

JOINT BASE BALAD'S EXPEDITIONARY TIMES

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Vol. 1, Issue 13



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JBB hosts conference

The 551st Medical Logistics Company hosted the second edition of its semi-annual medical logistical conference

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Engineers give training

74th MRBC train Iraqis how to build bridges

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25,000 sorties

The 777th EAS reaches 25,000th combat sorties

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3d ESC makes voting 'too easy'

by Sgt. Gary Hawkins

Expeditionary Times staff

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq – People all across the United States are looking forward to elections on Nov. 4. The campaign to register as many eligible voters is also in full swing in the States, as well as right here in Iraq.

"Most Soldiers and civilians have access to the Internet all over Iraq so most can go fill out, print and send in the registration forms," said Col. Cheri Provancha, support operations officer for the

"Voting is one of our most important rights given to us in the Constitution."

Maj. James Hess
3d ESC

3d Sustainment Command (Expeditionary). "For remote sites, each unit is assigned a 'voter registration officer or (noncommissioned officer) to insure the material and help are available to everyone

that wants to exercise their right to vote."

Americans are located all over the world and military leaders of all branches of service have made available the resources so they

can exercise their right to vote if they choose to.

"We are trying to inform the troops, no matter if they are in the States or overseas, in remote sites or right here on Joint Base Balad,"

said Maj. James Hess, plans and operations officer in charge for the G1 personnel section for the 3d ESC. "They still have a right to vote and we are providing the opportunity and are dedicated to giving them that opportunity."

The quickest and easiest way to register or request a ballot is to log onto the Federal Voting Assistance Program web site at www.fvap.gov and click on either the "military" get started box or the "civilian" get started block, said Hess.

"It's not hard and it's their right and privilege. The earlier

See **VOTING** Page 10

PMO Blotter: 29 Aug. – 4 Sept.

Suicide: An Army platoon sergeant died of a self-inflicted gunshot wound on the west side of the installation; this is the fourth suicide that has occurred on JBB this year.

Assault: A female Department of Defense civilian was returning from the showers in H-6 (L Pod) when an unknown black male suspect, 6'0", wearing a black t-shirt, black pants and a baseball cap grabbed her by the arm. The female pulled free of the suspect and ran from the scene. The suspect also fled from the scene.

Stray Round: An Air Force staff sergeant observed a stray round land 3-4 feet in front of him outside of the Green Beans Coffeehouse in the H-6 housing area.

Vandalism: An unknown suspect threw a large rock through the rear window of a white Nissan truck outside of building #7603, across the street from the Mayor's Cell. The vehicle belonged to a civilian employee of ITT.

Vandalism: An unknown suspect smashed the windshield of a KBR forklift with a large rock near the TMP garage.

Hit and Run: An Army private first class, driving a 2 ½ ton truck, side-swiped a wrecker being driven by another Soldier at Sustainer Circle. The private fled from the scene but was later apprehended at the base wash rack. The driver of the wrecker suffered lacerations to his hand as a result of the crash.

If you have any further information on the above incidents, contact the Provost Marshal Office:

NIPR- 443-8602

SIPR- 242-9982

Email- PMOdesk@iraq.centcom.mil

Shoulder to shoulder, suicide can be prevented

by Cpt. Joshua K. Ingertson

3rd ESC chaplain

Every year during the second week of September, the military, as well as the American public at large slows down to recognize the need to promote awareness and advocacy about suicide.

Suicide, according to the Center for Disease Control, is the eleventh leading cause of death in the United States annually. They have calculated that approximately 1.3 percent of all deaths that occur in the U.S. are suicides. This works out to be an average of one person dying by their own hand every – 6.1 minutes, a tragedy beyond measure.

In the midst of all this, when you add the stressors of combat into the equation, the outcome demands attention. During the Vietnam conflict, four times the number of Americans died by suicide than died in combat. In the 1990s, suicide was the second leading cause of death amongst Soldiers, making a Soldier fivetimes more likely to die from suicide than by hostile fire.

Recognizing that members of the military are susceptible to suicide just as much, if not more than the general public, the Army acknowledges a need for suicide awareness.

The Army's theme this year for Suicide Prevention Week is, "Shoulder to Shoulder: No Soldier Stands Alone," a theme that reminds us of the importance of relationships. More specifically, the relationships we share with those we call "brothers" and "sisters" in arms. So important are these relationships that it becomes clear these are the battle-

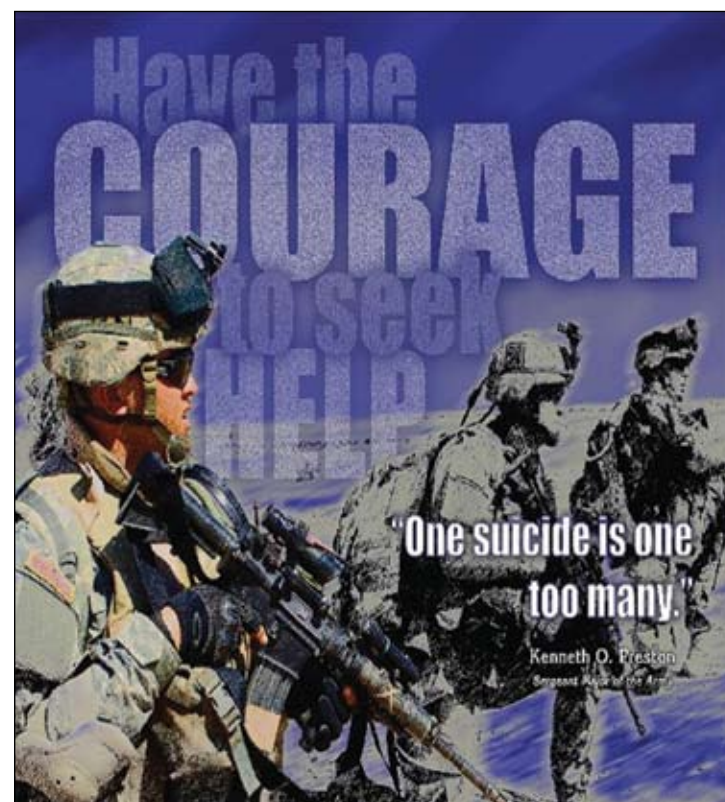
grounds on which we fight the war on suicide.

The word relationship is defined as a connection, association or involvement and gives the idea of a connection between people. From its definition, it becomes quickly apparent that relationships govern our day-to-day living. We have work relationships which are seen through interactions between supervisors and subordinates and even on a peer level. We also have relationships between friends and family seen primarily through our dealings with people outside of the work environment. Our relationships are characterized by what component we belong to (active or reserve), our military occupational specialty, where we work or even our culture. Relationships are, in large part, who we are and how are lives are defined.

A man named Henry Drummond once said, "It is when a man has no one to love him that he commits suicide. So long as he has friends, those who love him and whom he loves, he will live, because to live is to love. Be it but the love of a dog, it will keep him in life; but let that go and he has no contact with life, no reason to live. He dies by his own hand."

The importance of being a "buddy" or a friend or even just someone who cared enough to ask, "How are you doing?" becomes magnified through the lens of suicide. You will be the one to see the signs of suicide. Many times those signs and symptoms are characterized by the means, the intent and the opportunity.

Does your friend have the



means to commit to killing himself? The means can take many forms. They can vary from a gun to drugs (prescription or legal).

Does your friend have the intent? Has your friend's attitude drastically changed in the past several days? Many times, those who have committed to killing themselves will first give away their possessions and feel at peace with their decision. With some it may be a mood swing from peaceful to angry. Other questions to consider concern the stressors in your friend's life. Has work been difficult for her lately? Are things not going well on the home front? Are there relationship problems back home?

Lastly, does your friend have the opportunity to commit to a plan? Are they absent a roommate? Do they work alone? When the means, intent and opportunity are present it may be time to intervene on behalf of your friend.

You may be asking yourself,

"How can I help someone who is contemplating suicide?" The answer is ACE.

The A stands for Ask. Do not be afraid to ask someone if they have thought about committing suicide. This might be the only opportunity you have to help someone.

The C stands for Care for your buddy. When you show concern and your intent is to help, assurance will be felt by your friend.

The E stands for Escort. Never leave a friend who is contemplating suicide alone. Always take that person to a chaplain, combat stress control, or someone in the chain of command.

Don't forget, the battle of suicide is fought and won through our relationships. You have the biggest role in seeing to it that this battle ends in victory. Always look out for your friends, those who work in your section, and those closest to you because you never know when you may need them.

EXPEDITIONARY TIMES

3^d ESC Commanding General, Brig. Gen. Mike Lally

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Mission Statement: The Expeditionary Times Staff publishes a weekly newspaper with a primary mission of providing command information to all Servicemembers, partners, and Families of the 3^d Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) team and a secondary mission of providing a means for units on Joint Base Balad to disseminate command information to their audiences.

Q-West leaders promote economic opportunity, self-reliance for Iraqis

by Sgt. Keith M. Anderson

16th Sustainment Brigade

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE Q-WEST, Iraq

— Chiya Jamel operates a sort of general store, phone center and Internet business here on Contingency Operating Base Q-West, Iraq, called "Chya's Regular Club."

The 29-year-old Kurdish Iraqi said, in passable English, that without the help of the U.S. Army, he wouldn't have been able to start and grow his business.

"I make money, learn English, and understand what is going on," Jamel said. "I have good relation with the Soldier — over five years I work at this FOB."

Chya's is one of 14 Iraqi-owned businesses currently operating on Q-West — six industrial and eight retail — part of Coalition Forces' Iraqi-Based Industrial Zone initiative.

The businesses are awarded land-use agreements to operate on the COB, and sell goods and

services to Soldiers, contractors, local nationals and foreign nationals. Some are also awarded a contract.

As of Sept. 1, the COB has paid \$7.9 million in contracts for the fiscal year, with a monthly impact of \$274,433 going back into the Ninevah province here, according to the identification card office at Q-West, which tracks IBIZ contracts and impact.

"As the local population becomes more invested in the growth and prosperity of their local economy, they are less likely to join the local insurgency," said Sgt. 1st Class Sean Shanahan, events and communication noncommissioned officer in charge, and IBIZ assistant coordinator, Mayor's Cell.

Shanahan added that many of the more than 150 Iraqis that work on Q-West are also learning job skills like heating, ventilation and air conditioning repair; vehicle and generator maintenance; and welding, which will allow Iraqis to be successful after Coalition Forces leave.

"The key is for these individuals to establish themselves and survive on the skills they learn," Shanahan said.

Officials here are currently in the process of awarding a land-use agreement for an Iraqi-owned gas station to be built on Q-West, said Capt. Todd Howell, events and communication officer in charge, and IBIZ coordinator.

"Local nationals and foreign nationals will pay for the fuel they use," Howell said. "And they will build it according to American standards. We don't have to do that, but when we turn over this COB to Iraq, we will be responsible for the environmental state of this site, so it's not in our best interest to let anyone skim on standards."

The base is also negotiating a cell phone tower and concrete batch plant, Howell said.

The IBIZ initiative has been beneficial for local Iraqis, but they are worried about the U.S. and Coalition Forces leaving.

The majority of Jamel's business is with Americans, though he has opened some small businesses in local villages, and because Ninevah province is still largely divided along sectarian lines, there are many areas he could not work in.

"If the U.S. Soldiers leave, I work with who?" Jamel said.

'Hooah' Soldier of the week



Photo by Spc. Michael Behlin

Master Sgt. Carri Marks, an Everett, Wash., native and 3d Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) transportation senior sergeant, is congratulated by Brig. Gen. Michael J. Lally, 3d ESC commanding general, for being selected this week's "Hooah Soldier of the Week".

Shout Out from home

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

Contact the 3d ESC Public Affairs Office to print your message.

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

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)
8:30 P.M.	FREEDOM CHAPEL (WEST SIDE)
WEDNESDAY 8 P.M.	GILBERT MEMORIAL (H-6)

PROTESTANT – LITURGICAL

SUNDAY 11 A.M.	LUTHERAN-PROVIDER CHAPEL
3 P.M.	EPISCOPAL- LUTHERAN GILBERT CHAPEL (H-6)

PROTESTANT --MESSIANIC

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

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

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

(SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION 30 MIN. PRIOR TO MASS)	
SATURDAY 5 P.M.	GILBERT MEMORIAL (H-6)
8 P.M.	FREEDOM CHAPEL (WEST SIDE)
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
FRIDAY-HOLY HOUR 7 P.M.	PROVIDER CHAPEL

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)
SATURDAY 8 A.M.	GILBERT MEMORIAL (H-6)
6 P.M.	GILBERT MEMORIAL (H-6)

ISLAMIC SERVICE

FRIDAY 12:30 P.M.	PROVIDER CHAPEL
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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
SUNDAY 4:15 P.M.	GILBERT MEMORIAL CHAPEL
<u>EASTERN ORTHODOX- DEVINE LITURGY</u>	
SUNDAY 9 A.M.	PROVIDER CHAPEL ANNEX

*Please note, schedule is subject to change.



Photo by Spc. Michael Behlin

Members of the 74th Multi Role Bridging Company, 20th Engineer Brigade, of Fort Hood, Texas, repair portions of a temporary bridge replacing the Grand Canal Bridge in Taji, Iraq. The bridge is located in a high traffic area, requiring engineers to periodically repair damaged portions.

Bridging the gap

by Spc. Michael Behlin

Expeditionary Times staff

CAMP TAJI, Iraq – Having safe routes to conduct operations throughout Iraq is important to both Iraqi Security Forces and Coalition Forces. These operations include having routes clear of improvised explosive devices as well as having them structurally safe for logistics operations.

With major routes clear and safe, Coalition Forces and Iraqi Security Forces can travel without delay.

While the causes of route damage vary from IED blasts to wear and tear, Coalition Forces work busily to ensure routes are safe not only for military forces, but civilians as well. Declaring routes safe includes evaluating those that run across water.

Aiding in this process is the 74th Multi Role Bridging Company, 20th Engineer Brigade, out of Fort Hood, Texas. Recently the 74th MRBC worked to repair the Grand Canal Bridge, located on one of the busiest routes connecting northern Iraq to southern Iraq.

“There’s been a lot of traffic using this bridge, which has damaged some of the decking that we’re here to repair,” said Staff Sgt. Robert Madden, 74th MRBC 2nd Platoon noncommissioned officer in charge and Akron, Ohio, native.

The Grand Canal Bridge, located in Taji Qada, was first damaged in May 2007 when a vehicle born improvised explosive

device detonated along the southbound lane. Months later, another VBIED destroyed portions of the northbound lane, leaving the area prone to traffic jams and most importantly, an inoperable route.

According to Madden, companies had been contracted to make repairs to the original structure, but what now stands in its place is a temporary Mabey Johnson Bridge. When efforts to replace the southbound lane are completed, the temporary bridge will be removed.

While able to withstand tons of weight, these bridges still accumulate tremendous amounts of wear and tear with users ranging from Coalition Forces to ISF and civilians.

As a result, the 74th MRBC replaced steel panels along the bridge platform that was damaged by the constant weight and stress caused by vehicles crossing.

Doing so required the 74th MRBC to completely shut down the temporary bridge and divert traffic to a nearby railroad bridge. This allowed Soldiers to make repairs without interruption to fully complete the task at hand.

While the mission to keep the route flowing freely has been a difficult one, with Soldiers having to work odd hours to close down the bridge in order to make repairs, Madden acknowledged that the area locals have been appreciative of the work they do.

“As you go out on missions, you meet local civilians who appreciate what you do and that’s what we’re here for. We’re trying to get them on board so we can go back to be with our Families back in the States.”

Ruff and tuff news flash: Our eye in the sky

by Pvt. Ashley Lee

129th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion

To maintain the initiative and security in Multi-National Forces-West, Alpha and Bravo Troops, 1-152 Cavalry Reconnaissance Surveillance and Target Acquisition, are expanding the capabilities by utilizing organic unmanned aerial vehicles to support security.

To most civilians, the Raven is nothing more than a black bird that symbolizes death, but now to the 129th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion and the units they support, the Raven is a valuable reconnaissance asset that facilitates living. The mission of the Raven is to provide operational capabilities, remote reconnaissance and surveillance, force protection, target acquisition, and battle damage assessment.

The “eye in the sky” allows the ability to view elevated threat zones and known areas of interest at a distance. The Raven is hand-launched, quickly assembled, portable, backpack capable for dismounts, quiet, reusable, and has auto navigation features. “The greatest benefit is being able to send it out without having to send the troops out,” said Staff Sgt. William Kurzendoerfer, the leader of the Raven team.

“Our mission is to provide ... Security for the 129th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 101st Airborne Division Air Assault. We do that, and we do it well. As a Reconnaissance Surveillance Target Acquisition Cavalry Troop, we have a lot of assets

to employ in the fight. Some of these assets however, were unused until recently, when we really started to take a look at how we could incorporate them into our missions.

Alpha and Bravo Troop have a Raven that is designed to support the reconnaissance missions, but for the current mission, the asset was not utilized. The troops, wanting to put every available asset into the fight, worked together to come up with a plan to incorporate the Raven into their operations, and are now utilizing the asset,” said Capt. Charles Precht, Bravo Troop Commander.

To employ the Raven, the Troops combined their resources and efforts and created a raven pilot team. Kurzendoerfer’s team is comprised of elements from both Alpha and Bravo Troop, 1-152 Cavalry (Reconnaissance Surveillance and Target Acquisition). The two troops have a Raven test flight range where the Raven team regularly trains and sustains their skills.

“We pooled resources from every capacity to be able to use all assets from each unit to make this mission operational,” said Kurzendoerfer while commenting on the two troops coming together to make this mission happen.

The Raven is one of many tools that the Reconnaissance Surveillance and Target Acquisition have at their disposal. Even though the two troops are not functioning as a cavalry unit here in theater, the Raven is the perfect fit for the unit mission they do have.

Black Hawk Wingman



Courtesy Photo

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq – A UH-60 Black Hawk pilot, assigned to 5th Battalion, 158th Aviation Regiment’s Task Force Ready, scans the terrain over Iraq during a mission. TF Ready pilots have flown more than 30,000 hours during a 15 month deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. The task force included Soldiers and aircraft from four battalions who came together in theater to fly multiple mission sets for Task Force XII and Multi-National Corps – Iraq.

551st Medical Logistics Company hosts semi-annual medical logistics conference

by Spc. Anthony Hooker

Expeditionary Times staff

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq – The 551st Medical Logistics Company hosted the second edition of its semi-annual medical logistics conference Aug. 28 and 29 at Joint Base Balad's east side Morale, Welfare, and Recreation center.

The 551st MLC, part of the 56th Multifunctional Medical Battalion, entertained more than 100 personnel from 47 units. The conference's intent was to streamline the theater's medical logistics functions to provide better support to the warfighter. The theme of the conference focused on making it easier for Soldiers to request and receive products in a timely manner.

The 551st MLC, deployed from Ft. Lewis, Wash., shares responsibility of medical supply distribution with the 591st MLC and 153rd Medical Battalion (Blood).

The 551st MLC's primary duty is to push supplies to initial care facilities, such as troop clinics, aid stations, and dental offices. There was confusion, however, on how equipment would be acquired and who would take responsibility for it.

Cpt. Shonda Thomas, commander of the 591st MLC and host of the inaugural medical logistics conference in February, said the warehouse's customers needed to be taught how to use the logistical systems and what services the 56th MMB can provide.

Cpt. Marc Welde, commander of the 551st MLC and a Ogden, Utah, native, said after the inaugural conference in February, people liked the concept but felt more interaction would clear up any potential misunderstanding and to establish stronger relations with their military occupational skill counterparts.

In addition to briefings from each commodity area, customer service booths were set up with subject matter experts present to answer any questions one-on-one. Blood and optometry specialists were on site as well to offer their services and help customers understand what was within their units' means.

Conference leaders placed a spotlight on the importance of using forward distribution teams and contact repair teams, specifically their ability to satisfy some of the requests that are sent to JBB. Instead of overwhelming the central location with requests, teams strategically placed around Iraq would provide the same service and get supplies to customers in their region.

Sgt. Patrece Adams, the FDT leader at Contingency Operating Base Adder, said coming to the conference was the best way to raise her team's profile.

"A lot of military transition team teams

"Bringing the logisticians and technical staff together confirms we are in one common pursuit . . . to ensure providers on the ground get what they need to persevere, save lives, and maintain health and welfare on the battlefield."

Cpt. Corretta Campbell
3rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary)



Photos by Spc. Anthony Hooker

Sgt. Adam Campbell, a medical logistician with the 591st Medical Company (Logistics), discusses storage techniques to visitors during the 56th Multifunctional Medical Battalion's MEDLOG conference Aug. 29 at the Class VIII Warehouse.

drive through Adder," said Adams. "They learn of our warehouse excess, come through, find what they want, take it and roll out."

Adams said customers are excited about the service, that the convenience is a welcome option for units swamped by the demands of their mission.

Cpt. Corretta Campbell, the 3rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) chief MEDLOG officer, attended the conference and said it was wonderful to see people who provide for Soldiers.

"Bringing the logisticians and technical staff together confirms we are in one common pursuit . . . to ensure providers on the ground get what they need to persevere, save lives, and maintain health and welfare on the battlefield," said Campbell.

Campbell said being able to interact with key personnel such as FDTs confirm the

systems are being adhered to.

"Units are eager to be better at their job," Campbell said. "We can't see the (results) on the command level, but the user can give us up-to-date assessments through feedback."

Conference guests were treated to a social mixer after day one meetings and given a tour of the medical supply warehouse the next day. After the walkthrough, visitors were given circuit training; four groups were established and traveled to four stations where warehouse personnel discussed and gave demonstrations of shipping, receiving, storing, and data processing.

Maj. Christopher Drum, the medical logistics officer for Multi-National Corps-Iraq, said the conference has done a great job of synchronizing medical logistics in Iraq.

"A lot of junior personnel are becoming better informed on their capabilities," said

Drum. "Many may be on their first deployment and their home station may have never run a medical warehouse account. Here you can learn the proper way to set up an account automations system. You also have senior personnel like sergeants major and chief warrant officers who are available to reach out and touch for guidance . . . and answer questions so you don't feel out of reach."

Welde said all the guests will leave the conference feeling more informed, but the people benefiting the most will be warfighters.

"This process gives Soldiers on the ground confidence to do their job, knowing that if they're injured, they will be taken care of," said Welde. "They know the people taking care of them have state of the art equipment and a reasonable way to acquire it."

READ THIS!

Tell us what you THINK about the *new* Expeditionary Times! Write a "LETTER TO THE EDITOR"

- Likes/dislikes
- Changes
- Story ideas
- Base policies
- Soldier-related events
- Tell the CG your thoughts
- SERIOUS INQUIRIES ONLY!

Note: Letters will be subject to review based on content and relativity to the newspaper and its contents.

anaconda.times@iraq.centcom.mil



Photo by Sgt. Keith M. Anderson

Spc. David Vidal, 632nd Maintenance Co., examines a leak in the 16-inch, 25-kilometer water pipeline that connects the Qayyarah pump house at the Tigris River to COB Q-West. Vidal, a welder from San Juan, Puerto Rico, sealed the edges of a KBR-fabricated clamp stopping a significant leak to the pipeline near Sheik Hammed village, Aug. 14.

Multifaceted maintenance Soldier keeps water flowing to Q-West

by Sgt. Keith M. Anderson

Expeditionary Times staff

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE Q-WEST, Iraq

— If there were a roster of essential Soldiers on Q-West, Soldiers the COB couldn't afford to lose, Spc. David Vidal would head it.

The 40-year-old senior welder, 632nd Maintenance Company, patches the leaks in the water pipeline to Q-West, and helps repair or fabricate vehicles and equipment for missions outside the wire.

Despite the backaches, burns, blisters, bruises and long shifts off the base, Vidal is dedicated to his work.

"I know who I am, and I came here to fulfill my mission," Vidal said.

Vidal, who holds an American Welding Society certification as a combination welder, uses his experience to do difficult jobs and train others.

"Vidal has customized brackets for lighting on our recovery vehicles and anything else we need to have customized," said Sgt. Jason Manwarren, combat recovery team noncommissioned officer,

632nd Maint. Co. "He's made our job easier, and we were able to get jobs done quicker thanks to his skills."

When a big leak to the pipeline was uncovered recently near Sheik Hammed village, about five miles southeast of Q-West, Capt. Shawn Eaken, plans officer, Task Force 113, Mayor's Cell, knew whom to call.

"We needed a Soldier right away ... so I gave them Vidal's card," Eaken said.

The job was complex. The 16-inch, 25-kilometer cast iron water pipe had to be patched with stainless steel and mild steel, after the water was shut off at the Qayyarah Pump House on the Tigris River, and an older patch-job, that failed, had to be removed.

The multi-talented father of four from San Juan, Puerto Rico, was able to finish the work Aug. 14 after improvising a "sleeve" to fit the heavily dented and buckled pipe.

The damage to the pipe was accidental, according to Sgt. 1st Class Robert Roach, water operations noncommissioned officer in charge, Mayor's Cell.

"It appears that at some point, the pipe was hit with a backhoe or some other piece of heavy equipment," Roach said. "The pipe was actually dented inward and had two edges that were bulging out."

But there's more to Vidal than welding.

I'm an adventurous person," Vidal said. "I'm a hard head."

He has served as a stand-in and stuntman in movies, including Mask of Zorro; he has his own jet-car and can boast that's he's the only member of the armed forces with a International Hot Rod Assoc., and National Hot Rod Assoc., jet-car license; he owns a business in Puerto Rico with his three brothers constructing buildings and clearing land; he started a foundation, Souls of Puerto Rico, to provide proper burials for the corpses of abandoned babies; and, if that weren't enough, speaks English, Spanish, Portuguese and Italian.

Vidal, who served as an infantryman during Desert Storm, rejoined the active-duty Army in 2004 to help get his wife Liccette medical treatment for cancer, and to serve his country.

He said the work he does in the Army is therapeutic.

"The positive things I do help me to heal myself from the negative things that have happened in my life," Vidal said.

What's next for Vidal?

"I want to own my own race-track," Vidal said. "I want it to be like Disney, with entertainment and stunt-shows — family entertainment."

Watchful eye



Photo by Senior Airman Randi Flaugh

Staff Sgt. Jonathan Mitchell installs a surveillance camera at the passenger terminal here Sept 5. Mitchell and four other Airmen from the 506th Expeditionary Communications Squadron's transmissions shop have contributed 80 man-hours toward the project. The cameras overlook the surrounding area, helping to improve the overall security of the terminal and assets. The 506th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron structures shop helped construct the mounts and poles for the cameras. Mitchell, a satellite wide-band journeyman with the 506th ECS, is deployed from Garland Air Reserve Station, Texas, and calls Arlington, Texas, home.



SHOUT OUT!!!

TELL YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS HOW MUCH YOU MISS THEM

Contact the 3d Public Affairs Office for scheduling.

E-mail jessica.wilson@iraq.centcom.mil

3d Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) sponsors Patriot Day 5K run/walk



Photo by Spc. Michael Behlin

There was no lack of Patriotism for the servicemembers who ran the Patriot's Day 5K run/walk held Sept. 11 at Holt Stadium which was held in remembrance of those who died in the September 11, 2001 attacks. Soldiers and civilians ran with a number of patriotic items including the American and POW/MIA flags.

God's Grounds Coffee House opens its doors on COB Adder

by Sgt. RJ Gilbert
7th Sustainment Brigade

COB ADDER, Iraq – God's Grounds Coffee House officially opened its doors Sept. 7 on Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq, for all COB residents who need to satisfy their thirst for a cup of "joe," or even just desire a place to kick back surrounded by a relaxing ambience.

God's Grounds offers an extensive assortment of free coffee and tea, as well as snacks and water. Inside, there is a lounge area with couches, chairs, books, movies, a television and a DVD player. Outside, there is a solar shaded wooden deck adorned with chairs and tables and stairs leading to a rooftop built expressly for the comfort and relaxation of COB Adder's population.

"It is a nice homey atmosphere," said Chief Warrant Officer Randall W. Heikens, the personnel officer in charge for the 7th Special Troops Battalion, 7th Sustainment Brigade. "You can see all the effort the Soldiers put into transforming the building, and the staff and the proprietors are very amiable."

None of this could have come to pass, however, without the inception of the vision.

"Chaplain Hudson had a vision of what she wanted it to look like and it was hard to see how that vision could come to pass," Capt. Damon D. Saxton, chaplain with the 7th Special Troops Battalion, 7th Sustainment Brigade. "But through a series of apparent coincidences we were sent people with the necessary skill to create God's Grounds. Chaplain Hudson and I believe that God sent them to us."

Though people with the necessary skill had arrived, the herculean task of bringing Hudson's vision into manifestation still lay ahead.

"When we got here, the outside area of God's Grounds was not an inviting place," said Saxton. "It was not an area you'd look at and say, 'Oh, I wanna (sic) go there.' The back yard here was full of broken chairs, limbs, broken plant feeders and it just looked like a junk yard."

The inside of the building that would become God's Grounds was in worse shape.

"There were plastic bags, with trash in them, all over. There was also dirt about half an inch thick covering everything. The air was just so full of dust you could hardly breathe when you walked in here," said Pfc. Vai F. Spalding, a truck driver with the 7th Special Troops Battalion, 7th Sustainment Brigade.

Clean up was the initial phase.

The trash was removed from the building and a tree stump had to be removed. Next, the stairs leading to the roof were deemed unsafe and had to be rebuilt.

The next hurdle in the renovation of God's Grounds Coffee House was acquiring the necessary tools and supplies in order to complete the task.

Donations of wood, paint, coffee, chairs, and a number of other things combined with good old fashioned elbow grease to finally make the vision a reality.

"A lot of generous people in the 'States' sent things to God's Grounds. There were simply so many that it would be far too hard to name them all," said Saxton. "There was simply an extraordinary amount of support, including: the commands from the company through the brigade. There has also been extensive support from garrison and others. It's really been a team effort for everyone on the COB. You just can't quantify how much time and effort our guys have put in."

"Knowing how much work and effort that other 7th Sustainment Brigade Soldiers put into creating God's Grounds made it a rewarding experience being able to take part in its grand opening," said Spc. Zachary A. Meier, a server at God's Grounds and truck driver with the 7th Special Troops Battalion, 7th Sustainment Brigade.

Birds of Balad

by Maj. Randel Rogers
371st Sustainment Brigade

Joint Base Balad is an interesting place for birdwatchers—in 2004 a Soldier stationed there started the internet blog "Birding in Babylon", which captured a huge following and has since been published in book form. During a recent visit I was able to bird the laundry pond featured in many of the "Babylon" stories. I was not disappointed! Although this large man-made pond has little vegetation, it's size and location near the Tigris River make it a good spot for a number of migrating shorebirds and ducks, and home to several local birds as well. On my first visit, I estimated well over 300 ducks and grebes, with over half being the latter. Most of the grebes were Little grebes, but I thought I saw a few Slavonian grebes in the mix. For ducks, I was able to pick out two types the first night, the Ferruginousduck and the Marbled teal. Over the next two days I added Garganey and Mallard to the duck list. Most color-



Spur-winged plover

ful among the birds present was the Common kingfisher, its neon blue back flashing in the sun. Also present were a number of shorebirds, notoriously hard to identify in the fall, some terns, and the easy to identify Spur-winged plover. Some exciting waders were also around—a Squacco heron, several Black-winged stilts, and both Little and Great egrets. The birds present changed daily, as many were using this pond as a rest stop during their fall migration south. Shorebirds are often migrating by August, but some of the others are a little early this year, which has been observed



Black-winged stilts



Common kingfisher

across the region. I look forward to visiting JBB again to see what the rest of the post has to offer!

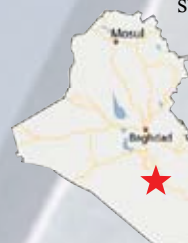


Engineers train Iraqi Soldiers to build bridge

Story and photos by Spc. Michael Behlin

Expeditionary Times staff

CAMP TAJI, Iraq – Getting Iraq to the point of being able to sustain itself in all operations is an important factor in today's war on terrorism.



With the country being able to govern, defend, and sustain itself, the U.S. military presence has the possibility of being reduced.

Guiding the Iraqi military to the point of sustaining itself means getting it trained to handle the tasks and requirements expected of them. Whether it be combat operations, engineering, or transportation, having an Iraqi military knowledgeable in these areas is critical.

The Soldiers of the 74th Multi Role Bridging Company, 20th Engineer Brigade, of Fort Hood, Texas, are training Iraqi Army engineers in the finer points of bridge building.

The 74th MRBC, based at Joint Base Balad, Iraq, is well on its way to training an efficient Iraq combat engineer unit capable of handling bridge operations on its own.

"Our goal here is to go through sort of a crawl process to get familiar with the bridges and be able to build one on their own," said 1st Lt. Benjamin Johnston, 74th MRBC 2nd Platoon leader and Dayton, Tenn., native. "The end goal is to have the Iraqi engineers able to stand up a bridge company on their own and our goal here is to start the initial training."

To complete this task, the 74th MRBC members, through a translator, taught the Iraqi engineers the basics on how to build different types of military bridges. The engineers went through days of classroom instruction and hands-on training teaching the basics on how to construct a temporary bridge. More instruction was planned during the trip, but with Ramadan beginning and as respect to the Iraqi engineers, training came to an end.

Even though the training ended early, the engineers saw this training opportunity as a sign of what's to come in the future.



Members of the 74th Multi Role Bridging Company work to train Iraqi Army combat engineers on how to build bridges at Camp Taji, Iraq. The training is important to the IA as Coalition Forces continue to support them.

"This training is important to the Iraqi engineers because they learn to operate in this capacity on their own," said Staff Sgt. Jorge Acevedo, 74th MRBC section sergeant and El Paso, Texas, native. "With the Iraqi engineers being knowledgeable about bridge building, they rely less on Coalition Forces."

Johnston agreed with Acevedo that the training and the end result is important to the Iraqi Army.

"Any military needs bridging assets and the capability to build a bridge," he said. "Also, as we start transitioning more control over to the Iraqis, there are a lot of temporary bridges in the country that would need routine maintenance and having the military trained would be a bonus to the country being able to sustain."

The training, while short, was beneficial to both the coun-

try's infrastructure and future. These methods would allow civilians, troops, and vehicles to travel throughout the country more easily.

This training is all a part of what the U.S. military hopes for Iraq as Coalition Forces continue to support them.

"Obviously, our long-term goal is to have the Iraqis sustain themselves, but this gives the Iraqis some ownership in the process, which makes them more proactive in taking care of the bridges aren't damaged," said Johnston. "It's about giving them more control of their own assets and having them to have the internal assets to make those decisions in the future. It's about being able to make those decisions in the future. It's about the U.S. military."



Spc. Roberto Giron of the 74th Multi Role Bridging Company works to teach an Iraqi Combat Engineer how to properly set bridge panels during the unit's training session held at Camp Taji. The training of the IA Combat Engineer is just another step in helping the country sustain itself in the future.

S



Shows how to build temporary
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VOTING, from Page 1

they start the process, the sooner it's done, but it starts with the individual and their desire to vote," said Hess.

Some reports have stated that registering to vote or requesting a ballot is a long and difficult process. Others in the military, however, feel the process is simple.

"I would tell them to follow me and I would help them out because it's too easy; it's just too easy," said Pfc. Angelina Perry, a member of the 70th Regional Readiness Command headquartered at Fort Lawton, Seattle, Wash., and attached to the 3d ESC. "Filling out my voter registration card is something I want to do and it's very important since this is my first time to get involved with history ... I want to be a part of it."

The journey for a ballot is a long one – more than 7,000 miles from Iraq – but the military's system has several reliable procedures to keep it on track down to the actual box they are placed in at each Army Post Office and daily reports of the progress are submitted to the commanding general of the 3d ESC to ensure the process stays on track.

"Ballots are separated from regular mail and placed in a specially marked ballot box," said 1st Lt. Calvin Ma, postal operations officer for the 3d ESC. "Ballots are then counted, certified by military and contractor voting representatives and the count is placed outside and inside of each box with a notice sent to the Postal Operations Directorate, or POD, and the Automated Military Postal System, AMPS, for complete tracking to (John F. Kennedy Airport) where it leaves our jurisdiction," said Ma.

After the box is packed and marked with special tape, it is placed inside a transportation container last so it will be the first item removed at the next destination. The box is scanned upon arrival at each station with a message sent to all reporting agencies informing them where and when it has

arrived.

"AMPS is visible at higher levels, such as human resource company, brigade, sustainment commands and POD for tracking purposes," said Ma.

If ballots are not moved in a specified period of time, a notice is sent to the ESC.

"Positive actions at the ESC level are taken for delays over 72 hours," said Ma. With the 3d ESC accountable for all mail coming into and leaving Iraq, they are being proactive in the movement of all mail – especially ballots.

"The 3d ESC is responsible for the mail distribution system here in Iraq," said Provancha. "We are tracking registrations and ballots from the remote APO stations all the way back to JFK Airport for distribution back to the United States."

Waiting until the last minute means ballots could be delayed due to weather or aircraft problems and, ultimately, not counted.

"All deployed personnel need to understand their ballot must be postmarked by Nov. 4," said Provancha. "So ... Soldiers out on the remote sites need to understand the timing is very important for the APO to get their registration back to their county of record."

"We should encourage each person to exercise their right to vote," said Hess. "Voting is one of our most important rights allowed us in the Constitution."

The right to vote has long been one of the main foundations of the United States of America. From the Revolutionary War to Operation Iraqi Freedom, American Servicemembers have fought and died all over the world to keep us free and give us that right.

"We are defending the right to vote and defending our constitution. It's kind of counterproductive not to exercise the thing you are here protecting," said Provancha. "By exercising our right to vote we are playing our part in deciding our own future in the armed forces as well, regardless of our political affiliation."

Voting steps

Complete the registration/absentee ballot request form and send it to your election official.



Election official approves your registration/request and mails your ballot.



Ballot arrives in theater at Balad



Ballots distributed across theater by most expeditious means possible.



Complete the absentee ballot and drop in into the nearest U.S. Mailbox.



Ballot returns by mail to Balad and is moved back to the United States through John F. Kennedy airport in New York.



Your vote is counted



Matt Roloff, Star of "Little People, Big World" visit service members at COB Adder



Photo by Pfc. C. Evann Harbison

Matt Roloff speaks to Servicemembers about "Behind the Scenes" events with his family and the history behind some of the crazy antics that have been displayed on his show, "Little People, Big World." Roloff held a question and answer segment where servicemembers could get up and ask about certain episodes and questions pertaining to Dwarfism and related medical conditions.

LEGAL ALERT



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, 3rd SUSTAINMENT COMMAND (EXPEDITIONARY)
JOINT BASE BALAD
APO, AE 09391

3rd ESC Military Justice Report

In a General Court-Martial convened in August 2008, a Soldier was found guilty of Assault with intent to commit rape.

- Soldier received a Dishonorable Discharge
- Soldier received 12 months confinement
- Soldier might be required to register as a sex offender upon completion of the appellate process.

The Soldier was originally charged with rape. A court-martial panel convicted him of the lesser included offense of Assault with intent to commit rape.

Sustaining the Line!

LEGAL ALERT

LEGAL ALERT

LEGAL ALERT

76th Infantry Brigade Combat Team Soldiers earn U.S. Citizenship in Iraq during mass ceremony



Photo by Sgt. Aaron Strader

More than 190 Soldiers from bases all throughout Iraq join together as they prepare for the Multi-National Corp-Iraq naturalization ceremony at Al Faw Palace on Camp Victory Sept. 1. The 76th Infantry Brigade Combat Team proudly sponsored six Soldiers during this event; a truly historic time for each.

by Capt. Lisa Kopczynski

Expeditionary Times staff

BAGHDAD – Six 76th Infantry Brigade Combat Team Soldiers were among more than 190 Soldiers during a mass naturalization ceremony at Al Faw Palace at Camp Victory, Iraq Sept. 1.

Army Lt. Gen. Lloyd J. Austin III, Multi-National Corps-Iraq commander, lead the ceremony as Lori Pietropaoli, deputy district director of the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, presented each Soldier with a certificate of naturalization.

These Soldiers expressed their excitement just to be able to call each other American citizens and to do this all while serving their country overseas was a tremendous honor.

Sgt. Rida Sihabmansour, 26, San Diego, Cal., and originally from Morocco, is a linguist with Headquarters, 76th IBCT stationed at Joint Base Balad.

"It's been a dream since I was a kid; being a Soldier and becoming a U.S. citizen is amazing and something I will remember for the rest of my life," Sihabmansour said. "This is going to open the door to a lot of opportunities for me. For instance, last year I wanted to join the police department. You can't do it if you are not a citizen so definitely I'm going to consider that when I get back."

Spc. Joe Harris, 28, Southgate, Mich., and originally from Iraq, is a linguist and an operations assistant with Headquarters, 113th Brigade Support Battalion stationed at Forward Operating Base Q-West.

"Just as of yesterday I was a different nationality, but today I became a United States citizen," Harris said. "There are a lot of opportunities out there that has been opened already and hopefully, I can get registered soon to vote."

Spc. Mohamed Elhilali, 37, Bristol, Ind., and originally from Morocco, is a human resources as-

most people take for granted. The most important one that I feel is to be able to vote and have my voice heard. It's a blessing, really!"

Spc. Luis G. Rocha, 28, Indianapolis, Ind., and originally from Nicaragua, is gunner with Company C, Task Force 1-151st Infantry Battalion stationed at Forward Operating Base Q-West.

"I am grateful to be recognized overseas and I can't say enough just how good I feel; it's a good feeling," Rocha said. "I'm glad to represent my company, Charlie, 1-151 and for the state of Indiana

and also for my friends and family back home. One of the main things I want to do is visit my family back in Nicaragua because I can travel with a U.S. passport. I feel very

"Just as of yesterday I was a different nationality, but today I became a United States citizen."

Spc. Joe Harris
113th Brigade Support Battalion

sistant with 1638th Transportation Company, Task Force 1-293rd Infantry Battalion stationed at Joint Base Balad.

"Before I joined, I made a decision because I think and believe that we are doing something good and we're trying to establish freedom and democracy for a peaceful world," Elhilali said. "It is a big day for me and the happiest day of my life."

Spc. Hau Len Thang, 23, Ft. Wayne, Ind., and originally from Myanmar, is a driver and gunner with 1638th Transportation Company, Task Force 1-293rd Infantry Battalion stationed at Joint Base Balad.

"I joined the military to be in the finest military in the world and to have the experiences of facing different challenges," Thang said. "Being a United States citizen comes with a lot of benefits that

privileged."

Spc. Arianne Jimenez, 24, Indianapolis, Ind., and originally from the Dominican Republic is a human resources assistant with Headquarters, 76th Special Troops Battalion stationed at Forward Operating Base Q-West.

"I have been waiting for this for a long time and it finally happened; it's a big thing for me," Jimenez said. "It is something that not everyone has a chance to do; only a certain percent of people can say they received their citizenship in Iraq."

The 76th IBCT is well into its historic deployment, which is the largest for the Indiana National Guard since World War II. This ceremony marks one of many historic moments captured for its units members and one that these Soldiers will remember for the rest of their lives.

New Army Level Safety award available

The Army Industrial Operations Safety Award is the most recent addition to the Army's Safety Awards Program. The Army's goal is to increase award submission through a concerted effort to positively reinforce safe practices and records. Timely, accurate and public recognition of deserving units and individuals reinforces accident prevention efforts, increases safety awareness and enhances a positive safety culture.

The submission criteria for the Industrial Operations Safety Award are as follows:

(1) Recipients: Organizations below Army Headquarters level.
(2) Eligibility requirements: The organization as selected by its higher levels of command with the most effective overall industrial safety program. Army Headquarters may select one nominee from Division, Depot, Garrison, down to company, shop and/or section level. Army Headquarters are to develop policies and procedures that foster the competitive and progressive nature of this award, which is akin to an "Army Exceptional Organization Award" or "Army Headquarters Safety Award" competition. The timeframe for the award is based on a fiscal year. Demonstrations of merit may be made using both subjective and objective criteria. Criteria that may be used to support the nomination include, but are not limited to:

- (a) Safety Policy.
- (b) Pre-operational planning.
- (c) Standing Operating Procedures/Job Hazard Analyses.
- (d) Accident prevention plan.
- (e) Emergency response plan.
- (f) Training, licensing, qualifications.
- (g) Personal protective equipment.
- (h) Ergonomics.
- (i) Machine safeguarding.
- (j) Confined Space.
- (k) Lockout/tagout.
- (l) Worker compensation costs.
- (m) Injury/Accident Frequency Rates (exhibit time frame).
- (n) Strategies, controls, or policies that have contributed to mission and operational success, such as Lean Six Sigma and the Voluntary Protection Program. Include circumstances, hazards, movements, etc., evidence and potential for Army wide applicability.
- (o) Proactive measures taken to enhance risk management implementation, such as evidence of a close working relationship among the Safety, Occupational Health and Environmental Offices.
- (p) Description of safety processes, to include incentive programs, inspection visits, training events, etc.
- (q) Description of total command involvement and support of safety program.

MICHAEL KING'S

MARTIAL ARTS TRAINING ROOM

BEGINNING AUGUST 7TH

THURSDAY & FRIDAY

For More Information Contact: Michael.King@iraq.centcom.mil

TIME: 1900-2030

Balad airlifters complete 25,000th combat sortie

by Staff Sgt. Don Branum

332nd Air Expeditionary Wing

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq -- The 777th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron here marked a unit milestone Sept. 3 by completing its 25,000th combat sortie since beginning operations at Joint Base Balad in Balad, Iraq, in 2006.

The 777th EAS' Airmen and their fleet of C-130 Hercules cargo aircraft have carried approximately 210,000 passengers and more than 98 million pounds of cargo in 31 months, eliminating the need for more than 11,000 convoy vehicles to traverse roads still fraught with improvised explosive devices and other dangers.

"Getting convoys off the road is our job," said Capt. Fray Doyle, co-pilot for the historic mission. "That's why we're here -- to reduce the convoy traffic and get buses and trucks off the road."

A one-week snapshot of 777th EAS operations captures the squadron's pivotal role in ensuring Iraqi and Coalition Forces have the equipment and personnel they need. From Aug. 22 to 28, the squadron flew 182 sorties, carrying more than 2,000 passengers and 301 tons of cargo. Using the ratio of 40 passengers to a bus and 8 tons of cargo to a truck, the 777th EAS kept 51 buses and 38 trucks off the roads that week.

One passenger, Army Master Sgt. C.J. Weasner, said she appreciated the Air Force's efforts.

"This being the 25,000th combat mission without incident is a testament to the dedication, training and equipment superiority that the Armed Forces bring to the fight," said Weasner, a National Guard Soldier deployed from the 371st Sustainment Brigade in Kettering, Ohio, and a native of nearby Columbus.

The sortie was routine in most ways: ferry cargo and passengers between Baghdad International Airport and Al Asad Air Base in Anbar Province. The cargo comprised 32 tons of portable generators, a fuel container and other equipment destined for Al Asad. Managing both the cargo and passengers were the flight's loadmasters, Airman 1st Class Delmar Karnes and Tech. Sgt. Ray Sallard.

"It feels pretty good to be part of something like this," said Sallard, who is deployed from Little Rock Air Force Base, Ark., along with the rest of the aircrew. "We're getting beans and bullets where they need to be (and) getting generators where they're



Photos by Tech Sgt. Erik Gudmundson

needed. I feel like part of the larger mission."

There's no such thing as flying first-class on a C-130. The engines are loud -- even with hearing protection -- and the interior of the plane can become as much as 20 degrees warmer than the outside temperature when the aircraft is parked. Flying as a passenger can take some getting used to because passengers sit facing the sides of the plane rather than the front. The presence of anti-Iraqi forces on the ground means pilots must always be ready to execute defensive maneuvers. Despite the discomfort, flying in Iraq is statistically the safest way to travel.

"It's still an active environment, threat-wise," Doyle said, "but we'll get the personnel and cargo to their destinations safely, and we'll do it as quickly and efficiently as possible."

The 777th EAS aircrews can move cargo to almost any location in the country.

"We're pretty much the go-to folks," said Doyle, a native of Union City, Tenn. "Whenever something needs to be moved within Iraq, we carry it. We go to the places no one else can go -- we'll go to al-Sulaymaniyah; we'll go to (Contingency Operating Base) Q-West; we'll go to Tal Afar; we'll go to Ali. If we can land there, we'll go there."

The 777th EAS is the only Air Force mobility unit within Iraq, said Capt. Sara Kershaw, the mission's pilot. Other units' missions primarily involve carrying cargo into Iraq via Balad or Baghdad International.

"Sure, we have the C-5 (Galaxys) and C-17 (Globemaster



Top: Airman 1st Class Delmar Karnes, a loadmaster with the 777th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron, observes the startup of a C-130 Hercules' engines here in the early morning of Sept. 3. Karnes, who is deployed from Little Rock Air Force Base, Ark., was part of the aircrew that flew the 777th EAS 25,000th combat sortie since beginning operations at Joint Base Balad in February 2006.

Left: Airman 1st Class Delmar Karnes, a loadmaster with the 777th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron, secures the tow bar of a portable generator in the cargo hold of a C-130 Hercules Sept. 3. Karnes, who is deployed from Little Rock Air Force Base, Ark., was part of the aircrew that flew the 777th EAS 25,000th combat sortie since beginning operations at Joint Base Balad in February 2006.

IIIs) that come in and out of Southwest Asia and Ramstein Air Base, Germany," Doyle said, "but when the Air Mobility Division needs to get something moved from one place in Iraq to another, they call the Triple 7 because they know our track re-

cord."

Reaching 25,000 combat sorties shows a commitment from many people toward a common purpose, Doyle said.

"It's not just us specifically, but everybody back home and Air National Guard units out of

Cheyenne, Wyo. -- all the time they've put in," he said. "We know what our mission is, and we do it every day -- we don't take days off; we don't get holidays; there're no down days. We go out there and we knock it out."

News around Iraq

More than 1,000 displaced citizens return to Diyala

DIYALA, Iraq – More than 1,000 displaced Diyala citizens have returned to their homes after being forced out by sectarian conflicts and intimidation.

According to current Coalition Force reports, more than 1,000 families have returned to their homes in Diyala Province since July 2008. These figures include more than 180 families who returned to their homes in the Al Abarra District, more than 100 families in the Qualis area, more than 40 families in the Ameriyah area, approximately 50 families in the Abu Tamur area, more than 300 families in West Baqubah and nearly 300 families in Bezul.

“The return of displaced persons is a visible sign of progress in Diyala Province and clearly indicates improvements in the security situation and increased confidence in the provincial government are giving people the welcomed chance to return to their homes,” said Maj. Jon Pendell, spokesperson for the 2nd Stryker Cavalry Regiment.

Civil Service Corps opens job opportunities in Iraq

RIYADH, Iraq – In the ongoing Iraq-wide effort to transition Sons of Iraq members and provide jobs to Iraqi citizens, local government and tribal leaders in Riyadh, along with Soldiers of Company D, 1st Battalion, 87th Infantry Regiment, 1st Brigade, held a ribbon-cutting ceremony announcing the establishment of the Riyadh Civil Service Corps Sept. 9.

The Riyadh Civil Service Corps is a 12-month program that will initially be funded by Coalition Forces to provide paid vocational classroom instruction and on-the-job training to its students beginning with 250 former Riyadh SoI. It is patterned after the 1930s U.S. Civilian Conservation Corps that provided jobs to combat unemployment during the Great Depression, putting U.S. citizens back to work assisting with infrastructure needs in their respective communities.

The Riyadh General Construction project is the first of two programs the Riyadh Civil Service Corps will provide, focusing on the infrastructure needs of communities in the sub-district of Riyadh, located in the southern portion of the Hawijah district. It will provide training geared toward general construction-related skills and will include electrical, plumbing and carpentry, according to Capt. Jon Anderson, commander, Company D, 1st Battalion, 87th Inf. Regt.

The second program is the Riyadh Road Construction project, which will equip students with road-paving skills. These students will later be utilized as “much-needed road crews, repairing heavily traveled roads throughout the sub-district,” said Anderson.

“Now that our security forces have regained the security in our neighborhoods, we are able to concentrate on our people and the needs of our villages,” Riyadh Mayor Mohammad Ahmad Hussein said during the ceremony. “With our own hands we will rebuild our communities—our future—and we are very grateful to the Coalition Force for their friendship and assistance in making this day possible.”

Anderson added that the day’s event could not

have been possible without, “the efforts of your Iraqi Security Forces and all of you—the people of Riyadh.” He wished them success with their schooling. “You will never forget the destruction that your enemies caused to your lives, and you will always remember your contributions to the rebirth of your communities,” he said.

Computer camp proves successful in Ghazaliyah

BAGHDAD – Seventy-six Iraqi children attended a computer camp held July 6-Aug. 26 in the northwest Baghdad community of Ghazaliyah.

The camp was an initiative to keep children learning during the summer break and put to good use the one thing the Dar Al Hekma Primary School has that other schools in the area do not.

The students learned basic computer skills, such as creating documents, using word processors and inserting photos into documents, said Haifa, the schools headmistress.

“This program gets the children focused on learning, and they have a great time doing it,” said Capt. Thomas Melton, commander, Troop A, 1st Squadron, 75th Cavalry Regiment. “Along with the program, they were given a meal during the day, which helps out the families a lot too.”

When the Dar Al Hekma School reopened in May, it was the first of its kind in Ghazaliyah, Melton said. Since then, Haifa has done quite a lot of work here.

“To start back operating a school and to be able to jump to something like this is quite an accomplishment,” Melton said.

In addition to the computer camp, the school plans on expanding its extracurricular programs.

“In the future, we are planning on having a sewing and flower arranging class for the girls,” said Haifa. “It will be held after class or on the weekends so it does not interfere with school work.”

“We hope to keep this an annual event,” said Capt. Joseph Sincere, 1st Sqdn., 75th Cav. Regt., adding that with twelve other schools being renovated in Ghazaliyah, “We hope to provide computer labs for each school to conduct summer computer camps across Ghazaliyah.”

Shulla improve essential services, quality of life

BAGHDAD – The Government of Iraq has begun sponsoring multiple projects in the northwestern Baghdad neighborhood of Shulla to improve essential services and quality of life.

One of the most prominent projects is a sewage line repair project and market revitalization taking place within Shulla.

They are currently excavating a trench on a road to make a series of repairs on the sewage pipe. They are also giving the market along the road a “facelift.”

The sewage and market project will not only make Shulla more appealing to live in and to visit, but it will also improve the essential services as well.

The government worked with the Beladiyah to ensure all the people affected by this construction were aware of the situation prior to initiating the project.

The citizens of Shulla were told by the Beladiyah that the construction would be unsightly and slow moving in the early stages, however, it would bring great dividends upon completion.

Hamil Hadi and Fallah Abd’ Fahal are happy to see a self-sufficient government providing services for the people. Hadi knows it is a step in the right direction.

Fahal agrees that the construction is testing everyone’s patience, but he is optimistic that the outcome is worth the initial frustration.

The new market will boost the population economically, said Basim Muhammad ‘Idan, a local vendor in Shulla. Basim shares the same view as other locals that it is a relief to finally see progress stemming from the GoI that will create immediate returns for all of Shulla’s residents.

Logistics symposium brings all players to table

BAGHDAD – More than 170 senior logistics and Iraqi advisors from across Iraq gathered Sept. 4 and 5 at Hope Chapel to discuss the best practices, policies and the way ahead during Multi-National Corps – Iraq’s second quarterly logistics symposium.

Military Transition Team commanders and advisors from the battalion, division and brigade levels, and G4s from each division and Multi-National Force – West, briefed on the Iraqi partnership, training, maintenance and issues occurring in their areas of operation.

“We gathered everybody from across theater to check the progress of our logistics partnership initiative,” said Col. Ronald Pulignani, G4 advisor, Military Transition Team, Iraqi Ground Forces Command. “All the MNDs provided an update on their logistics partnership programs.”

Brig. Gen. Keith Walker, commanding general, Iraqi Assistance Group, hosted the conference and provided Iraqi logistics partnership updates for MNC-I. Maj. Gen. Timothy McHale, CJ1/4/8, Multi-National Force – Iraq and the senior logistician in country, gave updates on his role in the overall partnership.

The symposium laid the groundwork for an Iraqi Army staff exercise occurring in October to examine and improve IA logistics systems, during which the IA will look at its systems from the strategic and tactical levels.

Some of the Iraqi army’s systems observed included its repair parts system, reporting systems, standards to evaluate logistics systems, national requirements needed to maintain its army, how to develop mobile training teams for its divisions and how to incorporate logistics into its warfighter exercises.

“Overall, it was an outstanding conference,” Pulignani said. “Everyone left better informed and ready to move the logistics partnership initiative forward.”

JB BALAD ACTIVITIES

INDOOR POOL Swim Lessons: Mon., Wed., - 6 p.m. Tue., Thu., Sat., - 6:30 p.m. AquaTraining: Tue., Thu., - 7:30 p.m., 8:30 p.m.	Mon., Wed., Fri., - 9-10 p.m. MMA Training: Mon., Wed., Fri., - 10-11 p.m. Abs-Aerobics: Tue., Thu., 6-7 a.m., 5-6 p.m. Edge Weapons & Stick Fighting Combative Training: Tue., Thur., Sat., - 8-10 p.m.	9-ball tourney: Wednesday- 8 p.m. Dungeons & Dragons: Thursday- 7:30 p.m. Poetry Night: Thursday- 8 p.m. 6-ball tourney: Thursday- 8 p.m. Caribbean Night: Friday- 8 p.m. Chess & Dominoes Tourney: Friday- 8 p.m. Salsa Class: Saturday- 8:30 p.m. Poker: Saturday- 7:30 p.m.	Saturday- 9 a.m., 7 p.m. Boxing: Sunday- 4 p.m. Tue., Thu., - 2 p.m. Boot Camp: Sunday- 8:45 a.m. Tue., Thu., - 7 p.m. Power Abs: Mon., Tue., Thu., - 8 p.m. Friday- 9 p.m. CC Cross Fit: Monday-Saturday- 10:30 p.m. Cross Fit: Mon., Wed., Fri., - 5:45 a.m., 7 a.m., 3 p.m., 6 p.m. Tue., Thu., - 7 a.m., 3 p.m. Sunday- 5:45 a.m., 7 a.m., 3 p.m. P90x: Monday- Saturday- 4:30 a.m., 4 p.m., 10 p.m., 12 a.m. Soccer: Tue., Thu., - 8 p.m. Yoga: Wednesday- 8 p.m. MCAP Level 1:	Friday- 8 p.m. 5 on 5 Basketball: Saturday- 8 p.m.	WEST RECREATION CENTER Green Bean Karaoke: Sun., Wed., 7:30pm 9-ball tourney: Monday- 8 p.m. Ping-pong tourney: Tuesday- 8 p.m. Foosball tourney: Tuesday- 8 p.m. Jam Session: Tuesday- 7:30 p.m. 8-ball tourney: Wednesday- 8 p.m. Guitar Lessons: Thursday- 7:30 p.m. Game tourney: Thursday- 1 p.m., 8 p.m. Enlisted Poker: Friday- 1 p.m., 8 p.m. Officer Poker: Saturday- 1 p.m., 8 p.m. Squat Competition: Saturday- 8 p.m.	6 on 6 volleyball tourney: Friday- 7 p.m. Aerobics: Monday, Wednesday, Friday- 7 p.m. Body by Midgett Toning Class: Tue., Thu., - 7 p.m. Dodge ball Game: Tuesday- 7:30 p.m. Furman's Martial Arts: Mon., Wed., Sun., - 1 p.m. Gaston's Self-Defense Class: Fri., Sat. - 7 p.m. Open court basketball: Thursday- 7 p.m. Open court soccer: Mon., Wed., - 7 p.m. Zingano Brazilian Jui Jitsu: Tue., Thu., - 8:30 p.m.
EAST FITNESS CENTER Open Court Volleyball: Sunday- 6 p.m. Aerobics: Mon., Wed., Fri., - 5:30-6:30 a.m. Yoga Class: Mon., Fri., - 6-7 a.m. Step Aerobics: Mon., Wed., Fri., - 5:30 p.m. Conditioning Training Class: Mon., Wed., Fri., - 7:15- 8 p.m. Brazilian Jui-Jitsu:	EAST RECREATION CENTER 4-ball tourney: Sunday- 8 p.m. 8-ball tourney: Monday- 8 p.m. Karaoke: Monday- 8 p.m. Swing Class: Tuesday- 8 p.m. Table Tennis: Tuesday- 8 p.m.	H6 FITNESS CENTER Spin: Sunday- 9 a.m. Mon., Wed., Fri., - 2 a.m., 8 a.m. 2 p.m., 7 p.m., 9 p.m. Tue., Thu., -5:45 a.m., 9 a.m., 8:30 p.m.		H6 RECREATION CENTER Bingo: Sunday- 8 p.m. Texas Hold'em: Mon., Fri., - 2 p.m., 8:30 p.m. 8-ball tourney: Tuesday- 2 a.m., 8:30 p.m. Ping-pong tourney: Tuesday- 8:30 p.m. Spades: Wednesday- 2 a.m., 8:30 p.m. Salsa: Wednesday- 8:30 p.m. 9-ball: Thursday- 2 a.m., 8:30 p.m. Karaoke: Thursday- 8:30 p.m. Dominos: Saturday- 8:30 p.m. Darts: Saturday- 8:30 p.m.	WEST FITNESS CENTER 3 on 3 basketball tourney: Saturday- 7:30 p.m.	CIRCUIT GYM Floor hockey: Mon., Wed., Fri., - 8-10 p.m.

SUSTAINER REEL TIME THEATER

Movie Times

Wednesday, September 17
5 p.m. The Happening
8 p.m. Babylon A.D.
Thursday, September 18
5 p.m. Babylon A.D.
8 p.m. X- Files: I want
to Believe
Friday, September 19
2 p.m. Step Brothers
5 p.m. Swing Vote
8 p.m. The Incredible Hulk
Saturday, September 20
2 p.m. You Don't Mess With
The Zohan
5 p.m. The Love Guru
8 p.m. Step Brothers
Sunday, September 21
2 p.m. The Love Guru
5 p.m. Swing Vote
8 p.m. Step Brothers
Monday, September 22
5 p.m. Wanted
8 p.m. Incredible Hulk
Tuesday, September 23
5 p.m. Step Brothers
8 p.m. The Love Guru
Playing Next Week
Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants 2
Lakeview Terrace
Tropic Thunder
(Schedule is subject to change)

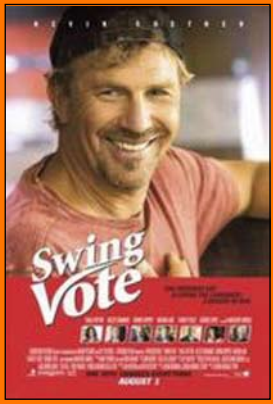
Movies This Week

Stepbrothers



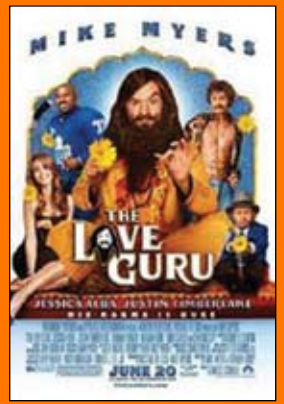
Talladega Nights: The Ballad of Ricky Bobby co-stars Will Ferrell and John C. Reilly re-team with that film's director, Adam McKay, to tell the tale of two pampered best friends whose single parents fall in love and decide to marry. McKay and Ferrell share screenwriting credits, and Judd Apatow and Jimmy Miller produce.

Swing Vote



When the mischievous antics of a precocious 12-year-old girl result in the outcome of the United States presidential election hinging on the vote of her apathetic, likable loser of a father, the man who thought that life had long since passed him by is reluctantly thrust into the national spotlight in this political-themed comedy starring Kevin Costner. Bud Johnson (Costner) is your typical American -- a simple man and loving father who never would have thought he had the power to change the world.

The Love Guru



Maple Leafs star Darren Roanoke (Romany Malco) is in trouble. His estranged wife has recently begun dating L.A. Kings star Jacques Grande (Justin Timberlake) in a vengeful effort to send her husband's career into a tailspin, and when Roanoke starts to falter on the ice, the whole team starts to suffer. As their visions of leading the Maple Leafs to the Stanley Cup are quickly going up in flames, team owner Jane Bullard (Jessica Alba) and Coach Cherkov (Verne Troyer) enlist the aid of the world's best-known relationship expert in restoring the peace between Roanoke and his wife, and getting their team back on track to the championships. While Pitka (Mike Myers) methods are decidedly unorthodox, they may be the only means of ensuring that the Toronto Maple Leafs win the coveted Stanley Cup.

The Hulk



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. Created when KGB agent Emil Blonsky (Tim Roth) exposed himself to a higher dose of the same radiation that transformed Bruce into The Hulk, While the Hulk may be a formidable force of nature, The Abomination is decidedly more powerful, and determined to destroy Bruce Banner.

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 Expeditionary 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.

Pennsylvania

- A special cleaning ordinance bans housewives from hiding dirt and dust under a rug in a dwelling.
- Fireworks stores may not sell fireworks to Pennsylvania residents.
- Ministers are forbidden from performing marriages when either the bride or groom is drunk.
- You may not catch a fish by any body part except the mouth.

Rhode Island

- Cap guns are illegal.
- Impersonating a town sealer, auctioneer, corder of wood, or a fence-viewer is against the law.
- Professional sports, except ice polo and hockey, must obtain a license to play games on Sunday.
- Any marriage where either of the parties is an idiot or lunatic is null and void.
- It is considered an offense to throw pickle juice on a trolley.



Upcoming sports on AFN



Wednesday 9/10/08

MLB: Philadelphia Phillies @ Atlanta Braves , live 2 a.m. AFN/xtra
MLB: Los Angeles Angels @ Oakland Athletics , live 5 a.m. AFN/xtra
MLB: Boston Red Sox @ Tampa Bay Rays, tape delayed 10 a.m. AFN/sports
NFL: NFL RePLAY - Game 1: Teams TBD * 90-Minute Fast-Paced Game of the Week, tape delayed 4 p.m. AFN/sports
NFL: NFL RePLAY - Game 2: Teams TBD * 90-Minute Fast-Paced Game of the Week, 5:30 p.m. AFN/sports

Thursday 9/11/08

MLB: ESPN Wednesday Night Baseball: Teams TBD, 2 a.m. AFN/sports
UFC Fight Night LIVE: Diaz vs Neer, live 3 a.m. AFN/xtra
MLB: Los Angeles Angels @ Oakland Athletics, live 5 a.m. AFN/xtra
College Football: ESPN2 College Football Primetime: Kansas State @ Louisville, taped delayed 10 a.m. AFN/sports
NFL: NFL RePLAY - Game 3: Teams TBD * 90-Minute Fast-Paced Game of the Week, tape delayed 3 p.m. AFN/sports
NFL: NFL RePLAY - Game 4: Teams TBD * 90-Minute Fast-Paced Game of the Week, 4:30 p.m. AFN/sports
MLB: Milwaukee Brewers @ Chicago Cubs, live 9 p.m. AFN/sports

Friday 9/12/08

MLS Primetime Thursday: New York Red Bulls @ Columbus Crew, live 2 a.m. AFN/xtra
College Football: ESPN College Football Primetime: West Virginia @ Colorado, live 3:30 a.m. AFN/sports
MLB: San Francisco Giants @ Arizona Diamondbacks , live 4:30 a.m. AFN/xtra
MLB: Minnesota Twins @ Tampa Bay Rays, tape delayed 10 a.m. AFN/sports
Golf: The 2008 Ryder Cup: Day One (Valhalla Golf Club, Louisville, KY), live 3 p.m.

Saturday 9/13/08

MLB: ESPN Monday Night Baseball: Teams TBD , live 2 a.m. AFN/sports
College Football: Baylor @ Connecticut , live 3 a.m. AFN/sports
MLB: San Francisco Giants @ Los Angeles Dodgers, live 5:30 AFN/xtra
Tennis: 2008 Davis Cup - USA vs Spain: Day 1 (Plaza de Toros Las Ventas, Madrid, Spain), taped delayed 10:30 AFN/sports
Golf: The 2008 Ryder Cup: Day Two (Valhalla Golf Club, Louisville, KY), live 3 p.m. AFN/sports
College Football: College Football: Teams TBD , live 7 p.m. AFN/prime atlantic
College Football: College Football: Teams TBD , live 7 p.m. AFN/xtra
College Football: College Football: Teams TBD , live 10:30 p.m. AFN/prime atlantic
College Football: College Football: Teams TBD , live 10:30 p.m. AFN/xtra

Sunday 9/14/08

MLB: ESPN Monday Night Baseball: Teams TBD, live 3 a.m. AFN/sports
College Football: ESPN Monday Night Baseball: Teams TBD, live 3 a.m. AFN/prime atlantic
College Football: Teams TBD, live 3 a.m. AFN/xtra
MLB: San Francisco Giants @ Los Angeles Dodgers, tape delayed 5:30 a.m. AFN/sports
NFL: CBS NFL Today, live 7 p.m. AFN/xtra
NFL: FOX NFL Sunday , live 7 p.m. AFN/prime atlantic
NFL: Week 3: Tampa Bay Buccaneers @ Chicago Bears , live 8 p.m. AFN/prime atlantic
NFL: Week 3: Cincinnati Bengals @ New York Giants, live 8 p.m. AFN/sports
NFL: Week 3: Houston Texans @ Tennessee Titans , live 8 p.m. AFN/xtra
NFL: Week 3: Jacksonville Jaguars @ Indianapolis Colts, live 11 p.m. AFN/prime atlantic
NFL: Week 3: New Orleans Saints @ Denver Broncos, live 11 p.m. AFN/sports
NFL: Week 3: Pittsburgh Steelers @ Philadelphia Eagles, live 11 p.m. AFN/xtra

Monday 9/15/08

NFL: Sunday Night is Football Night - Football Night in America, live 2 a.m. AFN/sports
MLB: ESPN Sunday Night Baseball: Baltimore Orioles @ New York Yankees, live 3 a.m. AFN/xtra
NFL: NBC Sunday Night Football - Week 3: Dallas Cowboys @ Green Bay Packers , live 3:15 a.m. AFN/sports
NASCAR: NASCAR Sprint Cup Series - Chase For The Sprint Cup: Camping World RV 400 (Dover International Speedway, Dover, DE), tape delayed 6 a.m. AFN/xtra
Golf: The 2008 Ryder Cup: Day Three (Valhalla Golf Club, Louisville, KY), taped delayed 9 a.m. AFN/sports
NFL: Week 3: Kansas City Chiefs @ Atlanta Falcons, tape delayed 10 a.m. AFN/xtra
NFL: NBC Sunday Night Football - Week 3: Dallas Cowboys @ Green Bay Packers, tape delayed 2 p.m. AFN/sports
NFL: Week 3: Detroit Lions @ San Francisco 49ers, tape delayed 5 p.m. AFN/xtra
NFL: NBC Sunday Night Football - Week 3: Dallas Cowboys @ Green Bay Packers, taped delayed 8 p.m. AFN/sports

Tuesday 9/16/08

MLB: Teams TBD, live 2 a.m. AFN/xtra
NFL: ESPN Monday Night Football - Week 3: New York Jets @ San Diego Chargers, live 3:30 a.m. AFN/sports
Tennis: 2008 Davis Cup - USA vs Spain: Day 3 (Plaza de Toros Las Ventas, Madrid, Spain) (JIP), tape delayed 5 a.m. AFN/xtra
NFL: ESPN Monday Night Football - Week 3: New York Jets @ San Diego Chargers, tape delayed 1 p.m. AFN/sports
NFL: ESPN Monday Night Football - Week 3: New York Jets @ San Diego Chargers, tape delayed 8 p.m. AFN/sports

Sudoku

Level: Hard

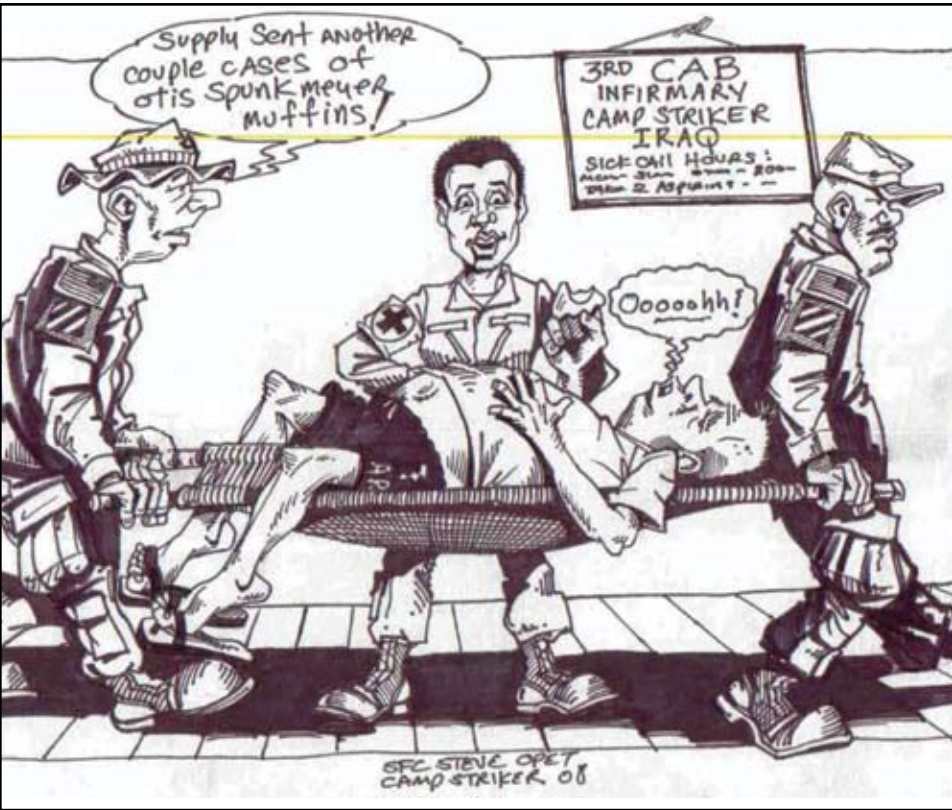
3	9	2	6			7		
				9				3
5			4			2		8
	2				9			6
			3	1	6			
1			8				5	
8		7			4			9
6				5				
		4			8	1	7	5

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.

PVT. MURPHY’S LAW



Iraq according to Opet



Servicemembers hit the court for floor hockey



Photo by Spc. Ryan Hohman



Photo by Spc. Ryan Hohman

Sgt. Heith Jones, a member of the 63rd Expeditionary Signal Battalion, tries to get around Pfc. Andrew Raus, a member of the 509th Maneuver Augmentation Company, to score a goal during a floor hockey game in the Circuit Gym here Sept. 12.



Photo by Spc. Ryan Hohman

Top: Cpt. Christopher Layton, a member of the 63rd Expeditionary Signal Battalion, makes a breakaway with the ball during a floor hockey game in the Circuit Gym here Sept. 12.
Left: Pfc. Andrew Raus, a member of the 509th Maneuver Augmentation Company, takes off his goalie gear after warming up before a floor hockey game in the Circuit Gym here Sept. 12.



Photo by Spc. Ryan Hohman

Air Force Tech Sgt. Steve Dobbs, a member of 332nd Expeditionary Maintenance Group, tries to score a goal during a floor hockey game in the Circuit Gym here Sept. 12.



Photo by Spc. Ryan Hohman

Master Sgt. Robert Buchholz, a member of the 259th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, take a practice slap shot before a floor hockey game in the Circuit Gym here Sept. 12.