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February 16, 2009

# 172nd BCT sweeps Climb to Glory Relay

PFC. TYLER MAULDING  
MND-C



**CAMP VICTORY** – Soldiers from Multi National Division - Center participated in the first ever 10-mile Combat Relay organized by the 10th Mountain Division communications section Feb. 15 here.

The event drew a wide variety of teams from both MND-C as well as several teams from Multi National Corps - Iraq, including an all female team, four Coalition teams, a civilian contractor team, and several multi-service teams.

Teams came from Forward Operation Bases all over the MND-C area of operation to take part in the event.

More than 60 five-Soldier teams competed in the event wearing boots, uniform and a 30-pound rucksack while carrying an M-16 or M-4 rifle. Each member of the teams ran a two-mile leg of the course that included two obstacles; a set of three concrete barriers and a water hazard.

Finishing in first and second place were rival teams from the 172nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division.

First place went to a team from 1-2 Infantry Battalion, consisting of Capt. Brian Weighman, 1st Lt. Michael Miller, 1st Lt. Leon Lee, 1st Lt. Seann Kim and Sgt. Karl Wiger.

During the final leg of the relay Kim and 1st Lt. Ryan Cournia, a member of the second place team, were in an all out battle for the first place finish.

"I lead for a while, then he led for a while, and we just kept going back and forth. The whole way was cat and mouse," said Cournia. "When we hit the



Photo by Pfc. Tyler Maulding

1st Lt. Seann Kim, 1-2 Infantry Battalion, 172nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division, a Chicago native, is the first to cross the finish line during the first ever 10th Mountain 10-mile Combat Relay Feb. 15.

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# Iraqi women's initiatives take front seat at FOB Kalsu

**CAPT. STEPHEN C SHORT**  
172ND INF. BDE.



FOB KALSU – Iraqi leaders of non-governmental organizations came together to connect with peers and representatives of their government at the first Women's Initiatives Conference held here Feb. 6.

The Women's Initiatives Team, which is composed of Soldiers from the 172nd Infantry Brigade and B Company, 403rd Civil Affairs Battalion, has the mission of connecting Iraqi government agencies to the women of Iraq.

The team seeks to empower Iraqi women to become key citizens with equal rights and privileges during the transformation of the government of Iraq. Their mission is to bring about an equal voice under law and basic human rights.

They believe that in order to create opportunity and change, people must form a united front and have their voices

heard within their communities and government.

Twenty-eight organization representatives from Babil Province, Iraq attended the conference with 41 representatives being men and 12 women.

The conference began with opening remarks from Maj. Lucien Campillo, 172 Infantry Brigade Executive Officer, welcoming the distinguished guests to the conference and thanking the Women's Initiatives Team leader, 1st Lt. Gloria Brickles, for her team's hard work putting the conference together. Brickles asked representatives to come to the podium and introduce themselves, speak about their organization, its history and list some of its projects.

There were no shy speakers as leaders from youth associations, human rights groups and women's support groups spoke in depth about their organization's beliefs and efforts to improve people and their country.

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Photos by Pfc. Bethany L. Little

(Left) Nidhal Fabhil Mahi Al Aubaidi, a representative from the Ansar Al Khansa'a Organization, completes a survey during the Women's Initiatives Conference held at FOB Kalsu Feb. 6. (Above) Dr. Faeza Al Ebadi, the founder of the New Iraqi Women Organization, engages in a small group discussion during the Women's Initiatives Conference at FOB Kalsu Feb. 6.

## THE Mountain View

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4th BCT, 1st Cavalry Division  
41st Fires Brigade  
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793rd Military Police Battalion  
Division Special Troops Battalion, 10th Mtn. Div.  
Task Force 449



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# RELAY

From page 1

final stretch we were pretty much neck and neck. I kept waiting for him to kick it up and he kept waiting for me to kick it up, then he finally did and I realized I couldn't keep up. He is really fast.

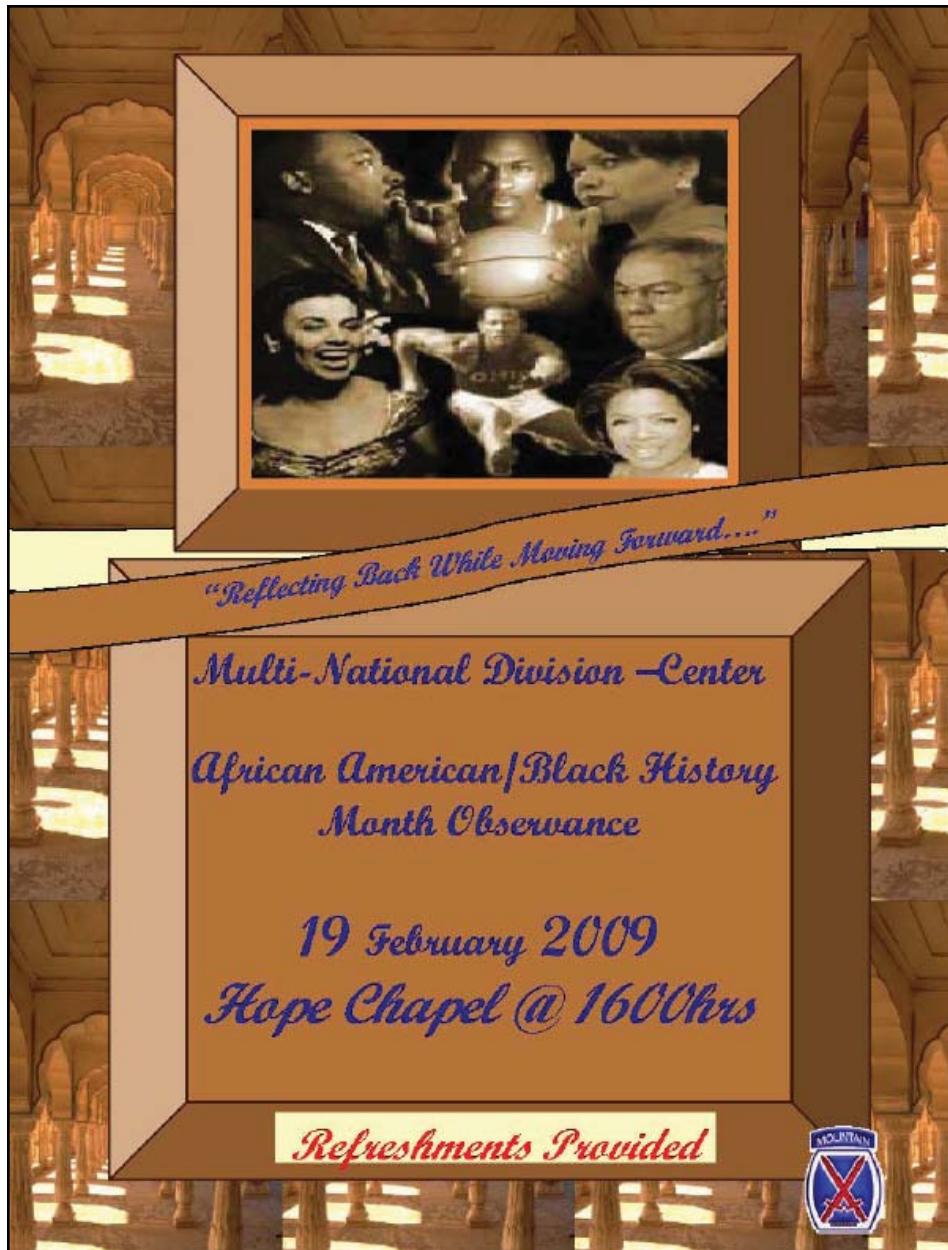
Their finishing times were just two seconds apart, with the first team coming in at 1 hour 21 minutes and 5 seconds and the second at 1:21:7.

Each competitor on the teams with the five best cumulative times received a trophy. All the other participants received a t-shirt to commemorate the relay.



Photos by Pfc. Tyler Maulding  
(Top Right) Servicemembers, Coalition Forces and civilians race off the starting line during the first ever 10th Mountain 10-mile Combat Relay Feb. 15. (Left) A Coalition team hands off their pack and rifle during the relay. The 10th Mountain Combat Relay drew a wide variety of teams from both MND-C as well as several teams from Multi National Corps - Iraq, including an all female team, four Coalition teams, a civilian contractor team, and several multi-service teams. (Above) Sgt. Karl Wiger, 1-2 Infantry Battalion, 172nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division, leaps over a concrete barrier during the 10-mile Combat Relay.





## WOMEN

From page 2

"The Iraq Organization for Motherhood, Childhood and Handicap Care of Jurf As-Sakhr was established after the fall of Saddam Hussein, and we focus on the issues of women, children and the disabled," said Jabbar Mohammed Naif, an attorney attending the conference. "Our achievements are providing humanitarian aid, courses covering computers and literacy as well as health promotion."

The common theme recognized among all the speakers were the abhorrence of violence and desire to improve the human rights and lives of women in Iraq. The delegates informed the brigade of some of the most important issues facing their organization.

"I need to know how my organization will be funded once the U.S. Army leaves Iraq," said Hazim Al-shafeei, a delegate from the Ard Alfuratain Youth Association. "I really want to know how the process works for the Iraqi government to provide funding for our group."

The groups gathered concerns and pressing questions for forwarding to the appropriate government agencies, all in hopes of connecting the Iraqi people to the Iraqi government.

The event planning started in January and went into February with meetings conducted between the Women's Initiatives Team and Amira Abed Salman, the Babil Province Deputy Chairwoman of Women's Affairs.

"I plan on sitting down with Amira and presenting the consolidated questions and issues gathered at the conference," said Brickles. "We will work out a system where the NGO's can submit their proposals to the government, and our team will be the facilitators to make this happen."

"This conference brought many different people together to create one voice for change," said Brickles. "I truly believe in the power of the people to make change for women in Iraq."

Brickles concluded the conference by thanking Spc. Gretchen Hubbard, a 172nd Infantry Soldier from Winnipeg, Canada for writing the closing remarks speech.

"We are all here for one common goal," said Brickles. "We want our daughters and granddaughters to have a better life, full of opportunity and possibilities beyond those afforded to us."



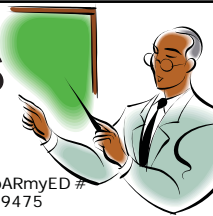
## College Credits

Seminars Offered in the G3 Conference RM:

17 Feb 08 - 24 FEB	CJSA Drug Recognition	1SH	GoARmyED # 149475
26 Feb 08 - 05 Mar	CJSA- Intro to Gangs	1SH	149478
16 Mar 08 - 20 Apr	CJSA- Crime in America	3SH	149479
(Classes will be provided in Basrah)			

**College Credits=Promotion Points**  
**1 semester hour= 5 promotion points**

If you interested in attending college classes thru Central Texas College, contact CW2 Robert Meeks either via email or s-voip 674-2027.



# Headline Round-up

## U.S. News:

WASHINGTON - In a major victory for President Barack Obama, Democrats muscled a huge, \$787 billion stimulus bill through Congress Feb. 13 in hopes of combating the worst economic crisis since the Great Depression. Republican opposition was nearly unanimous. After lobbying energetically for the bill, Obama is expected to sign it within a few days, less than a month after taking office. Supporters said the legislation would save or create 3.5 million jobs.

## Entertainment:

NEW YORK - A full-frontal, nude photo of a 20-year-old Madonna fetched \$37,500 at auction Feb. 12, an apparent record auction price for a photograph of the superstar singer. An unnamed European buyer bought the picture, which had been expected to sell for up to \$15,000, according to Christie's auction house. Madonna, then known as Madonna Louise Ciccone, was a dancer trying to make ends meet when she answered a newspaper ad seeking a nude model. She may have earned as little as \$25 for the 1979 photo session.

## Sports News:

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. - It took Tony Stewart just five hours to go from brooding over his battered Daytona 500 car to celebrating a victory in the season-opening NASCAR Nationwide Series race. The two-time Cup champion held off a last-lap challenge from Kyle Busch to win the Nationwide race Feb. 14 at Daytona International Speedway. "After this morning, it's great," said Stewart, who lost his Daytona 500 car and that of teammate Ryan Newman to wrecks during morning practice. "This is a good way to rebound."

## Odd News:

BELLEVUE, Wash. - A man made sure a pair of burglars didn't get away with his three flat-screen televisions — he moved their getaway car. Patrick Rosario was in the basement of his home Feb. 10 when he heard the burglars upstairs. The 32-year-old Rosario called 911 while he sneaked out of the house. He saw a white van sitting in front of his house with the motor running and the keys in the ignition, and he got in and drove it to a friend's house. Police say the burglars left the televisions, a laptop computer and a jewelry box by the door and took off on foot. The sheriff's office said no arrests had been made.

## Quote of the Day

*"Life is not so short but that there is always time enough for courtesy."  
- Ralph Waldo Emerson*

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For the  
answer to  
today's puzzle,  
go to:



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## AROUND THE COMMUNITY

### Lion's Den

Fridays

"Gospel Hour: Moments of Joy"

@ noon

### Fishbowl Gym

March 27

Relay for Life HOPE Ceremony

@ 8 p.m.

March 28

Cancer awareness 5K/10K walk

run. Free t-shirt and

continental breakfast. Race

begins @ 7 a.m.

### Freedom Chapel

Violin teacher needed. Contact

Col. Andrew Baan (Andrew

baan@iraq.centcom.mil) for

more information.

Mondays

A History of Christianity @

7 p.m.

Wednesdays

Guitar lessons @ 4 p.m.

Fridays

Catholic Hour @ 6:30 p.m.

### Liberty

Feb. 22

Sweet 16 5 K Run. Race begins

at "Z" Lake @ 7 a.m. FREE

T-shirts to the top 115

finishers. POC: Spc. Daniel

Balderas 485-0411 or

daniel.balderas@iraq.cent-

com.mil

Feb. 23

Black History Month Observance

at Aw Faw Palace @ 7 p.m.

POC: Maj. Monique Compere-

Anderson 835-2057.

### Babylon Theatre

Feb. 16

Newcomers Brief @ 1 p.m.

Feb. 17

Fire Warden Course @ 1 p.m.

Feb. 18

Fire Extinguisher Class @ 1 p.m.

Feb. 20

Town hall meeting @ 1 p.m.