



Lightning Weekly

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An Iraqi medical professional from the Tikrit General Hospital explains the procedure of evaluating casualties to Staff Sgt. Grace David, non-commissioned officer in charge of medical training and education, Company C, 325th Brigade Support Battalion, 3rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division during pre-hospital care training.

STORY and PHOTOS BY
Spc. Jazz Burney
3rd IBCT, 25th ID Public Affairs Office

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE SPEICHER, TIKRIT, Iraq – Focusing on quickly transporting patients to the nearest hospital for treatment and stabilization is an excellent, reachable goal – but, after all this effort, what if they die en route?

Soldiers of Co. C, 325th Brigade Support Battalion, 3rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division have partnered with the Iraqi ministry of health to provide a series of training events geared toward creating an emergency medical system program and improving efficiency in pre-hospital care for civilian health professionals from the Tikrit General Hospital and 4th Iraqi Army Division medical personnel.

"Our focus of pre-hospital care will definitely save a lot of lives and give our medical professionals a lot of help as we go out and provide health service to our people in Salah ad-Din," said an Iraqi civilian medical provider.

The medical training, which is taught in a train-the-trainer forum, is five weeks long, and is taught two days per week for Iraqi

medical personnel. About 10-15 Iraqi health care providers attend a typical session.

"Iraqi medical professionals are really good at hospital care. An area of improvement for them is their on-site treatment," said Capt. Ulue Porter, company commander, Co. C, 325th Bde Support Bn, 3rd Inf Bde Combat Team, 25th Inf. Div.

"When an improvised explosive device or suicide bomber goes off within the city, and Iraqi citizens are injured, it's the immediate amount and quality of care that needs to be performed at the site of injury that makes all the difference in saving lives. This is where we are assisting Iraqi medical personnel," he continued.

The partnership between coalition forces and the Iraqi ministry of health to facilitate training for the Iraqi health care provider's emergency medical technician team started in the beginning of March, according to Staff Sgt. Grace David, non-commissioned officer in charge of medical training and education, 325 BSB.

The hands-on training regimen consists of initial scene and patient assessment, to include proper scene evaluation procedures before providing medical treatment, proper patient loading procedures, and ongoing

assessment of patients en route to the hospital.

Iraqi medical technicians also learned pain assessment techniques, surgical techniques, how to handle motor vehicle accidents, blast injuries, IED injuries and are challenged through exercises geared toward improving effective mass casualty procedures.

"Every time these Iraqi professionals return from a previous training session, they explain to me that they have applied the knowledge learned in their medical procedures and have benefited from the experience. This is the rewarding aspect of my job -- I get to see the results of my labor," said David.

The Iraqi participants expressed similar sentiments regarding this valuable training opportunity.

"The training that we are being provided will definitely show its worth when I return to our Iraqi Soldiers. This is my seventh training opportunity which makes me well rounded in providing the type of care to assist my fellow Soldiers when they are in need," said Cpl. Muhamed, Iraqi medic, 4th Motor Transportation Regiment, 4th IA Div.

Tropic Lightning!

"Waterdogs" Get Wet at Forward Operating Base McHenry

STORY and PHOTO BY

Pfc. Justin Naylor

2nd HBCT, 1st CAV Public Affairs Office

FORWARD OPERATING BASE WARRIOR, KIRKUK, Iraq – What do showers, hand washing basins and toilets all have in common? Well, without water none of them would serve much of a purpose. But where does the water that makes these valuable assets worthwhile come from?

For Soldiers at Forward Operating Base McHenry, the water they use to wash their faces, take showers and flush toilets with comes from the "Waterdogs", or water purification specialists from Company A, 15th Brigade Support Battalion, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, whose mission is to provide clean, potable water across the FOB.

"The mission out here is to provide potable water throughout FOB McHenry," said Sgt. Tanarius Patterson, a Shorter, Ala. native and a water purification specialist with Co. A, 15th BSB.

"The whole FOB is receiving potable water from us," said Staff Sgt. Michael Fleet, a San Diego native and the non-commissioned officer in charge of water purification on FOB Warrior.

"Before we came, it was all non-potable water," said Fleet. "You couldn't even brush your teeth with it."

The process of providing clean, potable water is not a simple one.

According to Fleet, the water starts out in an 80-foot well, where it is pumped to a 3,000 gallon holding tank. The raw water is then pumped through a Reverse-Osmosis Water Purification Unit, which purifies it through three different filtration systems, where it is then pumped to a 20,000 gallon holding bag. This bag is connected to a holding tank where the trucks that distribute water come and fill up.

"We have become a very critical asset when a unit gets deployed," said Fleet.

The medics, cooks and Soldiers look to us for clean water, said Fleet.

For these Soldiers who are able to see their job directly affect the quality of life for their fellow service members, the rewards

are tangible on a daily basis.

"The reward is knowing the Soldiers won't have to worry about any contamination," said Spc. Gregory Williams, a Shreveport, La. native, also a water purification specialist for Co. A, 15th BSB.

"It's important for the troops' morale to be able to wash their faces with water and not have to worry about bacteria," said Williams.

According to Fleet, before 15th BSB water purification specialists arrived at FOB McHenry, the only source of clean water was out a water bottle. Showers and hand washing basins were issuing non-potable water which only had small amounts of chlorine added to it to help improve the water quality.

Before we came, the water tested positive for *Escherichia Coli*, commonly known as E. Coli, which is a type of bacteria that can cause diarrhea, urinary tract infections, pneumonia, along with other types of illness, said Patterson.

"People feel a difference in the water," said Fleet. "They are happy and comfortable not having to worry about getting E. Coli or any other unwanted bacteria."

"We are here to improve the quality of life," said Fleet.

According to Fleet, Soldiers on FOB McHenry who may not think about where their water comes from, can shower knowing the water is safe and bacteria free and can use the sink water to brush their teeth or wash their faces.



Pvt. Martin Quick, a Colombia, Md. native, and Spc. Kelvin Ellerbe, a Bennettsville, S.C. native, both water purification specialists for Company A, 15th Brigade Support Battalion, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, perform maintenance on one of the Reverse-Osmosis Water Purification Unit on Forward Operating Base McHenry, March 30.

Spc. Gregory Williams, a Shreveport, La. native, and a water purification specialist with the "Waterdogs", attaches a hose to a water pump, March 30.



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It's Great to Have a Dog in the Fight

STORY and PHOTOS BY

Sgt. Angie Johnston

3rd IBCT, 25th ID Public Affairs Office

FORWARD OPERATING BASE

BERNSTEIN, TUZ, Iraq – Staff Sgt. Conan Thomas and his Army 'battle buddy,' Sgt. 1st Class Britt, have been working together for nearly two years. It's not your run-of-the-mill partnership, though.

Britt has never said a word to Thomas, but the rapport between the two is unmistakable. Thomas makes sure that Britt gets paid when he's done his job, and Britt knows that Thomas will always be there for him. There's a mutual trust in their relationship – each knows the other won't let him down.

"It took a year and a half to get him to this point," said Thomas, kneeling down to pet his German Shepherd. "A year and a half for Britt and I to have this outstanding relationship."

Thomas and Britt are assigned to the 148th Military Police Detachment and attached to the 3rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division during their deployment. Thomas, a Cincinnati native, a member of the Military Police Corps, went to a special military school to become a dog handler. Britt is what's known as a PEDD – a Patrol / Explosive Detection Dog. That means he can be used for intimidation purposes and sniff out anything from detonation cord to bulk explosives.

Britt is definitely intimidating, according to Pvt. 1st Class James Frey of Camden, N.J. Frey volunteered to be the bad guy during an April 8 training session with Thomas and Britt, which entailed running away when told to stay put and then letting the Military Working Dog pounce on him to stop his flight – but not until he'd finished a class on how to behave so as to actually train the dog.

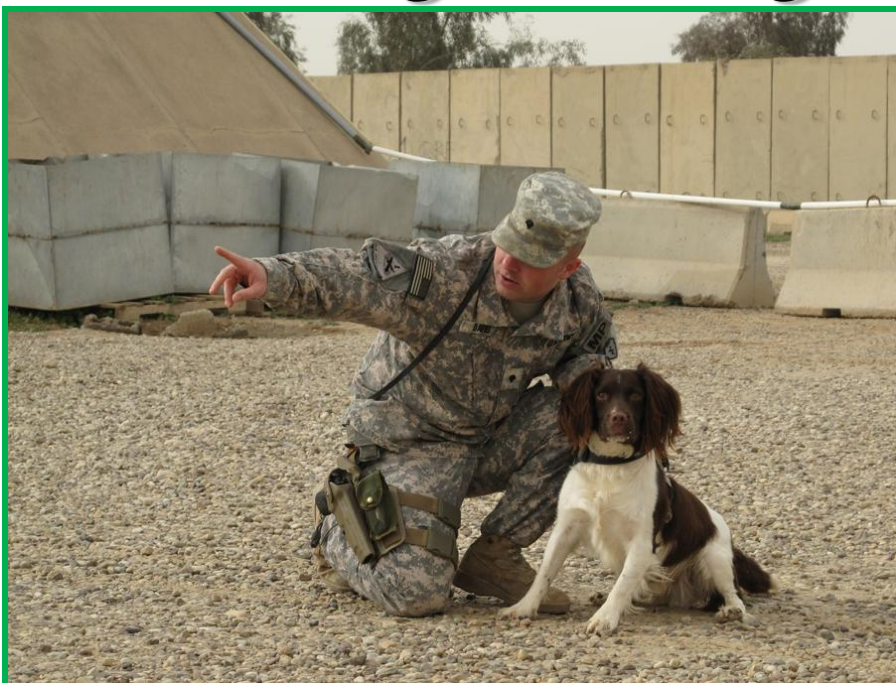
"I didn't get hurt, so it was awesome," said Frey. "He's very powerful. I did this last week with a friend of mine who's a lot smaller than me, and the dog was really blasting him around."

His snout covered with a thick, leather muzzle, Britt was only able to knock Frey down and bark menacingly.

Part of the instruction Frey had received from Thomas was to hit the dirt and curl into a ball as soon as Britt bumped him – and that wasn't a problem, considering Frey only outweighed the dog by about forty pounds.

"Britt is trained on a bite sleeve, but we like to use a whole bite suit just for the safety of the decoy. Today we used a muzzle because we don't have all the proper training equipment at Forward Operating Base Bernstein," said Thomas.

"How the decoy acts when he goes down is important to make the training good for the



Spec. Jason David instructs his Military Working Dog, Sgt. Bandit, to find five pounds of hidden C4 explosive at Forward Operating Base Bernstein, April 8. Bandit, a Specialized Search Dog, has been through rigorous training and can detect even trace amounts of explosive when David tells him it's time to work.

dog. The drive for the dog is the bite, and he can't bite without us having at least a bite sleeve," said Thomas. He can only train Britt this way every ten days or so – otherwise he'll get frustrated by not 'winning' and may start to lose the motivation to do what he's trained to do.

"It's just like anything else," said Spec. Jason David, who is also a MWD handler at FOB Bernstein. "If you don't train with it, you'll lose it."

David's dog, Sgt. Bandit, is trained specifically for detecting explosives; he's what's known as a Specialized Search Dog. The five-year old English Springer Spaniel can unearth a hidden bullet or discover the faintest trace of a chemical used in bombs.

During the April 8 training exercise, Bandit easily tracked down five pounds of C4 explosives that David had carefully hidden under a trash can at FOB Bernstein.

"I use what's called a 'trigger' for him. When he wears his vest, he knows it's time to work," explained David. After Bandit finds what he's looking for during training, he gets to play catch with a neon-colored tennis ball.

"The playing afterward is like the paycheck for the dog – that's what makes them want to work," said Thomas.

Although they have two very different MWDs, both Thomas and David use special verbal and visual commands to let their dogs know what to do next.

"Not only do you have to trust your dog, but he has to trust you as well," said David.

When either of the dogs has to do his job, everything is put on the record. In fact, Thomas and David even keep detailed logs of training; without training records, the dogs' findings may not be admissible in court.

"We don't have a full scent kit," said David. With the kit, the training could be even more thorough. Since there are different kinds of explosives used in Iraq than stateside, the MWD handlers need a theater-specific scent kit to fully train the dogs for their mission here.

Even without all the training aids that bigger bases are well-stocked with, the FOB Bernstein working dogs and their handlers are doing everything they can to stay current on training. They often accompany the Soldiers of the Special Troops Bn. on missions, doing what they can outside the wire to help.

"German Shepherds and Spaniels are known for their intelligence; that's why we use these dogs," said David. "They have the smarts to go and find what we need them to find."



This Week In TROPIC LIGHTNING History

TROPIC LIGHTNING NEWS

APRIL 22, 1968 – CU CHI, VIETNAM – In some of the most bitter fighting since the Tet offensive, elements of the 25th Inf Div under the operational control of the 2nd Bde and US Air Force tactical air strike killed more than 340 Viet Cong and North Vietnamese in action near Trang Bang, 54 kms northwest of Saigon.

A total of 470 enemy were killed by US and South Vietnamese forces in the Operation Quyet Thang fighting which raged for three days near the Highway One district capital.

The battle is believed to have stopped a new offensive against the Saigon area.

Intelligence officers also said the three separate battles resulted in the virtual destruction of two new North Vietnamese Army battalions that recently had moved into Hau Nghia Province.

The action began on March 24, when a company of the 2nd Bn, 14th Inf, airlifted into rice paddies near a small village 16 kms from the division base camp at Cu Chi.

The 1st Bde soldiers came under heavy enemy rocket, mortar and automatic weapons fire. Repeated assaults into the village were turned back by entrenched enemy forces, believed to have been elements of the 7th Viet Cong Cu Chi Bn.

Throughout the day, artillerymen poured more than 3,000 rounds of high explosives

into the area. Air Force fighter bombers conducted 20 air strikes on the enemy positions. After the saturation bombing, the ground troops, aided by the reconnaissance platoon, 2nd Bn, 34th Armor, and four tracks from Co C, 4th Bn, 23rd Inf, pushed their way through the village.

The Tropic Lightning soldiers found 87 enemy dead, 21 of them killed by the air strikes. The battle began shortly after 8 a.m. and lasted more than 18 hours.

The second battle began at 9 a.m. on Monday, when elements of the recon plt, 4th Bn, 23rd Inf, and engineers came in heavy contact as they were sweeping Highway 12 kms east of Trang Bang.

Two other companies of the 23rd Inf swept into the area to reinforce the road clearing team, and also came under heavy enemy ground attack.

Helicopter gunships, artillery and air strikes supported the infantrymen throughout the day, until contact was broken around 7 p.m.

In sweeping the area the next morning, the 1st Bde soldiers counted 85 enemy dead, including two women who had attempted to knock out an armored personnel carrier with an RPG-2 rocket launcher. Among the enemy officers killed were a major and four company commanders.

To the north, elements of the 2nd Bn,

34th Armor, recon plt, tracks from the 23rd Inf and two tanks had attempted to move south to reinforce the US and ARVN troops defending Trang Bang when they, too, became heavily engaged.

In 12 hours of hard fighting, the task force killed over 25 Viet Cong, while air strikes accounted for 16 more. The US troops further detained two Viet Cong suspects.

Gunships supporting both actions were credited with 30 enemy killed.

On the following day, the 2nd Bn, 14th Inf, again engaged a dug-in enemy force, four kms west of their battle two days before.

In a re-run of the first action, a "Golden Dragon" company airlifted near the small village of Ap Long Muc and immediately received heavy rocket and automatic weapons fire from the three to four hundred man enemy force.

Two more companies landed near the battle, but determined assaults again were halted by the entrenched Viet Cong and North Vietnamese.

Air strikes and artillery pounded the enemy fortifications until early the next morning, when the infantry battalion and elements of the 2nd Bn, 34th Armor, the 4th Bn, 23rd Inf, and the 1st Bn (Mech), 5th Inf, assaulted the village from the south and east.

Fighting lasted until 4:30 p.m. that day as the US troops swept through the area. Air strikes had accounted for more than 50 enemy dead, while ground fire and artillery killed at least 45 more.


Throughout the three day period, the 2nd Bde forces had captured 37 AK-47 assault rifles, 12 machine guns, three small arms, nine RPG model rocket launchers, a 60 mm mortar and thousands of rounds of small arms, mortar and RPG ammunition.



LOTS OF WATER - Infantrymen of the 25th Inf Div's 2nd Bde, waded through a deep canal during Operation Quyet Thang.

LIGHTNING 6 SENDS #7

E-MAIL AS A COMMUNICATION TOOL



Email is an effective way to communicate, allowing individuals to share ideas and receive feedback. It is not uncommon for some of us to receive more than a hundred emails every day. Important emails are too often buried in a sea of minutia, and email can actually reduce productivity.

Here are some simple rules to keep in mind so that you can be part of the solution and not add to this potential problem:

- **Put the Bottom Line Up Front.** In the first sentence on your email, explain why you are sending the email; what you need, what your position is, what the problem is, what your solution is, etc.
- **Keep It Short.** Get to the point. Avoid emails that ramble aimlessly. I will usually not read an email if it is over ten lines, until days later.
- **Use Subject Tags.** One or two topic words at the beginning of an email can make it easier for recipients. For example, tags like *Budget* or *Chief of Staff Huddle* can help readers quickly evaluate incoming messages.
- **Acknowledge.** It is proper etiquette to acknowledge receipt of an email, particularly if it is received from someone in your chain of command, or who is senior in grade.
- **Red Twice, Send Once.** Proofread your emails before you send them. Typos in dates, times, locations and facts can result in tremendous wasted effort.
- **Sending Messages.** Send messages only to people who need to read them. Don't send anything you wouldn't want published. Remember, the email creates a permanent record that doesn't go away.
- **Sending Messages to Higher HQs.** When sending messages to Higher HQs, ensure the appropriate chain of command and approving authorities have authorized the message for release, or they are kept aware of the action.
- **Never Respond When You're Angry.** Always allow time to cool off before shooting off a reply to an upsetting message.



TROPIC LIGHTNING!

Robert L. Caslen, Jr.
Major General, USA
Commanding

NEWS FROM THE HOME FRONT

HAWAII

HONOLULU – The 18th annual Honolulu AIDS Walk Sunday at Kapiolani Park drew 4,000 participants and raised \$156,000, promoters said.

Melanie Moore, spokeswoman for the Life Foundation, said 4,000 people made the 3-mile walk to raise money for free testing and services for people who are HIV positive or who have AIDS. About 150 volunteers helped with the event.

Anyone who wants information about the Life Foundation and its work can call 521-AIDS or see www.honoluluaidswalk.org.

ALASKA

FAIRBANKS – “Go Slower. Get further,” is the business plan of Andy Rudolf and his partner, Rolf Meyer of Go North Alaska Travel center.

The two men started a new taxi service, Go North Taxi and Moose Cab, to cater to European tourists and the Fairbanks community.

Despite recognition of a shaky American economy, Rudolf said he's confident in the 14-car business venture but wants to grow his company slowly.

“In hard times, business is always good in the church and liquor store, but people have to be able to get there,” he said. “We're taking it one day at a time and starting small with the philosophy of earning one penny today and perhaps two pennies tomorrow.”

Rudolf has been in the cab business for six years, and strictly by coincidence, he said.

“I'd never driven a cab in my life when my landlord asked me to give him a hand with business,” he said.

During the next few years, Rudolf, an electrical engineer from Hungary, worked off and on as a cab driver to fund his travels to and from Europe where he continues to research for heating alternatives with German researchers.

Lined along the main access drive at the Fairbanks International Airport are several 2008 Suzuki XL7's — 7-passenger sport utility vehicles.

The vehicles get 12 1/2 miles per gallon in the city and 23 miles per gallon on the highway, which isn't great, according to Rudolf, but when he purchased the cars at a major discount on the Internet, he said it was worth the extra fuel cost.

“We took advantage of the buyers' market in this recession,” he said.

Though the gas mileage isn't great, the cars come with all the modern bells and whistles of a luxury car — heated seats, CD players, auto start and smoke free symbols along the vehicle's interior.

For Kirk Robb and Cindy Butler, that's the biggest perk of the job.

“I'm loving the fact that our cars look and smell so clean,” Robb said.

Robb has driven cabs for years but said he's never driven a car he felt as good in.

“It makes the world of a difference for our customers and our employees,” he said. “Most people don't want to jump into a car when someone's been smoking.” The company has a no-smoking policy both for drivers and passengers.

Rudolf and his employees say the company offers the cheapest rides in town, with no charge for additional passengers.

“We're seeing a big response as word gets around town and that's helpful for everyone in this economy,” Robb said.

Robb said he's enjoyed working for Go North Taxi because it gives him a chance to share a piece of Fairbanks with his passengers.

“I drove a guy from Wyoming last week around town and gave him a tour because it was a slow day,” Robb said. “I did the same thing for another couple visiting from the lower 48 and they called me every day while they were in town.”

Cindy Butler has been driving cabs for the past three years and said for the first time, she's not embarrassed about passengers getting in her car.

“It doesn't smell, and I notice that people compliment it when they ride with me. I've got no complaints,” she said.

Butler works part-time as a cab driver.

For the rest of the time, she is busy caring and home-schooling 12 of her 13 children.

Butler said she she drives about 10 people per day in the off-season but has noticed winter tourism starting to pick up in the last few years.

“Alaska is on everyone's mind right now,” Rudolf said. “And 25 to 30 percent of those tourists are European.”

According to Deb Hickok, President and C.E.O. of Fairbanks Convention and Visitors Bureau, European tourism is steady.

“Our sense of it is that the German market is pretty solid right now,” Hickok said. “People are still traveling and we had a pretty robust year last season. I can't tell if it's going to be as good as that but compared to everything else, I think, in terms of European tourism, it could be a pretty good year for us.”

After the eruption of Mount Redoubt, the company saw an influx in business when it shuttled stranded airline passengers to and from Anchorage for a flat rate of \$600 per car load.

Split that between several passengers, and it's cheaper than an airline ticket.

Hickok has worked closely with Ralph Meyer, business partner with Rudolf, who also runs the Go North hostel and travel

center off Davis Road.

“Ralph and Andy are good businesspeople, and I was pleased when I first heard they were going into business,” Hickok said. “We think they'll do a really good job.”

TEXAS

KILLEEN – The multimillion-dollar Trimmer Road construction project that began last Monday isn't the only long-awaited road work coming to fruition.

The city sent out bid requests this month for the long overdue expansion of Watercrest Road in the southwest portion of the city.

Public Works Director Jim Butler said he expects the bids to come back sometime in May, though a bid date hasn't been set yet. He said it's a complex project, and it needs a good 30 days for the interested engineering firms to lay out an accurate cost assessment.

City Manager Connie Green said the project is expected to cost between \$7 million and \$9 million; the money is already allocated since the project was part of the 2002 bond election.

The City Council has to authorize the bid when it comes back next month; Councilman Scott Cosper said he didn't foresee anything that is hindering the project's forward momentum.

Councilman Larry Cole said the project should have been done long ago.

During Tuesday's workshop session, the City Council was briefed on the project by members of the transportation committee, including committee chair and Mayor Pro Tem Fred Latham.

Latham said that in addition to the Watercrest project, the committee has outlined nine additional major projects that will be given the highest priority in the coming years.

One such project is the long-needed thoroughfare improvements to the south side of the city to accommodate the future traffic expected when the new police headquarters opens for business on Featherline Road.

Latham said the committee is still looking at a proposed street expansion which established a connection and expansion of Featherline Road and W.S. Young Drive.

Latham noted that several residents and property owners in the neighboring area expressed significant reservations to the project in its current form, so further work is needed.

The need for street improvements in the vicinity of the new police headquarters was recognized by city officials shortly in 2006. Officials said the location was chosen because it best suits Killeen's projected southern growth, and the city is at long last preparing the implementation of the necessary infrastructure for the project.

LIGHTNING HERO OF THE WEEK

SPC Randy Wesley

A CO, 1-24 IN BN, 1st SBCT, 25th ID
Hutchinson, KS

During a night combat patrol, while conducting Flash TCPs with the local Iraqi Police, SPC Wesley spotted a local national throw an object out of his vehicle that gave off a heat signature as it fell to the ground. SPC Wesley alerted his squad leader and led the way to an unregistered 9mm pistol, which the LN was attempting to smuggle through Attack CO's AO. SPC Wesley's attention to detail and situational awareness ensured that the pistol was no longer in circulation, and his combat service reflects great credit upon himself, Attack Company, 1st SBCT "Arctic Wolves" and Task Force Lightning.



IRAQI TRIVIA

Bagdad Soft Drinks Company is a soft drinks-bottling company in Iraq which owns the exclusive license to bottle and sell Pepsi products in Iraq, such as varieties of Pepsi-cola, Seven-up and Miranda.

The Pepsi brand was first introduced to Iraq in 1950, and the Baghdad Soft Drinks Company became a Pepsi franchise in 1984. Hamid Jaasim Khamis served as the company's managing director during the 1980's, until he clashed with Saddam Hussein's son Uday, who bought a ten percent share in the company.

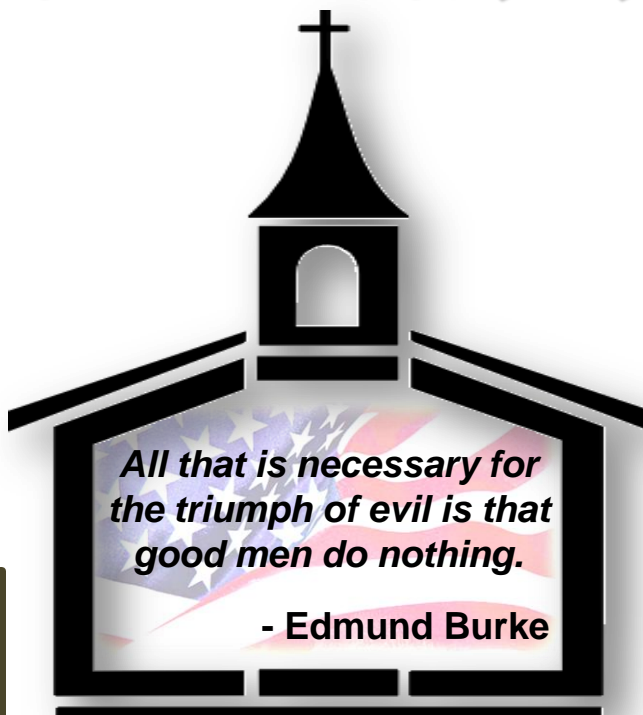
In 1990, PepsiCo ceased business with the company due to international sanctions. During the 2003 invasion of Iraq, local Pepsi-makers smuggled counterfeit ingredients to Iraq from Eastern Europe in attempts to recreate PepsiCo's authentic concentrates.

In January 2004, PepsiCo officially reopened business relations with the company, and Khamis was brought back as managing director.

Coca-Cola also set up a rival bottling company in Iraq in 2004, but Pepsi is considered the preferred cola brand after being the only soft drink brand in Iraq since the 1960's, which can be traced back to the Arab League's boycott of Coca-Cola products due to their business relations with Israel at the time.

If you'd like to receive an electronic subscription of the *Lightning Weekly*, or have it go out to a family member, friend, loved one, or anyone else, send an e-mail request with the recipients' e-mail address to patrick.husted@25id.army.mil.

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER



*All that is necessary for
the triumph of evil is that
good men do nothing.*

- Edmund Burke



Jamaican Hostage-Taker Makes Cuba Demand

MONTEGO BAY, Jamaica – An armed man, described as "mentally challenged," took six crew members hostage after he barged onto a passenger jet at a Jamaican airport Monday and demanded to be flown to Cuba.

The gunman, believed to be in his early 20s, released all passengers and two members of the crew from the CanJet plane but negotiations continued Monday morning at Sangster International Airport in the resort city of Montego Bay to secure the remaining crew members' release.

"The hijacking is that from a mentally challenged youngster and not anything that would be of concern in terms of an international incident," said Jamaica's Information Minister Daryl Vaz.

"His demand was to go to Cuba," he said.

CanJet Airlines flight 918 was carrying 174 passengers and eight crew members, said Kent Woodside, the airline's vice president. All the passengers are Canadian, he said.

The Boeing 737 flew in from Halifax, Canada, and had made a scheduled landing at Montego Bay, when the armed man boarded the plane late Sunday, the airline said. It was scheduled to continue on to Santa Clara, Cuba.

The gunman fired a shot in the boarding bridge to the plane as he entered, Woodside said.

He then took an undisclosed number of passengers and crew members hostage, said Elizabeth Scotton, a spokeswoman for the company that manages the airport.

All but six were released unhurt.

Two of the six crew members who remained inside the plane Monday locked themselves in the cockpit, Vaz said.

Among those negotiating with the man were his father and Prime Minister Bruce Golding, who flew in by helicopter. The country's minister of national security also was at hand.

"We are relieved that all the passengers involved in this incident are safe as well as two crew members, and our top priority is to provide the safe release of the remaining crew members," Woodside said.

The passengers were taken to a hotel, Vaz said. The airport was shut down.

SPORTING NEWS

Billups Leads Nuggets Past Hornets in Game 1

DENVER – Chauncey Billups settled down his teammates, then stepped up his game.

Billups scored 36 points and sank a career-best eight 3-pointers in leading Denver to a 113-84 rout of the New Orleans Hornets, the second-biggest blowout in the Nuggets' playoff history.

"I just got it going. It's just one of those special nights that you have sometimes," Billups said after his first postseason appearance in his hometown.

"You'd like to think you can do it again, but you probably can't."

Capitalizing on their first home-court edge in a playoff series in 21 years, the Nuggets nearly bested their previous biggest margin of victory, a 141-111 wallop of San Antonio back in 1985.

Billups sank four of his 3s in the third quarter, when the Nuggets began to turn a tight game into a laughter. At one point, they led by 34.

"I say all the time he's a winner but he doesn't have a lot of skills," Nuggets coach George Karl said. "Tonight he had a lot of skills."

Denver used a 21-0 run spanning the third and fourth quarters to build a 97-69 cushion, a run that was highlighted by Billups' seventh and eighth 3s, which set a team franchise record. Billups was one shy of the NBA playoff single-game record of nine 3-pointers held by Ray Allen, Rex Chapman and Vince Carter.

"What Chauncey did wasn't a surprise. He's done it throughout his career. He's very good at making that shot and he made a lot of them tonight," the Hornets' James Posey said.

"Chauncey got it going. He was pulling up in transition and attacking the basket and getting to the line. We didn't have an answer."

Billups was 8-for-9 from beyond the arc, and the best long-range performance of Billups' career helped negate All-Star point guard Chris Paul's big game.

The All-Star had 21 points and 11 assists but also an abundance of angst as the Nuggets dominated the boards, set the tempo and ran away with it in the second half.

Before tip-off, Hornets coach Byron Scott characterized the key matchup in this series as that of "an old warrior in Chauncey against this young thoroughbred that really wants to get up and down the floor."

Chalk up Round 1 to the grizzled veteran.

"We just couldn't stop him tonight," Paul said.

The Nuggets host the Hornets for Game 2 on Wednesday night.

"That's the best thing about tonight: we lost by 29 points tonight, but it's just 1-0," Paul said.

Billups' arrival in the Allen Iverson trade a week into the season transformed the Nuggets from an afterthought into the Western Conference's No. 2 seed. He took all their immense individual talents and blended them into a cohesive unit that looks primed to finally make some noise in the playoffs.

The Nuggets are one of four teams making their sixth straight postseason appearance, joining Dallas, San Antonio and Detroit. But while the Nuggets are just 5-20 in the postseason during that stretch, each of the other three have reached the NBA Finals.

Both teams started out shaky as everyone on the floor seemingly had butterflies – save for Billups, who wasn't fazed a bit by the postseason atmosphere – he's been to six straight conference finals with the Pistons and won the NBA title and Finals MVP trophy in 2004.

Billups, who averaged 17.7 points in the regular season sank four 3-pointers and scored 16 points in the first quarter until his teammates settled down and took a 55-47 lead into the locker room at the half.

"He's a winner, that's the bottom line, and he's going to come ready to play," Scott said. The game was still tight and a little bit chippy when the Nuggets turned a 76-69 lead into a blowout by holding the Hornets without a point for nearly seven minutes.

Denver's bench performed as expected as the Nuggets got 19 points from J.R. Smith, 13 from Linas Kleiza and nine from Chris Andersen, who blocked four shots.

Carmelo Anthony scored 13 on 4-of-12 shooting but said he wasn't bothered by his sub-par offense.

"Tonight, I didn't make a lot of shots that I normally make. That's a good thing. Chauncey stepped up, J.R. stepped up. As a team we played defense," Anthony said. "As far as me, I'm not really worrying about me. I know what I can do out there."

Hornets center Tyson Chandler, who had played just 20 minutes since inflammation in his left ankle forced him out of the Hornets' lineup on March 2, started and logged 27 minutes, scoring six points and pulling down five boards while committing five fouls.

TASK FORCE LIGHTNING - THROUGH THE LENS



Iraqi army Lt. Salim Ahmed receives a hearty handshake from Lt. Col. Quinton Arnold, the commander of 3rd Bde., 1st Cav. Div. Special Troops Bn., after receiving a Traffic Control Point Certification course certificate of graduation from Iraqi army Lt. Col. Hussein Abid Abdulla, commander of Iraqi army's 6th Bde., 2nd Div, at Combat Outpost Spear, on April 9.



1LT (P) Melissa Lewis, Aide de Camp to BG Brown, gives a Beanie Baby to a small Iraqi child during a Key Leader Engagement Shakhani, Iraq. Members of the CP-North team were in Shakhani to conduct a KLE with Yezidi Prince Tahsin Ali.



Staff Sgt. Conan Thomas trains his Military Working Dog, Sgt. 1st Class Britt at Forward Operating Base Bernstein, April 8. Britt is chasing after a specially-trained Soldier who Thomas has indicated was a threat.

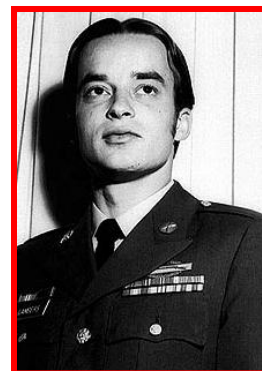


An open discussion begins as Soldiers from Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear Plt., Headquarters and Headquarters Co., 3rd Bde., 1st Cav. Div. strategize on how to enter the next room of a possibly contaminated building during a training exercise at Forward Operating Base Diamond Back, Iraq on April 1.

HEROES OF THE 25TH INFANTRY DIVISION



- Staff Sgt. Paul Ronald Lambers
- Co. A, 2nd Battalion,
27th Infantry Regiment, 25th Infantry Division
- Born: 25 June 1942, Holland, MI
- Died: 1 December 1970, Lake Michigan
- Entered Service: Holland, MI, 1964
- Place of Action: Tay Ninh Province, Republic of Vietnam
- Date of Action: 20 August 1968



Paul R. Lambers

Medal of Honor Citation:

For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty. S/Sgt. (then Sgt.) Lambers distinguished himself in action while serving with the 3d platoon, Company A. The unit had established a night defensive position astride a suspected enemy infiltration route, when it was attacked by an estimated Viet Cong battalion. During the initial enemy onslaught, the platoon leader fell seriously wounded and S/Sgt. Lambers assumed command of the platoon. Disregarding the intense enemy fire, S/Sgt. Lambers left his covered position, secured the platoon radio and moved to the command post to direct the defense. When his radio became inoperative due to enemy action, S/Sgt. Lambers crossed the fire swept position to secure the 90mm recoilless rifle crew's radio in order to re-establish communications. Upon discovering that the 90mm recoilless rifle was not functioning, S/Sgt. Lambers assisted in the repair of the weapon and directed canister fire at point-blank range against the attacking enemy who had breached the defensive wire of the position. When the weapon was knocked out by enemy fire, he single-handedly repulsed a penetration of the position by detonating claymore mines and throwing grenades into the midst of the attackers, killing 4 more of the Viet Cong with well aimed hand grenades. S/Sgt. Lambers maintained command of the platoon elements by moving from position to position under the hail of enemy fire, providing assistance where the assault was the heaviest and by his outstanding example inspiring his men to the utmost efforts of courage. He displayed great skill and valor throughout the 5-hour battle by personally directing artillery and helicopter fire, placing them at times within 5 meters of the defensive position. He repeatedly exposed himself to hostile fire at great risk to his own life in order to redistribute ammunition and to care for seriously wounded comrades and to move them to sheltered positions. S/Sgt. Lambers' superb leadership, professional skill and magnificent courage saved the lives of his comrades, resulted in the virtual annihilation of a vastly superior enemy force and were largely instrumental in thwarting an enemy offensive against Tay Ninh City. His gallantry at the risk of his life is in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflects great credit upon himself, his unit, and the U.S. Army.

Tropic Lightning!

HEROES OF THE 1ST CAVALRY DIVISION



- 1LT James L. Stone
- Co. F, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division
- Born: 27 December 1922, Houston, TX
- Entered Service: Houston, TX
- Place of Action: Near Sokkogae, Korea
- Date of Action: 21-22 November 1951



James L. Stone

Medal of Honor Citation:

1st Lt. Stone, distinguished himself by conspicuous gallantry and indomitable courage above and beyond the call of duty in action against the enemy. When his platoon, holding a vital outpost position, was attacked by overwhelming Chinese forces, 1st Lt. Stone stood erect and exposed to the terrific enemy fire calmly directed his men in the defense. A defensive flame-thrower failing to function, he personally moved to its location, further exposing himself, and personally repaired the weapon. Throughout a second attack, 1st Lt. Stone; though painfully wounded, personally carried the only remaining light machine gun from place to place in the position in order to bring fire upon the Chinese advancing from 2 directions. Throughout he continued to encourage and direct his depleted platoon in its hopeless defense. Although again wounded, he continued the fight with his carbine, still exposing himself as an example to his men. When this final overwhelming assault swept over the platoon's position his voice could still be heard faintly urging his men to carry on, until he lost consciousness. Only because of this officer's driving spirit and heroic action was the platoon emboldened to make its brave but hopeless last ditch stand

A Message From The Safety Guys

The Reflective Safety Belt and You... A Common Sense Glow-in-the-Dark Nighttime Tool, and a Life Saver!

They come in a variety of styles and color combinations; some solid colors, such as shocking pink and purples, while some have stripes and others yet are two-tone.

Most people regard this particular piece of personal protective equipment (PPE) as an unwanted, unnecessary nuisance, and a hindrance to dress or style.

Should we really be that concerned, or conscious of such personal appearance in theater? After all, from a distance we all look the same dressed in ACU's or PT gear.

So, if it's not an OIF fashion statement what is the purpose of this flimsy two-inch band of annoyance?

The purpose is **RECOGNITION**; to be seen and be identified during the hours of darkness and other periods of limited visibility and ensure that we remain visible to the numerous gear crunching monsters that suddenly creep up on us at night, debating their stopping power as they bear down on the gape-mouthed humans on foot, directly in their path of travel. It is these same humans who are carelessly crossing the roads trying, to balance their mac 'n cheese in floppy dishes from the DFAC as they stumble down the roads en route to their CHU.

Careless! Yes! How many times have you witnessed the near misses in the DFAC parking lots where pedestrians are just starving to be run over by the oblivious vehicle they hope will stop in time to spare their lives? We wrongly assume that such vehicles can **clearly see us** through the dust slimed windows of limited vision, from which we miscalculate their approaching rate of speed, often skipping clear of their path as they brush past with potentially life taking velocity.

Just how many of these un-ergonomic vehicles are softer than the human body? Should you survive the impact of this blunt force trauma, please let us know, as we welcome the feedback of lessons learned for future safety education.

Yes, the MND-N TF Lightning CSM enforces the correct wear of the Reflective Safety Belt, worn diagonally off the right shoulder to the left hip, **but more importantly its wear is mandated by OPORDER 0801, FRAGO 742, 6 Dec 08**, for every MND-N servicemember; it is not encouraged, but expected of every MND-N, Sailor, Airman and Marine.

Yes, wearing your Reflective Safety Belt does keep you in line with MND-N guidance, but it also makes you battle ready; it may just save your life to fight the fight another day.

Do the right thing and reflect on your personal safety!