

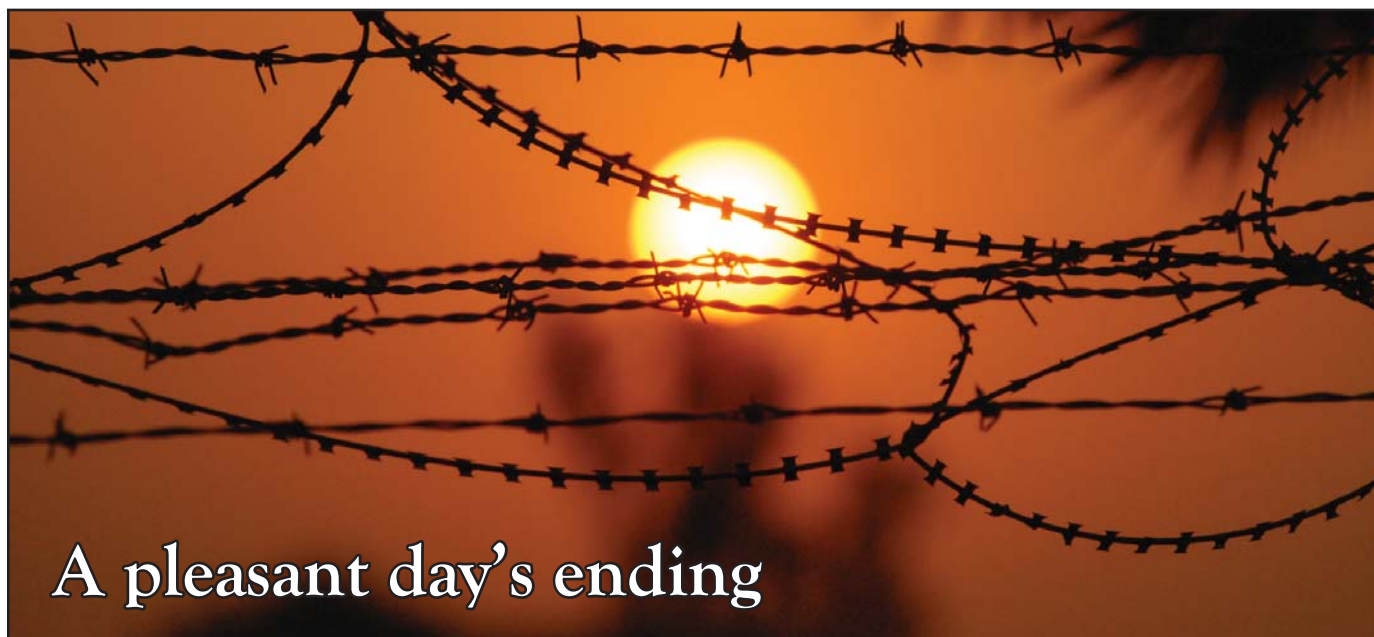


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Soldier Edition

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A n i s s u e d e d i c a t e d t o S o l d i e r s ' s t o r i e s



A pleasant day's ending

Photo by Spc. Sam P. Dillon

Soldiers of 10th Mountain Division took a moment to appreciate the peaceful, but often-neglected, scene as the sun sets beyond the barbed-wire fence surrounding the Multi-National Division - Center headquarters area Jan 20.

Soldier balances new family, job, deployment

1ST LT. MATTHEW BAUER
2ND BCT, 4TH INF. DIV.



CSC SCANIA – Spc. Maurice Leon Oldham Jr., has experienced much since April 18, the day when Oldham and his wife, Erica, gave birth to the couple's first son, Keiandre.

"It was hectic, but it was a good day. My son is beautiful," said the 23-year-old Oldham.

Since then, they have been learning the trade of parenting together and at a rapid pace. With this new addition to the family, Oldham felt the added weight.

"I have mastered the art of prioritizing. (When at home), I am able to go to work and finish it all there, and then come home to my family," the St. Louis native said.

"I have mastered the art of prioritizing."

– Spc. Maurice Leon Oldham Jr.
Btry B, 3rd Bn., 2nd BCT, 4th Inf. Div.

Oldham comes from a military family. His father is currently serving as the noncommissioned officer-in-charge of the chaplains' assistants for Fort Carson, Colo., where Oldham is also stationed.

In April, Oldham was acting as the senior fire direction specialist in Battery B, 3rd Battalion, 16th Field Artillery Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division. At the time, he was busy computing firing data to ensure the safe and accurate shooting of M109A6 Paladins, which he did quite well. Eight months and an Iraq deployment later, Oldham is now the "fix-it" man for his platoon.

"Oldham is crucial to our platoon. When he is not my

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For a diverse audience, inauguration has special meaning

By SGT. DAVID TURNER
MND-C PAO



BAGHDAD — American Soldiers watching the inauguration of the 44th president from Camp Victory had a unique vantage point to history Jan. 20. For some Multi-national Division — Center Soldiers, the swearing-in of Barack Obama has special significance.

"It was a moment that was uplifting," said Sgt. 1st Class Scott Williams, from Jacksonville, Fla., with the 445th Civil Affairs Battalion. He watched the event from his desk on streaming video over the internet.

"It was a moment that filled you with pride to live in a country that lived up

to its creed, in particular for an African American who is 50 years old and who was in the sixth grade when Martin Luther King was assassinated; who saw the riots, who lived right around the corner from where Malcolm X was assassinated."

Sgt. Jose Cruz watched the inauguration with other Soldiers on a large TV in a nearby conference room.

"He was speaking to everyone, military and non-military, rich and poor," said Cruz, a supply sergeant with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 10th Mountain Division.

"I believe he was calling on us to show the other nations that even though the U.S. is a young nation, we are here to

stay and to move forward from the crisis we have now," said Cruz, of Providence, R.I.

Williams also noted the significance of being deployed to Iraq as President Obama spoke to the world community.

"There was a lot of irony in it, in the fact that we were really a part of the speech because we were actually doing a part of the mission ... When he made that appeal to the Muslim world, there was an extra significance because I'm here, and I'm seeing it," he said.

Sergeant 1st Class Dawn Taylor, senior human resource NCO for Task Force Gauntlet, said the experience of watching the historic event from a combat zone was bittersweet.

"To see him take that platform and make his speech, and to be presented to the world as the president of the United States, makes me realize the barriers that confronted me, you can either go around them to accomplish your mission; you can go over them; but no barriers are too big to be removed," said Taylor.

Still, she said, she would have preferred to watch the event at home, with her family.

"I wanted to be home and share the experience with my children and my husband. I wasn't. But I was here with fellow Soldiers, so I still had that comradeship with me," she said.

Taylor's grandmother, who once heard Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. speak in person, was the first family member Taylor wanted to call.

"She said she would never have thought she would have seen the day, but she's even more blessed that her grandchildren, her great-grandchildren got to live the dream - to have an opportunity to realize they can become the next president," said Taylor, of Charleston, S.C.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Michel Sauret

Sergeant 1st Class Scott Williams, of Jacksonville, Fla., a Soldier with the 445th Civil Affairs Bn., watches the inauguration of President Barack Obama over the internet from his desk at Task Force Mountain Headquarters, Camp Victory, Jan. 20. Williams said Obama's inaugural address "embraced the past 400 years, brought it to that moment and said: Now, you're free; you're free to live out the ideals and to be accepted as a human being with dignity. That's what it meant to me."

THE Mountain View

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Task Force 449



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BALANCE

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dismount, he is either driving a vehicle or acting as the gunner. He can gun on either the M240B or the 50 cal. The younger guys in the platoon look up to him," said Sgt. 1st Class Michael Perkins, Oldham's platoon sergeant.

With both a growing family and growing responsibilities, Oldham is determined to get promoted. He said he would welcome the responsibilities, as well as the additional ability to take care of his family. He hopes the next month's promotion cutoff scores will be low enough for him to advance. However, he doesn't plan on stopping there.

"E-6 in the next year and a half, that's my short term goal in the Army. My long term goal is to achieve the highest rank I can and take care of Soldiers," said Oldham. "I just can't wait to get home and watch my son grow!"

With a family support system at home that gives so much, it is not surprising that Oldham is able to balance it all and be an outstanding Soldier while away from home.



Photo by 1st Lt. Matthew Bauer

Spc. Maurice Leon Oldham Jr., plays foosball with members of the Iraqi Security Forces during a recent patrol. Oldham is a fire direction specialist Btry. B, 3-16th FA Regt., 2nd BCT, 4th Inf. Div.

Arts and crafts show at Camp Echo

Photos by Sgt. Rodney Foliente



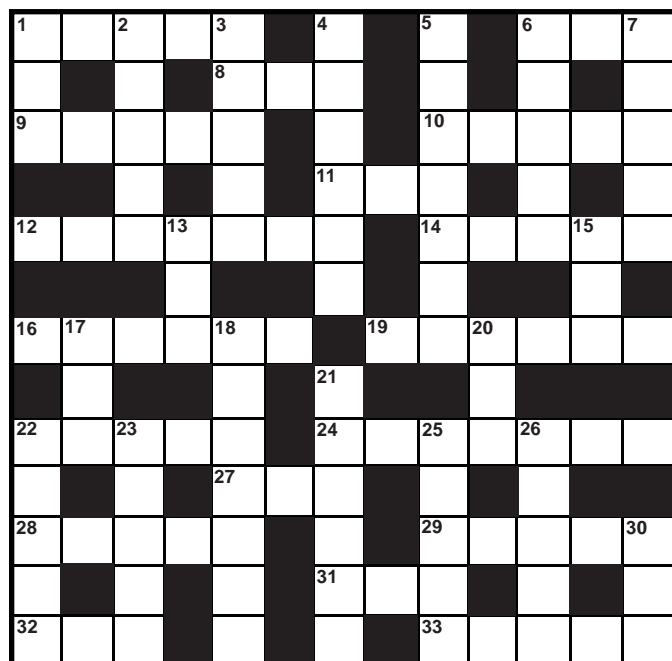
Soldiers from 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, view art by local Iraqi artists Jan. 17 at Camp Echo. The local artists began visiting Camp Echo several months ago sharing their skills and products with the Soldiers based there.

(Right) Spc. Colleen Fitzpatrick, technical engineer with the 54th Engineer Battalion, based out of Bamberg, Germany, buys and rolls up a rug at the arts and craft show on Camp Echo.



(Background) Paintings of various styles by local Iraqi artists are displayed for Soldiers from 2nd BCT, 4th Inf. Div., and civilian contractors to be purchased at the arts and craft show.

Crossword



ACROSS:

- | | | |
|--------------------------|---------------|------------------|
| 1. Thai coins | 12. ravine | 27. debt note |
| 6. toupee | 14. flower | 28. pamper |
| 8. United Nations agency | 16. thingy | 29. leg muscle |
| 9. oriental bear | 19. generator | 31. distress |
| 10. controlled | 22. bumbling | 32. bitumen |
| 11. disease | 24. doubted | 33. citrus fruit |

DOWN:

1. bread roll
2. depend
3. Yogi
4. chewy sweet
5. hormone
6. automaton
7. teachers
13. rock cavity
15. vase
17. tavern
18. dead
20. whelp
21. wriggle
22. feedback
23. chieftain
25. surpass
26. religion
30. age

Word Search



Baseball

- | | | |
|----------------|--------------|-------------|
| Appeal | Ground ball | Runner |
| Balk | In flight | Scoreboard |
| Base | Infield fly | Shortstop |
| Batter | Infielder | Strike |
| Bunt | Inning | Tag |
| Catch | Interference | Throw |
| Coach | League | Tie game |
| Dead ball | Line drive | Triple play |
| Defense | Live ball | Umpire |
| Double header | Mound | Wild pitch |
| Dugout | Obstruction | |
| Fair ball | Offense | |
| Fair territory | Outfielder | |
| Fly ball | Overslide | |
| Force play | Penalty | |
| Forfeited game | Pitcher | |
| Foul ball | Pivot foot | |
| Foul territory | Retouch | |
| Foul tip | Run down | |

WHAT DID YOU THINK OF THE PLAYOFF GAMES?



Photo by Staff Sgt. Michel Sauret

"I'm a Falcons fan, so I was forced to root for Arizona. It's good, though, for the Super Bowl: high-power offense going against high-power defense. We'll see if defenses win championships as they say," said 1st Lt. Philip Howell, of Ellijay, Ga., 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Michel Sauret

"I'm not too happy about Pittsburgh winning. I literally hate the Pittsburgh Steelers. I'm happy for Arizona, though. Kurt Warner had a heck of a year," said Pfc. Leonard Newcomb, of Centralia, Ill., 620th Movement Control Team, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 10th Mountain Division.

Trivia of the Week

Who is the only player to have played for and managed the New York Mets and Yankees?