

Ramadi Star



Camp Ramadi Command Information Newsletter

MARCH 28, 2008



Lance Cpl. Kirby Walberg and Marine Sgt. Amanda Kelly, both from 8th Comm Bn. pose for a photo with Axe, a hard-rock band, after their performance at Camp Ramadi Mar.25, 2009. (Photo By Army Sgt. Amanda Gauthier)

Camp Ramadi Rocks!

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SAFETY NOTES

By Army Capt. Kasey Vu
Camp Ramadi Safety Officer

Hello Tenants of Camp Ramadi!

I am happy to inform everyone that there have been no serious safety mishaps on Camp Ramadi this past month! I want to thank everyone for doing your part in maintaining the safety on this camp. I also want to remind everyone to remain vigilant and not allow complacency to creep into your daily operations. Our safety focus this month is vehicle and traffic safety.

Within the past two months, there were two deaths (one military and one civilian) and one serious injury (military) in the MNF-W area of operation involving vehicles and ground guides. The injury occurred when the ground guide was run over by the vehicle. One of the deaths occurred when the ground guide was crushed between two vehicles. The other death occurred when a forklift ran over the person on the ground. The cause of these three incidents appears to be a combination of overconfidence by the equipment operator and a lack of situational awareness by the person on the ground. Obviously, all three accidents were avoidable. Camp Ramadi has been fortunate in that we have not had an incident such as these in almost a year. Let's continue that positive trend. Please use these incidents as reminders of the dangers associated with operating military vehicles and heavy equipment, and ensure that our

personnel are adhering to safe operating procedures.

One issue that continues to be a challenge on Camp Ramadi is vehicle speed, or more precisely, getting people to slow down. As we all know, vehicles and pedestrians share the roads on this camp. We have been fortunate to not have someone run over by a vehicle, but there have been *many* close calls. I strongly urge everyone to please SLOW DOWN. As a reminder, the vehicle speed limits on this camp are as follows: 20 mph or 35 kph on the outer roads, 15 mph or 24 kph on the inner roads, and 5 mph or 10 kph in areas of heavy foot traffic. Unless you are part of a crew responding to a life-threatening emergency, there is absolutely no valid reason to be speeding on this camp!

As always, Chief Warrant Officer Curry and myself are available if you have any questions or concerns. Our contact information is as follows:

Office: Bldg 2610, Rm 5

DSN: 344-0921

SVOIP: 696-5418

NIPRNET: kasey.vu@ar.mnf-wiraq.usmc.mil

kenneth.curry@ar.mnf-wiraq.usmc.mil

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kenneth.curry@ar.mnf-wiraq.usmc.smil.mil

Continue to integrate safety into your everyday activities and operations. Have a safe and productive month! 🚫

Who to call in case of emergency

In case of any emergency: Fire- Medical -Security

YOU CAN NOW CALL..... 911



Members of the Camp Ramadi Fire Department gather for a photo prior to paramedic training Feb. 28, 2009. (Photo by Army Sgt. Amanda Gauthier)

The Camp Ramadi Fire Department gives Fire Warden classes every Saturday at 2 p.m. at the Camp Ramadi Fire Station. Classes are meant to teach Camp Ramadi tenants proper use of a fire extinguisher, how to identify fire hazards and fire safety.

If you have general questions about fire safety, extinguishers, smoke alarms or fire warden training, call 344-0770

If you find an unexploded ordnance, or for any other emergency, call the Ramadi Operations Center:
VOIP: 696-5966/5967
DSN: 344-0696/2179

NFL kicks off Iraq tour in Camp Ramadi

By Army Staff Sgt. Emily Suhr
81st BCT Public Affairs

Dressed head to toe in Marine Corps fatigues, the 6-foot-3 Arizona Cardinal nonchalantly munching on beef jerky outside the Marine Corps Exchange on Camp Ramadi, Iraq, almost fit in, save for the dreadlocks and the poster taped to a wall behind him with his photograph on it.

Larry Fitzgerald smiled casually at shocked Marines and Soldiers as they stumbled past him on their way into the small store. Many stopped to shake his hand or just stare. Some ran back to their living quarters to grab cameras, others bought new ones in the exchange. Inside the exchange, Minnesota Viking Jared Allen, also dressed in the Marine Corps uniform, shopped for new boots, while St. Louis Ram Will Witherspoon and New York Giant Danny Clark shopped around for snacks and souvenirs.

The NFL players spent the day at Camp Ramadi Mar. 7, 2009 to visit the troops as part of a USO tour through Kuwait and Iraq.

"This is fun for us," said Fitzgerald who is on his fourth USO tour. "When we get an opportunity to meet



NFL players Larry Fitzgerald from the Arizona Cardinals, Jared Allen from the Minnesota Vikings, Will Witherspoon from the St. Louis Ram and Danny Clark from the New York Giants answer questions from the audience at Camp Ramadi, during their USO tour through Kuwait and Iraq. (Photo by Army Sgt. Amanda Gauthier)

the people, meet the troops, it's a lot of fun. I have family that's in the military, so it kind of hits close to home with me. I just want to come over and show the troops my support and give them my appreciation for the sacrifices they make for us."

After arriving at the small base in Anbar Province, the NFL players met

with the base commander, Col. Ronald Kapral, shopped at the exchange and ate dinner at the chow hall with excited fans before attending an autograph session that evening.

The foursome was greeted for the autograph session by hundreds of eager Marines, Soldiers and Sailors from across base. The players didn't disappoint. They answered questions from the troops ranging from which other players in the league they most admire – Clark admires players like Allen and Reggie Bush, while Allen finds Peyton Manning both impressive and frustrating – to which branch of the military each would join if things were different – each followed in the tradition of their family members who have or are serving, the Air Force for Witherspoon, Marine Corps for Allen and Clark and the Army for Fitzgerald. The players also talked about their families, hobbies and, of course, football. One Marine wanted to know what the best part of being a football player was.

"I'm doing the job I dreamt of do



Jared Allen from the Minnesota Vikings signs autographs for servicemembers following lunch at the chow hall on Camp Ramadi, Iraq Mar. 7, 2009. (Photo by Army Staff Sgt. Emily Suhr)

See NFL page 20

CAMP RAMADI COMBAT STRESS

Unit Level Classes:

- ~ Unit Climate Survey
- ~ Stress Management
- ~ Anger Management
- ~ Healthy Living
- ~ Tobacco Cessation
- ~ Critical Event Debriefing
- ~ Redeployment Education
- ~ Sleep/Relaxation



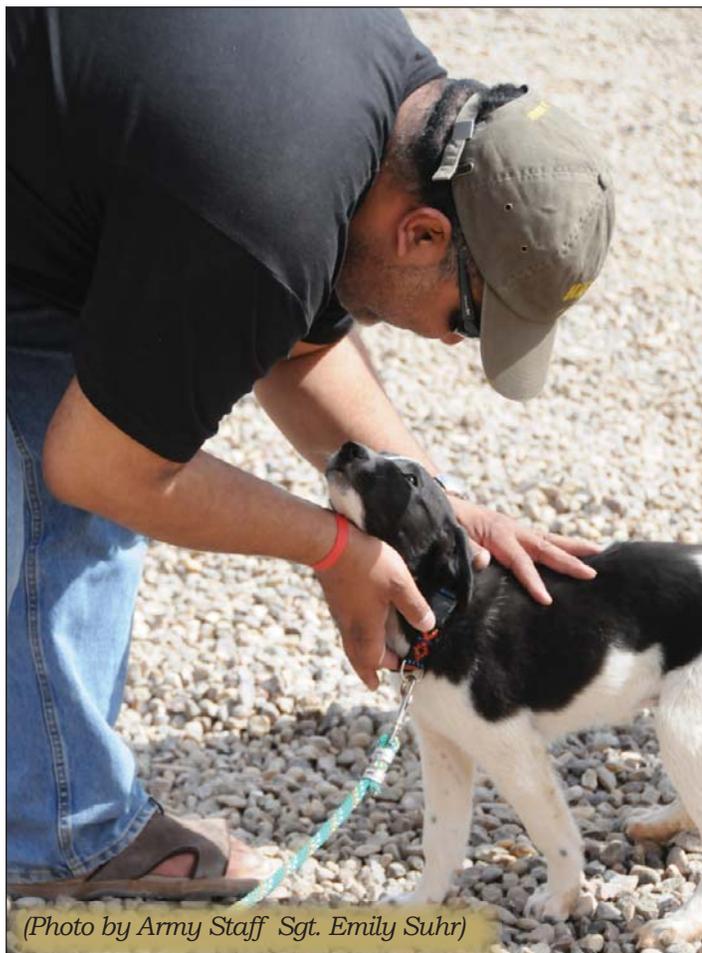
Clinic Services:

- ~ Anxiety / Depression
- ~ Insomnia
- ~ Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder
- ~ Tobacco Cessation
- ~ Stress/Anger Management
- ~ Relationship Problems
- ~ Medication Management
- ~ Command Referrals
- ~ Individual Counseling

Call the Combat Stress Team at DSN: 344-0998 or SIPR: 696-5051, or stop by building 3100 to set up an appointment, get more information or just to visit

Meet Bella, Camp Ramadi's Combat Stress dog

Scratch her ears, rub her belly or take her for a walk to relieve stress and feel at home.



(Photo by Army Staff Sgt. Emily Suhr)

Chaplain's Corner

By Army Lt. Col. Carl Steele
Camp Ramadi Chaplain

How do you respond to stress? Some people bury it, some deny it, some cave under it, still others deal with it when it happens. The best thing to do with stress is to deal with it. Most Soldiers or Marines I talk to will say this place, Camp Ramadi, does not have much stress. Then when they start to think about it, the stressors are evident, being away from home, living with a roommate, routine days.

Here are some ways to deal with stress as it happens or to prevent it from happening. Read a good book or two, read informative, positive, and interesting books. Use this as a time to increase your knowledge. Go for a run, take a walk, listen to some good music. Play games with friends. Laugh, humor is a great way to deal with stress. Laughter brings joy, positive energy and erases the negative. Make plans about what you want to do when you get home.

There are lots of ways to deal with your stress. If you need help dealing with stress, see your chaplain or visit Combat Stress. 



Resources for suicide prevention

- <http://www.usmc-mccs.org/suicideprevent/>
- <http://www.armyg1.army.mil/hr/suicide/>
- www.militaryonesource.com - 1-800-342-9647
- National Suicide Hotline - 1-800-SUICIDE
- www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org - 1-800-273-TALK (8255)

5K Shamrock Run Champions



Fifty-nine runners showed their St. Patrick's Day spirit Mar. 14, 2009 during a 5K Shamrock Run sponsored by MWR on Camp Ramadi. Winners from left to right: Marine 1st Lt. Valerie Schwindt, CLB-4, placed third in the ladies division, Marine 1st Lt. Leonie Campbell, 8th Comm, placed second in the ladies division, Army Sgt. Tobias Suhr, 81st BCT, placed first overall, Marine Sgt. Mindy Decker, 8th Comm, placed first in the ladies division, Marine Cpl. Daniel Perez, CLB-4, placed third overall, and Army Maj. Kurt Rorvik, 81st BCT, placed second overall. (Photo by Army Staff Sgt. Emily Suhr)



Army Sgt. Tobias Suhr, sporting green socks for the occasion, braved the dust-storm and placed first with a time of 19:42. (Photo by Army Staff Sgt. Emily Suhr)

The 9th Annual Oklahoma City Memorial Marathon at Camp Ramadi



- April 24, 2009, 4 a.m. at the MWR Gym area
- Full Marathon, 1/2 Marathon or 5-person relay teams
- Sign up at MWR Gym by March 31, 2009
- All participants receive commemorative t-shirt
- All those that complete the race receive medals

Keeping a promise, honoring the memory of a friend

By Marine Cpl. Ryan Turnage
RCT-6 Public Affairs

Every Marine has their own reason why they become one of "The Few and The Proud" -- passion, patriotism and seeking self-improvement. While these are common reasons for enlistment, a corporal with Headquarters Company, Regimental Combat Team 6, joined the Marines to fulfill a promise to a friend.

Growing up in a small town, Christopher Carter and his friend Robert Owens always wanted to join the Marine Corps together and serve their country. Carter was slightly older and graduated from high school before Owens in 2004, but promised he would wait to join the Marine Corps until the two close friends could enlist together.

While waiting for his friend, Carter became anxious about deciding his future and chose to enroll in college to become a preacher. He attended Hyles-Anderson College, a private school in Crow Point, Ind., and studied Bible Studies. After Carter spent a year pursuing his goal, his friend graduated high school and was ready to become a Marine.

Now, with his buddy preoccupied with college, Owens decided to join the Marine Corps on his own, enlisting in 2005 and training as a motor transportation operator. Owens became proficient at operating large vehicles and the tactical movements necessary to successfully transport troops and supplies. He flourished in the Marine Corps, attaining the rank of corporal in 2006 and deploying to Camp Ramadi, Iraq, shortly thereafter.

During this time, the security situation in Iraq was tenuous, and the threat of insurgent attacks high. On a



routine convoy through Ramadi, Owens' vehicle was attacked by an improvised explosive device that destroyed the vehicle.

Cpl. Robert Owens died in the attack.

At the time of Owens' death, Carter was in his second year of college, and when he heard the news, all his plans changed. He informed the dean

he could not continue his studies and soon returned to Tennessee.

Carter drove 14 hours, stopping only for gas, until he reached the recruiter's office in his hometown. In honor of his fallen friend, he enlisted in the Marine Corps as a motor transportation operator.

"This is the job he chose, so this is the job I chose. It would have been this way if we had joined together," he added.

A single corporal's chevron, the rank insignia worn by his friend at the time of his death, is the only physical reminder Carter has of Owens.

Carter is now a corporal. He wears his friend's rank on his flak jacket, over his heart.

"It brings me good luck and reminds me no matter where I am or what I'm doing, he's always there watching out for me," said Carter.

Carter has been deployed twice in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and is currently deployed to Camp Ramadi, Iraq, in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. He drives on the same streets where Owens was killed just a few years ago. Because of the sacrifices made by Marines and other Coalition and Iraqi forces, those streets are now safer.

Iraqi Security Forces have increasingly taken over security responsibilities throughout al Anbar province, making jobs like motor transportation much safer.

"In Afghanistan, and even when my friend was here a few years ago, it was nearly impossible to make it to our destination without being held up by the enemy," said Carter.

After a long convoy through Ramadi, it was apparent that Iraqi Police had things under control.

"All vehicles, be advised, we have two [Iraqi Police] vehicles approaching from the front," was transmitted over the radios nearly every kilometer.

Although the streets are safer, Carter never forgets the price that was paid.

"I wish my buddy was here with me to see the progress this country has made since his time here," he said.

Many have paid the ultimate sacrifice while serving in Iraq and Afghanistan. Robert Owens' name will be forever counted among those brave men and women who gave the last full measure of devotion to their country. Now, they can rest knowing Iraq is becoming a safer place thanks to their selfless acts of courage and dedication. 



Standing proud in front of his Medium Tactical Vehicle Replacement 7-ton truck, Marine Cpl. Christopher Carter recalls his childhood with his friend, Robert Owens, who was killed in action in Ramadi, Iraq in 2006. Carter now wears Owens' chevron on his flak jacket as a constant reminder of his lost friend. (Photo by Marine Cpl. Ryan Turnage)

COUNTRY MUSIC STAR CHELY WRIGHT VISITS CAMP RAMADI



During her concert for servicemembers on Camp Ramadi, Chely Wright becomes choked up, telling a story about a Soldier she met on a previous tour. (Photo by Army Staff Sgt. Matthew Lima)



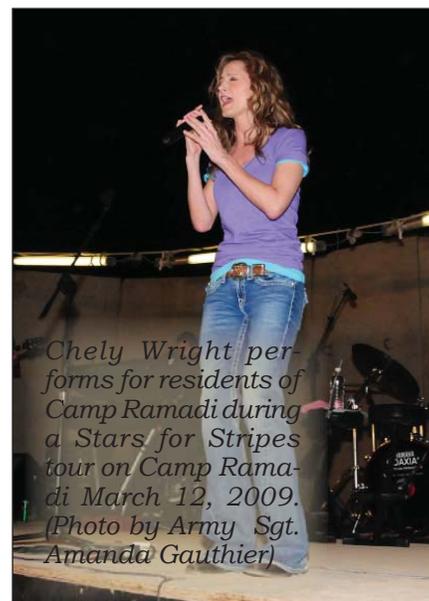
Army 1st Lt. Dax Thomas from 1-158th FA, gets his guitar signed by Chely Wright during a Stars for Stripes tour on Camp Ramadi March 12, 2009. (Photo by Army Sgt. Amanda Gauthier)



Chely Wright performs for residents of Camp Ramadi during a Stars for Stripes tour on Camp Ramadi March 12, 2009. (Photo by Army Sgt. Amanda Gauthier)



Marines serenade Chely Wright with their rendition of the Backstreet Boys "I Want it That Way" after her concert on Camp Ramadi March 12, 2009. (Photo by Army Sgt. Amanda Gauthier)

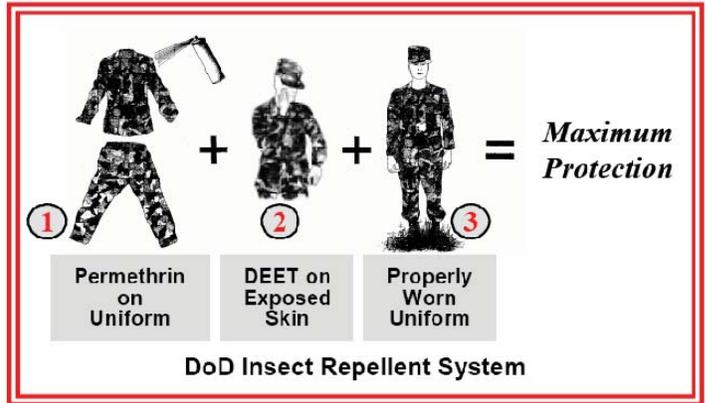


Chely Wright performs for residents of Camp Ramadi during a Stars for Stripes tour on Camp Ramadi March 12, 2009. (Photo by Army Sgt. Amanda Gauthier)



File your taxes for free

Soldiers and their families who served on Active Duty Military - including Reservists and National Guard - in 2008 and earned less than \$56,000 AGI are eligible for free federal tax return preparation and filing. Visit www.taxfreedom.com for more information.



1 Permethrin on Uniform + **2** DEET on Exposed Skin + **3** Properly Worn Uniform = *Maximum Protection*

DoD Insect Repellent System

Stay healthy- use insect repellent

By Navy Lt. Cmdr. Craig Stoops
CLB-4, Medical Entomologist

With the cold evenings and mornings we are experiencing, few of us here in Ramadi are thinking of sand flies, mosquitoes and other critters. But with the warmer (ok HOT!) weather to come in a month or so, it is important to remember that the DoD requires all of us to protect ourselves against insect bites. This is because there is a danger that the bites of sand flies and mosquitoes will transmit organisms that make us sick and potentially decrease overall force readiness. There are three easy ways to protect yourself against the insect menace: 1. Ensure your uniform is treated with permethrin 2. Use insect repellent with DEET and 3. Wear your uniform properly with sleeves down and pants tucked in your boots.

Uniforms issued by the USMC are treated at the factory with permethrin so there is no need to treat them yourselves. Marines are "good to go" with uniform treatment, but still need to wear repellent with DEET and wear the uniform properly to maximize protection.

For assistance treating uniforms, questions about procurement of repellents (NSNs etc.) and anything that has to do with critters with 4 or more legs, contact the Ramadi Preventive Medicine Officer, Lt. Cmdr. Stoops at craig.stoops@ar.mnf-wiraq.usmc.mil or DSN 3442-375.

HEALTH CORNER

By Army Lt. Col. Stephen Anderson
81st BCT Surgeon Cell

HEAT CAN KILL!

As spring and then summer approaches and the temperatures rise, we need to ensure that all of us drink the appropriate amount of fluids and know what to watch for in ourselves and our battle buddies.

Drink:

- Drink enough water to replace your sweat losses
- Don't wait until you feel thirsty to drink, you need fluids before you feel thirsty
- Remind your buddy to drink, refill your canteen or water bottle frequently
- Watch your urine. If it is dark colored, or you are not voiding, you are dehydrated
- Fluids containing caffeine, energy drinks, or sodas are not adequate fluid replacements

Eat:

- Eating balanced meals replaces salt. Gatorade can help replace fluids and salt
- Do not follow low calorie diets while working or training in a hot environment
- You should not use dietary supplements or metabolic enhancers at any time, but especially not during extreme heat periods

Notify your chain of command, battle buddy or health care provider if you:

- Are dizzy
- Have an HA not responding to the usual measures
- Feel nauseated
- Feel tired or weak
- If you are confused or you notice someone "acting differently"

Following these simple steps will help keep you and your battle buddy healthy as the temperature climbs.



Salsa Lessons

Join Staff Sgt. Julaine McIntire for salsa dance lessons. Saturday and Wednesday nights at 8:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Everyone is Welcome!

Orphanage receives help from Iraqi community, 2/9 Marines

By Marine Cpl. Ryan Turnage
RCT-6 Public Affairs

Through the winding dirt roads, across miles of farmland, a community of widows and orphans have settled in a place known as Sofiya in the eastern al Anbar province. Resources are scarce, so Iraqis are working with the Marines of Weapons Company, 2nd Battalion, 9th Marines, Regimental Combat Team 6, to aid those in need.

Many of the families lost their brothers, fathers, husbands and sons during the turbulent times that were once characteristic of al Anbar. Now, one man devotes his time to helping the families of the fallen.

Sheik Jasem Mohammed, the tribal leader in Sofiya, has been organizing and conducting efforts with Weapons Company to help his community during rough times. Mohammed understands that the effects of conflict continue long after the triggers were pulled.

"We have been distributing bags of supplies from the Marines to all the poor families, and we are so grateful," said Mohammed.

Blankets, hygiene items, school supplies and other necessities were given to each family. Children's faces filled with joy as Seaman Darryn Howard and Pvt. Glenn Cogne handed out gifts to orphans of all ages.

"It's a great feeling to see the



Orphans and widows in Sofiya, Iraq, received gifts such as blankets, school supplies and hygiene items, from the Marines of Weapons Company, 2nd Battalion, 9th Marine Regiment, Regimental Combat Team 6, March 14, 2009. Working alongside local Iraqi tribal leaders, the company has been bringing them supplies for several months, and the unit that takes their place is hoping to continue the efforts. (Photo by Marine Cpl. Ryan Turnage)

huge smiles on all the children's faces when I hand them something as simple as a blanket," said Howard.

Over the course of six months, Mohammed and 1st Lt. Andrew Szwejbka, commanding officer of Weapons Company, have formed a very strong friendship during this ongoing community outreach effort, said Szwejbka.

"I'm honored to have met Sheik Jasem and I'm going to miss coming out here to help," said Szwejbka.

The two leaders discussed upcoming plans to provide medical supplies and vitamins to the community. While the local Iraqi citizens are fortunate enough to have a doctor in the area, supplies are inadequate for the current amount of cases he deals with, said Mohammed.

"Although we are leaving Iraq soon, I plan to start delivering medical supplies as soon as possible," said Szwejbka.

Mohammed predicts their community will become an independent town in the near future. Until then, Mohammed and the Marines of Weapons Company are continuing

to care for the Sofiya community and assist them as they become self-sustaining. 🚫



An Iraqi widow and her son sit together and smile after gifts are given to them by the Marines of 2nd Battalion, 9th Marine Regiment, Regimental Combat Team 6, March 14. Working with local tribal leaders, these Marines have been providing the people of Sofiya supplies such as school items, blankets and food for several months. (Photo by Marine Cpl. Ryan Turnage)

April: Sexual Assault Awareness Month

By Army Master Sgt. CathyJo Wings
81stBCT, Camp Ramadi SARC

Here on Camp Ramadi we are kicking off the a new sexual assault prevention campaign called "I .A.M. Strong." for Intervene, Act and Motivate.

INTERVENE:

When I recognize a threat to my fellow servicemembers, I will have the personal courage to INTERVENE and prevent sexual assault. I will condemn acts of sexual harassment. I will not abide obscene gestures, language or behavior. I am a warrior and a member of a team. I will INTERVENE.

ACT:

You are my brother, my sister, my fellow servicemember. It is my duty to stand up for you, no matter the time or place. I will take ACTION. I will do what's right. I will prevent sexual harassment and assault. I will not tolerate sexually offensive behavior. I will ACT.

MOTIVATE:

We are American Servicemembers, MOTIVATED to keep our fellow servicemembers safe. It is our mission to prevent sexual harassment and assault. We will denounce sexual misconduct. As servicemembers, we are all MOTIVATED to take action. We are strongest... together. 



(Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Jerry Frazier)

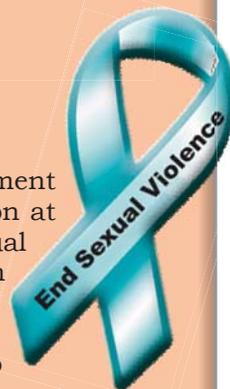
Linda Jones, Dana Carrier, Makaden Nite, Becky Pember, and Diana Rivera from Ramadi's MCX took Prevention Of Sexual Harassment and Prevention Of Sexual Assault training taught by Army Master Sgt. CathyJo Wings, Camp Ramadi Sexual Assault Response Coordinator. This training is available to anyone on Camp Ramadi who wants it. POSH and POSA training is for men and women. The training is geared for the military, but pertains to everyone. Please send an e-mail to cathyjo.wings@ar.mnf-wiraq.usmc.mil or call DSN 344-0932 if you would like to schedule this valuable training.

Sexual assault awareness and prevention

By Army Master Sgt. CathyJo Wings
81stBCT, Camp Ramadi SARC

Is alcohol a date rape drug?

Any drug that can affect judgment and behavior can put a person at risk for unwanted or risky sexual activity. Alcohol is one such drug. In fact, alcohol is the drug most commonly used to help commit sexual assault. When a person drinks too much alcohol:



It's harder to think clearly.
It's harder to set limits and make good choices.
It's harder to tell when a situation could be dangerous.
It's harder to say "no" to sexual advances.
It's harder to fight back if a sexual assault occurs.
It's possible to blackout and to have memory loss.

How can I protect myself from being a victim?
Don't accept drinks from other people.
Open containers yourself.
Keep you drink with you at all times, even when you go to the bathroom.
Don't share drinks.
Don't drink from a punch bowl or other common, open containers.

If someone offers to get you a drink from a bar or at a party, go with the person to order your drink. Watch the drink being poured and carry it yourself.

Don't drink anything that tastes or smells strange.
Have a non-drinking friend with you to make sure nothing happens.

If you realize you left your drink unattended, pour it out.

If you feel drunk and haven't had any alcohol – or, if you feel like the effects of drinking alcohol are stronger than usual – get help right away! 

cathyjo.wings@ar.mnf-wiraq.usmc.mil

DSN 344-0932

VOIP 696-5171

Camp Ramadi Inspector General

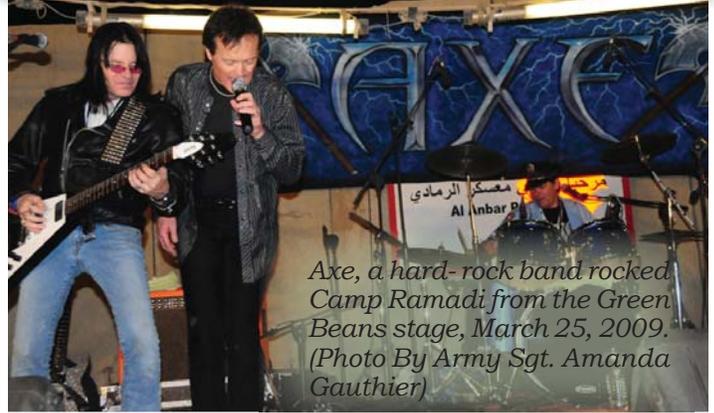


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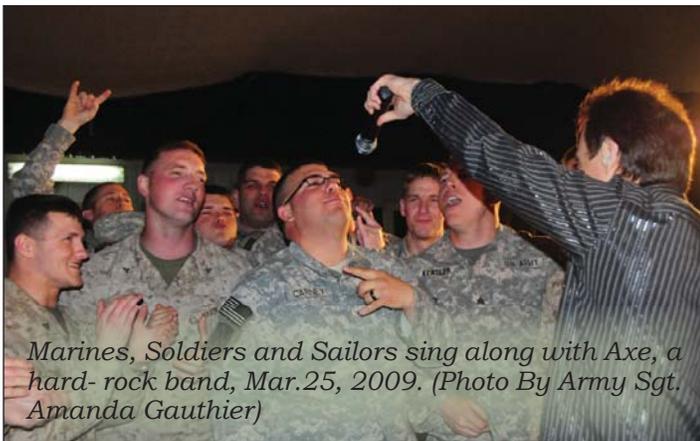
CONCERTS ROCK RAMADI



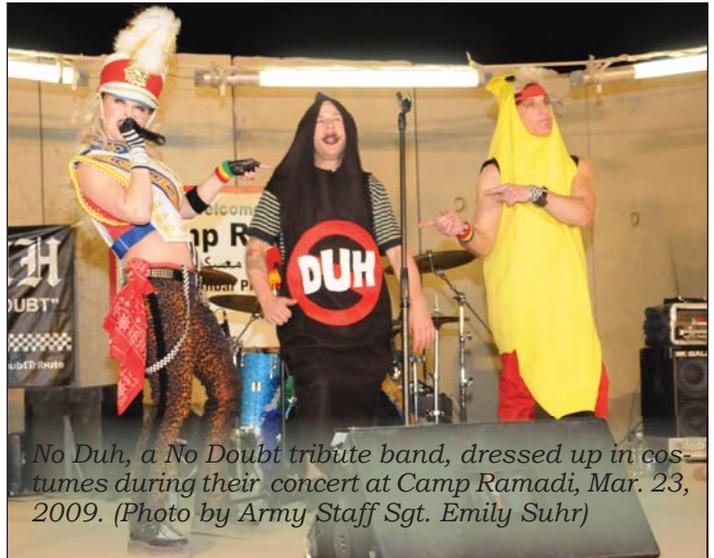
No Duh, a No Doubt tribute band, performs for servicemembers at Camp Ramadi, Mar. 23, 2009. (Photo by Army Staff Sgt. Emily Suhr)



Axe, a hard-rock band rocked Camp Ramadi from the Green Beans stage, March 25, 2009. (Photo By Army Sgt. Amanda Gauthier)



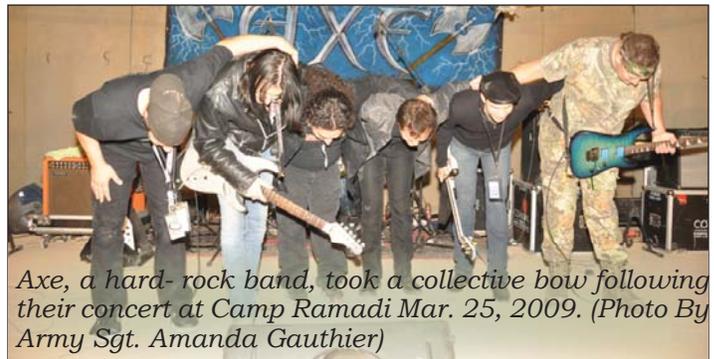
Marines, Soldiers and Sailors sing along with Axe, a hard-rock band, Mar.25, 2009. (Photo By Army Sgt. Amanda Gauthier)



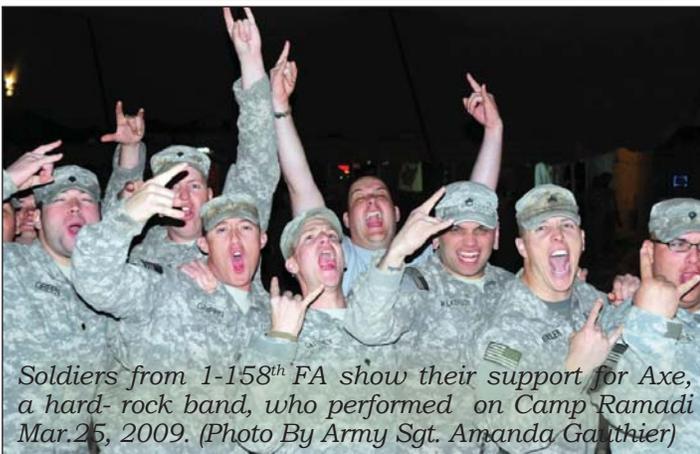
No Duh, a No Doubt tribute band, dressed up in costumes during their concert at Camp Ramadi, Mar. 23, 2009. (Photo by Army Staff Sgt. Emily Suhr)



No Duh, a No Doubt tribute band, performs for service members at Camp Ramadi, Mar. 23, 2009. (Photo by Army Staff Sgt. Emily Suhr)



Axe, a hard-rock band, took a collective bow following their concert at Camp Ramadi Mar. 25, 2009. (Photo By Army Sgt. Amanda Gauthier)



Soldiers from 1-158th FA show their support for Axe, a hard-rock band, who performed on Camp Ramadi Mar.25, 2009. (Photo By Army Sgt. Amanda Gauthier)



No Duh, a No Doubt tribute band, gets the crowd involved during their concert at Camp Ramadi, Mar. 23, 2009. (Photo by Army Staff Sgt. Emily Suhr)

Due to the rain over the last couple weeks, the Ramadi Softball League has been put on hold. While teams anxiously await the field to dry enough for grating and play, all they can do is glance in hope everyday as they pass by on the way to the chow hall. Because of the delays, the season now looks like it will be pushed back to the beginning of May. Teams have been doing whatever practice they can without the use of the field. Let's hope for hot sunny weather that can dry the field and play can resume! Play Ball!

Camp Ramadi Softball League Standings



Army Spc. Casara Butler from 120th FSC hits the ball during a softball game against 2/9 Marines Feb. 28, 2009. (Photo by Army Staff Sgt. Emily Suhr)

SUNDAY: DIVISION II			
TEAM	WINS	LOSSES	PERCENT
MTT TROJANS	0	0	0.000
Warrior Express Services	1	0	1.000
CEB	6	1	0.857
CLB-5	5	2	0.714
B-158 2ND PLT	5	2	0.714
81ST TEAM 2	5	2	0.714
8TH COMM	1	6	0.143
CLB-4	0	1	0.000

SATURDAY: DIVISION I			
TEAM	WINS	LOSSES	PERCENT
B-158 1ST PLT	7	0	1.000
C-158	6	1	0.857
2/9 (LAZARUS)	5	2	0.714
1-1-1 NPTT	4	3	0.571
2D CEB Alpha 1	3	4	0.429
120TH FSC	2	5	0.286
81ST TEAM 1	1	6	0.143

Alcoholics Anonymous meetings Every Tuesday and Friday at 7 p.m. at the Camp Ramadi Memorial Chapel

"Alcoholics Anonymous is a worldwide fellowship of more than one hundred thousand alcoholic men and women who have banded together to solve their common problems and to help fellow sufferers in recovery from that age-old, baffling malady, alcoholism" (Twelve Steps and Twelve Solutions). It is estimated that over two million men and women have recovered through A.A. Whether it is called "Friends of Bill," "Serenity in the Sand" or A.A., the focus is the same, to help men and women overcome their addiction to alcohol.

If you are struggling with your addiction, I want to invite you to Camp Ramadi A.A. on Tuesday and Friday nights at 7:00 in the Camp Ramadi Memorial Chapel (Bldg 2900). Tuesday nights will be more informal, Friday nights will walk you through the 12 steps of recovery. For further information, call Staff Sgt. Shelley Cline at DSN 318-344-0835. 

April Fool's Concert



Rock-out with four local Camp Ramadi bands **April 3 2009, 7:00 p.m. at the Green Beans stage.** House of Black and The Ravens entertained Camp Ramadi on New Years Eve and went on tour together to Al Taqaddum Airbase. In Fear & Fate (formerly know as Nash) won over the crowd during the Ramadi's got talent competition. Double Wide is playing their Camp Ramadi debut

Crazy Laws

- ☞ In all of Utah - Birds have the right of way on all highways.
- ☞ In Tennessee - It is illegal to use a lasso to catch a fish.
- ☞ In Oregon - A dead person cannot be required to serve on a jury.
- ☞ In Massachusetts, It is forbidden to put tomatoes in clam chowder.
- ☞ In Alabama it is illegal for a driver to be blindfolded while operating a vehicle
- ☞ In Brewerton, Alabama the use of motor boats are forbidden on city streets.
- ☞ In California a woman cannot drive a car while she is dressed in a house-coat.
- ☞ In Denver, Colorado it is unlawful to lend your vacuum cleaner to your next-door neighbor.
- ☞ In Devon, Connecticut it is unlawful to walk backwards after sunset.
- ☞ in Southbridge, Massachusetts, it is illegal to read books or newspapers after 8p.m. in the streets.
- ☞ In Florida Rats are forbidden from leaving the ships docked in Tampa Bay.
- ☞ In Illinois it is prohibited to drive a car without a steering wheel.
- ☞ In Seattle Washington, you may not carry a concealed weapon that is longer than six feet.
- ☞ In Oklahoma, Dogs need a mayor-signed permit to congregate in groups of three or more on private property.



Start saving for your retirement now

By Army Maj. Todd Bonham
81st BCT

I've had servicemembers ask me about getting started with investing. In my civilian capacity as a financial advisor, I typically like to get people to identify why they are investing. Most of my clients point to retirement. Today, servicemen and women have a great opportunity to save for their retirement by participating in the Thrift Savings Plan (TSP).

The TSP is a federal government-sponsored retirement savings and investment plan. On Oct. 30, 2000, the Floyd D. Spence National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2001 (Public Law 106-398) was signed into law. One provision of the law extended participation in the TSP to members of the uniformed services.

The TSP is a defined contribution plan. Very much like the civilian 401(k) retirement account. The retirement income you receive from your TSP account will depend on how much you have contributed to your account during your working years and the earnings on those contributions.

The TSP offers the same type of savings and tax benefits that many private corporations offer their employees under "401(k)" plans. TSP regulations are published in title 5 of the Code of Federal Regulations,

Parts 1600 — 1690, and are periodically supplemented and amended in the Federal Register.

You may elect to contribute any percentage (1 to 100) of your basic pay. However, your annual dollar total cannot exceed the annual limit, which is \$15,500 for 2008 and \$16,500 for 2009. If you contribute to the TSP from your basic pay, you may also contribute from one to 100 percent of any incentive pay or special pay (including bonus pay) you receive, up to the limits established by the Internal Revenue Code.

Some of the benefits that the TSP offers includes tax-deferred investment earnings, low administrative and investment expenses, and the ability transfer your TSP account to other eligible retirement plans such as traditional IRAs and eligible employer plans when you sever ties with the military.

Take a serious look at using the TSP to get started on your retirement plan. For servicemembers in their early 20s, just a little over the next 30-40 years can add up to a significant amount. For example, a \$500 contribution to start and monthly contributions of \$500 for 35 years can grow to a little more than \$120,000 if an investor achieves an investment return of 7%. Returns aren't guaranteed, but neither is the value of that new car we all like to have. 



HELP US MAKE THE RAMADI STAR BETTER!

What type of things is your unit doing? We want to know! Send your stories, story ideas and/or photographs to emily.suhr@ar.mnf-wiraq.usmc.mil by the 23rd of each month.

Photographs need to be in a JPEG or TIFF format. Please include a Microsoft Word document identifying who is in the photo (Identification = full name, rank, unit, duty position and hometown), what they are doing, when and where.

Don't forget to tell us who took the photos and/or who wrote the story!

Emergency Chaplain Services are available 24/7

To get a hold of the on-call chaplain call
3440-834 or 3440-652 from any DSN.

HOLY WEEK SERVICES APRIL 8 - 12

Wednesday

1900 The Passion of Christ Fellowship Hall

Thursday

1900 Maundy Thursday Service Fellowship Hall

2100 Mass of the Lord's Supper Chapel

Friday

0930 Stations on The Cross Chapel

1900 Good Friday Service Chapel

2100 Passion Service Chapel

Saturday

2100 Easter Vigil Mass

Chapel

Sunday

0600 Sunrise Service

Green Bean Stage

Camp Ramadi Memorial Chapel United through Reading Program

- ~Record a CD for your loved one
- ~Read a book to a child
- ~Wish happy birthday, anniversary or say hello

Walk-ins welcome or e-mail casey.holbrook@us.army.mil to schedule an appointment



Sunday

0930 Communion Service (Fellowship Hall)

0930 Roman Catholic Mass (Chapel)

1100 Contemporary Protestant Service

1400 Gospel Service

1600 Contemporary Worship Service

1900 Five Love Languages

2000 LDS - Lay Leader

2100 Evening Praise

Monday

1930 Bible Study (Fellowship Hall)

2000 Ugandan Choir Practice

Tuesday

1900 Iron on Iron Men's Bible Study (Chapel)

1900 AA meeting (Fellowship Hall)

2000 Contemporary 1600 Band Rehearsal

Wednesday

1900 Gospel Bible Study (Chapel)

2000 Gospel Choir rehearsal

Thursday

1900 Contemporary 1100 Band Rehearsal

2100 Roman Catholic Eucharistic Adoration and Rosary

Friday

1300 Muslim Service "Juma'a" prayer

1700 Jewish Service

1900 AA 12 steps/12 traditions

1900 Gospel Intercessory Prayer

2000 Gospel Choir rehearsal

Saturday

0900 RCIA (RCT-6 Alamo)

1730 Contemporary 1600 Band Rehearsal

1800 RCIA (RCT-Alamo)

1830 The New Testament Challenge

1900 Contemporary 1100 Band Rehearsal

2100 Roman Catholic Mass

 An illustration of two stylized hearts, one in the foreground and one slightly behind it, both with a smiling face. The hearts are orange and brown.

The Five Love Languages

Every Sunday, at 7 p.m. in the Ramadi Chapel Fellowship Hall learn how to enhance the relationships in your life.

New Testament Challenge

Read and study the New Testament. Meetings will be held every Saturday, at 1830 in the Chapel Fellowship Hall.

Do you have what it takes?

Remembering the Holocaust

April is National Holocaust Month

By Army Sgt. 1st Class Sheletha Quillin
81st BCT

"Holocaust", a word of Greek origin meaning "sacrifice by fire," was the systematic, bureaucratic, state-sponsored persecution and murder of approximately six million Jews and millions of others by the Nazi regime and its collaborators.

The Nazis, led by Adolph Hitler, came to power in Germany in January 1933. They believed that Germans were "racially superior" and that the Jews were an alien threat to the so-called German racial community. Most European Jews lived in countries that Nazi Germany would occupy or influence during World War II.

The mass killings were part of "the Final Solution" that began in June 1941 with the shooting of Jewish civilians during the German invasion of the Soviet Union. By 1945, the Germans and their collaborators had killed nearly two out of every three European Jews as part of the "Final Solution."

Also subjected to the Nazi mobile killing units, or Einsatzgruppen, were over 200,000 Gypsies. Between two and three million Soviet prisoners of war also died as a result of disease, starvation, neglect

or maltreatment by the Nazis.

The plan did not stop with killing for purely racial motivations. It was extended to include at least 200,000 mentally or physically disabled Germans living in institutional settings as part of the "Euthanasia Program." German authorities persecuted homosexuals and others who did not fit the social norm. Political opponents and religious dissidents were also known to be incarcerated and mistreated.

The Nazis and their collaborators established concentration camps to detain Jews and those who presented a real or perceived threat. Here, they would monitor the Jews and then facilitate their deportation to ghettos, forced labor camps or killing centers where they were murdered in gassing facilities.

In the final months of the war, guards sometimes moved the inmates by forced marches, often called "death marches." The marches continued until May 7, 1945, the day the German armed forces surrendered unconditionally to the



Allies.

In the aftermath of the Holocaust, many survivors found shelter in displaced persons (DP) camps administered by the Allied powers. Between 1948 and 1951, almost 700,000 Jews immigrated to Israel, including 136,000 Jewish displaced persons from Europe. Other Jewish DPs immigrated to the United States and other nations. The last DP camp closed in 1957. The crimes committed during the Holocaust devastated most European Jewish communities and eliminated hundreds of Jewish communities in occupied Eastern Europe entirely. 🇺🇸



Camp Ramadi Phone Numbers

Support

Camp Mayor: 344-0986
 KBR Operations: 344-0884
 Chaplain's Office: 344-0834
 Staff Judge Advocate: 344-0918/919
 Public Affairs Office: 344-0767
 Safety Office: 344-0920

Medical

Sick Call: 344-0376
 Combat Stress: 344-0998

Emergency Services

Fire Emergency: 344-0911
 Marine Fire Station: 344-0997
 KBR Fire Department: 344-0770

Services

Post Office: 344-0515
 MCX / PX: 344-0885
 Marine Finance: 344-0886
 Army Finance: 344-0763



Camp Ramadi Hours of Operations

Sick Call

0900-1000 & 1600-1700 Monday - Friday
 1300-1400 Saturday and Sunday
 24 Hours / 7 Days for emergencies

Combat Stress

0800-1700 Monday - Saturday

Dining Facility

0530-0830 Breakfast
 1130-1400 Lunch
 1730-2000 Dinner
 2330-0100 Midnight Chow

MCX / PX

0900-2000 Monday - Saturday
 1100-1900 Sunday

Green Beans Coffee

24 Hours / 7 Days

Barber Shop

0900-1900 Daily

Subway

0900-2300 Daily

Alteration Shop

0900-1900 Daily

Gift Shop

0900-1900 Daily

AT&T Calling Center

24 Hours / 7 Days

Laundry Facility

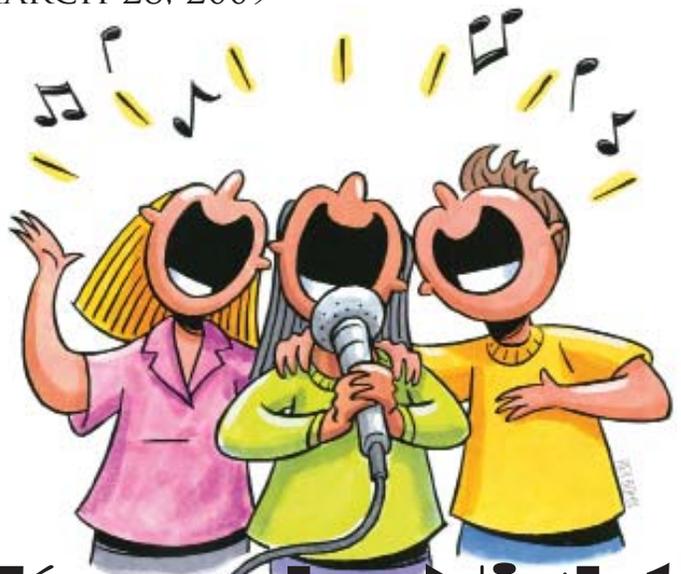
0500-1900 Drop Off
 24 Hours / 7 Days Pick Up

Post Office

0830-1700 Monday - Saturday
 0900-1400 Sunday

Finance Office

0900-1600 Wednesday and Thursday



Karaoke Night

Sing your favorite song and enjoy a laugh with friends every Thursday at 8 p.m. at MWR

Camp Ramadi Legal Office

Legal Assistance (bldg 2250)

Walk-in hours

Thurs: 0900-1200 & 1300-1700

To make an appointment for another time contact: Staff Sgt. Keeley Weeks, NCOIC, Keeley.weeks@us.army.mil or Keely.weeks@ar.mnf-wiraq.usmc.mil. DSN number 318-344-0919.



MILITARY ID = GET IN FREE

Budweiser is honored to salute the men and women of our armed forces and their families. Throughout 2009, members of the military and as many as three direct dependents may enter any one of Anheuser-Busch's SeaWorld, Busch Gardens or Sesame Place parks with a single-day complimentary admission.

Any active duty, activated or drilling reservist, or National Guardsman is entitled to free admission under the Here's to the Heroes program. Register, either by going to herosalute.com and submitting information or in the entrance plaza of participating parks, and show a Department of Defense photo ID.

As many as three direct dependents of military personnel also are entitled to free admission. Dependents may take advantage of the offer without their service-member, though an adult must accompany minor dependents, and dependent ages 10 and over must present valid dependent I.D. Not valid at Discovery Cove and Aquatica. 

CAMP RAMADI AT A GLANCE



Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class Randy Nash from RCT-6 kisses his trophy after his band, Nash, won the Ramadi's Got Talent competition, Mar. 3, 2009. (Photo by Army Staff Sgt. Emily Suhr)



Officers from a Colorado based unit brave a dust storm during their visit to Camp Ramadi Mar. 9, 2009. They are slated to replace the 1-158th FA who are redeploying next summer. (Photo by Army Staff Sgt. Matthew Lima)



Marine Cpl. Michael Miles gives a brief class on the proper use of a metal detector before Iraqi policemen and Marines with G Co., 2/9 Marines, proceed to Al Qud mosque, March 11, 2009. Iraqi policemen swept the mosque while searching for weapons caches ordnance. (Photo by Marine Sgt. Dorian Gardner)



John Knight, Jon Waters and Warren Anderson from the Camp Ramadi Fire Department practice giving intravenous fluids to Army Sgt. 1st Class Lorin Bannerman from Headquarters 81st BCT, during an exercise Feb. 28, 2009. (Photo by Army Sgt. Amanda Gauthier)



Army Col. Ronald Kapral, commander of 81st BCT and Camp Ramadi, salutes the American flag March 4, 2009 during a ceremony to celebrate the first raising of the American, Iraqi and camp headquarters flag over building 2550. (Photo by Army Sgt. Amanda Gauthier)

The top April Fool's Day hoaxes of all times



In honor of April Fool's Day, here are some of the top 100 hoaxes of all time as judged by notoriety, creativity and number of people duped. For the full list, visit <http://www.museumofhoaxes.com/hoax/aprilfool/>

1915: On April 1, 1915, in the midst of World War I, a French aviator flew over a German camp and dropped what appeared to be a huge bomb. The German soldiers immediately scattered in all directions, but no explosion followed. After some time, the soldiers crept back and gingerly approached the bomb. They discovered it was actually a large football with a note tied to it that read, "April Fool!"

1957: The respected BBC news show Panorama announced that thanks to a very mild winter and the virtual elimination of the dreaded spaghetti weevil, Swiss farmers were enjoying a bumper spaghetti crop. It accompanied this announcement with footage of Swiss peasants pulling strands of spaghetti down from trees. Huge numbers of viewers were taken in. Many called the BBC wanting to know how they could grow their own spaghetti tree. To this the BBC diplomatically replied, "place a sprig of spaghetti in a tin of tomato sauce and hope for the best."

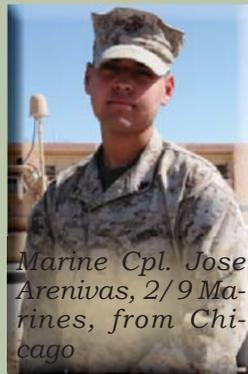
1975: Australia's This Day Tonight news program revealed that the country would soon be converting to "metric time." Under the new system there would be 100 seconds to the minute, 100 minutes to the hour, and 20-hour days. Furthermore, seconds would become millidays, minutes become centidays, and hours become decidays. The report included an interview with Deputy Premier Des Corcoran who praised the new time system. The Adelaide townhall was even shown sporting a new 10-hour metric clock face. TDT received numerous calls from viewers who fell for the hoax. One frustrated viewer wanted to know how he could convert his newly purchased digital clock to metric time.

1996: The Taco Bell Corporation announced it had bought the Liberty Bell and was renaming it the Taco Liberty Bell. Hundreds of outraged citizens called the National Historic Park in Philadelphia where the bell was housed to express their anger. Their nerves were only calmed when Taco Bell revealed, a few hours later, that it was all a practical joke. The best line of the day came when White House press secretary Mike McCurry was asked about the sale. Thinking on his feet, he responded that the Lincoln Memorial had also been sold. It would now be known, he said, as the Ford Lincoln Mercury Memorial.

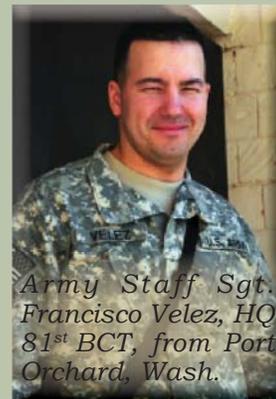
1992: National Public Radio's Talk of the Nation program announced that Richard Nixon, in a surprise move, was running for President again. His new campaign slogan was, "I didn't do anything wrong, and I won't do it again." Accompanying this announcement were audio clips of Nixon delivering his candidacy speech. Listeners responded viscerally to the announcement, flooding the show with calls expressing shock and outrage. Only during the second half of the show did the host John Hockenberry reveal that the announcement was a practical joke. Nixon's voice was impersonated by comedian Rich Little. 🗿

What is the best practical joke you have ever witnessed?

"[In school] we got underneath and just duct-taped [a Marine] to his rack and left him there for formation."



Marine Cpl. Jose Arenivas, 2/9 Marines, from Chicago



Army Staff Sgt. Francisco Velez, HQ 81st BCT, from Port Orchard, Wash.

When I was an MP, my wife had just bought a new car and didn't have insurance paper-work for it, so I told the Marines at the gate to mess with her. They went out they pulled her out of the car and said 'you need to go in there and see our supervisor.' So she came in and starts explaining before she even realizes who it is, I've got my hat down and am at the desk sergeant's seat, Sergeant, I'm so sorry, blah blah blah ... it's a new car.' She's freaking out and I tipped up the hat and in front of all those Marines she decked me, flat out right across my chin. Yep she punched me in front of my friends.

"We went to chow and when we came back my guys had put a guy's whole rack on the roof of the building."



Marine Staff Sgt. Jason Smith, 112 TF MP Bravo Btry, from Waycross, Ga.

This month in history

April 3, 1995 - Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor became the first woman to preside over the Court, sitting in for Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist who was out of town.

April 4, 1949 - Twelve nations signed the treaty creating NATO, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

April 4, 1968 - Civil Rights leader Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King was shot and killed by a sniper in Memphis, Tennessee.

April 6, 1917 - Following a vote by Congress approving a declaration of war, the U.S. entered World War I in Europe.

April 9, 1865 - After 500,000 American deaths, the U.S. Civil War effectively ended as Gen. Robert E. Lee surrendered to Gen. Ulysses S. Grant in the village of Appomattox Court House.

April 9, 1866 - Despite a veto by President Andrew Johnson, the Civil Rights Bill of 1866 was passed by Congress granting blacks the rights and privileges of U.S. citizenship.

April 10, 1942 - During World War II in the Pacific, the Bataan Death March began as American and Filipino prisoners were forced on a six day march from an airfield on Bataan to a camp near Cabanatuan. 76,000 Allied POWs including 12,000 Americans were forced to walk 60 miles under a blazing sun without food or water to the POW camp, resulting in over 5,000 American deaths.

April 11, 1968 - A week after the assassination of Martin Luther King, the Civil Rights Act of 1968 was signed into law by President Lyndon B. Johnson. The law prohibited discrimination in housing, protected civil rights workers and expanded the rights of Native Americans.

April 11, 1970 - Apollo 13 was launched from Cape Kennedy at 2:13 p.m. Fifty six hours into the flight an oxygen tank exploded in the service module. John L. Swigert, James A. Lovell and Fred W. Haise transferred into the lunar module, using it as a "lifeboat" and began a perilous return trip to Earth, splashing down safely on April 17.

April 12, 1861 - The U.S. Civil War began as Confederate troops under the command of Gen. Pierre Beauregard opened fire at 4:30 a.m. on Fort Sumter in Charleston, South Carolina.

April 12, 1945 - President Franklin D. Roosevelt died suddenly at Warm Springs, Georgia. He had been President since March 4, 1933, elected to four consecutive terms and had guided America out of the Great Depression and through World War II.

April 12, 1981 - The first space shuttle flight occurred with the launching of *Columbia* with astronauts John Young and Robert Crippen aboard. *Columbia* spent 54 hours in space, making 36 orbits, then landed at Edwards Air Force Base in California.

April 14, 1828 - The first dictionary of American English was published by Noah Webster as the *American Dictionary of the English Language*.

April 14, 1865 - President Abraham Lincoln was shot and mortally wounded while watching a performance of *Our American Cousin* at Ford's Theater in Washington. He was taken to a nearby house and died the following morning at 7:22 a.m.

April 15, 1912 - In the icy waters off Newfoundland, the luxury liner *Titanic* with 2,224 persons on board sank at 2:27 a.m. after striking an iceberg just before midnight. Over 1,500 persons drowned while 700 were rescued by the liner *Carpathia* which arrived about two hours after *Titanic* went down.

April 18, 1775 - The Midnight Ride of Paul Revere and William Dawes occurred as the two men rode out of Boston about 10 p.m. to warn patriots at Lexington and Concord of the approaching British.

April 19, 1775 - At dawn in Massachusetts, about 70 armed militiamen stood face to face on Lexington Green with a British advance guard unit. An unordered 'shot heard around the world' began the American Revolution.

April 19, 1995 - At 9:02 a.m., a massive car-bomb explosion destroyed the entire side of a nine story federal building in Oklahoma City, killing 168 persons, including 19 children inside a day care center. A decorated Gulf War veteran was later convicted for the attack.

April 30, 1789 - George Washington became the first U.S. President as he was administered the oath of office on the balcony of Federal Hall at the corner of Wall and Broad Streets in New York.

NFL continued from page 3

ing as a kid,” said Clark. “That alone is something to be extremely proud of. But more importantly, I’m a big fan of uplifting people. Just like we’re here across the world hopefully picking up your morale, I do this in small towns back at home.”

As the uniformed servicemembers cheered and laughed, it was apparent their morale had been lifted. Many waited patiently in line for more than an hour to meet the players, who didn’t leave until everyone in line had made it through. They signed their names on footballs, video games, hats and photos. They also posed for hundreds of photographs with the often star-struck troops, many of whom later said they were surprised and impressed by the laid-back attitude of the famous players.

“They get paid millions of dollars a year, way more money than I could even imagine having. You’d expect that money to maybe go to their head or for them to be pretentious or

“...You guys are holding up a worldly ideal and making sure that everybody knows the U.S. military stands strong.”
NFL player Will Witherspoon from the St. Louis Rams

something and expect a lot of things, but they’re just down to earth, just like any other people. They’re curious about what we’re doing, just as curious as we are about them,” said Sgt. Amanda Gauthier from Puyallup, Wash., with Headquarters Company, 81st Brigade Combat Team.

“The coolest thing I found today was just talking with Jared Allen. That was fun. He’s a really interesting guy to talk to,” added Sgt. Donald



NFL player Larry Fitzgerald from the Arizona Cardinals signs autographs for Marines at Camp Ramadi, Iraq Mar. 7, 2009 during a USO tour through Kuwait and Iraq. (Photo by Army Staff Sgt. Emily Suhr)

Zeitler from Orting, Wash., also with HQ, 81st BCT and a Seahawks fan. “Who I wanted to see the most was probably Larry Fitzgerald because there’s kind of a rivalry between the Seahawks and the Cardinals and I’ve watched them play a lot. He’s really fun to watch play.”

The NFL stars were equally impressed with the servicemembers. They all commented on the difference between what they see on TV and what they saw in front of them.

“We really are getting a great grasp of what’s going on and the situation and how much more is being done over here than what we really see and what you guys face day to day and how important that is, not only to us at home, but everybody here [in Iraq]. I mean you guys are holding up a worldly ideal and making sure that everybody knows the U.S. military stands strong,” said Witherspoon.

Clark called the visit humbling and an inspiration. He reminded the troops that everyone at home is cheering them on and eagerly awaiting their return. Fitzgerald thanked them for protecting him and allowing him to do what he loves most, play ball.

“This has been an amazing experience being able to come over here and meet young women and men that are protecting our freedom,” he said.

Allen told the troops that Fitzgerald had to twist his arm a little bit to come, but now: “I wouldn’t trade this for the world. Honestly, this has been a big eye opener for me.”

He added that the only thing missing from the visit was the opportunity to shoot a .50 Caliber machine gun. When asked by a Marine if he would demonstrate his calf-roping routine, Allen responded by saying: “I have a rule. I don’t do it unless it’s on Sundays; it’s the only superstition I got. You let me fire a .50 cal, it’s on. I’ll do it all day. I’ll even take my shirt off for the ladies.”

After signing the last autograph and posing for one final photo, the weary players retired to their housing units, the same ones the troops stay in, smiling and ready for their next stop.

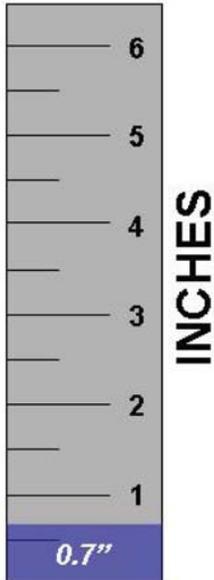
“It’s really amazing what you guys do; put your life on the line. The sacrifices you’ve made with your families are unbelievable. I love you guys and I really appreciate everything. Thank you,” said Fitzgerald. 



Ar Ramadi, Iraq Climatology (April)



PRECIPITATION Monthly Mean



Extreme Max: 4.2"
Extreme Min: 0.0"

SKY CONDITION

Partly Cloudy

2-3 % ≤ 3,000'
5-10 % ≤ 10,000'

MONTHLY

Day(s) with:
Rain **3**
Thunderstorms **2**

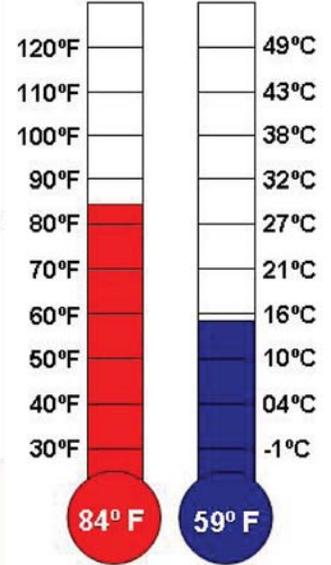
RH: 65 % (0600D)
RH: 28 % (1500D)

WINDS

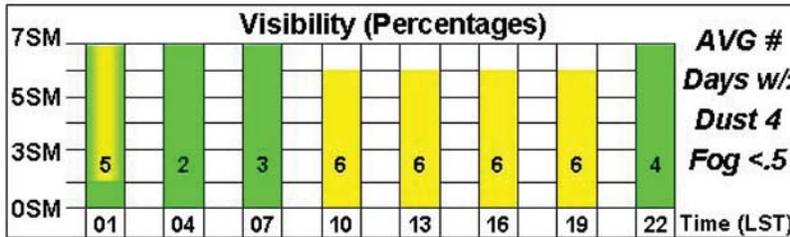
8 KT

Max Gust 38 KT

TEMPERATURE Monthly Mean



Extreme Max: 106°F/41°C
Extreme Min: 39°F/4°C



- The summer heat Lows over the interior of Iran and SE Saudi Arabia begin to form.
- Frontal systems and associated upper level troughs cross Iraq every 5-7 days.
- Infrequent thunderstorms reach their maximum and are most severe of the season.
- Dust storms associated with these thunderstorms will also be severe.
- When a dust storm approaches, it appears as a wall of dust to the observer.
- Low level winds remain northwesterly and slowly strengthen.
- Low level turbulence increases and becomes moderate for UAVs and helicopters.

Looking for a place to hangout with friends?

Check out the fellowship hall next to Memorial chapel. The chapel staff is transforming it into a place for socializing during non-duty hours.

Staff Sgt. Shelley Cline will be organizing movie nights, game nights, dance lessons and other activities. If you would like to schedule your own event, have special requests or suggestions, please see her.

- Enjoy free refreshments
- Challenge a buddy to a game
- Watch a movie
- Relax on the couch with a book
- Check out the "free room" before going to PX

CAMP RAMADI PHOTOS ARE POSTED

We are now posting Camp Ramadi photographs on NIPR. Please copy the following link into "Run" under the start menu to view photos from the 5K Shamrock run, MWR shows, softball games and more.

\\arn02c\AR_Shares\Camp Ramadi\PAO

Watching your weight? Having a unit party or VIP visit? Just want to know what's for lunch?

Copy the following link into "run" from the "start menu" to see the policy letter, chow hall menus, nutrition information and all forms needed for specialty food requests. <\\ar\ar_shares\Camp Ramadi\DFAC>. All specialty meal requests must be turned into the chow hall 14 days prior to the event.



Combat Stress, Camp Ramadi Fire & Rescue and MWR present: Camp Ramadi Firemen's Challenge & Luau

Do you have what it takes to be a fireman? Marines, Soldiers, Sailors and civilians prove you have what it takes. Ten teams of eight will compete in an MRAP pull, a fire hose drag, bucket brigade and more to take home the trophy, bragging rights and



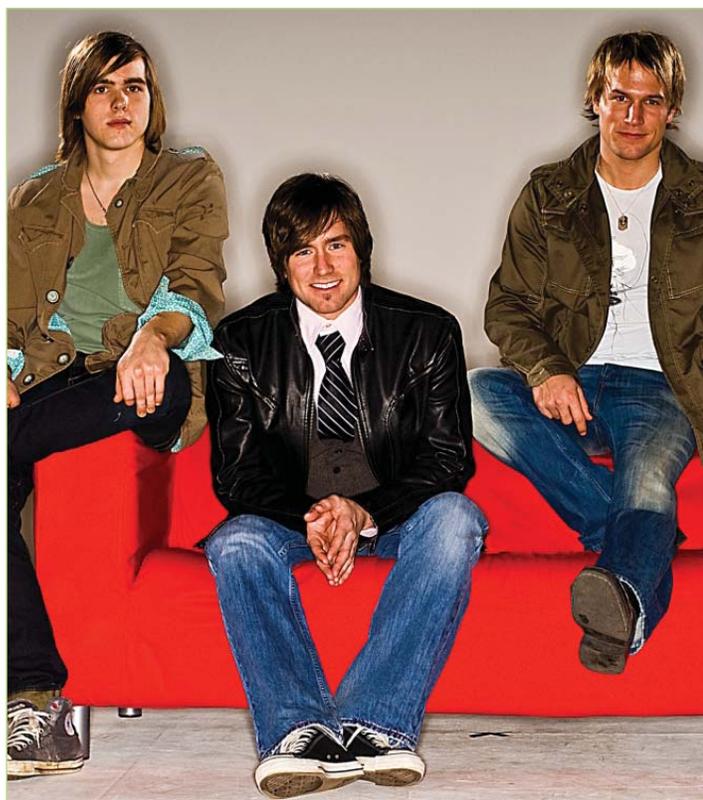
PRIZES! Sign up at the MWR building 2130 with your unit or affiliation and team name.

Come to the Green Bean stage following the competition for authentic Hawaiian food, announcement of the winners, awards ceremony, limbo contest, karaoke, and more.

- Firemen's Challenge starts at 2 p.m. Sunday, Apr. 19, 2009 on the soccer field.
- Luau activities start at 5 p.m.

Sign up at the MWR building 2130, sign up is limited to 10 teams of eight, so sign up now! All are invited. Come out and cheer your team or just hang-out and enjoy the sun, music and fun.

For more information stop by Camp Ramadi Combat Stress, building 3100.



★ CATCH PENNY
Performing at the Green Beans stage April 1, 2009 at 1900

CAMP RAMADI PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE



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PHOTOS NEED TO BE IN A JPEG OR TIFF FORMAT. PLEASE INCLUDE A MICROSOFT WORD DOCUMENT. IDENTIFY WHO IS IN THE PHOTO, WHO TOOK THE PHOTO, WHEN AND WHERE. (IDENTIFICATION = FULL NAME, RANK, UNIT, DUTY POSITION AND HOMETOWN).