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## Spartans test medic skills in southern Iraq



Photo by Spc. Terence Ewings

Spc. Matthew Varns, an information systems specialist with 4th Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division 'Spartans', aids a fellow troop during the medical application portion of the battalion's combat lifesaver competition on Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq, March 14. Varns, from Birmingham, AL, won the contest and received a battalion belt buckle, a 1st Cavalry Division Jersey and the Army Achievement Medal, his third during this deployment.

**SPC. TERENCE EWINGS**  
4TH BCT, 1ST CAV. DIV.



COB ADDER – Seven combat lifesavers from the 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division participated in a unit medical competition here March 14 to determine who could provide the best combat casualty care.

Spc. Matthew Varns, an information systems specialist

with the 4th Special Troops Battalion 'Spartans', won first place in the contest, his third major accomplishment during this deployment. The Birmingham, AL, resident also won his company's Soldier-of-the-Month Board, then the battalion Soldier-of-the-Quarter Board, which tested the Spartan Soldiers' mental and physical capabilities in combat readiness techniques, leadership skills and military knowledge.

"This is some of the best training I have ever received,"

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# New clinic opens in Diwaniya



Photo by Sgt. Rodney Foliente

Doctors speak with waiting patients in the new al Jumhour Primary Healthcare Clinic in Diwaniya recently.

**SGT. RODNEY FOLIENTE**  
2ND BCT, 4TH INF. DIV.



CAMPECHO – Local Iraqis celebrated the opening of the new al Jumhour Primary Healthcare Clinic in Diwaniya recently.

The clinic was built with the assistance of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Diwaniya Provincial Re-

construction Team, working with the government of Iraq and local contractors and workers.

The clinic could not have been built without the Iraqi government's support, work and dedication to the people of the Iraq, said Mike Klecheski, Provincial Reconstruction Team leader for Diwaniya.

There was a huge need and high demand for a healthcare clinic in the area,

he continued. Many of the doctors explained that cholera is a serious problem they currently face, and the clinic will help combat the disease through treatment and education.

The new clinic can provide for most medical care needs of the local residents. In addition to basic medical services, it has a pharmacy and offers pedi-

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## THE Mountain View

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41st Fires Brigade  
343rd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment  
793rd Military Police Battalion  
Division Special Troops Battalion, 10th Mtn. Div.  
Task Force 449





# Iraqi, U.S. forces discuss security in Maysan



**SPC. CREIGHTON HOLUB**  
4TH BCT, 1ST CAV. DIV.



FOB HUNTER – Operational security was at the forefront of discussions during the Maysan-Security Conference here recently.

Leaders from the 41st Brigade, 10th Iraqi Army Division, the al-Kahla and Qal'at Salih police departments and local shaykhs journeyed from locations throughout the region to meet with Lt. Col. Timothy Daugherty, commander of the 5th Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division 'Black Dragons,' and Lt. Col. Daryle Hernandez, commander of the 1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry Regiment, 4BCT, 1CD 'Head

Hunters.'

This was the third security conference between the American Soldiers and Maysan leaders since the cavalry Soldiers arrived in Iraq last June.

During the meeting, all parties assessed the security in their areas and how to best synchronize the efforts of the Iraqi Security Forces and Coalition Forces. The leaders agreed that working hand-in-hand with the province's citizens to stifle outside influences and criminal activity is the best way to stabilize the region.

"We secure the area from al-Sheeb to here," said Lt. Col. Isam Salim Hussein, the 41st Bde.'s operations officer. The border bases in al-Sheeb mark the

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Photos by Spc. Creighton Holub

(Left) An Iraqi shaykh speaks to Lt. Col. Timothy Daugherty, commander of the 5th Bn., 82nd FA Regt., and other local Iraqi leaders during the Maysan Security Conference at FOB Hunter March 10. The Black Dragon artillery battalion hosted the event, which was attended by the 1st Squadron, 9th Cav. Regt. commander, leaders from the 41st Iraqi Army Bde. and the al-Kahla and Qal'at Salih police departments. (Below) An Iraqi shaykh speaks to Lt. Col. Timothy Daugherty, commander of the 5th Bn., 82nd FA Regt., and other local Iraqi leaders during the Maysan Security Conference at FOB Hunter March 10.



## MEDICS

### From page 1

said Varns, who has proudly served with the U.S. Army the past two years.

The CLS competition, which included an Army Physical Fitness Test, 5-kilometer road march and a medical identification and application exercise, was created by junior enlisted Soldiers to test their familiarity on providing combat care during highly stressful scenarios.

Most of the Spartan Soldiers said the competition was a welcomed break from routine operations the battalion performs here.

"I think all Soldiers should have this

type of training," said Varns. "It helped break the monotony, and was actually good training."

Spc. Cecilia Sarabia, one of the Spartan's combat medics who was responsible for creating the medical training event, said the competition is important because it identifies how a Soldier would react in real life combat-care situations.

"The Soldiers will be able to take vital information from this event and apply it in future situations," said the El Paso, Texas native. "This started as just a contest for CLS qualified troops, but it's just as informative as it is competitive."

"When I become a noncommis-

sioned officer, I want my troops to have these skills and techniques because I would like them to be successful," added Varns, who said he always strives to exceed the Army's basic standards.

Varns was awarded a battalion belt buckle, a 1st Cavalry Division Jersey and received his third Army Achievement Medal for winning the CLS competition.

Varns said he plans to change stations to Germany within the next year and is prepared to teach other Soldiers the invaluable medical skills he learned during the battalion's CLS course, which could possibly save a life one day.

## CLINIC: *New clinic opens in Diwaniya*

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iatrics, geriatrics, emergency treatment ultrasound and x-ray capabilities.

"We responded to something that was needed in an important neighborhood of Diwaniya," said Klecheski. "It's very encouraging for me to see that we are doing that kind of work that truly affects the lives of individuals. I'm very happy to be a part of that."

There are other projects that the USACE and its Iraqi partners are working to build, such as water treatment facilities, schools, roads, electrical power



Photo by Sgt. Rodney Foliente

**Mike Klecheski, Diwaniya PRT leader, and Dr. Abdulameer al-Obaidy, Diwaniya Director General of Health, cut the ribbon during the opening ceremony of the new al Jumhouri Primary Healthcare Clinic in Diwaniya recently.**



Photo by Sgt. Rodney Foliente

**Lt. Col. Dwight Davies, PRT engineer officer-in-charge, speaks to the assembly during the opening ceremony of the new al Jumhouri Primary Healthcare Clinic in Diwaniya recently.**

facilities and sewer and waste facilities to benefit the people of Diwaniya, said Lt. Col. Dwight Davies, PRT engineer officer-in-charge. "We're moving into a new era of growth and peaceful partnership to ensure the health and safety of the Iraqi people and save many lives in the future."

## SECURITY

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eastern-most tip of the province. "We are very good at coordinating with the American units here and we are making the area safer every day."

Capt. Keith Williams, the Black Dragon Battalion's lead intelligence officer, reinforced the Iraqi officer's statement during the conference.

"Because of the Iraqi brigade's efforts, I believe we will stop the criminals in this area," said Williams.

Preventing criminals from operating in the province and committing crimes against the citizens are just part of the work being done by the Iraqi and American allies.

The 5th Bn., 82nd FA Regt. recently facilitated the completion of a water treatment plant near the base here. The plant is already pumping clean water to nearby citizens. The 1st Sqdn., 9th Cav. Regt. is nearing completion of two more water treatment projects, as well.

"At first we focused on the larger towns in the south-eastern province," explained Capt. Travis Hacker, battalion headquarters company commander and civil-military oper-

ations officer. "We've found they all have common problems with getting clean water and electricity."

Police leaders from Qal'at Salih and al-Kahla consider their towns to be safe, but explained that more needs to be done outside of their jurisdictions.

"It's a lot different now than before the Iraqi and American troops arrived nine months ago," said Lt. Raad, a police officer from Qal'at Salih. "It's more secure out here, too. The entire area used to be the police department's responsibility."

The al-Kahla police department's executive officer said his department is also looking for weapon smugglers, but his city has been quiet.

"We work with the Iraqi Army's 41st Brigade to go after these criminals," said Maj. Ali Hussein, the city's second highest-ranking police officer. "So far it's been quiet inside the city and outside its perimeter."

Although the two American units stationed here are confident the Iraqi units can provide security for the region, the Black Dragon and Head Hunter forces have plans to continue assisting the Iraqi forces to ensure the region is completely stabilized.



# Headline Round-up

## World News:

BAGHDAD - Ancient ruins aside, touring war-torn Iraq for the last two weeks hasn't been as satisfying as Tina Townsend Greaves had hoped. Not because of safety fears. To the contrary. More because some sights that the Briton wanted to explore during her two week visit have been closed. Greaves was one of eight visitors — including Britons and Americans — on the first officially sanctioned tour of Iraq outside the semiautonomous northern Kurdish region since the March 2003 U.S. invasion.

## U.S. News:

OAKLAND, Calif. - A police officer was battling for his life and three more were dead after a parolee with an "extensive criminal history" opened fire at a routine traffic stop and hours later gunned down members of a SWAT team searching for him. The gunman was also killed Saturday, capping a day of violence that the Oakland Police Department said was the worst in its history. Never before had three police officers died in the line of duty on the same day. "It's in these moments that words are extraordinarily inadequate," said Mayor Ron Dellums at a somber news conference Saturday night. The mayhem began that afternoon when two motorcycle patrol officers stopped a 1995 Buick sedan in east Oakland, Oakland police spokesman Jeff Thomason said. The driver opened fire, killing Sgt. Mark Dunakin, 40, and gravely wounding Officer John Hege, 41.

## Odd News:

CHARLOTTE, N.C. - A 350-year-old statue of a saint and former pope, taken from an Italian church nearly two decades ago, has been found in the home of a North Carolina couple who had no idea it was stolen, authorities said. The intricately carved bust of St. Innocent will be returned to the church in Naples, Italy, U.S. Immigration and Customs and Enforcement agents said. The statue was one of 17 similar busts and two oil paintings taken from the church in November 1990. Authorities told The Charlotte Observer the trail went cold until two years ago, when officials in Rome let federal agents know an Italian citizen sold a similar statue to an antiques dealer from Greensboro. The statue sold in Charlotte was bought by the same dealer at an antiques fair in France, said Neal Johnson, the Charlotte dealer who bought the statue from the same Greensboro dealer and sold it to the couple.

## Quote of the Day

*"The more you sweat in peacetime, the less you bleed in war." - Chinese proverb*

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today's puzzle,  
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## AROUND THE COMMUNITY

### 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.

April 11

Pirate's Cove Run 5K/10K.

Registration begins @ 7 a.m.,  
race begins @ 8 a.m.

T-shirts awarded to top  
finishers.

### Freedom Chapel

Sundays

Protestant (Traditional) @ 10  
a.m.

Roman Catholic Mass @ 12 p.m.

LDS service @ 2 p.m.

Eastern Orthodox @ 4 p.m.

Protestant (Contemporary) @ 12  
p.m.

Mondays

A History of Christianity @  
7 p.m.

Tuesdays

God & the Military @ 6:30 p.m.

Wednesdays

Guitar Lessons @ 7 p.m.

Thursdays

Catholic Choir practice @ 5:30  
p.m.

Fridays

Catholic hour @ 6:30 p.m.