



Rear Adm. Kathleen Dussault, commander, Joint Contracting Command, takes a tour of the Brothers Fuel Station in the Iraqi Business Industrial Zone, Nov. 24 and was created to help improve the industrial base and improve local communities.

Gas station, media center open in business zone

**Story and photo by
Pfc. Eric J. Glassey**

*13th Public
Affairs Detachment*

The Iraqi ARAM Media Print Facility and the Brothers Fuel Station opened in the Iraqi Business Industrial Zone at Victory Base Complex Nov. 24.

These two businesses are the result of Iraqi business men and women who have a desire to develop the Iraqi economic infra-

structure.

"The whole purpose of the Iraqi Business Industrial Zone is to help improve the industrial base and improve local communities," said Dussault. "Military bases create a lot of great jobs. It is a perfect opportunity to pair up local business and the bases to help fuel the local economy."

The Print Facility which was built by ARAM Media was funded by a female business owner who spent \$1,500,000 of her

own money on the construction of her warehouse which now houses a Web Press Goss Urbanite II machine. The Web Press Goss Urbanite II machine has four color separation, will be able to produce 50,000 newspapers per hour, and can print two different newspapers at the same time.

ARAM Media is a woman owned Iraqi business that was established in 2006, but the owner has been working with coalition forces since 2004.

ARAM Media produces media products for coalition forces such as newspapers, billboards, TV and radio products and advertisements. It performs polling and news gathering tasks.

"She [the Iraqi businesswoman] has done tremendous work," said Rear Adm. Kathleen Dussault, commander, Joint Contracting Command. "She has had multiple contracts with us in the past. We

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Gracie Jiu-Jitsu Academy visits to train troops

Story by Spc. Tiffany Evans

Multi-National Division - Center

Servicemembers the Victory Base Complex were treated to workshops by the Gracie Jiu-Jitsu Academy, Nov. 14-20.

Basic Army combatives incorporates the Gracie Jiu-Jitsu form, which made training with its founders an exciting opportunity. Made possible by Maj. Gen. Michael Ferriter, Multi-National Corps – Iraq deputy commanding general of operations, who met Rorion Gracie, one of the academy's founders.

Ferriter contacted Rorion to see if the academy would be willing to come to Iraq and teach its form of Jiu-Jitsu.

"When my father asked if I would be willing to go to Iraq, I jumped at the chance," said Ryron Gracie, Los Angeles Gracie Jiu-Jitsu Academy instructor and Rorion's son. "I told him no matter what we have [to do] to go, we have to do whatever it takes to get there."

Gracie starts the class showing different holds and breaks as another instructor participates as his partner. The instructor team also walks around the class helping the participants to ensure they are performing the moves correctly.



Photo by Pfc. Eric J. Martinez

Maj. Gen. Michael Ferriter, deputy commanding general of operations, Multi-National Corps – Iraq (back row, second from the left), and representatives of the Gracie Jiu-Jitsu Academy pose with servicemembers after a Jiu-Jitsu clinic held on Camp Victory, Nov. 20.

Students eagerly split up into teams and go through the moves. If they are having trouble, they're quick to wave down an instructor for more information.

Maj. Mathew Collins, MNC-I, corps analysis control element, escorted the instructors while they were here.

"I'm excited that they are here – I mean, if you are into mixed martial arts, you know who the Gracies are," said Collins. "As a Soldier, this [seminar] is great augment to the combatives I've already learned."

The Soldiers participating in the

class had a lot to learn from the Gracie Academy instructors; yet, the teacher very often becomes the student in classes like these.

"Initially I would say it is a mutual exchange of experiences and knowledge that benefits everyone," said Gui Valente, Gracie Jiu-Jitsu Academy Miami head instructor. "Our objective is to introduce the Gracie Jiu-Jitsu philosophy to as many troops possible."

Gracie hopes servicemembers will understand there are different philosophies in fighting after

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Munitions Program: *changes mission, reflects on past accomplishments*

Story by
Pfc. Eric J. Martinez
13th Public Affairs
Detachment

The Coalition Munitions Clearance Program was changed to the Coalition Munitions Disposal Program during a ceremony held on Camp Victory, Friday.

Over the past five years, the CMC Program has worked with the U.S. Army Central Command and United States Army Engineering and Support Center to destroy more than 346,000 short tons of explosive remnants of war at 51 clearance sites, denying the enemy from using these hazardous materials for improvised explosive devices.

"It's a distinct privilege and honor to be with you all to formally recognize the accomplishments of the initial Captured Enemy Ammunition Cell and later designated Coalition Munitions Clearance Program and their transition over the next few weeks to a focused Coalition Munitions Disposal Program," said Col. Rock Donahue, director, C-7, Multi-National Corps – Iraq.

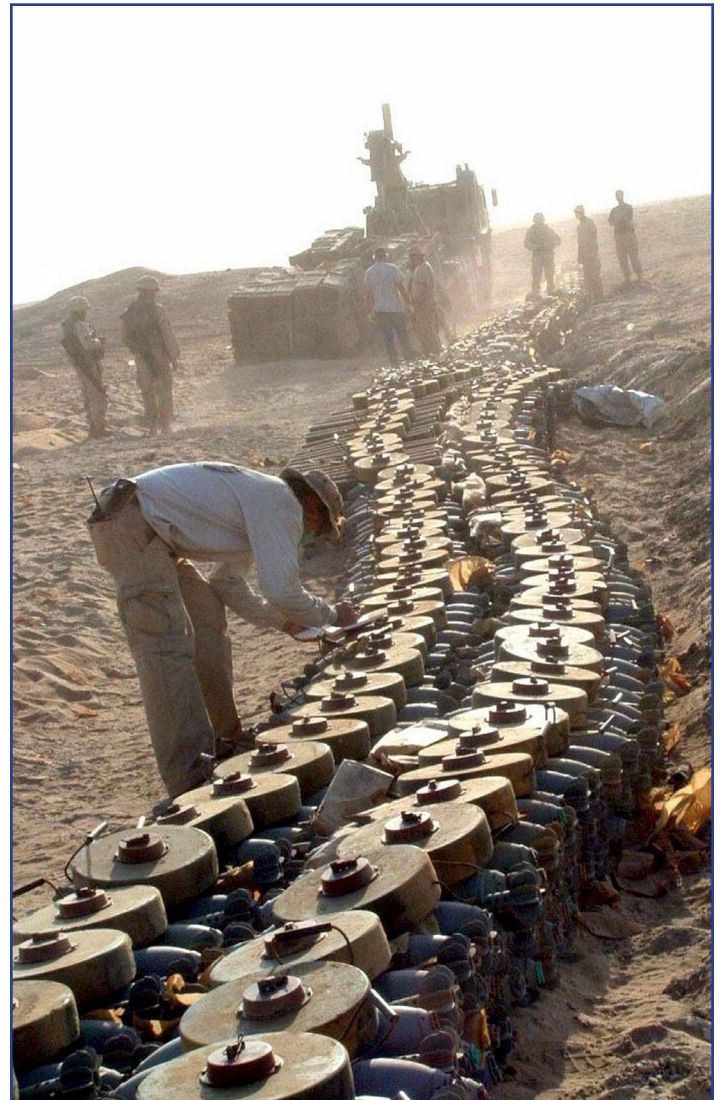
"On Sept. 11, 2003, the

first detonation of captured enemy ammunition took place," said Maj. Jeffery LaCaze, chief, C-7, MNC-I. "What followed was a long, deliberate and well planned effort that eliminated captured enemy ammunition out of possible enemy hands."

At the height of the program, 20 mobile teams operated in Iraq to support the CMC mission. Local national laborers and subcontractors worked at each of the 51 clearing sites.

"Regardless of the amount of ordnance destroyed, the money spent, we just simply cannot lose sight of the great thing that happened here," LaCaze said. "A hybrid mix of military, civilian and contractor specialties were employed to accomplish an operational level objective, and they did so successfully"

"The toll on these honorable men and women performing this inherently dangerous mission was high," Donahue said. "Over 43 expatriates and an untold number of local nationals lost their lives denying the enemy ammunition, ordnance, and cache sites. Today we honor their selfless ser-



U.S. Army courtesy photo

Members of a team from the Huntsville, Ala., U.S. Army Engineering and Support Center prepare to detonate captured enemy ammunition at one of the depot sites in Iraq, August 2003.

vice and sacrifice."

Donahue also stressed the importance of a continued partnership between the Army's Engineering and Support Center, Counter Joint Task Force Troy and MNC-I C-4 in executing the mission of destroying unserviceable

munitions stocks and limited explosive remnants of war in Iraq.

"This vital, cost-effective program will ensure a safer operational environment for our service-members and enhance the security of the Iraqi people," Donahue said. "

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look forward to even more business [with her] in the future. The fact that she would invest her own personal assets to reach out to coalition forces to provide more business opportunities is commendable.”

When ARAM Media is at full production, it will employ approximately 20 full time employees on site and 50 across Iraq.

The Brothers Fuel Station was built by Aws and Ammar Orfali, of SIGMA Group International. The SIGMA Group International spent \$1,400,000 to construct the fuel station. The local economy will have a gross influx of approximately \$368,400 per year based on estimated local expenditures, local purchases and salaries paid out, according to SIGMA Group International.

All the revenues will be



Ammar Orfali, owner, SIGMA Group and the Brothers Fuel Station, cuts the ribbon to the grand opening of the Brothers Fuel Station in the Iraqi Business Industrial Zone Nov. 24.

kept in Iraq to help build the Iraqi economic infrastructure and develop additional fuel stations at other forward operating bases, according to SIGMA Group International.

The continuing development of Iraqi businesses shows the Iraqi people's desire to build a new Iraq with a strong economy and a secure, peaceful

environment. “What this symbolizes to me is the new Iraq,” said Brig. Gen. Nicolas Matern, deputy commanding general for coalition forces and infrastructure, Multi-National Corps – Iraq. “An Iraq where Iraqis have the opportunity to invest in their own country. More so as the security situation improves.”

Construction was completed by a local company which employed 50 to 60 workers. All construction is done according to U.S. and European standards and all the equipment is new. Thirty Iraqi workers were hired to conduct daily operations at the fuel station.

“With things getting better because of the U.S. and coalition forces, people come here looking for a job,” said Ammar Orfali, owner of SIGMA Group and the Brothers Fuel Station. “When you have someone who works for you, you are feeding his children. This is something amazing.”

The ARAM Media Print Facility is located by the fuel point just outside of Camp Slayer. The Brothers Fuel Station is located centrally within VBC, near the IBIZ car wash.

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these classes. His goal is to convey how Gracie Jiu-Jitsu and the Army Combative Program can help servicemembers find a great philosophy and mind set.

“Never expect to use strength or power to beat an opponent, but instead, expect to be outweighed and outsized,” Valente said. “Gracie Jiu-Jitsu shows that you can be smaller and still beat your opponent.”

Practice of Gracie Jiu-Jitsu presents a valuable avenue for growth in many areas such as efficiency,

confidence, courage, loyalty, discipline and respect, said Gui.

“Over the last 50 years, three generations of the Valente family have learned Gracie Jiu-Jitsu directly from Grand Master Hélio Gracie, Ryron's Grandfather,” said Valente. “Today, I can proudly say that my grandfather, my father and I have learned from the creator of Gracie Jiu-Jitsu.”

Gracie and Valente said coming to Iraq has been a great honor and opportunity to give back to their

country and the troops. After having such a great experience here in Iraq, they plan to teach troops serving in Afghanistan.

“We would like to say that it has been a great opportunity and an honor to support the troops that help maintain our freedom. We are extremely grateful for their sacrifice and commitment to the United States of America,” said Valente and Gracie. “The opportunity to be here and witness the commitment and sacrifice of the

Announcements

Online marketplace

An online marketplace is now available for troops and civilians across Iraq to buy, sell or trade accumulated creature comforts such as refrigerators, televisions, furniture and microwaves, at libertyswap.com. Personnel can find items gently used, while saving time and money, and can post community events. POC is 2nd Lt. Aldo Aguirre at aldo.aguirre@mnd-b.army.mil.

R&R briefings

Reunion and Suicide Intervention Briefings are held at the Victory Chapel, Monday at 3 p.m., Wednesday at 9:30 a.m., Saturday at 3 p.m. All service-members going on leave or redeploying must attend this briefing.

Thanksgiving meals

Meal hours for Thanksgiving Day are different than normal dining facility hours.

Sport Oasis: Breakfast will be from 6 a.m. to 8 a.m. Lunch will be from 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Dinner will be from 5-9 p.m. The Coalition Cafe: Breakfast will be from 5:30 a.m. to 7:30 a.m. Lunch will be held from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Dinner will be held from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.

VBC Open Power Lifting Meet

Limited to 50 participants, the meet will be held on at the Sgt 1st Class. Paul R. Smith Gym on January 25, 2009. For more information please contact mary.morehouse@iraq.centcom.mil

The Corps Report

"The Corps Report" is a 15-minute monthly television newscast highlighting the stories and events happening in the Multi-National Corps – Iraq area of operations. The program airs Sunday at 8:15 pm and Monday at 11:15 a.m. on the Pentagon Channel in Baghdad. The October edition of the newscast features stories on the Navy and Marine birthdays, Hispanic Heritage Observance and the Naturalization Ceremony, to name just a few. Be sure and catch the latest edition of "The Corps Report" and contact the broadcast team at MNC-I if you have a story idea at 485-4652.

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 7:30 p.m. Purpose Driven Life Bible Study (Victory Mayor's Cell)	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 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 Victory Base Complex community? Contact Pfc. Eric J. Martinez at eric.martinez@iraq.centcom.mil with the information. Information for community announcements needs to be submitted at least two weeks prior to the event to allow for timely publication.

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. - 5:30 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 Adventist Service
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:
485-3743

**THE MNC-I
HUMAN RELATIONS OFFICE
HOSTS**

THE AMERICAN INDIAN EXHIBIT

**IN CELEBRATION OF
NATIONAL AMERICAN
INDIAN HERITAGE MONTH**

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**OPENING DEDICATION CEREMONY
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KEVIN LOCKE NATIVE DANCE ENSEMBLE
1830**

EXHIBIT FILM HOURS

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CODE TALKERS	1700 26 NOV

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT THE MNC-I HUMAN RELATIONS OFFICE AT 485-5061.



The Kevin Locke Native Dance Ensemble