



The Duck & Cover



INTERNATIONAL ZONE, BAGHDAD, IRAQ

JULY 15, 2008

VOL. 1 No. 5

Special family in Baghdad visited by U.S. TV show host

by Lt. Col. Rhonda McGuire, JASG-C Office of Public Affairs

Matt Roloff, star of “Little People, Big World”, paid a visit to a special family in Baghdad, Iraq, that has three children with various forms of dwarfism. The television star and little people advocate came to meet the family and conduct initial medical evaluations.

It is highly unusual to find three children in one family with dwarfism,” said Roloff. Roloff heard about the family from a former Little People Association chapter president, Army Chief Warrant Officer Russell Hayes, who is stationed in Iraq with Company C, 1st Battalion, 126 Aviation Regiment, Maine Army National Guard in Talil, Iraq.

Hayes, whose daughter has dwarfism, discovered this family via an Army press release. “I believe these children

which led to a meeting with Matt Roloff and The Learning Channel.

Roloff and The Learning Channel Team

from future surgeries: Saja, age 13; Ali, age 9; and Brau, age 8.

Extensive x-rays were taken at a private medical clinic in Baghdad; the clinic is operated by Blackwater Security Consulting. Clinic Operations Manager and Physician Assistant, Jeff Rodieck PA-C, nurse Timber Black and Blackwater all donated their time and the x-rays for the children. “We are glad to be a part of assisting this wonderful family; Blackwater

does humanitarian operations globally, for example, in Afghanistan we support an Orphanage,” said Rodieck.

After several hours of x-rays; Rodieck saved



Photo by Sgt. Shawn Riley, JASG Public Affairs

Servicemembers with the JASG-C pose with an Iraqi family and Matt Roloff, star of Little People Big World. Roloff came to Baghdad to meet the Iraqi family; which has three children with various forms of dwarfism.

can benefit from surgeries; there are six doctors who specialize in dwarfism in the United States,” said Hayes. Hayes began making contacts in the U.S.

(TLC) flew to Baghdad to meet the family in mid-June. After preliminary medical evaluation, it is believed that three of the children could possibly benefit

Continued on page 18

In This Issue

DPW assisting in creation of diplomatic enclave in Baghdad
Page 4

Iraqis sacrifice goats to prevent jobsite accidents
Page 5

Embassy Annex and JASG-C celebrate Father's Day
Page 6

DFAC cakes made with Servicemembers in mind
Page 7



BRIGADIER GENERAL

★ MYLES L. DEERING ★

We celebrated a memorable 4th of July just a few days ago. I know some of your leave dates may have allowed you to celebrate the 4th at home with family and friends, but most of us weren't that fortunate. However, I am proud of you for being here—missing many holidays and special events at home with family and friend - in order to help the people of Iraq. You understand the price of freedom and democracy, and you are willing to give of yourselves to help others gain it.

Despite the fact that we all couldn't be at home, though, the remembrance



of our Independence Day is good for many reasons. It allows us to remember the struggles and sacrifices of so many people in order to establish our country's independence. It is a reminder that we are privileged to be citizens of such a prosperous

and free country. However, it is also a reminder that this privilege carries the responsibility of helping those who don't have the same opportunities we have as Americans.

There are those who say, "It's not our problem." President Lincoln once said, "Those who deny freedom to others deserve it not for

themselves; and, under a just God, cannot long retain it." With all due respect to a great President, I might amend Lincoln's statement to read, "Those that are unwilling to defend the freedom of others, deserve it not for themselves; and, under a just God, cannot long retain it." I truly believe that whether you deny freedom to others or you fail to take action when you should to defend freedom, the end state is inevitable – tyranny and oppression. Thank you for standing up for those who cannot defend themselves.

Continue to stay focused on the mission. You're doing a great job!

"ALWAYS FORWARD"
BG Myles L. Deering

The Command Sergeant Major

COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR



DEAN BRIDGES



As I look around the International Zone I see many changes from when we first arrived. I see many new faces as units and individuals come and go. It is always good when troops are reunited with their loved ones, but at the same time it is always disheartening to see them go.

Soldiers, we have only a few more months left in the International Zone, but we still have many tasks to complete. I am proud of all that



you have done, as individuals, as directorates and as a unit. I ask you all to push forward with energy and commitment to complete the tasks at hand. Through your hard work we will insure that our follow-on unit is set-up for success and will continue to move the IZ forward.

Now is the time to start developing continuity books and preparing for the RIP/TOa. It will be here before you know it. We must make

sure our replacements have all the information they need to make our departure as smooth and seamless as possible. As we draw near the end there are many more challenges ahead of us. Some of those challenges will not be completed during our time here, but will fall in the able hands of our replacements.

We, also, need to begin preparing our equipment, and reducing the amount of items we maintain here. Start now by sending unneeded items home. This will allow a smoother transition for our rede-

Continued on page 6



CHAPLAIN (COLONEL) JACK BYAS



Preparing is Vital

One of the greatest home run hitters in baseball was Hank Aaron. There is a story involving Yogi Berra, the well-known catcher for the New York Yankees, and Hank Aaron, who at that time was the chief power hitter for the Milwaukee Braves. The teams were playing the 1958 World Series, and as usual Yogi was keeping up his



ceaseless chatter, intended to pep up his teammates on the one hand, and distract the Milwaukee batters on the other. As Aaron came to the plate, Yogi tried to distract him by saying, "Henry, you're holding the bat wrong. You're supposed to hold it so you can read the trademark." Aaron didn't say anything, but when the next pitch came he hit it into the left-field bleachers. Af-

ter rounding the bases and tagging home plate, Aaron looked at Yogi Berra and said, "I didn't come up here to read." Hammerin' Hank was prepared to do one thing ... HIT. That was his mission.

As Soldiers of the JASG (45th Infantry Brigade) plan to redeploy, we have a vital mission ... plan. We must plan to return home and we must stay focused on the mission we still have here in Iraq. There may be many distractions but we must remain focused on the task.

Worship and Bible study times and locations

Protestant Worship Schedule

Sunday
1030

General Christian Worship

1815
Contemporary
Protestant Worship

Ecumenical Worship Schedule

Friday
1830

Jewish Shabbat

Saturday
1000

Orthodox Worship Service
Sunday

1200

Episcopal/Lutheran/Anglican

1400

Latter Day Saints

2000

Spanish Latter Day Saints
@ Chapel Annex

2000

Church of Christ
@ Embassy RM# S-214B

Catholic Worship Schedule

Monday-Friday
1200

Mass at Embassy Annex Chapel

1900

Rosary at Embassy Chapel

Saturday

1100

Mass at CSH (Hospital)
(Confession available before Mass)

1830

Mass @ Embassy
Annex Chapel
(Confession available before Mass)

Sunday
0915

Mass @ Camp Prosperity
(Confession available before Mass)

1630

Mass @ Embassy Chapel
(Confession available before Mass)

2000

Spanish Mass at
Embassy Chapel



DPW assisting in creation of diplomatic enclave in Baghdad

by Lt. Col. Rhonda McGuire, JASG-C Office of Public Affairs

As Iraq rebuilds, many foreign nations are preparing to reopen embassies in Baghdad. In preparation for their return the Joint Area Support Group-Central's International Zone Transition Team has begun initial work on a diplomatic enclave in Baghdad.

Several foreign countries including Jordan, Denmark, UAE, Kuwait and Canada have expressed interest in several villas located behind the new American Embassy compound. The villas are constructed of steel reinforced concrete and were not damaged during the U.S. invasion of the Iraqi capital.

"The electrical wiring is outdated," said Maj Eric Tuck, of the JASG-C's Department of Public Works. "There is no city electrical power or sewage service presently," added Cmdr. Dan Rochford, also of the DPW. The present project involves two villas which will be used by the Commanding General of U.S. Forces in Iraq and MNSTC-I. Coalition Forces have a temporary property use lease on all of the villas.

The JASG-C and the Department of State recently sent a team to Amman, Jordan, to attend several meetings with Jordanian government officials to include the Ministers of Interior and Intelligence. The team discussed cur-



Photo provided by JASG-C Department of Public Works
Lt. Cmdr. Dan Rochford, Furat Mumin, Ahmed Jabbar, Chief Warrant Officer Doug Izzer and Maj. Eric Tuck prepare to enter an underground shelter containing pumping and filtration equipment for a pool behind one of the villas.

rent conditions of the villas and a timeline for habitation with recommended actions.

An Iraqi owned company, Al-Shafi General Contractor, is currently renovating two of the villas. The company has worked hand in hand with the JASG-C on many projects.

Iraq is improving construction techniques to meet world wide standards. Previous security concerns and sanctions against Iraq prevented new technologies from being

used. This includes recent instruction with company supervisors on the use of Microsoft Projects basic scheduling tool that allows personnel to see the status of a project. Rochford and Mr. Furat, an Iraqi electrical engineer, taught the Al-Shafi company how to use the tools to track expenses on a program and manage projects more efficiently. The company employs around 150 Iraqis from all over Baghdad.

Ahmed Al Shimary, an Al-Shafi engineer said, "There is more stability in Iraq, now people can leave the IZ later at night to go home, before people were afraid to leave at night." The company jokes that maybe next year KBR will not be in Iraq. For each Iraqi employed – five other Iraqis are supported. "People bring in family to work on jobs," said Ahmed. The Iraqi people are focused on salaries for families. Previously the company built water purification systems for UNICEF, which was installed all over Iraq.

Construction and employment of local Iraqis stimulates the local economy. As the Al-Shafi company heads into the future; many local Iraq families will benefit. The diplomatic enclave is just one of several projects currently underway that will benefit Iraqis and the Government of Iraq.



Photo provided by JASG-C Department of Public Works
Maj. Eric Tuck, of the JASG-C's Department of Public Works, check on the progress of repairs to the villas.

Iraqis sacrifice goats to prevent jobsite accidents

by Sgt. Shawn Riley, JASG-C Office of Public Affairs

Accident prevention in Baghdad, Iraq, can have a regional twist to it; as service members with the Joint Area Support Group-Central discovered. Military members are trained to be vigilant about the safety of each other. We ensure our own safety by wearing our personal protective equipment, having adequate training for the task and discussing different ways to be safe. Needless to say there are many ways to prevent accidents.

Iraqi culture has different methods of accident prevention. Construction and renovations of the villas located at Union I is being conducted by Alnebea Alsharif a local Iraqi construction company and overseen by the Department of Public Works. Workers there experienced two accidents in one day. The accidents were minor lacerations, resulting in emergency room visits to receive sutures.

The Iraqi supervisor realized the reason for the safety problems he and his crew were experiencing. They had not yet sacrificed an animal on site for the blessings of Allah. He quickly remedied the situation and supplied two goats for his crew to sacrifice; one for each employee hurt.

"They sacrifice the goats for good luck. The person making the sacrifice must



Photo provided by JASG-C Department of Public Works
Iraqi construction workers prepare to sacrifice two goats to prevent further accidents at their jobsite.

say; 'In the name of God' while killing the animal to bless the sacrifice," said Mr. Furat, an Iraqi engineer working for the Department of Public Works. Furat and service members from the Joint Area Support Group witnessed the sacrifice.

Later that same day, the on site plumber who is also a butcher, conducted the sacrifice. The construction crew led the goats into the villa. The butcher laid the first goat on his side. He put his foot on the back of

the goat's neck and slit his throat with a six inch blade. Meanwhile the second goat stood nearby and watched the scene. Seeing the fate of his friend the second goat put up some minor resistance to his own death.

Within a few minutes of the initial slicing of the major arteries and airway in the neck, both goats stopped trying to get up. Most of the blood that pooled around the area of

sacrifice was washed away with water. However, some of the goat's blood was stamped with hand prints on the walls of the construction site in hopes it would help ensure a safe work environment.

The goats then were cooked in traditional Iraqi dishes for all to enjoy. When all the sacrificing and preparing was finished the construction crew and their guests took part in a feast. They took time out of their busy construction schedule to bless the site with a sacrifice ensuring the safety of all employees.

Chief Warrant Officer Douglas Izer present at the sacrifice said, "We were invited to attend, back home my family butchers' animals every fall so this didn't bother me. It was a neat experience, I'm glad they invited us." It appears the blessing has served its purpose; the worksite has been accident free ever since.



Photo provided by JASG-C Department of Public Works
Lt. Cmdr. Dan Rochford, Maj. Eric Tuck, Chief Warrant Officer Doug Izer, Furat Mumin and Ahmed Jabbar prepare to dine on a number of local favorites to include meat from the sacrificed goats.

Embassy Annex and JASG-C celebrate Father's Day

by Spc. Leslie Goble, JASG-C Office of Public Affairs

Father's day can be a hard day for military dads deployed away from their children. As a show of thanks for fathers serving in the U.S. Embassy annex, MWR hosted a "Casino night" for the deployed fathers. The night was complete with poker, roulette and blackjack.

The Casino night lasted until 10:00 p.m. and about 15 shirts were given out as prizes to the lucky fathers who won big at the casino's tables. Sgt. 1st Class Michael Powell, of the Joint Area Support Group-Central's Human Resource Management office, went to the Casino night to play Blackjack. He did not win enough to get a shirt but he had fun. "It was good clean fun

without having to spend money," Powell said. "Everybody thought they were at Casino Royale betting big."

One father had the opportunity to spend some time with his daughter in the International Zone. Navy Capt. Thomas Karnowski, director of the Joint Area Support Group-Central's Department of Public Works, spent the evening before father's day with his daughter, 1st Lt. Kimberly Karnowski. 1st Lt. Karnowski, who is stationed in Mosul, Iraq, was participating in a four week tour at the 86th Combat Support Hospital (CSH) in the IZ.

Karnowski said his daughter inspired him to deploy to Iraq. "She's the only reason I'm really here," said Karnowski. When he found out his daughter was deploying Capt. Karnowski decided that he would like to deploy during the same time frame that she did. So, they made it happen and



Photo by Spc. Leslie Goble, JASG Public Affairs

Capt. Thomas Karnowski, director of the Joint Area Support Group-Central's Department of Public Works, stands with his daughter, 1st Lt. Kimberly Karnowski in the U.S. Embassy Annex dining facility.

now he's working as the head of the Department of Public works.

Since 1st Lt. Karnowski works nights at the CSH she spent the evening before father's day with her dad. On fathers day they had lunch together in the palace deli. They didn't do much but what can you do when you're trapped in a fish bowl. "Just spending time together is good enough," said 1st Lt. Karnowski.

Back in the States, 1st Lt. Karnowski is a registered nurse at Brook Army Medical Center (BAMC) and Capt. Karnowski is a retired business owner who has started a second career as a professor of business at National University.



Photo by Spc. Leslie Goble, JASG Public Affairs

Sgt. 1st Class Michael Powell from Garber, Okla., Master Sgt. Paul McElveen from Medford, Okla., Sgt Gregory Smitherman from Ada, Okla., and Sgt. Robert Pineiro, of Choteau, Okla., pose next to a father's day cake at the Embassy Annex dinning facility.

Sergeant Major's column

Continued from page 2

ployment back stateside. There are some administrative tasks that must also be completed before we depart; NCOER's, OER's, unit weigh in, awards completed, inventories done, and many other tasks. These will be

required simultaneously with our current jobs and task. Therefore, I say this is not the time to relax but the very time to step-up and drive forward with great commitment and energy.

Leaders watch out for each other and most importantly our Soldiers

during this increased heat. Insure the standards are met. Again I am very proud of the accomplishments we have achieved thus far during this deployment, finish strong!

"ALWAYS FORWARD"
CSM J. Dean Bridges



DFAC cakes made with Servicemembers in mind

by Spc. Leslie Goble, JASG-C Office of Public Affairs

You have probably noticed the beautifully decorated cakes in the DFAC on holidays and special occasions. These cakes are usually the center piece of a display. On Easter there was a large cake in the center of an Easter display complete with an Easter bunny and Easter eggs made of cake. If you are like me, you have probably wondered who makes these cakes and how long does it take to create such beautifully edible art?

The man responsible for the cakes is Chris Campbell. Besides being a cake maker extraordinaire, Campbell is also the night shift DFAC supervisor for KBR.

Campbell has been with KBR since January of 2003. He started his KBR career in Afghanistan and transferred to the Embassy compound in September 2006. Before joining KBR, Campbell spent 10 years in the Army as a cook, back when the Army had cooks.

Campbell's primary job is night shift DFAC supervisor, but he took over the cake making responsibilities when the old "Cakeman" left.

"I guess I got lucky and everything just kind of fell into place," Campbell said. "The thing about designing these cakes, as is with any type of art on a large scale, you have to



Photo by Spc. Leslie Goble, JASG Public Affairs
Chris Campbell (right), Faisal Abbasi (middle) and an assistant hold up the finished 4th of July cake.

have patience."

It usually takes about three to four days to bake and decorated each cake. The first night the cake is baked. The second night the first layer of frosting is applied and the third night, after letting the frosting harden up a little in the refrigerator, the cake decoration takes place. The decorating process usually takes several hours depending on the overall design.

It's not just holidays that get a special cake design. It can be any event from rival sports teams play-

ing each other to a new unit arriving. Campbell once made a cake featuring the Boston Red Socks logo for a unit from Boston. "We try to make cakes the Soldiers can relate to. Whether its sports, holidays or just something from home." Campbell says, "It's all about the Soldiers in my line of business. I try to make them happy."

During the design process, Campbell draws out the design then transposes it to the cake. "Drawing the designs has gotten easier since I've started," Campbell said. "Especially since I spend a lot of my spare time drawing."

Campbell hasn't had much schooling in art, just a class in high school. He says his older brother Greg is the real artist.

"I usually send drawings back home to my brother and ask for advice and approval," Campbell says. "I really look up to him. As we got older we got closer."

When Chris goes home he hopes to use his skills to start his own business. He says he has had tremendous support from his family and is confident he can make it.

The next time you enter the DFAC and one of Chris Campbell's cakes is on display, take a moment to admire the artistic nature of the design and then another moment to eat a piece or two.



Photo by Spc. Leslie Goble, JASG Public Affairs
With the help from the head cook, Faisal Abbasi (right), Chris Campbell (left) decorates a cake with an American bald eagle on the 4th of July.



Sergeant Shawn Riley

by Spc. Leslie Goble, JASG-C Office of Public Affairs



Imagine you're in full scale battle and the only way home is straight through your enemy. The sky has turned red due to a severe sandstorm. You haven't stopped fighting in three days. Yet you don't want to stop because the enemy won't let you. That's exactly what Sgt. Shawn Riley went through when he was attached to the 3rd squadron, 7th U.S. Cavalry, 3rd Infantry Division.

From the moment Riley graduated Advanced Individual Training (AIT) as a combat medic he has either been in or preparing for war. Riley joined the army in August 2001. In the middle of basic training September 11th happened. Straight out of AIT he was sent to Ft. Stewart, Ga., home of the infamous 3rd ID.

"I was standing in reception and they called a few people's names to go to Hunter Army airfield in Savannah," Riley said. "They began to cheer and I didn't know why." Soon after he got out of reception he realized why that group of Soldiers was cheering. They were not going to Ft. Stewart, home of the 3rd ID and some of the harshest training conditions in the army.

One month after AIT, Riley got orders to go to Kuwait. This marked the first of many deployments this young Soldier would see in the near future. After six months in Kuwait, he was sent back to Ft. Stewart, but within a few months he was back in Kuwait getting ready for the invasion of Iraq.

sion of Iraq.

The war kicked off with a bang for Riley. "The loudest explosion I think I have ever heard was when a Scud missile hit about a kilometer away from me," Riley said. Before he knew it the war had started and their mission was to take Baghdad.

Third squadron, 7th U.S. Cavalry



Photo by Spc. Leslie Goble, JASG Public Affairs

marched all the way to Baghdad International Airport (BIAP) without the death of a single Soldier. The worse thing the Iraqi Army managed to do was disable, not destroy, an M1A1 Abrams tank. Riley bravely drove through tracer rounds, RPGs and indirect fire rounds. He even managed to lose his vehicle in an ambush when he was hit with an RPG that didn't explode but disabled his vehicle. Riley had many close calls during his first tour in Iraq but he's still around to tell the stories of what he and his fellow Soldiers faced during the early days of the

war in Iraq.

Back in Oklahoma, Riley and his wife, Sheli, who he has been with since high school, have a daughter, Kaeli.

Riley has held a variety of jobs outside of the military. Being a salesman was probably the most fun job for him. Riley worked for Schwan's food delivery for a while making his route one of the most prosperous in Stroud. To this day he can tell you the number of any product on the list of Schwan's groceries. This wasn't the most exciting or demanding career for him though.

While Riley worked as a Communications specialist for Aerocare, a company that transportes patients and human transplant organs by air, he was responsible for the coordination and tracking multiple flights each day. One particular flight he managed was transporting a

heart to a patient desperately in need of a transplant. Several factors came into play causing him to redirect the flight in mid-air.

Due to Riley's quick thinking the patient received her heart on time. This experience helped Riley in his leadership development; leadership he would put to use as a non-commissioned officer (NCO) in the United States Army.

In Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) III, Riley was back in Baghdad. "I've lived in Baghdad for longer than I have in any other city except

Continued on page 14



Petty Officer 1st Class Rickey Jones

by Sgt. Shawn Riley, JASG-C Office of Public Affairs



During the Second World War, a great need arose for the construction of military installations throughout the world's combat zones. Rear Adm. Ben Moreell found a way to overcome these challenges of building numerous bases. He decided to organize Navy construction units. On January 5, 1942 he was given authorization to recruit men from the construction trades for assignment to three Naval Construction Battalions. From this initiative the Seabees were born. The name "Seabees" comes from the initial letters of Construction Battalion or C B. Moreell gave them the Seabee motto: *Construimus, Batuimus* "We Build, We Fight."

The legendary Seabee tradition is being carried on in the Joint Area Support Group-Central. The United States Navy's Petty Officer 1st Class Rickey Jones, a member of the Department of Public Works, is working hard to maintain the fighting Seabees reputation.

Having enlisted in the Navy in 1994 as a carpenter and brings 14 years of construction experience to the JASG-C. He has worked on a number of projects throughout the International Zone to help improve the living conditions for U.S. Servicemembers and Iraqis alike.

Jones is responsible for the completion of numerous projects to include the bike racks around the

palace, the pavilion on FOB Freedom and the Ehtifalat electrical substation. But there is one project for which Jones is the most proud. "I get to take part in not only rebuilding Iraq but building bridges with the kids...constructions that will last like the clinic and the substation which helps build bridges



Photo by Spc. Leslie Goble, JASG Public Affairs

with the kids so they will think about what we did instead of the negative propaganda," said Jones.

Jones is originally from Naylor, Ga., which is near Valdosta. He is permanently stationed at Sigonella Naval Station in Italy. Jones has an Associates degree in Economics and Business Administration from the University of Maryland

which he earned while he was stationed in Japan. Now he is working towards his Bachelors degree through the University of Phoenix. He has only three more classes to complete before achieving his goal, earning his certificate to teach school. He hopes to go into the education field after finishing this tour in Iraq. "It's time to try new things," Jones said.

Work and school isn't this Seabee's only focus. He likes to unwind from the work day by reading, "I like Dean Kuntz novels but I'll read everything," Jones said. He also spends a lot of time working out in the gym.

Jones is a member of the Baghdad Cigar Aficionados club and if you take a walk through the pool area in the evenings you will probably see him out with a cigar. Jones also enjoys the occasional video game saying, "I play a little bit to keep my sanity."

His contributions to this Nation will last for generations. His legacy will undoubtedly be remembered in much the same way as the original Seabees during WWII. Jones is a valued asset to our mission and to the future of the Iraqi people.

We are looking for story ideas. Do you have one? If so, send it to us at: geoff.legler@iraq.centcom.mil



DPW and Iraqi government restore IZ water flow

by Lt. Col. Rhonda McGuire, JASG-C Office of Public Affairs

Humans can go for a month without eating but will die in 3 to 5 days without water because our bodies are made up of about 70 percent water. (That is about 15 gallons for an adult.) Water sustains life. Iraq is fortunate to have the Tigris and Euphrates rivers from which they can draw millions of gallons of water each day.

Baghdad relies on the Tigris River for its water supply and uses numerous pumping stations to draw water from the Tigris for treatment and distribution.

Recently, members of the Joint Area Support Group contributed to a pump station renovation project in the International Zone. The goal of the project was to dredge the river bottom around the lines which pull water from the river and into Viejo Lake and to repair two pumps that had been damaged by poor water flow.

In a joint effort between the JASG-C and the Iraqi Ministry of Water Resources, the Iraqi Government paid for the dredging and excavator of the river bottom around the water supply lines in the Tigris River.

“A sandbar had built



Photo by Lt. Col. Rhonda McGuire, JASG Public Affairs
Petty Officer 1st Class Jason Micklewright and Staff Sgt. Victor Mantilla examine a pump located next to the Tigris River in the International Zone. The two Servicemembers work in Joint Area Support Group-Central's Department of Public Works in Baghdad, Iraq.

up and reduced water flow; they dug four meters deep to allow for an increase in water [flow],” said Petty Officer 1st Class Jason Micklewright.

After three days of dredging the pipes were opened and water flow was restored.



Photo by Lt. Col. Rhonda McGuire, JASG Public Affairs
A Ministry of Water employee visits with Lt. Col. Warren Griffis and Capt. Joshua Lawson at the Tigris River while the river is dredged. Griffis and Lawson work in Joint Area Support Group-Central's Department of Public Works in Baghdad, Iraq.

“Two of four lines were completely blocked [causing damage to the water pumps] and the pumps had to be renovated,” said Capt. Billy Allen, an Air Force civil engineer with experience in base planning.

“With all four pumps running, we will be able to pump approximately 1 million gallons a day from the Tigris River to Viejo Lake,” said Micklewright.

The entire pump house system is scheduled to be renovated with improvements to the power system and automated control system, as well as, replacing windows and improved building security.

Water used by the military is treated at FOB Prosperity and is purified using reverse osmosis water purification units. Thousands of gallons of water are trucked all over the International Zone to support operations. Production in the IZ is 35,000 gallons a day of potable water and over 500,000 gallons a day of non-potable water; all of which is distributed daily. Roughly 30 million gallons of water is stored in two lakes on FOB Prosperity.

The amazing story of how water gets from the Tigris to your CHU

by Capt. Joshua Lawson, JASG-C Department of Public Works

Have you ever wondered how the water that you use to take a shower gets to your CHU or trailer? Many people may not because the conveniences of running water and electricity are things that we often take for granted. The process of bringing water to the Multi-National Forces – Iraq staff in the International Zone is facilitated by a partnership between Joint Area Support Group-Central's Department of Public Works and the employees of Kellogg, Brown and Root.

While KBR is responsible for the transportation of water throughout the IZ, it's DPW personnel who maintain the system, oversee the purification of the water ensuring the water heading to your "hooch" is as safe and clean as it can be.

The water used for showers, toilets and sinks all originates from the Tigris River. In the simplest of terms, the water is pumped from the Tigris and transported through a system of reservoirs. These reservoirs are located on FOB Prosperity and are known as the D2 Lakes. The system is operated and maintained by DPW.

"The source, or beginning of the process is a pump station located at the far east side of the Veijo Lake," explained Petty Officer 1st Class Jason T. Micklewright, Navy Sea-

bee and Zone and Project Manager for DPW. "This pump station has four large pumps that can each push up to 2,300,000 gallons of water per day. This pump house is used to fill Veijo Lake which has two purposes. First of all, the lake acts as a buffer between the New Embassy Complex (NEC) and the Red Zone. Second, the lake holds a large volume of water that helps feed the D2

have a capacity of approximately 30 million gallons. The water is held so that as any dirt or other solids can settle to the bottom of the lake preventing the water purification system from being clogged. The water is then processed through a Reverse Osmosis Water Purification Unit (ROWPU), which is operated and maintained by KBR and then held in large bladders. The

ROWPU takes water one wouldn't dare swim in and makes it clean enough to take a shower in.

According to Micklewright, the reverse osmosis process uses a very fine membrane to filter contaminants such as salt from the water. The raw water is forced under very high pressure through the membrane which catches all the contaminants. The water is then treated by a series of chemicals making it safe to drink. This process is generally

slow, but works well.

"After going through reverse osmosis purification, a fleet of KBR tank trucks distributes the water throughout the International Zone," Micklewright said. "So next time you are washing off after a long day, you will know that the reason you feel so clean and fresh is mostly because of the efforts of the good people at DPW and KBR ... but mostly DPW ..."



Photo by Lt. Col. Rhonda McGuire, JASG Public Affairs

Petty Officer 1st Class Jason Micklewright, zone and project manager for Joint Area Group Support-Central's Department of Public Works and Staff Sgt. Victor Montilla, assistant zone manager, are standing outside the booster pump station, part of the raw water line that supplies the International Zone with water. DPW recently had the submersible pumps and booster pump automated to ensure the water levels remain at an adequate level.

Lakes at FOB Prosperity.

After being pumped into Veijo Lake, the water is transported to the D2 Lakes through a system of three pumps, a booster station and pipeline. Collectively, the pumps have the ability to draw and move more than 850,000 gallons of water per day from Viejo Lake to the reservoirs at Prosperity.

The water is then held in the D2 lakes on FOB Prosperity which

Plans cell keeps JASG-C on track for success

by Maj. Matthew Harsha and Sgt. Maj. Jeff Hale, JASG-C Plans Cell

The Joint Area Support Group – Central (JASG-C) has their version of the dynamic duo. Maj. Matthew Harsha and Sergeant Maj. Jeff Hale make up the Security Plans Section. Their mission is to receive taskings, analyze the taskings through the Army's military decision making process, develop unit plans, briefings and orders and maintain them for the future operations of the JASG-C without going insane. They are also responsible for coordination with our follow-on unit to include receiving, staffing and answering request for information and completing staffing actions from Multi-National Force – Iraq.

The doctrinal definition of planning spelled out in FM 3-0 is the means by which the commander envisions a desired outcome, lays out effective ways of achieving it, and communicates to his subordinates his vision, intent, and decisions, focusing on the results he expects to achieve, but for Hale it's more like taking an idea and throwing a few doctrinal terms at it until you get it right or you get it pass Lt. Col. Michael Kinnison, JASG-C security director, which ever comes first.

The plans section was not originally part of the manning for the JASG-C. It was a concept thrust upon the 45th IBCT during our ARTEP at Fort Bliss, Texas. Harsha began this deployment slated for the position of the Joint Defense Operations Center Chief of Opera-

tions (CHOPS), but his knowledge, skills and abilities as a top notch operations officer made him the logical choice to assume the position of Plans Officer. It's only logical for someone to do a job they have never had before. On the other hand, his trusty side kick, Hale, was in line to be the JASG-C Finance NCOIC. Hale's lack of operations knowledge, his ability to see



Photo by Lt. Col. Rhonda McGuire, JASG Public Affairs

through Harsha's self-promoting smoke screen and ability to laugh at his stupid jokes made him a perfect candidate to fall in on the Plans NCO position. What started as an unlikely pair has turned into the well oiled machine known better as the "Matt and Jeff" show. They may not entertain you, but they keep each other in stitches.

One would think that all that a Plans Section does is plan. Oh contraire mon ami, not these guys. These two stodgy office geeks have actually executed some of the plans they helped publish. When we have

"really important people" visit the IZ and we shut down everything around the Embassy, you can see these two in action. Harsha has the critical role of standing by the entrance to Little Venice so that he can report on the radio when the "really important people" arrive and depart. Hale can be found providing direct support to our troops lining the sidewalks. No one hands out bottles of luke-warm ROPU water like he does.

The most impressive performance of the dynamic duo was the execution of the security of the Al Qanoon Anniversary wreath laying ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. This team was the OIC and NCOIC of the coalition security for the event. Considering that there was more than two battalions worth of firepower around the park, it's not surprising that no one attacked and everything went off without a hitch. It's not every day that you see a finance NCO manage a point defense. Oh, what fond memories we all have.

As impressive and awe inspiring these two are, there is one last mission they are working. This project will be the most ambitious to date for these two intrepid adventurers. I know that everyone in the 45th IBCT will sleep soundly knowing that the plan to go home will be compiled by these two and there is no doubt that they will pull it off with the synchronization of a pair of Olympic ice dancers.

As election season nears: Be Smart, Do Your Part. Vote!

by Staff Sgt. Douglas Collins, JASG-C Office of the Judge Advocate General

We have all seen the signs posted on various walls around the Palace and Embassy grounds. But still we think..."What's the rush? The elections aren't until November." It's true, the General Election is not until November; however, some states have state primary elections occurring in July or August for local elections. One must also consider registering in order to receive one's absentee ballot. Most registration deadlines occur in October, but you should consider mail delivery delays and mail your registration in as soon as possible.

Voting is our democratic process, and democracy is a vision people see when the United States takes an interest in the well being of another country. Abraham Lincoln is quoted as defining democracy as a government "... of the people, by the people and for the people." This is representative democracy. You have a voice in your government by casting your vote for the person you feel best represents your ideals. This isn't to say that you will agree with the candidate on all issues, but you should research and try to understand the positions of the person to whom you choose to give your vote.

Our mission in Iraq is to provide

a stable and secure environment so that Iraqi citizens can elect their own representative and democratic government. Historic provincial elec-

electing representatives at the local, provincial and national levels.

The Department of Defense has a program in place to help military

personnel serving overseas to exercise their right to participate in elections. The Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act was last updated with the National Defense Authorization Act of 2005. This Act establishes a system for registration and voting by absent uniformed service voters and overseas voters in federal elections. The Act applies to persons who are members of the Uniformed Services and their family members, Uniformed Services are defined as the U.S. Armed Forces (Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force and Coast Guard) and United States citizens who reside outside the United States.

Personnel wanting to vote by absentee ballot must complete a Federal Post Card Application (SF-76) through the election authorities in your state of domicile. This form is available at www.fvap.gov. For further information, 2nd Lt. Neal Harvey is the Joint Area Support Group- Central voting as-

sistance officer and may be contacted at neal.harvey@iraq.centcom.mil. So, "Be Smart. Do Your Part. Vote!"



tions are scheduled for the fall and this represents a huge step forward for the Iraqi people in the quest to exercise their democratic rights in



Support Operations hosts cookout at FOB Freedom

by Spc. Shea Weise, Support Operations Directorate

After nearly five months in Baghdad members of the Joint Area Support Group-Central's Support Operations (SPO) Directorate felt they needed a break. Lt. Col. Miguel Ramos, director of Support Operations, suggested that they have a cookout. Members of the SPO thought this was a great idea and began planning for the event.

The cookout was held on June 28, at FOB Freedom which has a man made pond, a sports field and a volleyball court.

The food for the cookout consisted of hamburgers, hotdogs, chicken, desserts and of course near beer.



Photo provided by Support Operations Directorate
Members of the Support Operations Directorate enjoy a cookout at FOB Freedom on June 28.

The food was grilled by Ramos and Command Sgt. Maj. Joe Stover provided his special buffalo sauce.

Music played in the background as Servicemembers participated in a number of MWR activities to in-

clude fishing, volleyball and golf.

Despite the 118 degree weather there was a good turnout for the event to include Brigade Command Sgt. Maj. James Bridges, Executive Officer Lt. Col. Michael Thompson and the Brigade Commander Brig. Gen. Myles Deering.

After enjoying a good meal, several Soldiers visited the local shops while others enjoyed each others company.

The cookout lasted for nearly four hours before it was time to pack-up and head back to the Embassy annex and get ready for the next day's taskings.

Sgt. Riley

Continued from page 8

Stroud," says Riley. "Baghdad is like my second home." This time he was attached to a Navy Explosive Ordinance Disposal (EOD) team as their medic. He went on over 180 missions risking his life and dealing with the elimination of multiple explosives on a daily basis. Riley said, "I literally thought I was going to die before the end of my tour but he didn't and again he's back to tell us his stories.

Riley was born and raised in the small town of Stroud, Okla., where he grew a passion for football. During his junior high and high school years football was Riley's life. From the very beginning Riley strived to be the best football player he could be. Being a linebacker, his main objective was to be as big and strong as he could be.

"I couldn't manage to be the biggest, but I could work on being the strongest," said Riley. And that's

what he did. He was in the gym constantly barely making it past the weight of 180 lbs. but becoming stronger every day.

It was in football that Riley met his "first NCO". His football coach, Lloyd Wertman, was a retired Sergeant First Class. Coach Wertman was tough on his team as well as tough himself. He always seemed to be right in the line of fire.

"One day while at practice, the kicker kicked the football right into the coach's face." Riley says. "He just brushed it off and started complaining like a coach usually does." All Riley's hard work paid off earning him a scholarship to Evangel College in Springfield, Mo., where he played his last year of football.

Riley is back in his "second home" as a public affairs specialist with the 45th Infantry Brigade Combat Team.

His duties include writing news stories for the Duck and Cover newsletter and providing photographic

support at special events. He works diligently to tell the stories of the Soldiers here in Iraq.

In his short time in the military, Riley has been on four deployments and has had several different jobs. He has seen many difficult times and can tell you the story of each one in great detail. If there ever was a Soldier you should know it is Sgt. Shawn Riley.

JASG-C Commanding General
Brig. Gen. Myles L. Deering

Public Affairs Officer
Lt. Col. Rhonda McGuire

Duck & Cover Layout
Capt. Geoff Legler

Duck & Cover Staff
Sgt. Shawn Riley
Spc. Leslie Goble

The Duck & Cover falls under the supervision of the Joint Area Support Group-Central and is published monthly.

The Duck & Cover is published to provide command and public information to specific audiences about JASG-C activities.

The contents of the Duck & Cover are not necessarily the official view of, or endorsed by the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense, Dept. of State, the Department of the Army, Department of the Navy or Department of the Air Force.

Pacesetters recognize, thank Triple Canopy guards

by Cpt. Jonathan Hilton, 3rd Battalion, 29th Field Artillery

You can spot them just about anywhere around FOB Prosperity and throughout the International Zone. They eat with us in the DFAC, they use the internet in the MWR and they help guard many important places around Prosperity and the IZ. These trusted colleagues all work for a private security firm called Triple Canopy.

Triple Canopy workers come from many diverse locations across the world. The two nationalities that we see the most often in the IZ are Peruvians and Ugandans. It is the Ugandans though, that we are most familiar and work so very closely with.

The Ugandan Triple Canopy employees are responsible for guarding the entrance to FOB Prosperity, the DFAC and PX on the FOB, and assisting in guarding checkpoints throughout the IZ. These well trained guardians greatly assist Task Force

Pacesetter at one of our Headquarters Battery's entry control points where they conduct thorough searches of Iraqi's coming into the IZ. Their hard work ensures the safety of the Iraqi's who utilize the gates each day and the many Soldiers who work there.

Their bright attitudes are infectious as every Soldier is guaranteed to get a bright smile and a warm greeting when you greet them with "jumbo," which is Swahili for hello. At the same time, their

professionalism is outstanding and their training is formidable for the tasks they perform for Coalition Forces.

It is with this level of mutual respect and outstanding work, which prompted the Pacesetter's to officially recognize some of the Ugandan's who work with our Soldiers at the ECP.

The ceremony included each recognized Ugandan receiving a Coin Certificate and a Coin of Excellence from the Battalion Commander and Command Sergeant Major. The ceremony was a great treat for all parties involved despite some cultural obstacles in properly pronouncing the Swahili names in an English dialect.

As the deployment progresses, the Pacesetter Battalion looks forward to recognizing many more of these hard workers for their help and cooperation in securing the IZ.



Photo provided by 3rd Battalion, 29th Field Artillery

Triple Canopy employees gather together for a group shot after receiving their certificate and coin of excellence.



Photo provided by 3rd Battalion, 29th Field Artillery

Lt. Col. Gregory and Command Sgt. Maj. Miller pose with Reggie, one of the triple canopy employee at one of the battalion's entry control points where the Ugandans assist in security operations.



Photo provided by 3rd Battalion, 29th Field Artillery

Sgt. 1st Class Norman Brown attempts to display "cultural understanding" as he holds hands with a Ugandan guard, a display more taboo in American culture yet more readily acceptable in Ugandan culture.

JASG-C Happenings



Photo by Spc. Leslie Goble, JASG Public Affairs
The JASG-C Color Guard prepares to present the Colors during a 4th of July ceremony in the Green Bean lounge.



Photo by Spc. Leslie Goble, JASG Public Affairs
Chaplain (Col.) Jack Byas (left), command chaplain for the JASG-C, stands with Anglican Bishop Michael Lewis in the JASG-C chapel. Lewis is the newly appointed Anglican Bishop for Cyprus and the Gulf region.



Photo by Cpt. Geoff Legler, JASG Public Affairs
Members of the JASG-C's Department of Public Works partake in an Iraqi feast as part of a luncheon to celebrate the completion of the medical clinic in the Quadisiya apartments.



Photo by Spc. Leslie Goble, JASG Public Affairs
Brig. Gen. Myles Deering (front row third from left), JASG-C and 45th IBCT commander, sits with Iraqi friends who hosted him and members of the JASG-C for a dinner in their home.



Photo by Lt. Col. Rhonda McGuire, JASG Public Affairs
Staff Sgt. Tara Winder, an engineer with the JASG-C's Department of Public Works, uses an auto level to determine the amount of slope in a road near the New Embassy Complex.



Photo by Spc. Leslie Goble, JASG Public Affairs
Brig. Gen. Myles Deering and two local Iraqi businessmen cut the ribbon to officially open a new restaurant at FOB Freedom. Holding the ribbon are FOB Freedom Mayor Capt. Tonia Toben (left) and Deputy Mayor Railyn Tunstall.



Awards



Maj. Doug Merritt
Joint Service
Commendation Medal



Brig. Gen. Myles Deering (far left) and Command Sgt. Maj. James Bridges (center) stand with Spc. Jennifer Oliver, Amn. Sean Palmer, Spc. James Bennett, Petty Officer 1st Class Jason Micklewright, and Sgt. Jake Turner all of whom received a certificate of appreciation for their participation in the 4th of July ceremony.



Capt. Carrie Remer
Joint Service
Achievement Medal



Staff Sgt.
Cheryl Williamson
Joint Service
Achievement Medal



Sgt. Maj. Jeff Hale
Joint Service
Commendation Medal



Staff Sgt. Doug Collins
Joint Service
Achievement Medal



Tech. Sgt.
Emerson Bellamy
Joint Service
Commendation Medal



Spc. Leslie Goble
Joint Service
Achievement Medal



Petty Officer 1st Class
Rickey Jones
NCO of the Month



Spc. Bradley Johnson
Enlisted Soldier
of the Month

JASG-C Birthdays July 15th to August 14th

2nd Lt. Neal Harvey
Command
July 15th

Sgt. 1st Class Rilyn Tunstall
Support Operations
July 29th

Sgt. William West
Security
August 4th

Spc. Shannon Boyd
Command
July 21st

Spc. Shea Weise
Support Operations
July 30th

Sgt. Muriel Irwin
Command/JAG
August 6th

Maj. Charles Booze
Security/JDOC
August 23rd

1st Sgt. James Ivy
Command
August 1st

Maj. Thomas Mancino
DOIM
August 8th

Cmdr. Scott Langley
Installations
July 24th

Staff Sgt. Ogbo Oku
Support Operations
August 2nd

1st Sgt. Sammy King
DOIM
August 12th

Special Family

Continued from page 1

the images to CD. The team will be turning over the x-rays of the children to medical doctors in the U.S. for them to decide if there is the possibility of surgeries for the children in the near future.



Photo by Sgt. Shawn Riley, JASG Public Affairs
Matt Roloff stands with Brig. Gen. Myles Deering during commander's call for the Joint Area Support Group-Central.

The "Little People, Big World" television show will feature Matt's visit to Baghdad in the fall season premier.

During their visit to Baghdad, Matt Roloff and his TLC team were invited to attend the 45th Infantry Brigade's commander's call by the Brigade Commander, Brig. Gen. Myles Deering. "I was inspired by General Deering's remarks challenging everyone to make a difference with someone here in Iraq," said Roloff. The team shot video of the commander's call and servicemembers had the opportunity to have their photo taken with Matt.

"It was a pleasure to have Matt Roloff and his team as our special guests; we support the team's humanitarian efforts to help this family," said Deering.

Servicemembers often deliver clothing, shoes, toys and food to



Photo by Sgt. Shawn Riley, JASG Public Affairs
Sgt. Matthew Miller (left), of El Reno, Spc. Robert Spanke, of Fort Towson, and Staff Sgt. Matthew Randall, of Durant, pose with Matt Roloff, the star of Little People Big World.

families in Baghdad. All of these items are donated by families in the United States. "This is really a special family that has never asked us for anything; it is a joy to be in their presence, they give us so much," said Lt. Col. Paul Cairney, commander of Detachment 4, 732nd Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron. The detachment serves with the 45th Infantry Brigade in Baghdad. The 45th Infantry Brigade will return from its one year deployment in the fall of 2008.