



Army strong family holds service to high regard

Story and photo by
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Gaylord

*13th Public
Affairs Detachment*

Most American families' ideal reunions would have nothing to do with Baghdad, Iraq, but for one family out of St. Louis, Mo., the country of Iraq has, for the past few years, been almost a second home.

Maj. Cheryl Hanke, facilities manager, C7, Multi-National Corps – Iraq; Capt. James Hanke, detachment commander, Tactical Psychological Operations Detachment 1170; and Sgt. Will Hanke are all Army combat engineers who have continuously spent time away from each other while deployed to Iraq. What's more, they're all siblings.

The three were joined by their father until 2005, when he retired from the Army as a colonel.

Maj. Cheryl Hanke had a chance to meet with her brother Capt. James Hanke on Victory Base Complex Nov. 9, and for the Hanke family – which has had at least one of its members present in Iraq since 2004 – reunions such as this



mean so much.

"It's a memorable moment," Cheryl Hanke said. "I think I've seen my brother more here than I did last year, because he lives in Boston and I live in St. Louis."

Though these kinds of reunions are just as important to the Hanks as family itself, the ability and willingness to serve is something in which they have immense pride; something they hold to a high regard.

"There is a certain special quality in all of the armed services, and not just the armed services, but anybody who's willing to put their life on the line

for other people, in general," said James Hanke, who has been deployed three and a half years out of the last five. "I think that serving in some capacity, however small, will help you to learn some of those values that, in some cases I think people may just never have been exposed to."

Perhaps the family's pride in service to its country comes from its extensive and historical military background, in which the majority of the family has done its part to keep America safe.

"I think our family has fought in every war this country has fought, in-

cluding the revolutionary war," James Hanke said.

"I think we were just destined and born to be patriots," Cheryl Hanke said. "We've always been a patriotic family."

Most importantly, that patriotic sense of pride has given these three siblings much satisfaction in the work they do here and allowed them to see the progress the U.S. has made in its many different partnerships with the Iraqi populous.

"We [the military] came here, and what we're doing is good," Cheryl Hanke said. "We're helping the

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Home Stretch: Troops get great education benefits

Victory Times Reports

Home Stretch is designed to give servicemembers valuable information on situations they may deal with upon returning home from deployment. If you have a topic that you think would be of value to redeploying servicemembers, please submit it to Staff Sgt. Joy Pariente at joy.pariante@iraq.centcom.mil.

Throughout their careers, servicemembers are constantly reminded of how important civilian higher education is inside and outside the military. During your time in the military, civilian education factors towards promotion. When you're done serving, a college degree can mean better job opportunities or more pay. Servicemembers have to opportunity to pursue their education in a number of ways during and after their military service.

Soldiers must have the knowledge they need to succeed in the military and civilian sectors, said Staff Sgt. Jimmy Labas, non-commissioned officer in charge, Victory Education

Center. For servicemembers deployed or stateside, the Education Center will have all the information and resources needed to help you head in the right direction.

While serving, servicemembers are eligible for tuition assistance. Tuition assistance pays up to \$4,500 per fiscal year towards earning college credits, Labas said. After leaving the military, troops can use the GI Bill which provides tuition payment and living allowances for former servicemembers. More information on all the benefits offered by the GI Bill can be found at www.va.gov.

Your time in the military can also equate to college credits. After picking a college, you can find out their policy on credit evaluations and send them a copy of your AARTS transcripts, Labas said. They will then determine how your time in the military and the military training you've completed counts towards your particular degree program. Some colleges also offer degree programs based off your job in the military. Check

out www.goarmyed.com for a full list of job related degree programs.

For servicemembers interested in beginning or continuing their college education, visit www.goarmyed.com to set up your account and begin researching col-

leges and degree programs. You can access the Statement of Understanding to begin your tuition assistance at this location also. Troops can also visit the Victory Education Center, located across from the post mail room, with any questions.

Unsung Hero



Staff Sgt. Algemnon Jospheh, command group

Sgt. Rachael Y. Moses, C11 casualty operations clerk, Multi-National Corps - Iraqi, receives a certificate of achievement from Brig. Gen. Daniel B. Allyn, chief of staff, MNC-I, at Al Faw palace Nov 13. Moses processed initial defense casualty information processing system reports and collected critical casualty data on hostile and non-hostile casualties in the Iraq theater of operations. She prepared and processed Multi-National Force - Iraq and MNC-I commanding generals' condolence letters for all U.S. military and coalition family members. She prepared and mailed letters and gold star flags to the family members and processed next of kin notification confirmations throughout the command.



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The Victory Times online welcomes columns, commentaries, articles and letters from our readers. Send submissions or comments to joy.pariante@iraq.centcom.mil. The editorial staff reserves the right to edit for security, accuracy, propriety, policy, clarity and space.



Pizza guy delivers smiles to fellow Soldiers

Story and photos by
Sgt. Jason Thompson

MND-B PAO

Some like it plain. Some favor more supreme. Others enjoy it topped with lots of different meats while others choose more vegetables. There's no debating it, pizza is among the most popular foods in America. With so many different combinations of toppings, who could resist a tempting slice of pizza?

Now, with the help of one Multi-National Division – Baghdad chef, customers to the 4th Infantry Division's Ironhorse Oasis Dining Facility are able to enjoy a slice of home with fresh homemade pizza.

Early in his deployment, Staff Sgt. Michael Hood, a Belzoni, Miss., native, and senior cook with Headquarters Support Company, Division Special Troops Battalion, 4th Inf. Div., saw the opportunity to provide a piece of home to the Soldiers serving in Baghdad and began a pizza night, cooking fresh homemade pizza with everyday ingredients already supplied in the dining facility.

"While I was home on mid-tour

leave and cooking for my Family, I thought of the idea to bring a piece of home back here to Iraq for the rest of the Soldiers," said Hood. "I purchased cooking sheets, pizza cutters and other supplies that we didn't have here before and I shipped them here so I could cook pizza for these Soldiers.

"At first I was only cooking 10-15 pizzas during an occasional meal, but as it continued to grow more popular among the Soldiers eating here, we've had to cook more and more every meal that it is offered," Hood continued. "Now, it's at a point where we are making it a themed night and every Friday and Saturday we're cooking upward of 100-150 pizzas per meal."

Hood said cooking has long been a passion of his and often prefers cooking over other various forms of recreation.

"In my kitchen, I'm comfortable. It's my zone where I can disappear and relax," said Hood. "However, even more enjoyable than simply cooking is watching the reactions of the Soldiers who come in here and are enjoying the food."

The reaction from the Soldiers has been positive as they welcome



the variety in the menu.

"I loved the pizza," said Sgt. Greg Kunkle, a team leader with the personnel security detachment for Command Sgt. Maj. John Gioia, the senior enlisted leader of 4th Inf. Div. and MND-B. "It is a great change from the normal menu, and it definitely brings a smile to my face after a long, hard day on the roads."

Whether you prefer deep-dish or a thin crust, extra cheese or light sauce, the combinations are endless and people across the globe are enjoying the great flavors of pizza – and now, Soldiers serving in Baghdad have an opportunity to share their own slice of the pie.

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Iraqi people. We got rid of a tyrant who was killing his own people, and to me, we gave them hope."

"I'm out in the sector actually meeting the local populous in their home environments, and most of them appreciate us be-

ing here and want us to be here to help the country get going," James Hanke said. "The progress I've seen since when I was here last time to where it is now is dramatic. I've seen it myself and I've been there. The Iraqi Army is doing a

lot better."

Though Cheryl and James Hanke may or may not stay in the military, they can at least move forward knowing they did their part serving their country to one of the largest extents.

"Some day down the road, Iraq is going to be one of our greatest allies, whether people believe it or not," Cheryl Hanke said. "I think when the American people see what we've done, it's going to make a big difference."

Announcements

Scouts

The Victory Base Council invites anyone who is interested in helping with Boy and Girl Scouts for the Iraqi children to attend the planning meeting at 7 p.m. on Tuesdays in the Mayors Cell conference room and attend the events they host for the children on Saturdays. The show up time is at 2 p.m. at the shot-up tower in front of Al Faw Palace. They depart at 2:10 p.m. and head to the Iraqi camp within Victory Base Complex. The event starts at 3 p.m. and ends around 5 p.m. Anyone is welcome to join. No prior scouting experience required. More information can be found at www.victorybasecouncil.org.

STB Prayer Breakfast

The "Master and Commander" theme prayer breakfast is scheduled for Nov. 21 at the Coalition Dining Facility.

R&R Briefings

Reunion and Suicide Intervention Briefings are held at Victory Chapel, Monday at 3 p.m., Wednesday at 9:30 a.m., Saturday at 3 p.m. All servicemem-

bers going on leave or redeploying must attend this briefing.

Toastmasters

Improve your public speaking skills while having fun with creative, goal-oriented people. No speaking experience necessary. For more information contact Capt. Armin Reyes 485-3968 Armin.reyes@iraq.centcom.mil.

Story pictures

For more photos pertaining to the stories in this Victory Times look online at <https://corps.intranet.iraq.centcom.mil/sites/Special/pao/Picture%20Library/Forms/AllItems.aspx>.

Chief of Chaplains

The Chief of Chaplains will be at the 8:30 a.m. collective protestant service and the 6:30 p.m. contemporary protestant service on Sunday. He will also host religious services for Thanksgiving at Hope Chapel at 10:30 a.m. on Thursday. In addition, he will be conducting religious support team training at Hope Chapel at 8:30 a.m. on Tuesday.

Operating Hours

Coalition Cafe
Breakfast 5:30 - 8:30 a.m.
Lunch 11:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Dinner 5 - 8 p.m.
Midnight Dining 11 p.m. - 1 a.m.

Sports Oasis
Breakfast 5:30 - 8:30 a.m.
Lunch 11:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Dinner 5 - 9 p.m.
Education Center
8 a.m.-midnight

Camp Liberty Post Exchange
8 a.m. - 10 p.m.
Fitness Center
Open 24 Hours

Victory Main Post Office
Monday-Sunday 7:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m.
Saturday 8 a.m.-5 p.m.
Sunday 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

MNC-I STB Mailroom
9 a.m. - noon
5 - 7 p.m.

Al Faw Palace Post Office
Wednesday and Sunday
1-6 p.m.

Golby Troop Medical Clinic
Sick Call
Monday - Friday 7:30 a.m. - noon
Saturday & Sunday 9 a.m. - noon

Dental Sick Call
Monday - Friday 7:30 - 10:30 a.m.
Saturday 9 - 10:30 a.m.

Mental Health Clinic
Monday - Friday 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Saturday 9 a.m. - noon

Post-Deployment Health Briefings
Monday, Wednesday and Friday 1 p.m.
Pharmacy
Monday - Friday 7:30 a.m. - noon;
1 - 4:30 p.m.
Saturday & Sunday 9 a.m. - noon
Legal Assistance/Claims
Saturday-Monday 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Worship Hours

Victory Chapel (Bldg. 31)
Thursday
7:30 p.m. Latter Day Saints Seminary

Friday
6:30 p.m. Jewish Shabbat Service

Saturday
11 a.m. Seventh Day
8 p.m. Catholic Mass

Sunday
7 a.m. Liturgical Protestant Service
2 p.m. Latter Day Saints Service
4 p.m. Episcopal/Lutheran Service

Mini Chapel (Bldg. 24F)
Tuesday
7:30 p.m. Latter Day Saints Service

Wednesday
7 p.m. Men's Fellowship

Tuesday, Thursday, Friday
11:30 p.m. Roman Catholic Mass

Friday
1 p.m. Muslim Prayer Service
8 p.m. Women's Fellowship

Sunday
8 a.m. Eastern Orthodox Service
10 a.m. Protestant Sunday School
3 p.m. Church of Christ Service
7:30 p.m. Latter Day Saints Service

Hope Chapel (Bldg 24B)
Monday
12 p.m. Charismatic Prayer Meeting

Sunday
8:30 a.m. Collective Protestant Service
10 a.m. Roman Catholic Mass
12 p.m. Gospel Service
6:30 p.m. Contemporary Protestant Service

Warrior Chapel (Camp Liberty)
Friday
6:30 p.m. Victory Base Open Circle

MNC-I Chaplain's Office:
485-3252

AFN

Freedom Radio

Al Asad 107.3	Fallujah 105.1	Taji 107.3
Ali Base 107.3	Kirkuk 107.3	Tal Afar 107.3
Ar Ramadi.. 107.3	Kirkush 107.3	Taqquadum.. 107.3
Baghdad 107.3	Mosul 105.1	Tikrit 100.1
Balad 107.3	Q-West 93.3	All stations are FM

Camp Victory Bible Studies

Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.	Sun.
Women's Bible Study 7 p.m. Bldg 24F; Gospel Protestant Bible Study 7 p.m. Hope Chapel	Women's Bible Study 7 p.m. Bldg 24F <i>Purpose Driven Life Bible Study (Victory Mayor's Cell) 7:30 p.m.</i>	Young Adult Bible Study 5:30 p.m. Hope Chapel	Men's Bible Study 7 p.m. Victory Chapel; Spanish Bible Study 7 p.m. Bldg 24F 7:30 p.m. Bible Study (Victory Mayor's Cell)	Foundations Bible Study, Mini Chapel 6:30 p.m.	SeventhDay Adventist 10 a.m. Victory Chapel	

Do you have an announcement about an event of interest to the Camp Victory community? Contact Pfc. Eric J. Glassey at eric.j.glassey with the information. Information for community announcements needs to be submitted at least two weeks prior to the event to allow for timely publication.