



Lightning Weekly

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MAY 4, 2009



Specialist Conan Shuman and SPC Whitney Blaise of 176th Signal Company, Brigade Troop Battalion, 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, raise an antenna mounted to the top of a Stryker combat vehicle on April 17.

Retrans Keeps Soldiers Talking on the Battlefield

STORY and PHOTO BY
Sgt. Jeremy Pitcher
145th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

DIYALA, Iraq – Communications on the battlefield are a crucial necessity which can be easily overlooked by the average Soldier conducting their day-to-day business. The ability to pick up a microphone and talk to another person may seem as simplistic as just a push of the button, when in reality it is anything but.

For Soldiers of the 176th Signal Company, Brigade Troops Battalion, 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, the mission to keep communications working throughout the Diyala Province is a daunting task.

Their response: go mobile.

With three retransmitting teams, the 176th has established two static locations in strategic regions of the province in addition to employing a mobile asset that can travel all over the battlefield to keep the eight different communication networks going.

A Retransmission ("Retrans") Team is equipped with a set of four antennas which they utilize as they move to a new location and setup to receive incoming signals. These signals are then relayed from the site to their desired location. Without the retransmission, these signals would fall short of their desired recipient and would not be heard.

The real ingenuity came in making the whole system mobile. Staff Sgt. Brian Gentile of the 176th believes their construction of mounting four antennas on each of the unit's two Stryker vehicles in order to allow for near instant repositioning may be a first for the Army.

"Before, if we were told to go somewhere it was a long task, now it is like 'ok you want us there', and we're gone," said Gentile. This added mobility also adds to the ground troops' ability to conduct missions.

"Since we can resend communications a long way it extends the battle-space for the troops. It allows them to move where they are needed," said Specialist Harvey Watson

of the 176th.

With these capabilities, the 176th has the ability to move out and around the battlefield, giving them a capability which distinguishes them from the rest of the communications unit.

"We are the only ones who go out with the infantryman. What we do affects them directly," said Gentile.

In the end, the technology utilized by the military would never meet its potential without dedicated, hard-working Soldiers that have a passion for their jobs behind the wheel.

"It is all about the Soldier. Without the Soldier none of this would be possible," said Sgt. Shane Smith of the 176th.

With the ever-evolving role of U.S. military forces in Diyala, and throughout Iraq, staying flexible and mobile is crucial to taking the fight to the enemy. The Soldiers of the 176th Signal Company are doing just that, while making intricate complexities as simple as pushing a button.

The "Eye in the Sky" Keeps Soldiers Out of Harm's Way

Spc. Stephen Heinz, a Manassas, Va., native and unmanned aerial vehicle maintainer and operator for Company A, 2nd Special Troops Battalion, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, cleans a UAV, April 12, on Forward Operating Base Warrior. The UAVs provide aerial reconnaissance capabilities and give Soldiers on the ground an extra "eye in the sky."



STORY and PHOTO BY

Pfc. Justin Naylor

2nd HBCT, 1st CAV Public Affairs Office

FORWARD OPERATING BASE WARRIOR,

Iraq – A group of insurgents waits in the dark to ambush a convoy. They sit patiently, eager to launch their planned attack, thinking they know what to expect. A few minutes pass and then, suddenly, they are inexplicably blinded by spotlights as Soldiers seemingly from nowhere take advantage of their disorientation and safely disarm them.

There was one thing that the attackers did not consider; the "eye in sky" that can see in the dark.

"Our mission is to provide route reconnaissance, counter improvised explosive device watch, counter indirect fire support and look for suspicious activity," said Spc. Mark Mushen, a San Antonio, Texas, native and an unmanned aerial vehicle operator for Company A, 2nd Special Troops Battalion, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division.

"We have a good field of view because we fly at a pretty high altitude," said Sgt. Travis Nunn, a Siloam Springs, Ark., native

and a UAV operator for Company A. "We can see things that they can't always see."

According to Mushen, the UAV offers Soldiers near real-time imagery of an area and can scout areas days in advance to give Soldiers an idea of what to expect.

This is especially true at night, because the UAVs have infrared cameras that allow us to see really clearly, said Nunn.

Nunn said UAVs are used to detect small-arms fire, uncovered improvised explosive device sights and enemy activity, and that UAVs are the first ones on the scene if the forward operating base receives incoming fire.

"If there is anything that happens, we get redirected to cover it," said Nunn.

For the Soldiers who are on the ground, the UAVs give them the capability to see who is coming and going near the objective a few hours before without worrying about detection, said 2nd. Lt. Gen Mui, a Killeen, Texas, native and a battle captain for 4th Squadron, 9th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd BCT, 1st Cav. Div.

"They have directly helped our unit in the past," said Mui.

"If they need us, we are there," said

Mushen. "We mitigate risk."

"If we get shot down, no one dies," said Nunn.

For the Soldiers who operate the UAVs, there is a direct relationship to the chance of mission success.

"It's a good feeling to be able to help troops out," said Mushen. "You've made their job easier. You're an extra set of eyes."

"The biggest reward is helping save lives on the ground," said Nunn.

Mushen said many people believe flying a UAV is like a movie: lots of action. In reality, there is actually a lot of time spent just flying around, or making repairs to the vehicle on the ground.

UAV operators go through a lot of checks before putting one in the air, explained Nunn. They ensure everything is working like it should, double-checking everything from the headings to the engine.

But, when a UAV finally finds something, it makes it all the preparation worthwhile, said Mushen.

Tropic Lightning!

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Tropic Lightning!

Greywolf Supports Sexual Assault Awareness Month

STORY and PHOTOS BY

Pfc. Sharla Perrin

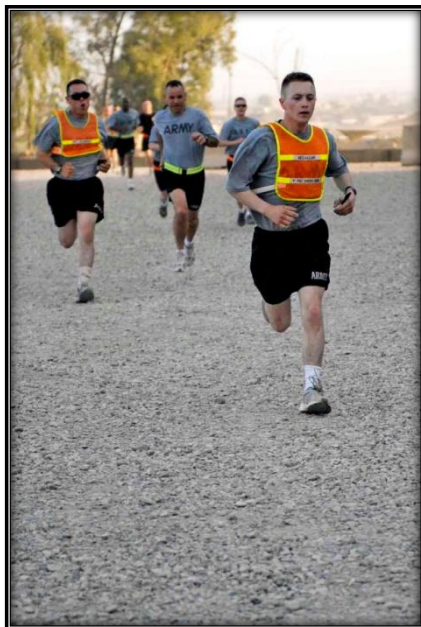
3rd HBCT, 1st CAV Public Affairs Office

FORWARD OPERATING BASE MAREZ, MOSUL, Iraq – An open invitation four-mile run in observance of Sexual Assault Awareness Month was held by the 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division Equal Opportunity Team, April 24 on Forward Operating Base Marez in Iraq.

The goal of Sexual Assault Awareness

Month is to raise public awareness about sexual violence and to educate communities and individuals on how to prevent sexual violence.

"By pooling our resources, we can highlight sexual violence as a major issue through activities like the 4-miler. Drawing attention to the problem will reinforce the need for preventive measures and efforts," said Sgt. 1st Class Cadonna Odom, the Greywolf Equal Opportunity Advisor.



Soldiers race each other in a sprint towards the finish of a four-mile run in support of Sexual Assault Awareness Month April 24. The run was organized and sponsored by the 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division Equal Opportunity Team to raise local awareness of sexual violence and to give a voice to victims of sexual assault.



A crowd is gathered at the Forward Operating Base Marez gym April 24 awaiting the start of a four-mile run in support of Sexual Assault Awareness Month. The event was organized by the 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team Equal Opportunity Team to raise awareness of sexual violence and to educate participants on preventive measures.

Iraq's Leading Strengths Combine Forces in Ninewah Province



A group of girls are gathered in the shade as they watch workers at the Al Shaheed Hassan school in Muhallabiyah, Iraq.

STORY and PHOTO BY

Pfc. Sharla Perrin

3rd HBCT, 1st CAV Public Affairs Office

MOSUL, Iraq – A compound with two small buildings was encircled by an earthen wall, hot under the mid-morning sun. Within the enclosure, groups of girls wearing colorful scarves, were gathered in the shade, observing the goings-on around them.

This primary school was reopened for classes on April 22 with help from the local government and Iraqi police, Iraqi Army and Coalition force units.

The Al Shaheed Hassan school in Muhallabiyah, Iraq reopened after its renovation was organized with joint efforts from Abdul Rakman, the mayor of Muhallabiyah, the Muhallabiyah Iraqi police, the 1st Battalion, 9th Brigade, 3rd Iraqi Army Division, and C Troop, 6th Squadron, 9th Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division.

C Troop is partnered with 1st Bn., 9th Bde., 3rd IA Div., led by Maj. Abdul Satar and the local Muhallabiyah Iraqi police, led by 1st Lt. Najim according to Cpt. Dave Butler, the C Troop commander. He said that the troop and local civil leadership, like the mayor, had worked together on the project from the concept phase to completion.

If the Iraqi Security Forces were the Indy 500, this project would be Danika Patrick taking her victory lap. After nearly a decade of efforts towards peace in the Middle East, the ISF have combined their strengths to provide homeland security and reconstruction to Iraq.

"It felt good knowing that the security situation in Muhallabiyah had improved dramatically as a result of CF and ISF efforts over time," said Butler. "It satisfied me to enable the civic leadership to make improvements that will benefit the local populace in the long run."



**TASK FORCE
LIGHTNING**



Tropic Lightning!

Iraqi, Coalition Forces Celebrate Partnership Day

STORY and PHOTO BY

SpC. Jazz Burney

3rd IBCT, 25th ID Public Affairs Office

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE

SPEICHER, TIKRIT, Iraq – Jazz music performed by the 25th Infantry Division band set the scene as Iraqi and Coalition forces Soldiers celebrated their 1st Partnership Day with beef barbeque, competitive sports and training exercises at Forward Operating Base Dagger, April 9.

"I love the changes and the improvements that coalition and Iraqi forces have established through the years," said Lt. Col. Ibrahim Amier, G-5 officer, 4th Iraqi Army Division. "By changing the thoughts and theories of how both American and Iraqi citizens view each other, we see that we are the same in a lot of areas, and that has truly improved the overall relationship between our forces," he added.

The event was designed to enjoy the fruits of building relations between coalition and Iraqi forces and to celebrate their successful operations throughout Salah ad-Din province.

"Gen. Salah suggested that we have this Partnership Day on the 9th which is the day Iraqis celebrate their liberation from the regime of Sadaam Hussein," said Col. Gary David, commander of the 4th Iraqi Army

Division military transition team. "I saw this as an excellent opportunity to put these great occasions together to enjoy the accomplishments of our partnership in Iraq," he added.

"The fact that Sadaam Hussein's influence through the Ba'ath Party was at its peak in this area and that his hometown is right next door to us in Owja, shows what Gen. Salah and the 4th IA Div. have done to calm this area today – it's actually hard now to believe that this used to be the home of the Ba'ath Party because of the efforts of Gen. Salah," he continued.

The idea for Partnership Day started a month and a half ago. Gen. Salah, 4th IA Div. commander, and David wanted to have a day that would focus on celebrating the completion of various combined efforts before it began to get too hot in the summer. David also wanted the Army Band to play the right tunes to provide a smooth atmosphere for the event.

The celebration kicked off with the Iraqi army soccer team squaring off against U.S. Army Soldiers. The first sporting event was filled with cheers and excitement from the spectators around the soccer field.

After the Iraqi Soldiers took the win in soccer, they continued their domination up-and-over the volleyball net during the next phase of the celebration.

As the afternoon heat began to kick in, Army cooks opened up two grills containing sautéed chicken, juicy T-bone steaks, beef hamburgers and hotdogs being prepared for the celebration. Traditional Iraqi cuisine was also served during the event.

The celebration didn't deviate completely from its military feel, as Iraqi medical personnel had a demonstration of evaluating casualties with proper evacuation procedures, proper preventive maintenance checks and services on military vehicles and an AK-47 assembly and disassembly competition.

Iraqi and U.S. Soldiers alike teamed up in a doubles ping pong tournament, while David gave Iraqis pointers on how to use the nine irons to launch golf balls over the Tigris River to conclude the sporting events for the celebration.

The day was not only to have fun in the sun, but to also leave the celebration having learned something new from the interactions between Coalition and Iraqi forces.

"The true key that we have found in helping perform our part in assisting our Iraqi counterparts, is not to teach them how coalition forces operate, but to try and learn how they do it and make suggestions on how to improve the formula they have come up with – we are here to assist in this manner," said David.



Col. Gary David, commander of 4th Iraqi Army Division military transition team, and Gen. Salah, 4th IA Div. command, cut a cake together to commemorate Iraqi and coalition force's 1st Partnership Day at Forward Operating Base Dagger, April 9.

HERE COMES THE BOOM

STORY and PHOTOS BY

Pfc. Jared Sollars

145th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

MOSUL, Iraq — A partnership that, for two years, has been an opportunity of learning for both the Iraqi and U.S. Armies came to its pinnacle on Monday April 20. A transition of authority ceremony was held to hand over the reins of explosive ordnance disposal throughout the Ninewah province to the 2nd Iraqi Army Division Bomb Disposal Company.

The transition signified that the 2nd IADBDC completed explosive ordnance training and felt they were ready to operate independently and take control of Ninewah's ordnance response and disposal.

U.S. Explosive Ordnance Disposal teams will now provide support to the 2nd Iraqi Bomb Disposal Company as they requested it. This decision was agreed upon by both the Coalition Forces and Iraqi Army leadership after extensive evaluation and training with U.S. EOD teams.

"The soldiers of the 2nd BDC should be commended for volunteering to be in the BDC," said Cotton "they have proven that they care about the safety and citizens of Iraq and that they are willing to sacrifice for the good of the people of Iraq."

It's been more than two years since this

full time 'hands on training' partnership began and it's developed not only competent and capable Iraqi bomb disposal soldiers, but also a strong bond of respect between the two military powers.

"I understand the challenges that you face every day," said Capt. Michael A. Cotton, the 749th Explosive Ordnance Disposal Company Commander. "Both of our companies are facing the same IEDs and bomb makers. I want you to know you have our support and respect."

The baseline training site for all Iraqi army bomb disposal companies is the Iraqi Army Bomb Disposal School at the Multipurpose Range Complex in Besmaya, Iraq.

Each training cycle last 19 weeks, which upon completion IA soldiers become a Level 4 certified IADBDC member. All Level 4 certified soldiers are qualified to run explosive device disposal missions.

The U.S. EOD companies involved with this training over the last two plus years have had teams living with the IADBDC 24 hours a day, seven days a week. They also planned the training schedule, coordinated getting the training materials, conducted the classroom instruction and evaluated the trainees by using practical exercises.

Evaluations consisted of the utilization of proper handling techniques, storage and



Various IEDs and weapons that have been discovered and disabled by the Iraqi Army 2nd Bomb Disposal Company are displayed at the Transition of Authority Ceremony held on April 20.



Iraqi soldiers from the 2nd Bomb Disposal Company demonstrate their skills of operation, using the robotic arm on their Badger to look for a buried mock IED. This demonstration took place at the Transition of Authority ceremony held on April 20.

use of explosives robotics, manual techniques with the bomb suit, use of the Badger, an armored transport vehicle, and the use of a wide variety of special EOD tools.

"Throughout the training process the Iraqi army soldiers involved have performed every task that was given to them, and have done so exceptionally well" said Cotton.

The purpose of the partnership between U.S. EOD and the IADBDC is to coach, train and advise the units on further developing leadership techniques and technical proficiency in bomb disposal. The main focus of the training has been for the IADBDC's to develop the ability to reduce IEDs, unexploded ordnance and minefields.

"I would like to thank the coalition forces for their assistance with this training of the bomb disposal and their continuing support" said Maj. Gen. Abdolla Alame, the commander of the Iraqi Army's 2nd Division.

This training will make the 2nd BDC a formidable force in the province of Ninewah at disposing explosive ordnance. This is one more step toward a self sustaining Iraq.

"The 2nd BDC is now part of a worldwide community of EOD Soldiers, just like my Soldiers are," said Cotton. "We all have the same mission, no matter what country we're from or what army we serve. We're all here to save lives."

This Week In TROPIC LIGHTNING History

TROPIC LIGHTNING NEWS

MAY 6, 1966 – BAC HA, VIETNAM – In the small relocation village of Bac Ha, almost tangent to the divisions outer perimeter, the young scuttle through the dust as they hurry their parents to a small thatched-roof hut.

Posted outside are signs of communist influence. Within, a small girl timidly slides on a chair and, before her, a doctor prepares for his daily work.

Her unkempt, long, black hair hangs limply on her shoulders while her liquid

brown eyes cling to the doctor's every move. Catching a glimpse of the syrette, she shifts her eyes to solicit her mother's approval. Realizing her fate, she slowly lowers her dusty pajamas and bows for the needle.

As she howls in protest, the little ones peeking in begin a retreat, leaving little trails of dust behind. A few minutes later they are outside the hut again, this time held by mothers firm grip.

It is a normal experience for the people of

Bac Ha, for, since the division's arrival, Bac Ha has been included in the U.S. Medical Civic Action Program (MEDCAP).

The program extends medical assistance to the people of South Vietnam. To help the unfortunate further, the citizens of Hawaii have donated health and sanitary items through "Operation Helping Hand." Through the program Bac Ha is enjoying, as will many similar villages, what most Americans consider the necessities of life.



PROTECTED MEDICINE - An armored personnel carrier from 3rd Squadron, 4th Cavalry, waits outside the village of Bac Ha, filled with medical supplies, for the villagers.



EXAMINATION - Captain Eugene W. Goertcen, surgeon for 3rd Squadron, 4th Cavalry, gives medical assistance to a villager at Bac Ha.

TROPIC LIGHTNING NEWS

MAY 4, 1970 – TAY NINH, VIETNAM – TAY NINH - Although he would probably be the last to admit it, the secret ambition of almost every "base camp warrior" is to get outside the wire and find out what it's like to be a grunt.

Recently, some North Vietnamese sappers gave the "Redlegs" from Headquarters Battery, 7th Battalion, 11th Artillery, their big chance. After a ground attack on Tay Ninh Base Camp the night before, a captured NVA claimed that three of the sappers slipped inside the wire and were hiding somewhere on the 25th Division base.

During the massive search that ensued, the artillerymen were called upon to conduct a sweep through the barbed wire along a sector of the perimeter. The "acting" 11 Bravos "saddled up" with their steel pots, flack jackets, and dusty, (but trusty) M-16s, and humped down to the bunker line.

The procession was led by the battery's mascot, Ton the Wonderdog. According to legend, Ton was at one time an NVA scout dog who "Chieu Hoied" after being wounded, and he seemed right at home walking point.

Once outside the wire, the Redlegs spread out and searched the area thoroughly. Tall grass was combed using

the stomping-foot-probe method, which is guaranteed to flush out sappers, snakes and lurking field mice. Shell craters were probed with the muzzle of a weapon, using the long-thrust series. Dud mortar rounds were picked up, scrutinized closely, then tossed aside.

After a second sweep of the area failed to turn up anything, the search party headed back to the battery area. Apparently all the John Waynes had become disillusioned during the afternoon, as the most frequent comment made was, "Sure glad I'm not a grunt."



GRUNTS FOR A DAY - Artillerymen from Headquarters Battery, 7th Battalion, 11th Artillery, get a taste of "11 Bravo" as they head outside the perimeter of Tay Ninh Base Camp. The Redlegs were searching for three enemy sappers who had reportedly crept inside the post the night before.

NEWS FROM THE HOME FRONT

HAWAII

HONOLULU – Kai Bartlett and Mike Judd overcame difficult conditions to win the Rhino Kaiwi Channel Relay paddling race today.

Bartlett and Judd completed the 40.2-mile course in 5 hours, 29 minutes, 43 seconds. The race started at Kaluako'i, Moloka'i, and finished at Magic Island, O'ahu.

The race was for one-person canoes (OC-1), but each team could use two paddlers. Bartlett and Judd said they switched every 12 to 20 minutes.

The Kaiwi Channel was flat, and winds were almost non-existent, making for a relatively-slow crossing. The winning time was almost one hour behind the course record.

It was the fifth relay title for Bartlett, but first with Judd. It was the second relay title for Judd.

Bartlett and Judd are teammates for Lanikai Canoe Club.

Danny Ching and Mael Carey placed second in 5:32:13. Jimmy Austin and Simeon Ke-Paloma were third in 5:36:47.

Lauren Bartlett and Andrea Moller won the women's division in 6:18:29. It was the fourth consecutive year that Lauren was part of the winning women's team.

Lauren, who is Kai's wife, also won it with Moller in 2007. They are teammates for Team Bradley.

Jessie Eames and Arlene Holzman were second in 6:24:22, and Lea Curtis and Coral Darbshire were third in 6:28:02.

ALASKA

FAIRBANKS – River levels rose and, in some spots, spilled their banks Sunday, as a rapid breakup will likely lead the Army Corps of Engineers to close the flood gates on the Chena River this afternoon – earlier in the year than any other year since 1981.

The National Weather Service issued a flood advisory for parts of Fairbanks as packed snow continues to melt.

With temperatures reaching toward 70 degrees, all of Fairbanks – its low-lying points and taller hilltops – is shedding its winter snow at once. That contrasts to slower-changing spring seasons with colder nighttime temperatures.

"Essentially, somebody's turned on the spigot 24 hours a day," said John Schaake, who manages the Chena Flood Control Project for the Corps of Engineers. As of Sunday afternoon, the Corps, which along with the Weather Service monitors river levels across Fairbanks, measured nearly 8,000 cubic feet of water moving down the Chena River per second, the benchmark for tripping the project's flood gates.

The Weather Service reported water had, as of Sunday afternoon, washed across a point along Chena Hot Springs Road up to 4 inches deep.

TEXAS

KILLEEN – Herman Wright's year-old tabby cat was returned to him from the veterinarian Friday, but the cat was not the same. Neither was Wright.

"I'm getting madder by the minute," Wright said.

Wright's bobtail tabby cat, "Yellow 2," was shot in the right front leg by a Fort Hood game warden Tuesday morning.

The shooting might cost Yellow 2 his ability to walk. He will wear a splint on his legs for six to eight weeks.

In six months, doctors will evaluate if pins holding the cat's leg together can be removed, Wright said.

The property line to Wright's Maxdale Road ranch borders the line with Fort Hood. His cat crossed a five-strand barbed wire fence that separates the properties and went onto Fort Hood.

Wright watched from his outdoor workshop at 9 a.m. Tuesday while the unidentified game warden pulled up along a county road. Herman heard a gunshot. He walked to the site of the shooting, expecting to find that the game warden killed a snake. Instead he found Yellow 2 bleeding from a gunshot wound.

The game warden is assigned to administrative duties while a military police investigator reviews the incident, Fort Hood said in a statement.

The incident happened in a training area "as part of the installation pest control policy."

Wright wants to see the game warden receive animal abuse charges and does not believe the pest control explanation.

"Some people may say it's just a cat, but a federal game warden has no business shooting a cat," said Belinda Robertson, Wright's girlfriend.

Wright is confused about why the game warden shot Yellow 2 but didn't kill him. He wants to know why the cat was left to suffer.

"If it were some kids driving by, you could probably understand it. But this is a game warden. If he's going to shoot something, he should make sure it's dead, not just lying there," Wright said.

Wright expects to hear from the investigator about the case's outcome Monday. In the meantime, he is worried Yellow 2 will not be able to play outside.

Yellow 2 will not be able to climb trees to escape from Wright's long-haired Dachshund that chases Yellow 2 around until they lie down and snuggle together, Robertson said.

"There's no reason (for the shooting)," Wright said. "That cat was no danger to him."

NEW YORK

WATERTOWN – Seven months have passed since allegations arose publicly that

Glenn W. Morrison, Jefferson County's former county fire and emergency management director, was repeatedly reimbursed for mileage he never accrued.

Whether prosecutors have determined it was an accounting error or an attempt to bilk the county is still unknown. District Attorney Cindy F. Intschert has yet to even acknowledge there's an active investigation.

Mr. Morrison said Wednesday he's moved on with his life, focusing on his work as a full-time paramedic with the Thousand Islands Emergency Rescue Service. He resigned as director Feb. 13.

"When I departed from the county, all issues were finalized and handled," Mr. Morrison said.

But what issues needed to be resolved?

"I'm not going to make any comment," he said.

County Administrator Robert F. Hagemann III said the county plans to take "no further action" regarding Mr. Morrison "unless there's something that's yet to be reported that we become aware of." He did not mention the former director by name.

But what action was taken?

Mr. Hagemann deferred to his prepared statement: "Considering that a final chapter in this matter has yet to be written, it would be inappropriate for me to comment at this time about any circumstances involving a former employee of the county."

The county administrator said he's had no discussion with the district attorney, except to tell her that the Watertown Daily Times was inquiring about Mr. Morrison. Mr. Hagemann said he is not privy to details about the investigation, including whether the prosecutor is considering a criminal charge, a civil action or nothing at all.

Sheriff John P. Burns has said that Mrs. Intschert has requested that a special prosecutor investigate all alleged discrepancies. The district attorney did not return a phone call seeking comment Wednesday.

The Times first reported Sept. 30 that Mr. Morrison received reimbursements for trips he may not have made in his personal vehicle between June 2007 and January 2008.

Mr. Morrison said at the time that "there were some errors during the process of documentation." The Times found discrepancies in at least \$485 of the \$4,071 in reimbursements sought by Mr. Morrison in that period.

The Times tracked Mr. Morrison's movements through cell phone records, the vouchers he submitted to be reimbursed for mileage accrued on his personal vehicle, and an accounting of gasoline put into his county car at the county fuel depot.

LIGHTNING HERO OF THE WEEK

SPC Anthony Drogos
1st PLT, B CO, 3-8 CAV, 1st CAV DIV
Fairfield, CA

On 23 March, 1st PLT, B CO, 3-8 CAV had just completed a dismounted patrol in Bab Al Beeth and consolidated behind cover while preparing to exfil. At that time a suicide bomber detonated his SVEST in the core of the mounted element, critically injuring several Iraqi Policemen. SPC Drogos quickly assessed the situation and immediately rushed to the aid of the most seriously wounded IP and applied a tourniquet to his severed leg. SPC Drogos exhibited a valiant display of heroism in his efforts to save the life of a fellow warrior.



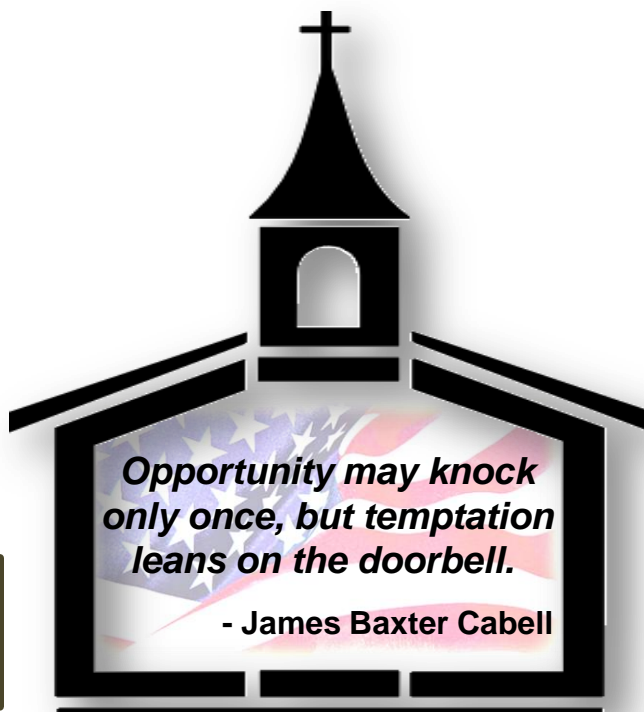
IRAQI FACTS

Known historically as Mesopotamia, Iraq first received its modern name after the founding of the Kingdom of Iraq in 1923. The region has been the home to a score of advanced civilizations, including the Akkadian, Assyrian, Babylonian and Abbasid empires.

The land has also been incorporated, fought over, colonized or integrated into the Achaemenid, Macedonian, Parthian, Sassanid, Roman, Rashidun, Umayyad, Mongol, Ottoman and British empires, highlighting the premium place that Mesopotamia, considered the cradle of civilization, has long enjoyed historically, religiously and geopolitically.

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CHAPLAIN'S CORNER



*Opportunity may knock
only once, but temptation
leans on the doorbell.*

- James Baxter Cabell



Nepalese President in Dispute Over Army Head

KATHMANDU, Nepal – Nepal's Maoist government took the president to task Monday for ordering the country's army chief of staff to stay in office after they had fired him, calling the decision "unconstitutional."

"Neither the constitution nor the Military Act gives the President the right to do anything besides supporting the government's decision," said Krishna Bahadur Mahara, the minister for information and communication.

Late Sunday night, President Ram Baran Yadav ordered Gen. Rookmangud Katawal, who was sacked by the government Sunday morning, to continue in office.

Nepal's interim constitution gives the president powers as supreme commander of the army and guardian of the constitution.

"The president took the step after 18 parties in parliament requested the President to intervene," presidential spokesman Rajendra Dahal told CNN Sunday night.

The decision to fire Katawal touched off protests. Supporters of both sides in the dispute took to the streets for demonstrations Sunday. Despite sporadic clashes between the two factions, there were no serious injuries reported.

The coalition government led by the Unified Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist) – better known as Maoist – leads a minority government for which its largest coalition partner, the Communist Party of Nepal (Unified Marxist Leninist), has withdrawn support.

It is unclear if the government will fall, since Madhesi Janadhikar (People's Rights) Forum, another coalition partner and the fourth largest party in parliament, is undecided about staying in the government.

Nepal's Cabinet voted to dismiss Katawal after the military refused the government's order to stop recruiting about 3,000 new soldiers to fill vacant positions when it has yet to take in former Maoist rebels, as a 2006 peace deal required.

The Maoists laid down their arms and won power in 2008 elections after an agreement that ended a decade-long insurgency. Under the deal, more than 19,000 former insurgents were to be integrated into the country's security forces.

SPORTING NEWS

Nene Busts Out, Helps Nuggets Race Past Mavericks

DENVER – After getting sand kicked in their faces by the Denver Nuggets, the Dallas Mavericks might need a quick Charles Atlas course.

"We're going to have to raise our level of aggression," Mavericks coach Rick Carlisle said after his team was manhandled 109-95 in Sunday's Game 1 of a Western Conference semifinal.

While conceding the Mavericks need to flex their muscles more, Carlisle questioned why Dallas shot 13 free throws to 36 for the Nuggets.

But those on Denver's side just shrugged. The Nuggets regularly play aggressively, and the difference was quite apparent against the finesse Mavericks.

Burly Denver center Nene scored 18 of his team-high 24 points in the first half. Nuggets star forward Carmelo Anthony, after being saddled by foul trouble, took over in the second half by scoring 19 of his 23 points.

"It was huge," Nuggets coach George Karl said. "We thought Nene had an opportunity to have a big game, but we never thought we'd get 18 out of him. But with Melo in foul trouble and kind of searching for an offensive confidence, we got it from Nene."

With the physical play of Nene and Kenyon Martin, the Nuggets sought to set the tone early. Martin got a technical in the first quarter for giving Dirk Nowitzki a hard shove to the court.

Nowitzki scored a game-high 28 points. Carlisle was upset that despite bodies draped all over Nowitzki he shot only five free throws, one being a technical.

"We didn't totally shoot jumpers," Nowitzki said. "We deserved a couple of more calls."

Carlisle was more vocal. "It's hard for me to believe that we committed 29 fouls and they committed 19."

But Carlisle realized there were other reasons his team fell apart. Dallas committed 14 of its 20 turnovers in the second half.

Until the fourth quarter, when both benches were cleared, Nuggets reserves had outscored the Dallas bench 30-12. Denver reserve center Chris Andersen finished with 11 points and six blocked shots.

But in the fourth quarter, it was Anthony's turn to shine. He shot 5-for-5 for 14 points.

His philosophy?

"Trying to get no fouls, man," said Anthony, who had played 21 minutes

entering the fourth quarter. Rest assured, though, complaints about fouls were more heard from Dallas.

"The most aggressive team at attacking the basket is probably going to shoot the most free throws," Denver guard Chauncey Billups said.

Cowboys Scouting Assistant Injured in Structure Collapse

DALLAS – Dallas Cowboys assistant scout Rich Behm is permanently paralyzed from the waist down, the team announced Sunday, the most serious injury resulting from the roof collapse Saturday of the team's 80-foot-high, tent-like practice facility in Irving, Texas.

Behm was hit by debris that severed his spinal cord. He had surgery Sunday at Parkland Hospital and was in stable condition.

Behm, 33, was one of 12 members of the Cowboys organization who were hospitalized.

New special-teams coach Joe DeCamillis, 43, also suffered a spinal injury – a fracture of a vertebra in his neck – but the team said Sunday that he's in stable condition with no threat of paralysis and is scheduled for surgery today.

"To the Behm family, we extend our love, comfort and the full support of every person and resource within the organization," Cowboys owner Jerry Jones said in a statement Sunday. He was at the Kentucky Derby when the roof collapsed. "Rich is a courageous member of our family and someone for whom we care deeply. We ask for all friends and fans of the Dallas Cowboys to join us in embracing him and his family with their thoughts and prayers at this very difficult time."

Winds of near-tornado strength, approaching 70 mph, hit the facility a few minutes after 3:30 p.m. About 70 people, including 27 players attending a rookie minicamp, were in the structure.

Witnesses say the lights blinked on and off and seconds later the synthetic roof and its moorings collapsed.

"I saw it coming and didn't have time to react," defensive backs coach Dave Campo said. "I hit the ground and was able to get back up."

Reporter Todd Archer of *The Dallas Morning News* was among those pinned by debris, reporting that defensive back DeAngelo Smith and linebacker Brandon Williams helped free him.

TASK FORCE LIGHTNING – THROUGH THE LENS



Capt. Adam McCombs, 25th Special Troops Bn., officer in charge of the Iraqi-Based Industrial Zone, explains through an interpreter how local Iraqis are learning job skills and receive paid employment and experience working in carpentry, plumbing, electrical systems, and heating / air conditioning repair at the IBIZ during a tour on Contingency Operating Base Speicher that showcased the progressive development of the province through the partnership of coalition forces and the local provincial government.



Spec. Daniel Nelson, 145th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment, and member of the Task Force Lightning Command Post-North team, participates in a traditional Kurdish "pinky dance" during the Kurdish Labour Day celebration in the mountains near the town of Amedi, located in the far northern reaches of Iraq, 1 May.



Brig. Gen. Brown, 25th ID and Task Force Lightning DCG-S, "pins" a member of his PSD, newly promoted Staff Sgt. Aaron Knight, with his rank during a nighttime promotion ceremony on the roof of the Command Post-North Headquarters building, with the lights of Mosul forming the backdrop, on FOB Marez, 1 May.



Spec. Craig Johnson of the 25th Brigade Support Battalion, 25th Infantry Division, raises his right hand and cites the oath of enlistment as he re-enlists into the Army.

HEROES OF THE 25TH INFANTRY DIVISION



- Sgt. William R. Jecelin
- Co. C, 2nd Battalion, 35th Infantry Regiment, 25th Infantry Division
- Born: Unknown, Baltimore, MD
- Died: 15 September 1950, Saga, Korea
- Entered Service: Baltimore, MD, 1950
- Place of Action: Saga, Korea
- Date of Action: 15 September 1950



William R. Jecelin

Medal of Honor Citation:

Sgt. Jecelin, Company C, distinguished himself by conspicuous gallantry and Intrepidity above and beyond the call of duty in action against the enemy. His company was ordered to secure a prominent, sawtoothed ridge from a well-entrenched and heavily armed enemy. Unable to capture the objective in the first attempt, a frontal and flanking assault was launched. He led his platoon through heavy enemy fire and bursting shells, across ricefields and rocky terrain, in direct frontal attack on the ridge in order to draw fire away from the flanks. The unit advanced to the base of the cliff, where intense, accurate hostile fire stopped the attack. Realizing that an assault was the only solution, Sgt. Jecelin rose from his position firing his rifle and throwing grenades as he called on his men to follow him. Despite the intense enemy fire this attack carried to the crest of the ridge where the men were forced to take cover. Again he rallied his men and stormed the enemy strongpoint. With fixed bayonets they charged into the face of antitank fire and engaged the enemy in hand-to-hand combat. After clubbing and slashing this force into submission the platoon was forced to take cover from direct frontal fire of a self-propelled gun. Refusing to be stopped he leaped to his feet and through sheer personal courage and fierce determination led his men in a new attack. At this instant a well-camouflaged enemy soldier threw a grenade at the remaining members of the platoon. He immediately lunged and covered the grenade with his body, absorbing the full force of the explosion to save those around him. This incredible courage and willingness to sacrifice himself for his comrades so imbued them with fury that they completely eliminated the enemy force. Sgt. Jecelin's heroic leadership and outstanding gallantry reflect the highest credit upon himself and uphold the esteemed traditions of the military service.

HEROES OF THE 1ST CAVALRY DIVISION



- SGT Peter C. Lemon
- CO E, 2nd Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment,
1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile)
- Born: 5 June 1950, Toronto, Ontario, Canada
- Entered Service: Tawas City, MI, 1968
- Place of Action: Tay Ninh province, Republic of Vietnam
- Date of Action: 1 April 1970



Peter C. Lemon

Medal of Honor Citation:

For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty. Sgt. Lemon (then Sp4), Company E, distinguished himself while serving as an assistant machine gunner during the defense of Fire Support Base Illingworth. When the base came under heavy enemy attack, Sgt. Lemon engaged a numerically superior enemy with machine gun and rifle fire from his defensive position until both weapons malfunctioned. He then used hand grenades to fend off the intensified enemy attack launched in his direction. After eliminating all but 1 of the enemy soldiers in the immediate vicinity, he pursued and disposed of the remaining soldier in hand-to-hand combat. Despite fragment wounds from an exploding grenade, Sgt. Lemon regained his position, carried a more seriously wounded comrade to an aid station, and, as he returned, was wounded a second time by enemy fire. Disregarding his personal injuries, he moved to his position through a hail of small arms and grenade fire. Sgt. Lemon immediately realized that the defensive sector was in danger of being overrun by the enemy and unhesitatingly assaulted the enemy soldiers by throwing hand grenades and engaging in hand-to-hand combat. He was wounded yet a third time, but his determined efforts successfully drove the enemy from the position. Securing an operable machine gun, Sgt. Lemon stood atop an embankment fully exposed to enemy fire, and placed effective fire upon the enemy until he collapsed from his multiple wounds and exhaustion. After regaining consciousness at the aid station, he refused medical evacuation until his more seriously wounded comrades had been evacuated. Sgt. Lemon's gallantry and extraordinary heroism, are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit on him, his unit, and the U.S. Army.

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Messages From Home



SSG Charles Wall,

*Hey Daddy,
we love you and miss you...
halfway there!!
See you soon.*

Love, Charles and Rebekah