIP SERVICES

PROTESTANT – TRADITIONAL

SUNDAY 7:30 A.M.	AIR FORCE HOSPITAL CHAPEL
9:30 A.M.	PROVIDER CHAPEL
10:30 A.M.	FREEDOM CHAPEL (WEST SIDE)
11 A.M.	CASTLE HEIGHTS (4155)
5:30 P.M.	GILBERT MEMORIAL (H-6)
7:30 P.M.	AIR FORCE HOSPITAL CHAPEL

PROTESTANT – GOSPEL

SUNDAY 11 A.M.	MWR EAST BUILDING
NOON	FREEDOM CHAPEL (WEST SIDE)
12:30 P.M.	GILBERT MEMORIAL (H-6)
7 P.M.	PROVIDER CHAPEL

PROTESTANT – CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP

SUNDAY 9 A.M.	MWR EAST BUILDING
10:30 A.M.	GILBERT MEMORIAL (H-6)
2 P.M.	CASTLE HEIGHTS (4155)
8 P.M.	EDEN CHAPEL
7 P.M.	FREEDOM CHAPEL (WEST SIDE)
9:30 P.M.	FREEDOM CHAPEL (WEST SIDE)

PROTESTANT – LITURGICAL

SUNDAY 9 A.M.	EPISCOPAL FREEDOM CHAPEL
11 A.M.	LUTHERAN (CHAPEL ANNEX)
3:30 P.M.	GILBERT MEMORIAL

PROTESTANT --MESSIANIC

FRIDAY 8:30 P.M.	FREEDOM CHAPEL (WEST SIDE)
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PROTESTANT—SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST

SATURDAY 9 A.M.	PROVIDER CHAPEL
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PROTESTANT—CHURCH OF CHRIST

SUNDAY 3:30 P.M.	CASTLE HEIGHTS (4155)
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ROMAN CATHOLIC MASS

(SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION 30 MIN PRIOR TO MASS)	
SATURDAY 5 P.M.	GILBERT MEMORIAL (H-6)
8 P.M.	FREEDOM CHAPEL (WEST SIDE)
SUNDAY 8:30 A.M.	GILBERT MEMORIAL (H-6)
11 A.M.	PROVIDER CHAPEL
11 A.M.	AIR FORCE HOSPITAL CHAPEL
MON-SAT 11:45 A.M.	PROVIDER CHAPEL
THURSDAY 11 A.M.	AIR FORCE HOSPITAL CHAPEL
MON,WED,FRI 5P.M.	GILBERT MEMORIAL

LATTER DAY SAINTS-(LDS)-(MORMON)

SUNDAY 1 P.M.	PROVIDER CHAPEL
3:30P.M.	FREEDOM CHAPEL (WEST SIDE)
7 P.M.	GILBERT MEMORIAL (H-6)

JEWISH SHABBAT SERVICES

FRIDAY 6 P.M.	GILBERT MEMORIAL (H-6)
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ISLAMIC SERVICE

FRIDAY 12:30 P.M.	PROVIDER CHAPEL (WEST SIDE)
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PAGAN/ WICCAN FELLOWSHIP

THURSDAY, SATURDAY 7 P.M.	EDEN CHAPEL
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BUDDHIST FELLOWSHIP

TUESDAY 7 P.M.	EDEN CHAPEL
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PROTESTANT – SPANISH NON-DENOMINATIONAL

SATURDAY 7:30 P.M.	PROVIDER CHAPEL
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EASERN ORTHODOX- DEVINE LITURGY

SUNDAY 9 A.M.	CHAPEL ANNEX
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**Please note, schedule is subject to change.*

How about a nice cup of joe?

by Spc. Charlotte Martinez

Anaconda Times staff

LSA ANACONDA, Iraq – Just like every engine needs oil, the U.S. military runs on its own brown liquid-coffee. Without it, who knows where we would be today.

Wherever you find Soldiers, you are almost certain to find this caffeinated beverage.

Soldiers try to get their hands on any type of coffee, from instant to beans. There are also several places here on base that sell coffee in its various forms, from Green Beans to the Post Exchange.

However, Soldiers also enjoy the taste of Starbucks coffee, though there is not a store located here.

Working with the American Red Cross here, Starbucks donated four pallets, or 240 boxes, of their brew to be distributed to servicemembers here and on surrounding bases around the local area.

Ash Duncan, the American Red Cross team leader here, said the four pallets were distributed across four bases, to include Stryker, Taji and Adder.

A recent ARC press release said the Starbucks Corporation is donating 50,000 pounds of coffee to the ARC, who will then distribute the coffee across Iraq, Kuwait and Afghanistan.

“Throughout the hardship of deploy-



Photo by Spc. Charlotte Martinez

Ash Duncan, the American Red Cross Team Leader here, opens up some of the boxes of Starbucks coffee to be distributed around Logistical Support Area Anaconda and surrounding forward operating bases.

ment, the small touches from home, like Starbucks coffee, truly make the mission easier,” read the release.

Duncan sent out an e-mail to all LSA Anaconda residents telling servicemembers they could stop by and pick up the coffee at the ARC center. Duncan also hopes that

anyone who stops in will notice the facility and utilize its new amenities, to include an internet café.

“We’ve been working to receive the (Starbucks) donations for a while,” Duncan said.

Duncan also mentioned that he received

non-stop phone calls from base personnel regarding the coffee and how much they could pick up.

“(The servicemembers) are very excited and very happy to receive something like Starbucks coffee here,” Duncan said.

Staff Sgt. Alejandro Vaughn, a technical inspector with Delta Co., 5th Battalion, 158th General Support Aviation Brigade, was very happy when he arrived with fellow Soldiers to pick up coffee for his team.

Vaughn was given a tour of the ARC facility before receiving the coffee packets, but joked that it was a small price for the enjoyment he would later have as he sipped his cup of coffee.

In addition to making large donations, individual Starbucks stores have also been known to send care packages of coffee to Soldiers here.

Since 2005, Starbucks has donated over 125,000 pounds of coffee through the ARC, the release said.

“This is not the first Starbucks donation to the American Red Cross,” Duncan said, “and hopefully, it won’t be the last.”

So whether you are a Starbucks, Green Beans or make it yourself coffee fan, get yourself a nice cup of your favorite brown beverage and don’t forget to stop by the Red Cross center too.

Dual Adjutants General visit the 165th

by Sgt. Aaron LeBlanc

1st SB

CAMP TAJI, Iraq – Maj. Gens. Bennett C. Landreneau and William D. Wofford conducted command visits to the units of the 165th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 1st Sustainment Brigade, in support of Multi-National Division – Baghdad, stationed here this week. Landreneau and Wofford are the Adjutant Generals of the Louisiana National Guard and Arkansas National Guard, respectively.

During his visit, Landreneau, along with the Louisiana National Guard’s senior enlisted advisor, Command Sgt. Maj. John Kling, were briefed by members of the 165th CSSB command and staff on the current status and capabilities of the 165th.

Landreneau and Kling also had the opportunity to tour the Battalion’s “footprint,” or the area for which the 165th is responsible at Camp Taji. The tour gave the junior

enlisted members of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 165th CSSB, a chance to interact with the upper echelon of their state’s national guard.

Wofford was accompanied by the senior enlisted advisor of the Arkansas National Guard, Command Sgt. Maj. Deborah Collins. During their time at Taji, they visited with the Battalion’s two attached units from the Arkansas National Guard, namely Bravo and Golf companies, 1st Battalion, 206th Field Artillery Regiment.

In addition to interacting with the members of Bravo and Golf companies, Wofford and Collins also had the opportunity to observe an actual battle drill held in the 165th’s “Thunderdome,” a massive maintenance bay converted into a briefing room and designed around a huge sand table. Battle drills held in the Thunderdome are mandatory for all members of the 165th prior to leaving the protection of Camp Taji on a deliberate combat logistics patrol.



Photo by Sgt. Aaron LeBlanc

Louisiana National Guard Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. Bennett C. Landreneau (center), 165th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion Commander, Lt. Col. Randall “Beau” Bradford of Alexandria, La. (right) and Company B, 1st Battalion, 206th Field Artillery commander, Capt. Joshua Webb of Herber Springs, Ark. (left) are pictured here following a briefing held during Landreneau’s command visit to the members of the 165th.

Do you have a story idea?

Contact the Anaconda Times

anaconda.times@iraq.centcom.mil

Where eagles dare: Chinook crew supports nighttime raid

by Spc. Michael Howard

Combat Aviation Brigade, 1st Infantry Division

TIKRIT, Iraq - After months of training, American and Iraqi Special Forces, and American CH-47 Chinook and AH-64 Apache crews all participated in a recent mission here to capture high-value targets in northern Iraq as part of Operation Santa Monica.

The Combat Aviation Brigade, 1st Infantry Division's air assault went off seamlessly, according to pilots, who say that any mission involving a Chinook is especially risky given the number of people on the aircraft.

The air assault began at 5 p.m., April 6. The Chinook pilots, after leaving their final brief, turned around and updated their crew chiefs, who were busy preflighting the bird.

Less than 10 percent of the brigade's aircraft are Chinooks, which is the only helicopter that can provide massive combat power. It has the capability of transporting 30 troops to a Black Hawk's 10. So with few birds and a lot of requests, air assaults are pretty routine for the pilots of the 2nd General Support Aviation Battalion, 1st Aviation Regiment, said Chief Warrant Officer Joshua Locke, one of the CH-47 pilots who participated in the mission.

At 7:30 p.m., pilots received the word and lifted into the air, test-firing their weapons at a nearby range before heading to Forward Operating Base Warrior to refuel with the aid of fuelers equipped with night-vision goggles.

Night is a Chinook's best friend, according to pilots.

If insurgents hit a Chinook it would be catastrophic, so to minimize the risk to pilots and passengers alike, "we use every

available asset. Number one, we use the cloak of darkness. Number two, we do extensive route planning to ensure we avoid any areas where (the enemy) may have an advantage," said Locke. "We also use escorts to defend us from attacks. We have the Longbows who stay with us for these deep infiltrations, or any scout-weapons teams that might be there. So we have quite a few factors working in our favor."

Flying in darkness requires the use of NVGs, which in turn requires a highly trained and skilled pilot. According to Locke, pilots' depth perception is off with the goggles, and they have no peripheral vision so their apparent rate of closure and ground speed are in error.

Just before 11 p.m., the Chinooks arrived at remote FOB Gabe to find U.S. Special Forces Soldiers and Iraqi Special Operation Forces soldiers waiting in the darkness.

The Americans spent months training with the Iraqi SFO. First, the troops practice rushing on and off the aircraft, first with lights, then without. The American SF were equipped with NVGs, the Iraqis only with head-mounted flashlights, which left them dependent on illumination rounds from the Apaches overhead.

As the Chinooks approached the landing zone in an Iraqi village, the tension in the air was palpable among Americans and Iraqis alike. The ramp at the rear closed partway to minimize the dust the rotors kick up. The Chinook touched the ground lightly, the ramp fell and the SF Soldiers rushed out. Within 30 seconds, the aircraft was airborne again, returning to FOB Warrior until they were needed for extraction.

Long before the infantry-laden Chinooks arrived with their gun-toting payloads, Apaches, 2-man attack and reconnaissance helicopters with state-of-the-art surveil-



Photo by Spc. Michael Howard

A U.S. Special Operations Soldier performs a last minute inspection of an Iraqi Special Operations Forces soldier before the drop during an air assault in northern Iraq by the 2nd General Support Aviation Battalion, 1st Aviation Regiment April 6-7 as part of Operation Santa Monica.

lance equipment, were hovering above the village, so high the Iraqis couldn't see or hear them at all. They provided real-time data to mission control in the rear, who fed information to the Chinook pilots as they approached.

The Apaches also remained overhead for the rest of the mission, providing a feed for the CABs tactical operations center, and standing by in case the ground forces needed direct air support.

Downtime at FOB Warrior was cut short when the Chinook pilots received the call from the ground commander: The SF finished early, the mission was complete, and they were ready for extraction. Ten minutes later, the rotors were turning and the lights were off as the crew lifted off the helipad and sped toward the extraction point.

When the Chinook arrived, the Apaches fired the illumination rockets and the it touched down, a little harder this time. The SF rushed aboard the Chinook, their high-value targets alive and in-hand.

"I think it went very smoothly," said Spc. Jonathan M. Gieser, a CH-47 crew chief who participated in the mission. "We had a perfect takeoff, perfect landing, we made it to the pickup zone, we rehearsed the infiltration and exfiltration. We were able to take off from there, make it to the landing zone without incident. Everything went smoothly, no problems with the aircraft, no problems with people getting off. I understand that they moved through the town ahead of schedule, captured their targets, and reboarded the aircraft without incident. It was a perfect night."

ACADEMY, from Page 1

counterparts along the CLP roads in their many forms.

"So far they did better than anybody that we've ever had go through the CLP lanes," said Master Sgt. Harvey P. Thomas, 7th STB's noncommissioned officer in charge. "Out of all the people we've trained, this training went very well in spite of the language barrier. It made it a little more complicated being that you couldn't get instant feedback because you would have to speak through the interpreter."

"This is routine. It is basically the same thing we have been doing since we got into Iraq," said Command Sgt. Maj. Constantine Ionel, the senior enlisted member of the 151st Infantry

Battalion.

Ionel said he was not surprised at the performance of his Soldiers due to the fact that the majority of them were combat veterans, many with multiple tours in places such as: Angola, Bosnia, Albania and Afghanistan.

No language barrier would prevent the imprint the "black wolves" left upon the CLP Academy.

"These guys are going to be successful because they understand how IEDs are built," said Thomas. "They also quickly grasp emplacement."

"They are very disciplined," said Dowling. "We're not the only Army that trains as they fight. They take it very seriously and there isn't any horseplay."



Photo by Spc. RJ Gilbert

After dismounting their humvees, soldiers from the Romanian Army's 151st Infantry Battalion pull guard while others search for improvised explosive devices on the "lanes" during the IED detection portion of the 7th Special Troops Battalion's Combat Logistical Patrol course at COB Adder June 11.

SHOUT OUT!!!
TELL YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS HOW MUCH YOU MISS THEM
 Contact the 316th Public Affairs Office for scheduling.
 E-mail Lee.Fowler@iraq.centcom.mil

South Baghdad economy booming again

by Courtesy Story

Multi-National Division – Center

BAGHDAD – When Capt. Shawn Carbone first took a good look at the south Baghdad area economy, he found it similar to his studies of America during the Great Depression of the 1930s.

“Most of the historically strong businesses were gone,” said Carbone, economics team leader for the Baghdad-7 embedded Provincial Reconstruction Team. “The owners had left and packed up. The businesses were shut down and there was mass unemployment across the board.”

There were many reasons for the economic troubles of Iraqis in the area which 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division took control of in June 2007. The basic lack of security forces left a gap which Al-Qaeda in Iraq terrorists filled, using the area as a base.

Farms and businesses were damaged and violence caused many to flee – some of whom have yet to return. Sectarian strife heated up following the 2005 elections, which left many in the area without a voice in government.

Basic service needs, such as electricity and water, went largely unmet.

Carbone saw an opportunity to help turn things around. His training in economics at Niagara University, in his hometown of Niagara, N.Y., prepared him for the task of helping the citizens of south Baghdad Province.

“It’s rewarding because it’s an experiment in economics,” Carbone said. “This is from the ground up. It’s much like our depression-era economics. I’ve actually sent e-mails to my professors, asking them their opinions on some of these things, and researched books on depression-era economics.”

After security was established, the biggest obstacle to economic recovery, said Carbone, was the centralized nature of the economy in the past. Local industries such as a chicken hatchery, a poultry processing plant and a meat processing facility, for example, received inputs from and sold their goods to the Iraqi government at set prices.

“Cooperation is the biggest thing,” Carbone said. “From where I sit, these businesses are complimentary. But they never had a capitalist society, which is all about bringing down costs.”

Now the government is in a state of transition and moving toward free trade.

“Everyone is going through the change,” Carbone said. “Some of the government systems are not yet in place, but that’s where we’re heading.”

In an effort to revive the local economy, the Baghdad-7 ePRT worked in conjunction with 2nd BCT Civil Affairs, using money as their main tool. Armed with U.S. Department of State and U.S. Agency for International Development funds, Soldiers and civilians on the Baghdad-7 ePRT looked for projects which would benefit the community as a whole.

Civil affairs Soldiers used their battalion’s bulk funds to stimulate individual small businesses through a series of \$2,500 microgrants. Though most of the projects



Photo by Sgt. Kevin Stabinsky

Hussen Jowd, a butcher in Arab Jabour, serves a sandwich at his newly renovated butcher shop and food stand. Jowd received microgrants that enabled him to increase his stock and expand his business.

“When they start to see these places opening with the help of Coalition forces, some of the people have come back and opened up on their own.”

Capt. Shawn Carbone
Baghdad-7 embedded Provincial Reconstruction Team

focused on agriculture, which dominates the local economy and employs the largest percentage of people, other avenues were explored as well.

Maj. Douglas Betts, commander of Company A, 415th Civil Affairs Battalion, said Soldiers on the ground identified who could best use the grants.

“The troop commanders and company commanders are all very smart guys,” Betts said. “They know what they’re doing, and they know what’s best for their areas.”

Microgrants were given to businesses ranging from chicken farms to internet cafes. Most recently, a women’s beauty parlor opened up in Arab Jabour, something that would have been impossible in that area until recently.

Betts said Soldiers have found other creative ways to involve women in business. One example he gave was women’s sewing cooperatives, which grew out of women’s committees looking for ways to employ themselves and raise revenue for their causes.

“Capt. [Trista] Mustaine in the ePRT did a great job with sewing co-ops. That’s a new one to me,” Betts said.

“One [co-op] that I know is basically made up of war widows,” Betts said. “These ladies want to do something for orphans and school children. They are actually making clothes and selling them. I thought that was pretty original.”

The only condition that comes attached to the microgrants is that business own-

ers attend business training and meetings of their local business associations, Betts said. The formation of local business associations has been vital in helping citizens to help themselves. The focus now is in getting business owners weaned off of Coalition force funding and to get them working with their own government.

Basil Razzak, a bilingual, bicultural adviser with the Baghdad-7 ePRT, said that it took some adjusting for local farmers and businessmen to get used to the new economic model.

“Up until now, it was all supervised by the government. Everybody belonged to the government,” Razzak said. “I remember at one business association meeting, the chairman said, [to Carbone] ‘You are our boss.’ He said, ‘I’m not your boss. I’m here to

help you and support you, but it’s your organization and you can conduct your meeting as you like.”

Razzak, a Canadian citizen who grew up in Baghdad and holds a degree in administration and economics from the University of Baghdad, said the capitalist spirit is slowly but surely taking hold here.

“They are open to new ideas, Razzak said. “They realize the era of state-owned business is gone. They are willing to work and cooperate.”

Carbone said the stimulus Coalition forces provided to the local economy has already produced unexpected results. As more businesses reopen and new ones appear, local entrepreneurs have taken it as a sign that it’s okay to open shop again.

“When they start to see these places opening with the help of Coalition forces, some of the people have come back and opened up on their own,” Carbone said. “That’s something we didn’t expect.”

One business owner who received significant Coalition help has been encouraged to invest even further in his business. The owner of a meat-processing plant in Arab Jabour received a grant to get his facility running again after shutting down operation in 2006. Prior to that, the factory employed more than 90 people.

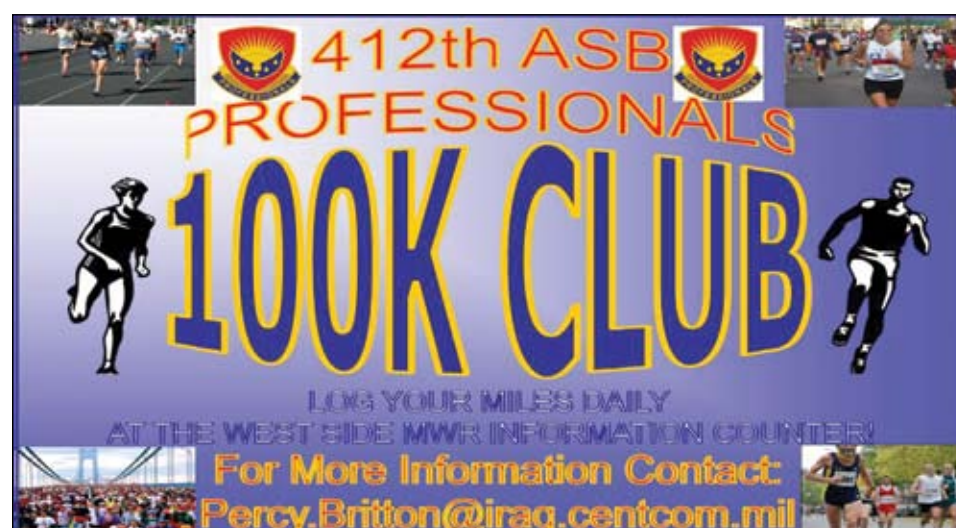
“Even though we gave the kupa factory a grant, the owner pitched in \$200,000 of his own money. The money is out there,” Carbone said. “The biggest thing was that when the owner came back to the area and saw that the security situation had changed progressively, he was more willing to re-invest and start over,” he said.

Betts sees signs that businesses have returned to stay in the area.

“I’ve noticed it in the short time that I’ve been here,” Betts said. “When we first went out, there were some shops, but there weren’t that many. But I’ve noticed in the past several months, in Sayafiyah especially, a lot more of those businesses. They look better and they’re repainted. People are repairing their shops and restocking supplies.”

Betts said the greatest benefit of the renewed prosperity was a population that was employed and able to meet their needs.

“That’s the key to security. People that are able to take care of themselves and their families are not out there planting bombs and killing people for money,” Betts said. “I want to see a strong economy, because that’s the cornerstone of stability.”



Soldiers build rapport with Iraqi citizens

by Spc. Grant T. Okubo

Army News Service

FORWARD OPERATING BASE LOYALTY, Iraq – Military police exuded a genuine, vested interest for the community as they patrolled the Baghdad neighborhoods surrounding Forward Operating Base Loyalty, May 31.

The military police -- Soldiers from the 4th Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division -- took time to speak to and play with children. At the same time, Iraqis reciprocated the kindness, showing their support for U.S. Soldiers patrolling the area.

One reason the MPs patrolled through the neighborhoods just outside FOB Loyalty was to provide backup to Iraqi Police, if they were needed, said Staff Sgt. Douglas Ferguson, a noncommissioned officer with the MP platoon. Additionally, Soldiers wanted to let Iraqi civilians know U.S. Soldiers are there with them.

Residents in the area seemed quite happy U.S. Soldiers were in their neighborhoods, Ferguson said. To extend his hospitality, one area resident offered visiting Soldiers sodas to quench their thirst as they patrolled through the heat of an approaching Baghdad summer.

The MP Soldiers hope to continue the good rapport they have established, said Ferguson. In addition, they want people to know U.S. Soldiers are approachable, and they should feel free to come to the Soldiers with any of

their concerns.

MPs conduct similar operations as infantry and cavalry scout Soldiers, explained Ferguson. As examples, he mentioned they conduct route security and lookout for improvised explosive devices and insurgent activity.

Sgt. Joseph Quirarte, MP platoon noncommissioned officer, deployed previously with the Patriot Brigade to Afghanistan but has found the environment, culture and people during his first deployment to Iraq to be significantly different, he said.

Other MPs, such as Ferguson and Sgt. Benjamin Allen, have been deployed to Baghdad before and were stationed at FOB Loyalty then too.

There have been improvements in Baghdad since Allen's deployment in 2003. The Iraqi people are generally more willing to work and communicate with U.S. Soldiers now, he said. Although it doesn't seem evident when patrolling the many trash-filled streets that still exist in Baghdad, the streets are a little cleaner now than they were then, said Allen.

Before deploying to Baghdad this time, Allen shared as much of his experience from his previous deployment with his brothers in arms as he could, however, things seem comparatively different now, he said.

Overall, Ferguson is pleased with the performance of his Soldiers, as they have done a great job of integrating and bringing new Soldiers "into the fold and up to speed," he said. "We're all working well as a team."



Photo by Spc. Charlotte Martinez

Lt. Col. James Aranyi, the Assistant Chief of Staff for the G6, 316th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), received the Bronze Order of Mercury award during an end of tour awards ceremony here June 3.

316th Commo Chief receives Bronze Order of Mercury

by Spc. Charlotte Martinez

Anaconda Times staff

LSA ANACONDA, Iraq – The assistant chief of staff for the G6 communications section of the 316th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) was awarded one of the Signal Corps most prestigious honors June 3.

Lt. Col. James Aranyi was awarded the Bronze Order of Mercury for his hard work in the Signal Corps. Aranyi was given the award based on his time in service and contributions to the Corps.

Aranyi, a member of the Army's Active, Guard and Reserve program, served over nine years on active duty before joining the Reserve just days before September 11, 2001.

Aranyi was then activated as part of the 1st detachment to deploy to Kuwait, then Afghanistan, with the 1st Brigade, 2nd Armored Division from Fort Hood, Texas. He has also served time in Korea and is currently finishing his deployment here.

Aranyi said he was nominated for the award by his peers for his significant contributions and achievements during the past 16 years in the Signal Corps Regiment.

"I was honored," Aranyi said about being presented with the award. "I felt proud about the fact that I was even nominated and my peers felt that I was deserving of such a prestigious award."

Aranyi said that his current position with the 316th is equally important and has kept him rather busy during this deployment.

"We oversee all communication for the 316th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and its subordinate units," he said. "This includes voice data, airborne radio relay, tactical communications and

communications security. We have the largest Communication Section account in theatre."

Aranyi said that he initially joined the military for the educational benefits, but has stayed in because it has offered him a lot through the years.

"If you have the opportunity here, take advantage of things like the education center here," he said. "Set yourself up for success here, especially for when you get back to the states. Don't waste an entire year, and then look back with regret."

Aranyi said that since he has been in the Army, he has learned a lot, especially about the Signal Corps Regiment.

"The challenge has been keeping up with new technology," Aranyi said. "The Signal Corps constantly changes and you have to stay one step ahead."

"Our goal is to provide great communication for this command," Aranyi said, "especially for Soldiers in combat logistics patrols on the main supply route."

Aranyi has also served in many other positions in the Signal Corps and was nominated for the Bronze Order of Mercury by his peers in the 3rd Signal Corps C6.

Aranyi has served in many important areas in the Theater Network Operations and Security center, as well as helped restructure it. Aranyi was also given ComSec keys during his time with the TNOSC. He had to deliver the keys to multiple locations in Southwest Asia and ensure their safety at all times.

Aranyi has served over 23 years in the military and was happy to receive the nomination and the award from his peers.

"There is a very special meaning to getting this award," Aranyi said. "It is always an honor to be given an award by your peers."

Army birthday celebrates congressional partnership



Photo by J.D. Leipold

Army and congressional leaders celebrated the Army's 233rd birthday and the Army's partnership with Congress June 11 at a cake-cutting ceremony on Capitol Hill. Secretary of the Army Pete Geren told the audience it was a great occasion to celebrate an institution, a partnership that is older than the nation: "It was really an adoption more than a birth because Soldiers were in the field laying siege to the British in Boston when the Continental Congress decided to create an Army on June 14, 1775 -- they said, 'those guys in the field; they are our Army.'" From left to right: Rep. Chet Edwards of Texas, Chief of Staff of the Army Gen. George W. Casey Jr., Secretary Geren, Sgt. Maj. of the Army Kenneth O. Preston and Sen. James Inhofe of Oklahoma.

Iraqi Army SWETS it out

Story and photos by Spc. Jaime Avila

1st BCT, 82nd Abn. Div

COB ADDER, Iraq – Paratroopers with the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division's Special Weapons Exploitation Team is currently training Iraqi Army military police on sensitive site exploitation.

The training has been ongoing for three weeks and is expected to continue when the 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division SWET arrives later this month.

"Over the past three weeks, we began a sensitive site exploitation training program with the Iraqi Army," said Sgt. John W. Minarik, the SWET military police noncommissioned officer.

The training covered everything from improvised explosive device detonations to rocket attacks to sensitive site exploitation. They also went through practical exercises such as how to properly gather evidence and clear a house with a bomb-maker inside.

"This training is very important for the Iraqi Army. It's very important for them to eventually run military operations throughout their entire country," said Minarik.

Because IEDs and other explosives pose a threat to Coalition and Iraqi Forces, the training the Soldiers received will prove valuable while they're on missions.

"IEDs are always going to be a threat here as long as there's an insurgency. And the more they know how to deal with it, the better they're going to be," he added.

Although the training exercise turned out great for both the instructors and the students, some of the instructors did not know what to expect from their students.

"I thought it was great. Going into it, I didn't really know what their level of knowledge or expertise was, but as soon as I saw the first team go through, I knew they were on point," said Staff Sgt. Jesse Soldo, SWET noncommissioned officer in charge.

According to the instructors, the Sol-

Iraqi Army Soldiers listen to a briefing before beginning their sensitive site exploitation training at Camp Mittica June 4. Paratroopers of the 1st BCT, 82nd Abn. Div. SWET trained Iraqi Army MPs for the past three weeks on SWET missions and responsibilities.





Iraqi Army Soldiers look for explosives during a training exercise at Camp Mittica.

diers trained were some of the best group of guys they've worked with.

"They're catching on a lot better than some of the other Iraqi Army units I've worked with. They really listen and they catch on pretty quickly," said Minarik.

The students also took control of the simulated scenarios and relied on each other to get through them instead of asking the instructors for step-by-step instructions.

"They were self-reliant on their NCOs and their NCOs were doing well," Minarik said.

Minarik noted that the experience he had with these Iraqi Army Soldiers made him believe they had great dedication for the country they love and they take their jobs seriously.



TOP: Iraqi Army Soldiers search and question detainees during a training exercise at Camp Mittica.

LEFT: Iraqi Army Soldiers prepare to enter a house that is believed to contain explosives during a training scenario at Camp Mittica.



Combined patrols help Iraqis assume Baghdad Security

by Staff Sgt. Brent Williams

1st BCT, 4th Inf. Div.

FOB FALCON, Iraq - U.S. Soldiers took to the shadows Sunday to provide security overwatch for Iraqi volunteers manning a hasty checkpoint in Baghdad's Bayaa community.

Meanwhile, National Policemen from the 2nd NP Division patrolled the darkened streets renowned for improvised-explosive devices and violent attacks against Iraqi Security and Coalition Forces.

The Soldiers of 1st Battalion, 22nd Infantry, 4th Infantry Division recently began missions such as this one to assist Iraqi Security Forces and provide security and stability to the Bayaa, Aamel and Jihad communities in West Rashid, an area of southern Baghdad, said 1st Lt. Jeffrey Oben, a platoon leader assigned to Co. A, 1-22nd Infantry.

"The ISF are the mission," said Oben, an infantry officer from Flushing, Mich. "Improving the Iraqi security and allowing the Iraqis to take ownership of their own destiny and their own security really is our mission in Iraq."

The Soldiers conduct combined patrols with the 2nd Bn., 5th Bde., 2nd NP Div. every day and continue to assist the National Police Forces as they take the lead in ongoing security efforts in Rashid, he said.

"Capable, well-led, organized, ambitious, and well-disciplined," were just a few of the words Oben used to describe the National Police of the 2nd Bn., 5th Bde.

The ISF is not quite ready to assume control of its area, but it is well on its way to taking over, said Oben, who went on to explain that the 2nd Bn., 5th Bde., is "more than capable, and the way ahead is the NPs operating inde-



Photo by Staff Sgt. Brent Williams

An Iraqi citizen opens his apartment to National Policemen from the 2nd Battalion, 5th Brigade, 2nd National Police Division, May 31 during a combined patrol in the Bayaa market of the Rashid district in southern Baghdad.

pendently without any Coalition presence."

The National Police operate checkpoints, conduct security patrols and clearing operations, while talking with local Iraqis in the Aamel and Bayaa communities, looking for weapons and checking identification cards, said NP Sgt. Areef Nawr, 2nd Bn., 5th Bde.

Nawr said he wants security, peace and something better than what he has seen in his country during the past three years of his service as an NP, and he will continue to work until the ISF gains the trust and understanding of the Iraqi people.

"This is my country," explained Nawr, as to why he serves

in the ISF.

Staff Sgt. Robert Brown, an M2 Bradley section leader from Lowell, Mass., said he believes the National Police are almost to the point of taking over from U.S. forces.

"I would like to see the (militants) reduced to a level where they cannot operate, which I believe we are starting to do," said Brown, an infantryman on his third deployment with Co. A, 1st Bn., 22nd Inf. Regt., in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

"With that, I believe the NPs are a big help," Brown explained. "They know who a lot of the special groups criminals are, where they operate, where they hide out. It makes the NPs a good asset to

have out there because they detain guys we would not expect to be doing bad things."

Brown also said that the improving security situation in southern Baghdad is due to the Concerned Local Citizens program, the U.S.-backed Sons of Iraq, who are working to reintegrate the Sunnis back into the Aamel and Bayaa communities.

"The SoI will help move the Sunni families back into their homes and hopefully limit the sectarian violence, where (the communities) can be Shia and Sunni again," Brown said.

The Soldiers of the 1st "Raider" BCT, working with the local ISF, are going to see the area become more stable with the continued support of the Iraqi community, said Staff Sgt. Harold Rodriguez, an infantry squad leader, also from Lowell, Mass., and assigned to Co. A, 1st Bn., 22nd Inf. Regt.

"When we first got here, we couldn't see the SoI, but now they are building up their checkpoints and working alongside the Iraqi Police and National Police," he explained.

The "buzz" on the streets is that the militant group members are quitting, said Rodriguez.

"We have been finding a lot of their caches and arresting a lot of people," he explained. "The (special groups) leadership is telling the militia to attack, and they are not doing it. They are coming to us for reconciliation."

In recent months, the Iraqi Security Volunteers, or Sons of Iraq, in the Bayaa and Aamel communities increased to almost 2,000 volunteers - nearly double the numbers from seven months ago, said Spc. Marc Miller, an infantryman assigned to Company B, 4th Battalion, 64th Armor Regiment, currently attached to Co. A, 1st Bn., 22nd Inf. Regt.

"They have been really great as far as giving us tips and helping us out," said Miller, a native of Zanesville, Ohio. "We haven't really seen many improvised explosive devices or explosively formed projectiles emplaced, and I think a lot of the credit goes to these guys because they help us out and give us tips; and a lot of times, the tips are even before the IEDs or EFPs get placed."

Security in the area has improved greatly since the "Regulars" Battalion arrived, said Miller, who has seen several special groups criminals and significant weapons caches taken off the streets in recent weeks.

"I credit it to ... the non-stop patrolling," Miller said.

A Company "Gators" maintain a presence in the Aamel and Bayaa communities 24 hours per day, Miller said.

"We constantly have someone out in sector ... for every platoon that is out in sector, as soon as they come back, we have another platoon that is ready to go," he said.

Working with the ISF increases the unit's ability to act on tips from concerned citizens and doubles the security forces operating in Baghdad, added Miller, who used a recent operation that resulted in the capture of more than 40 "bad guys" in one day as an example of recent successes.

"The Soldiers are on top of it," said Command Sgt. Maj. Timothy Guden, a native of Medford, Wis., and is the senior enlisted leader for the "Regulars" Bn. "They are doing an outstanding job of coaching, mentoring and teaching the ISF while working for the safety and security of the Rashid district, which contributes to the overall stability of Baghdad."



Smoothing it over

BALAD AIR BASE, Iraq -- Tech. Sgt. Adam Brothers, 332nd Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron heavy equipment operator, contours a new sidewalk here, June 10. Sidewalk repair is being accomplished throughout the base housing area to eliminate tripping hazards. Sergeant Brothers is a deployed from Patrick Air Force Base, Fla.



Photo by Master Sergeant Heather Cabral



Photo by Staff Sgt. Mareshah Haynes

Senior Airman Nicole Vaughn, assigned to the 23rd Expeditionary Fighter Squadron, spends time with a young Iraqi girl, a patient at the Air Force Theater Hospital here, as part of a job swap program.

Flight operators go to the operating table in career field swap

by Staff Sgt. Mareshah Haynes

332nd Air Expeditionary Wing

BALAD AIR BASE, Iraq -- Many Airmen never get the opportunity to see first-hand what Airmen outside their career field do on a day to day basis, let alone experience it.

That's exactly what the 'swap' program at the Air Force Theater Hospital here at Balad Air Base allowed a handful of Airmen to do.

Airmen from the 23rd and 332nd Expeditionary Fighter Squadrons swapped jobs with Airmen from the 332nd Expeditionary Medical Group for a day to gain a greater appreciation of the mission performed by their peers.

Staff Sgt. C.J. Cruz-Francois, 332 EFS, and Senior Airman Nicole Vaughn, 23 EFS, spent the day at the AFTH, assisting the staff with tasks including stocking medical supplies, cleaning linen bins and scrubbing in to observe operations.

"We try to expose them to every facet of the hospital," said Chief Master Sgt. David Nordel, 332nd Expeditionary Medical Group chief. "Although traditionally the medical group is the smallest of the groups on base, we have by far the most Air Force specialties within one unit. The goal is for the individual to experience the diversity of the EMDG and get an appreciation for the amount of teamwork that is needed to accomplish our mission of combat trauma care."

The exchange Airmen also saw a part of the medical career field that no service-member hopes to experience, but the AFTH staff has to deal with all too often.

They witnessed a Fallen Angel ceremony

for a 21-year-old Soldier, who despite doctors' efforts, died from a gunshot wound. The ceremony, which is a memorial held for servicemembers who gave their lives defending freedom, was attended by the OR staff, hospital chaplains and helicopter pad crew.

"Seeing the guys coming who are injured and hurt -- it really opens up your eyes as to why we're here in Iraq, what we're supporting and what the mission is," said Vaughn, who is deployed from Spangdahlem Air Base, Germany. "Today was very intense."

"I call the EMDG a combat zone in the middle of an Air Force base because the war comes to us," said Nordel, who is deployed from Grand Forks Air Force Base, N.D. "The impact of the loss of a brother or sister in arms is something that medical warriors have to face and deal with, just as maintainers have to deal with 120 degree days or other factors that make their tough job tougher. That part of the medical mission truly defines who and what we are about."

The Airmen also had the opportunity to visit the laboratory and physical therapy clinic where they learned their blood types and tried out some of the equipment used to treat patients who suffer from muscle spasms.

After experiencing a day in the life of a medical technician at the AFTH, it seemed the experience did cause a deeper appreciation and an insight into the overall Air Force mission and how each job is integral to accomplishing the mission.

"It puts things into perspective," said Cruz-Francois, (the work done at the AFTH) is phenomenal. When you witness it, you know why you're (in Iraq)."

Joint IED Defeat Organization steps up fight to save Soldiers

by J.D. Leipold

Army News Service

WASHINGTON -- Although the use of improvised explosive devices in Iraq has risen over the past couple of years, coalition casualties have been fewer because U.S. forces have been able to find and clear about half of the IEDs planted, said the Joint IED Defeat Organization director.

Speaking at the Association of the U.S. Army's Institute of Land Warfare breakfast June 4, Lt. Gen. Thomas F. Metz said insurgents cannot beat the coalition tactically, so they've increased the average monthly IED production to 2,800.

"That's not trivial, that's a factory somebody is paying for -- the bomb makers to make it, logistics to deliver it, people to disburse it, dig it in and to ignite it," Metz said.

Efforts to destroy IED builder networks have had considerable success, Metz said. The Joint IED Defeat Organization has hired retired law enforcement professionals with 20 or 30 years experience who work alongside a brigade commander to help smoke out the networks. Metz said thus far that marriage has proven extremely profitable in taking down networks.

Surveillance from the air and ground -- to include using unmanned aerial vehicles, robots and specialized search dogs -- have

also been instrumental in the search for IEDs and their networks, he said. He also cited improvements in personal and vehicle armor, as well as training, in contributing to Soldier survival.

"They cannot beat us with the IED tactically; I'm absolutely convinced of that... but the IED is a strategic weapon and is not going to stop (being constructed)," he added. "Our Soldiers are so good they'll win this thing; they find and clear more than 50 percent of them, and we've given them the protection to survive almost every time."

Metz said when he commanded Multi-National Corps-Iraq from 2004 to 2005, IED use was high, but today it's the weapon of choice. He also said during his tour most every IED was initiated by a low or high-powered radio device, ranging from a garage door opener to a sophisticated radio.

"We have worked hard to get him off the radio control business, pushed out jamming devices, spending billions, we pushed the enemy and pushed him away from that so his option was to go less sophisticated, back to command wires and pressure plates," Metz said.

"He is not a dumb thug... he is a thinking, innovative, very adaptable, nimble enemy."

Metz added, however, that many talented scientists and engineers here are working to help defeat the IED threat.

Lab on alert



Photo by Senior Airman Julianne Showalter

BALAD AIR BASE, Iraq -- Senior Airman Kristi Hales, 332nd Expeditionary Medical Support Squadron lab technician, places ice packs into a cooler for a grab-and-go kit used to respond to emergency patient situations at the Air Force Theater Hospital here, June 5. Hales is deployed from Lackland Air Force Base, Texas.



Photo by Spc. Charlotte Martinez

Staff Sgt. Dale Carson, a Soldier with the 76th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, watches as Spc. Alfredo Nava, a tank turret mechanic with the 557th Maintenance Company, put together a pen he made earlier that week before Nava puts his own pen together.

Soldiers can learn how to do-it-yourself

by Spc. Charlotte Martinez

Anaconda Times staff

LSA ANACONDA, Iraq – Do you like to make your own projects or do things yourself? Are you looking for a personalized gift for a friend or loved one? Would you like to get away from everyone and take time out to relax and build something? Making pens and shadow boxes at the self-help center here may just be the thing for you.

Staff Sgt. Dale Carson, a member of the 76th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, shows Soldiers here how to make their very own shadow box for flags, coins and certificates; as well as their very own pen or other small item.

“Anyone can make a pen, shadow box or anything else they would like to make,” Carson, who works in the DPW Self-Help center said. “If they aren’t sure about what they are doing, I’ll show them how to do it.”

Carson said he finds his handy work relaxing and can be done even when you are alone.

When walking into the workshop where Carson works, servicemembers will find several unique, colorful pens and a variety of shadow boxes on display.

“There are several types of shadow boxes Soldiers can make,” Carson said. “You can have a box with one, two or three flags, you can hold coins or certificates in them—really anything you want to do.”

Carson said Soldiers can choose what flags they want to go in the boxes to display; however, you must provide your own.

“You can put your state flag in it,” he said. “Or I have seen some Soldiers put the Iraqi flag with their state flag and an American flag or just the Iraqi flag with the American flag and coins at the bottom... there are several different ways, and I will show them how to make each of them.”

Carson said he can guarantee that anyone who thinks he or she can not make a pen will walk out of his shop within an hour or so with a brand new, very

unique pen of his or her own.

Making a pen is a different process than making a shadow box, however, just as simple, Carson explained.

Carson supplies all of the necessary tools and equipment, such as a lathe, to make your own pen; however, you have to pick your own working materials, he said.

For this, Carson has a catalogue of the different materials to build a pen out of, ranging from rattlesnake skin to a marble-like substance. The catalogue also offers a variety of colors, designs and extras as well as kits to build a variety of items.

Carson said that you can order your own materials, or for 20 dollars, use the materials he pays for and orders in bulk for servicemembers to use.

He said he makes absolutely no profit from the pens, in fact, most of the time, he loses money, but he said it is worth it when a Soldier learns how to make his or her very own pen.

Carson even purchased the lathes that are used in the self-help center for Soldiers to use, and plans to leave them here when he returns home.

Spc. Alfredo Nava, a tank turret mechanic with the 557th Maintenance Company, said he has enjoyed going to the self-help center and working with Carson to learn how to build new things.

“Basically, on my time off, I come down here,” Nava said. “Instead of playing video games or something, I work on my craftsmanship.”

Nava, who was learning to build his own pen and was helping Carson to build and finish several shadow boxes, said he views his time here as a way to gain knowledge and learn new things.

“You don’t even have to make pens or boxes,” Carson said. “Just come on down here and we can help you make anything you want.”

So if you want to learn something new or make your own souvenir or gift, stop by the self-help center and see what you can learn.

Women find new opportunities with jobs in Arab Jabour

by Sgt. Kevin Stabinsky

Multi-National Division – Center

ARAB JABOUR, Iraq - She wears a head scarf and long robe covering her from shoulder to toe; only her hands and face are visible. Yet despite her traditional clothing, Maha Aziz Abass Al-Jabouri is working hard to cast aside the stereotypical role of women in the Arab Jabour region.

Abass, a language teacher at the al-Hamza School, is one of several women in the village of Alemia who work to empower women in the area.

“Before, our future was farming. Now we want jobs like the women in the city,” Abass said.

As the Rasheed Women’s Council representative from Alemia, Abass is striving to realize that dream.

Establishing the women’s council was one of the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division’s most important accomplishments in the area, said 1st Lt. Charles Staab, from Novi, Mich.

Staab, a platoon leader in Company A, 1st Battalion, 30th Infantry Regiment, said starting the council was a remarkable achievement, marking something women had never done there before.

“The importance lies in being a part of what’s happening,” he said. “They can either watch what is happening or be a part of it, and they are choosing to be a part.”

Through involvement in the council, these women are getting the Iraqi government to work to provide a better life for them. The improved security infrastructure in the area has provided the Iraqi Government with a stronger foothold into helping its people.

“Before, when the bad guys were here, the government would not help. Now (the government is) giving money to make the area better,” Abass said.

Abass, like many women in the area, was widowed because of insurgent violence. Her husband was killed by al-Qaeda terrorists, leaving her to raise her three sons and two daughters alone.

Now, new opportunities are available, giving hope to Abass and others like her.

Businesses catering to women are opening, thanks to a combination of funding from Coalition Forces and the Government of Iraq. A women’s sew shop has already opened in Alemia.

Abass hopes the Iraqi government will continue to support women’s initiatives and create more opportunities. In her opinion, training in both health care and literacy are needed.

“I want my kids to get a better education,” Abass said. “I hope my daughters go to college and become engineers like their aunt.”

Her sister, Suha Azit, a computer engineer, is also doing her part to empower women in the area. In addition to her regular job, Azit has opened her own business, with the help of a grant from the Iraqi government.

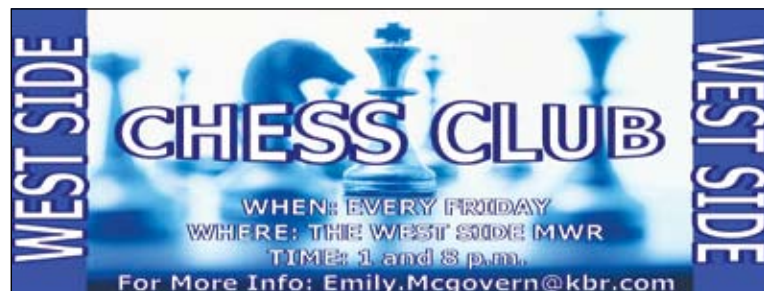
Azit said she has always had an interest in fashion. She is hoping to turn this interest into income through a beauty shop she opened two weeks ago.

“At age eight, I was watching other women being made beautiful and fell in love with the idea,” Azit said of her inspiration to open the shop. Her shop offers women the latest makeup, hair styles and fashions from catalogs.

Just as she once worked as an apprentice at a beauty shop, Azit is now employing another woman to learn the trade. In the mornings, when Azit is working as an engineer, her apprentice takes care of the shop.

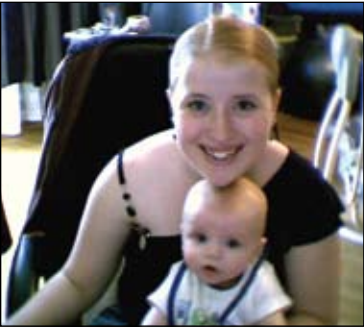
The new kinds of work women are doing in Arab Jabour sends a message that women are valuable members of the community with much to contribute, Staab said. Empowering women also sends a strong message to al-Qaeda members who once operated in the area.

“Women moving independently from their homes into the work force and also meeting openly ... is showing their defiance toward al-Qaeda, and shows their independence in this nation,” Staab said.



MESSAGES FROM HOME

Anthony,
I LOVE YOU!!! I soo proud
of you! Be SAFE! Im thinking of
you every second! Cant wait to
see you again....Love you always
and forever your loving wife
Jessica



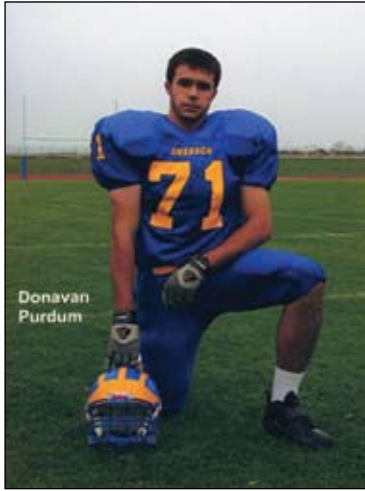
SPC Brent G. Christie
Happy Fathers Day!!! We
love you and miss you so much.
Can't wait until your home with
us again. Your our hero and we
are so proud of you. Almost
done!!



HAPPY FATHER'S DAY
DADDY / SSG TWIGGS!!!
HANG IN THERE DADDY,
WE'LL BE TOGETHER AGAIN
REAL SOON. WE'RE SO PROUD
OF YOU!!! WE LOVE YOU AND
MISS YOU!!!
HUGS AND KISSES FROM
HOME,
NOAH AND KAELYN

Anthony,
I LOVE YOU!!! I soo proud
of you! Be SAFE! Im thinking of
you every second! Cant wait to
see you again....Love you always
and forever your loving wife
Jessica

Wesley Spear
Happy Fathers Day Daddy!!
We love you!! Have a good day.
Love you always and forever.
Tiffany & Dayton Spear



HAPPY BIRTHDAY 1SG
SEAN DUNN
We LOVE & MISS YOU "SU-
PERMAN-HB"!!
Tonya & Donovan

DJ, we miss you so much.
We are so proud to call you
our Dad/Husband. Only a little
more to go!!! Stay safe and
come home to us soon... that is
an order soldier!!! We love you
more with everyday. Happy
Fathers Day Baby....

XOXOX
Ashlea, Gabrielle, and Corrina



Happy Birthday " G. I. Judy"
Steele!!!
You're looking Thirty!
I Love you!!
Bryan

I would like to wish my son
"SPC David C. Dillard" a Happy
32nd Birthday on June 18th.
This will be the 2nd Birthday
for him over in Iraq. All of us
back home are very proud of
him and wish him well.
Thank you,
Debbie & Bob King Webb &
Brandi Dillard & Daughter

Messages From Home

Show your Soldier how much you miss them by sending messages, pictures, or poems in the Anaconda Times newspaper.

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

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

TOURNAMENTS STARTS @ 8 P.M.

FRIDAY NIGHTS

CHESS
POKER
IN BALAD
SPADES

A photograph of a chess piece and a hand of cards. The chess piece is a white king, and the cards are a mix of different suits and numbers.

SAFETY ALERT

DO NOT TAMPER WITH THE WAVES SYSTEM

THIS IS AN OFFENCE THAT IS PUNISHABLE UNDER ARTICLE 92 OF THE UCMJ

FOR SERVICE OR WORK ORDERS CONTACT: 2ND LT. RACHEL PITONI

A portrait of a man in a military uniform. He is wearing a camouflage uniform with "HARRIS" and "U.S. MARINES" visible on the chest. He is looking directly at the camera.

Lance Corporal Terrell Aaron Harris

America's warrior

A snapshot of servicemembers in the Global War on Terrorism

Full name and rank: Lance Corporal Terrell Aaron Harris.
Job Title: F-18 jet mechanic.
Time in service: 18 months.
Age: 20.
Hometown: Ashtabula, Ohio.
Pastimes (Hobbies): Video games, sports, and working out.
Life-changing event/moment: Graduating boot camp.
Lesson Learned: What goes around comes around.
Why I joined the military: Interested in becoming an officer in the Marines.
If I wasn't in the military I would be: In college.

If I wasn't in military: I would wish I had joined the military.
The one thing I think the Marines got right: Everybody in the Marines is trained to fight.
What makes a good Marines? The higher ranks showing you what to do, being role models.
Unusual fact about you: I put mustard on my pizzas.
Motivations in life: My parents.
Goals: Become an officer in an air wing, and be successful in life.
Hardest part of my job: Dealing with the heat.
Best part of my job: Working out at the gym.

ANACONDA ACTIVITIES

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

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

Step Aerobics: Monday, Wednesday, Friday – 5:30 p.m.
Wrestling & physical fitness class: Tuesday- 6 p.m. and Saturday- 7 p.m.
Swing dance: Sunday- 7:30 p.m.

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

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

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

Foosball: Tuesday- 1 p.m. and 8 p.m.
Green Bean karaoke: Wednesday and Sunday- 8 p.m.
Ice Ball Tourney: Thursday- 4 p.m.
Ping pong tourney: Tuesday- 1 p.m. and 8 p.m.
Salsa dance class: Thursday- 8:30 p.m.
Spades, Chess and Dominoes: Friday – 1 p.m.
Texas hold ‘em: Saturday- 1 p.m. and 8 p.m.
Game Counsel Tourney: Thursday- 1 p.m. and 8 p.m.

WEST FITNESS CENTER
3-on-3 basketball tourney: Saturday- 7:30 p.m.
6-on-6 volleyball tourney: Friday- 7 p.m.
Aerobics: Monday, Wednesday, Friday- 7 p.m.
Body by Midgett Toning

Class: Tuesday, Thursday - 7 p.m.
Dodge ball Game: Tuesday- 7:30 p.m.
Furman’s Martial Arts: Monday, Wednesday, Sunday- 1 p.m.
Gaston’s Self-Defense Class: Friday, Saturday- 7 p.m.
Open court basketball: Thursday- 7 p.m.
Open court soccer: Monday, Wednesday - 7 p.m.
Zingano Brazilian Jui Jitsu: Tuesday, Thursday- 8:30 p.m.

CIRCUIT GYM
Floor hockey: Monday, Wednesday, Friday – 8 p.m.



SUSTAINER REEL TIME THEATER

Movie Times

Wednesday, June 18
5 p.m. The Forboding Kingdom
8 p.m. Forgetting Sarah Marshal
Thursday, June 19
5 p.m. Kung Fu Panda
8 p.m. The Ruins
Friday, June 20
2 p.m. Speed Race
5 p.m. Made of Honor
8 p.m. The Incredible Hulk
Saturday, June 21
2 p.m. Made Of Honor
5 p.m. The Incredible Hulk
8 p.m. Speed Racer
Sunday, June 22
2 p.m. The Incredible Hulk
5 p.m. Speed Racer
8 p.m. Made of Honor
Monday, June 23
5 p.m. Made of Honor
8 p.m. The Incredible Hulk
Tuesday, June 24
5 p.m. The Incredible Hulk
8 p.m. Speed Racer

(Schedule is subject to change)

New Next Week

What Happens in Vegas
Get Smart

New Movies

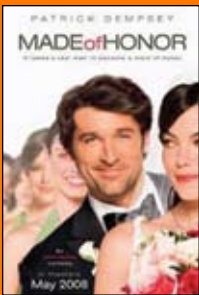
The Incredible Hulk



Mild-mannered scientist Bruce Banner has been traveling the globe in search of the antidote that will allow him to break free from his primal alter ego, but both the warmongers who long to exploit him for their own gain and a horrific creature known as The Abomination are determined to stop him from achieving his noble goal in *Transporter 2* director Louis Leterrier’s take on the classic Marvel Comics superhero tale. For years, Bruce (Edward Norton) has been living in the shadows, pursued by the military and haunted by the rage within. But traveling the world in secrecy isn’t easy, and as hard as he tries Bruce can’t get Betty Ross (Liv Tyler) off his mind. The daughter of Bruce’s nemesis Gen. Thaddeus “Thunderbolt” Ross

(William Hurt), Betty represents everything that is beautiful in the world to a man who lives his life on the run. Eventually, Bruce returns to civilization and faces the wrath of The Abomination. While the Hulk may be a formidable force of nature, The Abomination is decidedly more powerful, and determined to destroy Bruce Banner. Created when KGB agent Emil Blonsky (Tim Roth) exposed himself to a higher dose of the same radiation that transformed Bruce into The Hulk, The Abomination is unable to change back into human form and holds Bruce accountable for his frightful condition. With time fast running out for both Bruce and The Hulk, New York City is about to become the ultimate urban battle zone as two of the most powerful creatures ever to walk the earth clash in a massive, no-holds-barred fight to the finish.

Made of Honor



A handsome and successful bachelor is taken aback when his dream girl asks him to be the “maid” of honor in her upcoming wedding in this romantic comedy starring Patrick Dempsey and Michelle Monaghan. Tom (Dempsey) and Hannah (Monaghan) have been best friends for years. Though all the hard times, Hannah has been the one constant in Tom’s life, and the one person he knows he can always rely on. When Hannah leaves for a six-week business trip in Scotland, Tom is surprised to realize how truly lonely he is without her. Life just isn’t the same

without Hannah around, so the moment she returns Tom resolves to ask for her hand in marriage. But apparently Hannah’s trip wasn’t all business, because upon returning home Hannah announces that she has gotten engaged to a dashing Scotsman and will soon be starting a new life overseas. She’s convinced that Tom will be thrilled for her, and wants him to play a crucial role in the wedding. His spirits crushed but his love for Hannah stronger than ever before, Tom reluctantly agrees to be the “maid” of honor so that he can prove his love in no uncertain terms and convince her to call off the wedding before true happiness slips through his fingers.

STUPID STATE LAWS

Ever wonder just how dumb things can be? Does your state have dumb laws? Read on and find out. In the upcoming weeks, the Anaconda Times will have a series of dumb and stupid laws for each state.

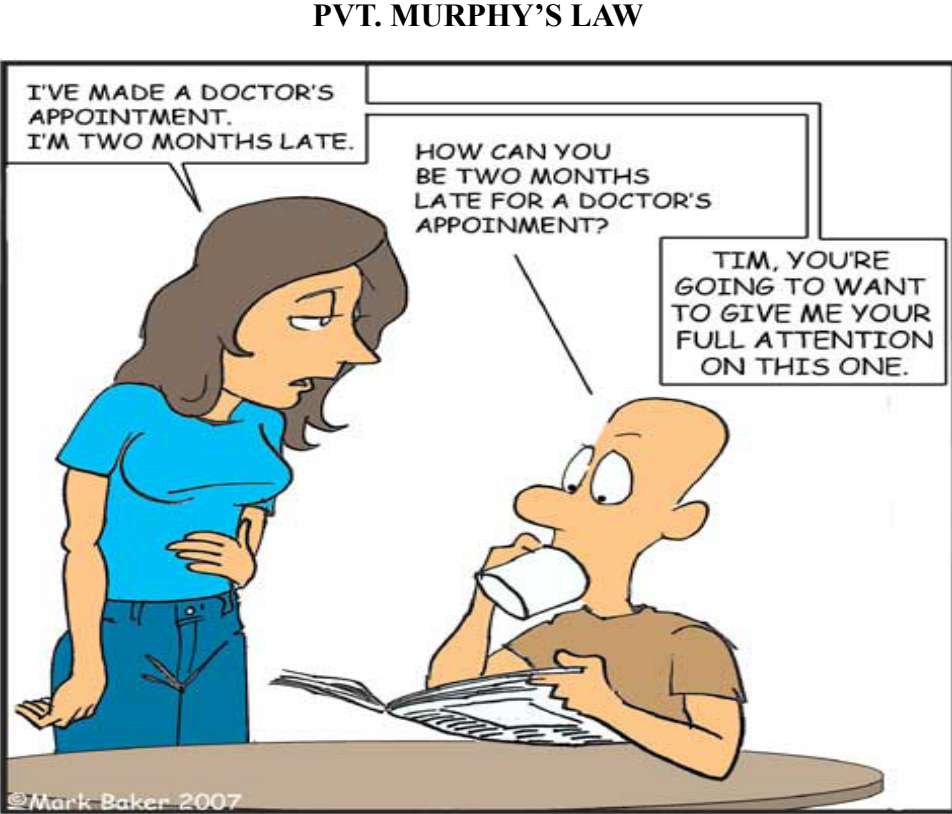
Many of the laws have been verified, but many have been taken from sources which do not include law citations. The laws cited below have been taken from news groups, web sites and city governments. Remember, something had to have happened to get these laws passed. Some laws have been repealed, but not all; some are still on the books.

Indiana

- Check forgery can be punished with public flogging up to 100 stripes.
- Mustaches are illegal if the bearer has a tendency to habitually kiss other humans.
- A three dollar fine per pack will be imposed on anyone playing cards in Indiana under the Act for the Prevention of Gaming.

Iowa

- The fire department is required to practice fire fighting for fifteen minutes before attending a fire.
- All softball diamond lights must be turned off by 10:30 p.m.
- Within the city limits, a man may not wink at any woman he does not know.



Sudoku

The objective is to fill the 9×9 grid so that each column, each row, and each of the nine 3×3 boxes contains the digits from 1 to 9 only one time each.

Last week answers

5	8	1	2	9	3	6	4	7
4	7	3	8	1	6	2	9	5
2	9	6	5	7	4	3	1	8
1	6	7	4	8	9	5	3	2
8	5	4	6	3	2	1	7	9
9	3	2	1	5	7	8	6	4
6	4	9	3	2	5	7	8	1
7	1	5	9	6	8	4	2	3
3	2	8	7	4	1	9	5	6

		5	9			7		
				7	8	2		
1		8	2				6	
5							1	7
			4		6			
9	6							3
	1				4	9		6
		9	8	3				
	4				9	8		



Upcoming sports on AFN

Wednesday 6/18/08

2008 NBA Finals, Game 6: Boston Celtics @ Los Angeles Lakers (If Necessary) AFN/Sports 4 a.m.

2008 NCAA World Series - Game #8: Teams TBD (Omaha, NE) AFN/Sports 10 a.m.

2008 NBA Finals, Game 6: Boston Celtics @ Los Angeles Lakers (If Necessary) AFN/Sports 2 p.m.

2008 NBA Finals, Game 6: Boston Celtics @ Los Angeles Lakers (If Necessary) AFN/Sports replay 8 p.m.

Thursday 6/19/08

2008 NCAA World Series - Game #9: Teams TBD (Omaha, NE) AFN/Sports 2 a.m.

MLB New York Mets @ Los Angeles Angels AFN/Sports 5 a.m.

MLB Kansas City Royals @ St. Louis Cardinals AFN/Sports 2 a.m.

Los Angeles Dodgers @ Cincinnati Reds AFN/Sports 7:30 a.m.

Friday 6/20/08

2008 NCAA World Series - Game #10: Teams TBD (Omaha, NE) AFN/sports 10 a.m.

2008 NBA Finals, Game 7: Boston Celtics @ Los Angeles Lakers (If Necessary) AFN/sports 4 a.m.

MLS Primetime Thursday: Chicago Fire @ Chivas USA AFN/Sports 5 a.m.

MLB Chicago Cubs @ Tampa Bay Rays AFN/Sports 10 a.m.

2008 NBA Finals, Game 7: Boston Celtics @ Los Angeles Lakers (If Necessary) AFN/sports 2 p.m.

2008 NBA Finals, Game 7: Boston Celtics @ Los Angeles Lakers (If Necessary) AFN/sports 6 p.m.

2008 NCAA World Series - Game #11: Teams TBD (Omaha, NE) AFN/sports 9 p.m.

Saturday 6/21/08

2008 NCAA World Series - Game #12: Teams TBD (Omaha, NE) AFN/Sports 2 a.m.

MLB Detroit Tigers @ San Diego Padres AFN/Xtra 5 a.m.

MLB Florida Marlins @ Oakland Athletics AFN/Sports 5 a.m.

MLB Houston Astros @ Tampa Bay Rays AFN/Sports 10 a.m.

MLB Cincinnati Reds @ New York Yankees AFN/Xtra 8 p.m.

MLB on Superstation WGN: Chicago White Sox @ Chicago Cubs AFN/Prime Atlantic 8 p.m.

2008 NCAA World Series - Game #11: Teams TBD (Omaha, NE) AFN/Sports 9 p.m.

MLB Cleveland Indians @ Los Angeles Dodgers (JIP) AFN/Xtra 11 p.m.

MLB St. Louis Cardinals @ Boston Red Sox (JIP) AFN/Prime Atlantic 11 p.m.

Sunday 6/22/08

Interleague: Los Angeles Angels @ Philadelphia Phillies AFN/Prime Atlantic 2 a.m.

2008 NCAA World Series - Game #14: Teams TBA (Omaha, NE) AFN/Sports 2 a.m.

MLS on FSC: FC Dallas @ New York Red Bulls AFN/Xtra 8 a.m.

MLB Arizona Diamondbacks @ Minnesota Twins AFN/Sports 10 a.m.

MLB Baltimore Orioles @ Milwaukee Brewers AFN/Xtra 10 a.m.

NASCAR Nationwide Series: Milwaukee 250 (The Milwaukee Mile, West Allis, WI) AFN/Xtra 3 p.m.

AFL Columbus Destroyers @ Cleveland Gladiators AFN/Xtra 5:30 p.m.

MLB Cincinnati Reds @ New York Yankees AFN/Sports 8 p.m.

MLB Houston Astros @ Tampa Bay Rays AFN/Xtra 8:30 p.m.

PGA Tour 2008 Travelers Championship (TPC River Highlands, Cromwell, CT) AFN/Prime Atlantic 10 p.m.

MLB Cleveland Indians @ Los Angeles Dodgers AFN/Sports 11 p.m.

Monday 6/23/08

NASCAR Sprint Cup Series: Toyota/Save Mart 350 (Infineon Raceway, Sonoma, CA) AFN/Xtra 12 a.m.

MLB Chicago White Sox @ Chicago Cubs AFN/Sports 3 a.m.

PBR - Dickies American Worker of the Year Invitational AFN/Prime Atlantic 4 a.m.

AMA Motocross: San Bernardino AFN/Xtra 6 a.m.

AFL Dallas Desperados @ Chicago Crush AFN/Xtra 7:30 a.m.

IndyCar Racing Series: Iowa Corn Indy 250 (Iowa Speedway, Newton, IA) AFN/Xtra 10 a.m.

MLB Chicago White Sox @ Chicago Cubs AFN/Sports replay 10 a.m.

2008 Wimbledon, The Championships: Day 1 AFN/Sports 2 p.m.

MLB New York Mets @ Colorado Rockies AFN/Xtra 5 p.m.

Tuesday 6/24/08

2008 Men's College World Series - Championship Series: Game 1 (Omaha, NE) AFN/Sports 2 a.m.

2008 Wimbledon, The Championships: Day 2 AFN/Sports 2 p.m.

Word Jumble

Spell out the words using the letters provided with each line. Then use the circled letters to answer the question. Answers will be given next week.

A Soldier wears it.

1. M A O M □ □ ○ □

2. Y P T N R A D E I X I O E □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ ○ □ □ □

3. Z T U E I I L ○ □ □ □ ○ □ □

4. T F S E N S I ○ □ □ ○ □ □ □

ANSWER : ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○

College Basketball coaches bring camaraderie, admiration for Soldiers in "Hoop Talk"

by Spc. Anthony Hooker

Anaconda Times staff

LSA Anaconda, Iraq – Five National Collegiate Athletic Association basketball head coaches made an appearance June 7 at the Eastside Fitness Center here.

Jeff Bdzelik, Colorado University; Ed Conroy, the Citadel; Jim Crews, United States Military Academy at West Point; Dave Leitao, University of Virginia; and Gary Stewart, University of California-Davis, joined former New York Knick executive Jeff Nix to celebrate the spirit of the American servicemember and participate in a goodwill basketball challenge between two military branches.

Dubbed "Operation Hoop Talk," the event was a spin-off of a number of sports-themed challenges sponsored by the United Service Organizations since 2004. The group was initially invited to serve as coaches for a game between the Army and Air Force.

The group also took the opportunity to meet with the competitors and casual onlookers while sharing their feelings and admiration. Each coach pointedly mentioned how proud they were to be around people who show dedication to a job that requires a lot of discipline and sacrifice.

Shortly afterward, the game got underway. Coaches Bdzelik and Conroy led the Air Force while Crews and Nix took leadership of the Army's team. Coaches Leitao and Stewart served as referees.

The Airmen raced out to an early 8-0 lead, but Army was able

"An important part of life is having the ability to give to something bigger than yourself and sports allow for that."

Jim Crews
United States Military
Academy-West Point

to pull even and take the lead by the second period. The lead was traded numerous times throughout the contest, but by the fourth period, the Army was able to secure a 39-37 lead with under a minute to play.

Forced to foul, the Air Force caught a break as the Army made only one of two free throws. Airman first-class Taress Daniels dribbled the length of the court and got off a three-point attempt but the shot bounced off the glass and allowed the Army to secure the victory and bragging rights.

Happy to be on the winning side, Crews said the real winners are the people who get a chance to see the military in action.

"We see that commitment from (the military), how to be a teammate," said Crews, "sharing information, giving encouragement to one another, not being broken by things that go wrong but staying focused on improving . . . doing that so good things can take place."

Crews said his fellow coaches identify with the military's self-

less approach.

"An important part of life is having the ability to give to something bigger than yourself and sports allow for that."

Marketing professional Rick Keel, one of the original collaborators of the promotion, said sports-themed events is one of the best ways he and fellow sports figures could give back to the troops.

"(Servicemembers) are athletes," said Keel, "They compete, they are motivated . . . a lot of things that motivate and drive (sports) teams motivate and drive Soldiers."

Bdzelik, a former member of the Illinois Army National Guard, said the fighting spirit he witnesses from the military is something he regularly shares with people back home.

"I relay to the public just how dedicated the military is to answering our nation's call," said Bdzelik, sporting an Air Force T-shirt. "I have so much respect for the various military branches . . . they are making a difference with everything they do."



Photo by Spc. Anthony Hooker

Airman First-class Taress Daniels, a member of the 332nd Expeditionary Maintenance Squadron Munitions Section, shoots a last-second three-point attempt during "Operation Hoop Talk" June 7 at the Eastside Fitness Center.



Photo by Spc. Anthony Hooker

Air Force Staff Sgt. Germichael Kelley throws his arms up in an attempt to block a lay-up from his opponent.



Photo by Spc. Anthony Hooker

University of Colorado head coach Jeff Bdzelik instructs Balad Air Force team members at the Eastside Fitness Center. Bdzelik also coached at the Air Force Academy from 2005 to 2007.