



The Duck & Cover



INTERNATIONAL ZONE, BAGHDAD, IRAQ

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45th IBC T “Thunderbirds” prepare to hand-off JASG-C

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

Headquarters Company, 45th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, Oklahoma Army National Guard left family and friends on October 22, 2007, for post mobilization training near Fort Bliss, Texas. The morning we boarded the air plane the sky was overcast with a light mist and a temperature near 60 degrees. The mission ahead was about as clear as that fall Oklahoma sky. Many of us didn't know what a Joint Area Support Group was not to mention what role each of us would play in it.

During the three month mobilization at Camp McGregor, N.M., a remote desert camp north of Fort Bliss the Soldiers of the

45th trained rigorously for our mysterious mission. The future mission in Baghdad remained largely shrouded in mystery until the Army Readiness Training Program or ARTEP as it is commonly known.

As the picture of what we were responsible for became clearer, many of us asked ourselves “why”.

Why are we having a fake concert?

Yes, everyone remembers the 80's cover band night that was officially part of our ARTEP. Brig. Gen. Myles Deering notionally cancelled the concert due to the evolving security situation in the notional International Zone. However, we were still responsible for every aspect of the show except for the

music and the questionable appropriateness of the stand up comedians.

What we should have learned was that we may not have an 80's cover band night in the real world International Zone; but we would have equally strange situations that tend to occur with some regularity.

Early on January 23, 2008, the last of Headquarters Company left Fort Bliss' Biggs Army Airfield for Southwest Asia. In route we were pampered by highly trained flight attendants catering to our every need. Many of us used the time to get some sleep others read or watched the in flight movies. Many Sol-

diers were very apprehensive as they thought about the inevitability of entering a combat zone. For more seasoned Soldiers knowing exactly what to expect was causing scenarios of past combat operations to play endlessly in their minds. Everyone

was wondering what the next nine months would be like.

We soon found out that life in the IZ was certainly unique and not at all similar to previous deployments. We may not have been out in the “Red Zone” like our brothers who conduct security operations throughout the city of Baghdad. This doesn't

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BRIGADIER GENERAL

★ **MYLES L. DEERING** ★

Over the last several months, I challenged you to maintain your intensity. I asked you to dedicate yourself to the mission and to do what you can to help the people of Iraq – I asked you to make a difference. As our tour in Baghdad draws to a close, not only did you accomplish the mission, but you exceeded my expectations.

I have had the privilege of watching you take over your jobs, and make them your own. I witnessed the tireless efforts of each directorate which led to many great accomplishments.

The Support Directorate facilitated outstanding life support for the residents of the IZ. They did a great job making sure we had a roof over our heads, good food to eat, vehicles to drive, efficiently managing all of the FOBs located throughout the IZ, and arranging helicopter flights.

In the same manner, the Security Directorate did an exceptional job ensuring the safety of the approximately 35,000 residents of the IZ. From working badging and access issues and providing security for distinguished visitors to running the JDOC 24/7 and providing valuable intelligence reports, the Security Directorate undertook their mission with great professionalism.

Likewise, the Installations Directorate demonstrated great skill in all of their projects. I was thoroughly impressed on numerous occasions as I toured their projects throughout the IZ.



Finally, I appreciated the hard work of the Command Directorate. The Chaplain provided marvelous religious support; the public affairs did a great job covering events and worked diligently to provide us with our monthly newsletter; HRM processed several hundred awards and CAC card requests; and last but not least, HHC did a terrific job tracking our leave and pass program, keeping track of our inventory, and getting us prepared to redeploy. Overall, everyone did a GREAT job!

Aside from the success of the Directorates, many individuals distinguished themselves with their efforts. For instance, Lt. Col. Rhonda McGuire worked, with the assistance of several people, to help an Iraqi family with several handicapped children. Through her efforts, Matt Roloff and his crew from his series “Little People, Big World,” traveling all the way to Iraq to assist the family.

Spc. Terrace Rose used his military medical training to give aid to a person going into shock until the fire department could arrive, essentially saving that individual’s life. Maj. Doug Merritt assisted an Australian woman and her child who were stranded outside the IZ and in need of medical attention.

Several of you assisted with the IZ Scouting program and left an enduring positive impact on the children from this area. There are many more examples of your selfless service,

but these are just a few of the examples that serve as a testament to the superior quality and character of our organization.

It has been an honor to serve as the commander of the first-rate Officers, Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen of this organization. Not only have we, as the JASG-C, accomplished many great things during our tenure, but we have also added to the great heritage of the 45th. We have made a lasting impact on the Iraqi people and this country, and we have provided our successors with the foundation necessary to continue to assist in the progress. Our time here has gone by quickly, but I know that years from now, you will all be able reflect upon your time as members of the Joint Area Support Group—Central with pride and satisfaction.

Now I ask that you use the last few weeks to do what we have been talking about throughout this entire tour of duty – finish the job. In track and field, the relay race is dependent not only on the speed of the athlete, but the skill in passing the baton from one runner to the other. In the 2004 Olympics the U.S. women were disqualified for passing the baton beyond the passing zone and they did not finish after dropping it in this year’s Olympics. Also this year’s U.S. men’s relay team did not finish after it fumbled the exchange between the anchor legs of the semi-final heat. In the end, all the hard work and the superb skills of the athletes were negated by their failure to make the handoff. Let’s not fail in our task to ensure that we do everything necessary to finish the race.

COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR

**DEAN BRIDGES**

Joint Area Support Group—Central: the time is quickly approaching for our RIP/TOA. We must remember our mission is not complete until we are all home safely. We have seen many changes, endured many different challenges, and enjoyed the sweetness of successes, but we must see this mission through to the end. The end can only be defined as: the full commitment to our replacements that ensure they are set for success on our departure, the completion of the TOA ceremony, the demobilization of everyone, and the safe return home of



everyone to their friends and loved ones.

It has been my extreme privilege and honor to have served with all of you. I am very proud to have been associated with all those that have been a part of the JASG-C team. It has been very refreshing to see the multiple branches of the service working together to accomplish the missions given to us, and I want to thank you all for accepting the Oklahoma members as part of the team.

As we come to the end I must challenge each of you to stay focused, and DO NOT get complacent! Compla-

cency starts with small things, and it can grow expeditiously. Leaders you are the first line defense against this. Do not allow anyone to take this path. For all the successes we have had during the many months that we have faithfully performed this mission, those who come after us will only remember what we were able to accomplish during our last few weeks. Stand tall and ensure the great history of our Brigade and this JASG-C is not flawed here at the end. I have full confidence in each and every one of you to finish the job to the very end. Thank you all for a job well done! “

“ALWAYS FORWARD”
CSM J. Dean Bridges

CHAPLAIN (COLONEL)

JACK BYAS*We Are Almost There*

Well the day we have been looking forward to is almost here. In a few weeks we will be on the plane headed home. What are we going to do when we get home? I am sure you have been thinking about that since last October. Here is something to think about.

What to Do First!

Writer and humorist David Barry once said,

“Decades ago, when I was full of energy I was going to not only *end*



world hunger, but also *stop war* and *eliminate hunger*. Whereas today my life goals, to judge from the notes I leave myself, tend to be along the lines of buy detergent.”

What do your notes say about your goals? All of us set certain goals and priorities. Some of them are short term, some long term.

Talking with families, I have discovered that, although husbands and wives have goals and priorities, they often do not discuss them until there is

a crisis. Perhaps they simply assume the spouse knows and understands and agrees with these priorities.

On a recent visit to the emergency room there was a sign posted. It said simply, “Worst First!” That meant that the worst injury or illness would be treated first. Why? Because some emergencies are more critical than others. It takes a trained medical person to determine (triage) the priority.

It is important that families work on issues that are most pressing before they become emergencies. Like a visit to the dentist. It is best to take care of a tooth when it just needs a filling then wait until it needs a root canal.

Local Iraqi businessmen's view of Iraq and its future

by Sgt. 1st Class Rohn Fenity, Sgt. John Young and Capt. Don Ware with Maj. Andy Ballenger, JASG-C Intelligence Section

Recently the U.S. Embassy hosted a small group of Iraqi businessmen for a discussion about life for everyday Iraqi citizens. The discussion was interesting in that it highlighted anecdotally what the Coalition and to a greater extent the Government of Iraq (GOI) has been up against in turning Iraq into a workable free market, democratic society.

The purpose of this article is to provide the reader with a look at what educated local Iraqis think about their current situation, and provide additional information on the overall situation in Iraq. Because the situation nationwide is difficult to monitor, there may be information presented here which is slightly outdated. However, it is important to try to put into perspective, to the extent that we can, the comments made by the local Iraqis.

Electricity

Electricity is only available for one to four hours a day in Baghdad. The usual day for Baghdad is one hour of electricity in the morning and another hour in the evening. There are many reasons for the problems with the electrical grid. One of the biggest problems is the insurgency. Increased security provided by the Coalition Forces, the Iraqi Security Forces and the Sons of Iraq (SOI) have helped cut down on damage to infrastructure, but there is still a great deal of damage done to the electrical grid by insurgent attacks.

Another problem is the drought. Hydroelectric power is currently producing only half of the energy Iraq needs on a daily basis. Demand has increased as well, which is causing problems for the infrastructure. During Saddam's reign, citizens did not have access to things such as new televisions. The Coalition lifted restrictions on such imports, and these new pleasure items demand electricity.



Another cause of electrical interruptions can be attributed to "jerry-rigged" lines from the transformers directly to the residents. Local residents have been known to turn on all of their appliances at once and cause an overload to the system.

The lack of consistent electricity has led to the creation of numerous small electric grids. Some of the grids are private and some are funded by the neighborhood or city governments. These small grids have been providing only nine hours of electricity during the day and about four to five hours at night.

During the Saddam regime, there were active switches in the national power grid. These switches could

all be turned off and power would be concentrated into Baghdad. This is no longer done. Today, electricity is more evenly distributed and more stable.

Water

Water is very scarce due to the drought within the region. Within the city of Baghdad, running water is only available a few hours each day. The water pressure is very low and is often not safe to drink resulting in the spread of water-borne illness, such as cholera. According to the BBC, "In late 2007, the World Health Organization confirmed that cholera had infected over 7,000 Iraqis."

It is common practice in Iraq to boil water before usage in five gallon steam distillation units. The water supply in many areas is now at pre-conflict levels. According to the White House, "there is a plan to add 450 million liters of capacity to Baghdad's system."

Fuel

Iraq is considered to have the second largest oil reserve in the world. According to the CIA World Factbook, "Oil production has traditionally provided about 95% of foreign exchange earnings." The Government of Iraq is currently receiving billions of dollars in oil revenues.

Fuel stations are normally open from 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., and typically drivers experience long lines at the stations. The price for a liter of gas is around 450 Iraqi

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Businessmen's View

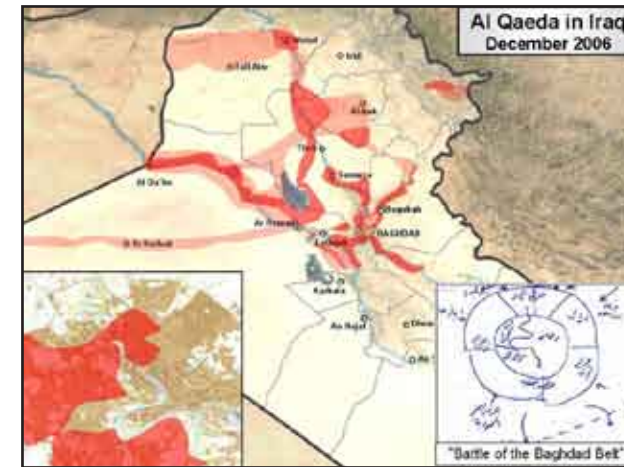
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Dinar or \$1.52 per gallon. Black market fuel is widely available and, although it is slightly more expensive, it is very popular due to the amount of time it saves the customer. As with the increased demand for electricity due to more consumer options, the ability of the average Iraqi to buy a car for daily use has increased in the post-Saddam era and this has created a greater demand for fuel.

Demand for propane has increased as well. Propane is primarily used in cooking and is a necessity in the numerous households and restaurants. Prices have fluctuated between 3,000 and 8,000 Iraqi Dinar (\$2.53-\$6.75) per a 20 pound cylinder. Recently, consumers have been experiencing a shortage of propane. Iraqis have been known to trade their fuel credits for propane. Additionally, kerosene, which is used by Iraqis to heat their homes during the winter months, is stockpiled throughout the year and stored in oil drums. Iraqis pay around 500 Dinars per liter (\$1.69 per gallon), which is about three times the normal market value.

These shortages in electricity, water and fuel make life more difficult for local businesses and consumers. Unfortunately, however, such circumstances are commonplace in the developing world. This is a supply and demand problem that should

correct itself as more retailers populate the field and bring down the price through added supply. In Iraq, such normal circumstances have been challenged to date by the in-



This slide shows the areas where Al-Qaeda was active in December 2006; the lighter areas are transit routes.

surgency, although the insurgency has clearly been beaten back and continues to be degraded by CF/ISF operations.



This slide shows the same areas as the first slide one year later. Al-Qaeda in Iraq has been significantly reduced. Their base for recruitment and their ability to conduct operations have been decreasing due to successful operations by the Coalition along with their Iraqi allies.

Government

A major topic of the discussion at the U.S. Embassy hosted forum was the upcoming election process.

The elections for the Iraqi Government will be held within the next few months. According to the Iraqi businessmen, current polling statistics indicate that only 1.5 million Iraqis care enough to vote. They believe that the current incumbents will be voted in again. However, even if new people were voted into office, most Iraqis believe that the same problems will continue to exist. The Iraqi businessmen believe that the next elections will not be fair and democratic.

Many of the people in Iraq are illiterate and have to look at religious symbols on the ballot to determine for whom

to vote. Future elections, they said, need to have independent observers providing over watch of the election process. If independent and non-partial observers are not used during the next election in Iraq, a fair election may not be possible.

Iraqis also believe that the government and the country may split into three regions: the north ruled by the Kurds, the west ruled by the Sunni, and the south ruled by the Shia. This idea has been floated by some "experts" who do not believe that the ethnic make-up of Iraq lends itself to the establishment of a stable democracy.

Although splitting Iraq into a confederation of three states is not currently on the table, there is considerable debate in the Council of Representatives over how to

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Businessmen's View

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govern the Kirkuk area. Kirkuk is an oil rich area of Iraq. If Kirkuk is included in the north and governed by the Kurds it may cause civil war, they stated. If the Kurdistan areas of representation do not include Kirkuk most Iraqis will be happy, as they fear Kurdish interests will siphon off revenues from oil from the rest of the nation

Lastly, the local Iraqis expressed concern over the amount of influence that Iran seems to have at the moment in the long term development of Iraq. The current government of Iraq is very fragile and does not need any interference from regional powers, they stated. Once established the democratic government of Iraq will flourish, they said.

Security

Although security was not discussed in great detail by the local Iraqis, the situation in Iraq cannot be understood without discussing the security situation. As mentioned earlier, the ability for free market economies to operate at their optimal level requires unimpeded access for consumers to goods and services. The Coalition and ISF have been working with Iraqis to improve security throughout the country. The ISF, which includes the Iraqi Army, the Iraqi Police, and the National Police, is being recruited, trained and equipped throughout Iraq. The United States has helped Iraq achieve security

through self-reliance. According to the National Strategy for Victory in Iraq, "The U.S. will help train and equip the Iraqi Security Force, so they can combat terrorists, assist in developing Iraq's security ministry, increase the Iraqi government's capability to protect key economic infrastructure and improve Iraq's government intelligence capabilities." The Coalition, armed with information gained from Iraqi in-

role. The offensive operations in Basra were considered to be a huge success by the Iraqi Government.

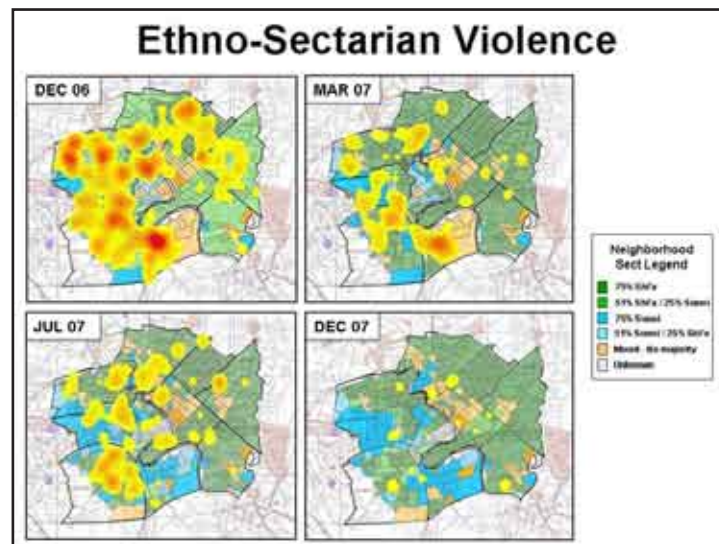
Coalition Forces have been working hard to disarm the insurgency by seeking out and destroying the enemy's weapons caches throughout Iraq. With the help of local citizens, thousands of weapons and explosives have been eliminated, denying the enemy of the arms needed to sustain offensive operations against the Coalition.

The most lethal insurgent group in Iraq has been Al-Qaeda in Iraq. Elements within the Coalition and the Iraqi Security forces, to include the Sons of Iraq, have effectively gone after Al-Qaeda, and destroyed their ability to freely move throughout the country to conduct their signature attacks. Al-Qaeda in Iraq targeted the sites and symbols of reconstruction and stabi-

lization successes to diminish the credibility of the Government of Iraq thereby diminishing the GOI's ability to lead.

Lt. Gen. Raymond Odierno gave a graphic picture of what success in Iraq looks like in a Pentagon briefing last spring. See images labeled Al-Qaeda in Iraq December 2006 and Al-Qaeda in Iraq December 2007 (from www.powerlineblog.com). The first slide (page 5) shows the areas where Al-Qaeda was active in December 2006; the lighter areas are transit routes. The second slide (page 5) shows these areas one year

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This slide depicts a 90% decline in ethno-sectarian violence in Baghdad between January 2007 and December 2007.

formants, is conducting massive operations throughout the country rooting out Al-Qaeda in Iraq and extremist militias.

In addition, the Sons of Iraq was created to allow local Iraqi communities to contribute directly toward their own security. The Sons of Iraq are volunteers who are manning checkpoints and conducting patrols within their neighborhoods.

The National Police proved to be very effective in offensive operations in Basra earlier this year. They worked alongside the Iraqi Army to drive out militants from an area where the ISF had played a limited

Security Directorate thanks those who kept is safe

by JASG-C Security Section Chiefs

Security Director

The Security Directorate is a diverse and dynamic organization. While each section has a standalone mission, all are interconnected and rely upon each other to make the Security Directorate successful. Bottom line, it all comes down to people. I have been blessed with the opportunity to work with many talented individuals. Without your efforts, a strong desire to excel, and ultimate professionalism this would have been a very difficult mobilization. The hero's are many. However, I'll never forget the individual efforts of Spc. Jeff Gray, Airman Delrow Wilson, and Spc. Johnie Bennett. Unsung heroes who think they simply did their job, but in reality, were role models for all of us.

To the leadership of the Security Directorate, job well done! As we get ready to close another chapter of Thunderbird history, always remember, the mission is never finished until the last Soldier gets home. Stay focused, execute a good battle handoff to the 50th IBCT, and ensure all Soldiers get home safe.

Lt. Col. Michael R. Kinnison, USA, Security Director

Deputy Security Director

The office of the Security Director is one of the more high profile and diverse offices in the JASG-C. Quite often the office must be prepared to work either a badging issue or work a suspected bomb threat. Many times the badging issue can cause more damage than the bomb.

Sgt. Amanda McKinzie has been instrumental in working issues for the Security Director's office. She has spent countless hours ensuring that badge applications and exceptions to policy are completed in a timely manner.

Kudos also need to go out to all of the other sections within the directorate, the JDOC, Security Integration, Anti-Terrorism/Force Protection, Badging, Electronic Warfare, Adjudication, Tier II LNO and the Plans Cell. Without each of these dedicated sections the Office of the Security Director could not have succeeded. We also must thank the other directorates for their support during our mobilization. There are also outside agencies that deserve thanks, the Badging Assistance Unit, CJ3 Force Protection, the MNF-I Commander's Office, and the list goes on and on. For this a hearty thanks must be issued to all.

Although the time in the International Zone is coming to a close, it will never be forgotten. A mark in history has been set by the Thunderbird and the men and women of the Security Directorate are a part of that history. May God's speed go with each and every one of you and may you be protected in future endeavors.

Maj. James P. Gill, USA, Deputy Security Director

Security Operations Sergeant Major

Like many of the Soldiers in the 45 IBCT, I came into this mission not knowing or having served with any of my fellow warriors. Over the

last few months, serving shoulder to shoulder with them, I have come to know each and every Soldier in the JASG-C Security Directorate professionally and personally.

No section within the Directorate stands out more than another as everyone has fought a good fight, stayed the course and accomplished everything asked of them, and more. Many of those we work around believe the symbol of our Brigade, "the Thunderbird" stands for "part time Soldiers." I am thoroughly convinced this is false and believe it stands for so much more.

Each and every person in the Security Directorate brought with them a secondary skill set and problem solving experience which has complimented the mission and made the JASG-C stand out among all other units in the International Zone. I will return to home station following this mission, knowing that thanks to those I have served with, I come away being a better Soldier, a stronger leader and a proud member of the 45th Infantry Brigade Combat Team.

Sgt. Maj. David K. Seals, USA, Operations Sergeant Major

Badging Office

The IZ Badging Office appears at first glance to be a very busy and chaotic place. My team takes a very complicated system of processes and breaks it down into a relatively simple set of tasks. They all work very hard to ensure that applicants make their way through the system with as few stoppages

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Security Directorate

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as possible. Each of my personnel has a different perspective and they have each contributed significantly in their own way.

Staff Sgt. Kenneth Chesbrough has been invaluable in maintaining and updating our overburdened database and NIPR network. His hard work and persistence, as well as his patience with my never-ending list of requirements, have made the application tracking process much more effective and efficient. He also did an incredible job when he took on the additional task of NCOIC while Staff Sgt. Mark Auld was on leave.

Staff Sgt. Axel Sanchez has taken charge of the waiting room which is the top of the funnel of applicants entering the biometric processing area. His leadership and attitude have made the overall process much better for everyone.

Staff Sgt. Auld has garnered many compliments due to his friendly customer service attitude. He keeps things running smoothly no matter what else is going on.

Petty Officer 2nd Class Craig Hill was a welcome addition to our team. He was a hard worker, with a great attitude and fit in well with all of us "land lubbers".

The Adjudication Cell has been a great help in validating security screenings for badge applicants and identifying applicants who were considered a security risk. This helped us to prevent access to coalition installations by persons who might want to derail the progress that the coalition and the Government of Iraq have made in the last five years. I would also

like to thank all of the sponsors who have worked with us these last few months, making our jobs more enjoyable. There are many who we will probably stay in touch with as we redeploy.

Finally, I would like to thank Joe and Maryam, our interpreters. They have done an excellent job for us and will probably be immigrating to the U.S. in the very near future.

Maj. Jimmy J. Thomas, USA, OIC IZ Badging Office

Adjudication

The Adjudication Cell has been small in number but has screened thousands of IZ Badge applicants during this tour. Adjudicators have placed the security of the IZ as the paramount consideration in determining the appropriate level of access for applicants. This significant daily task was accomplished by great efforts of Adjudication cell members, and others in the JASG.

First, I would like to recognize our primary Adjudication NCO for the tour, Spc. Travis Becktol, who has been rock steady in his daily duties, always increasing his knowledge and situational awareness, and doing his utmost to determine an accurate picture of applicants. Spc. Becktol has routinely gone the extra mile to enhance IZ security through Adjudication.

Our Assistant Adjudicator, Spc. Trisha Haynes, has maintained her excellent Adjudication skills since our tour began, and has always pitched in to assist during the more intensive periods of badge applications. She has also been instrumental in our teamwork with the JASG-C S2 Section. Later in the tour, our cell received some greatly needed

assistance from Spc. Daniel Garrison, who was able to rapidly learn core Adjudication skills to add to our capacity and to fill-in primary duties during SPC Becktol's R&R pass.

Maj. Jimmy Thomas, OIC of the IZ Badge Office, has also contributed to our mission accomplishment with his significant support to our many and frequent requests for background information on applicants, sponsors, and organizations.

Overall, the Adjudication Cell has accomplished a goal of increasing the security of the IZ while providing access to those qualified and deserving.

Maj. Gilbert R. Shaw, USA, Adjudication Officer

Security Integration

The Security Integration Office is a small office with a wide variety of missions. Our job is to solve the security crisis de jour as well as to make sure that armed contractors and armed civilians do not possess illegal weapons or pose a threat to our tenants.

Additionally, we have operational control over a large portion of the Baghdad Embassy Security Force (the Amigos). We are responsible for CP 17, CP 1A, CP 2A, CP3, Al Rasheed, LZ Washington, PX Parking Lot, Adnon Palace, FOB Blackhawk, FOB Freedom, FOB Union III, and FOB Union I.

Sgt. William West has been proactive in making sure that all of the VIP events at Blackhawk and Al Rasheed have gone off safely while maintaining a low security profile. In addition to these duties he supervised the inspection and repairs to

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Security Directorate

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the 14 July Bridge in support of the Warzilla Generator moves. Sgt. West has also served as an immediate interface for Iraqi officials to include the security heads for the Counsel of Representatives, the Eviction Force Command, the General Manager of the Al Rasheed, the Deputy Secretary General for the Counsel of Ministers, as well as other Iraqi officials. Each day has been a unique challenge. Sgt. West has been the primary point of contact for our interpreter Mike. Mike grew up in the 215 apartments and has been a valuable source of information, both tactical and cultural. Mike has applied to immigrate to Oklahoma.

Staff Sgt. Nathaniel Rogers has had the unenviable task of being the policy enforcer for Armed Contractors and Civilians. JASG-C has a mandate that precedes all other mandates in theater to oversee the conduct of Armed Contractors in the IZ.

Staff Sgt. Rogers has been aggressive in enforcing the MNF-I Commander and Brig. Gen. Myles Deering's orders regarding unauthorized weapons in the IZ. His dedication to his duties led to the seizure of nearly 100 illegal weapons to include rocket launchers and grenades.

Additionally, Staff Sgt. Rogers served as the subject matter expert for access to FOB Blackhawk. FOB Blackhawk access and mayor duties belong to JASG-C even though the majority of tenants are MNSTC-I. FOB Blackhawk has also been the location for strategic engagement dinners and lunches

by Gen. David Petraeus, Ambassador Ryan Crocker, as well as other VIPs.

This assignment has been challenging for the members of the SIO. In every organization, someone has to hold the line and tell those that would bypass security no. Sgt. West and Staff Sgt. Rogers have held that line with aplomb.

Maj. Douglas W. Merritt, USA, Security Integration Officer

Joint Defense Operations Center (JDOC)

I would like to extend a "Job Well Done" to the members of the Joint Defense Operations Center. No section in the Joint Area Support Group has worked longer and harder to ensure the safety and security of the International Zone. Throughout the deployment your efforts provided command and control to contingencies affecting the International Zone during a time that saw the most intense attacks in the five year history of Operation Iraqi Freedom. You were instrumental in the operational success enjoyed by the Joint Area Support Group.

From our Battle Captains, Capt. Shane Riley and Capt. Juan Gonzales who immediately sought to improve the efficiency of the JDOC, to the "Ironmen" Sgt. 1st Class Robert Hall, Sgt. 1st Class Michael Treanor, and Staff Sgt. Richard Taylor who could always be counted on to deliver, day or night, to our newest Thunderbirds joining us in Iraq; Sgt. Jordan Anderson, Spc. Matthew Hertzler, Spc. Thomas Nicholls and Airman 1st Class Matthew Trieweiler; and our civilian counterparts who are indispensable; Rex, Jose, and Tim.

Finally Spc. Stefan Stevenot whose kept us laughing.

I wish the best to each of you in your future endeavors, it is my please to have served you.

Maj. Charles F. Booze, III, USA, Chief of Operations

Anti-Terrorism/Force Protection

In the time we've been here the Antiterrorism Section has completed well over 100 AT projects, laying thousands of tons of concrete and miles of fencing. All these efforts were directed at keeping you safe from the effects of those trying to compromise our mission. The cornerstone of this effort was Sgt. 1st Class James Barnett. Without him, your time in the IZ would have been a lot more dangerous.

I would also like to thank the RSO for their cooperation in our efforts and DPW for the amount of work accomplished. It's been great working with the 45th, now go home.

Maj. James S. Tucker, USAF, AT/FP Officer in Charge

Electronic Warfare

The EWO section, possibly the smallest section of the Security Directorate, nonetheless has a vital function. Our work keeps our Servicemembers and Department of State personnel protected in this hostile environment. Numerous hours were spent with various organizations providing systems upgrades and pre-mission checks. Often in the heat of a motor-pool metal building or blacktop parking lot. Spc. Johnnie Bennett has been there providing this service and

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BURP thanks their team for hard work, success

by Base and Urban Planning section

At the end of a tour everyone enjoys reflecting back over just how far we've come, the myriad of accomplishments we've completed, challenges we've overcome, and thanking the people that have helped complete the race. Time is short and there is so much that could be said for all the successes we have had over the past year so I'll just skip to the many thank you's that are due.

Cmdr. Scott Langley, we greatly appreciate your professionalism...and of course all the IT tips you've passed on throughout the year and we appreciate you for being such a good sport on your birthday!

Lt. Col. Louis Gibson, we are very sorry that

you did not have the opportunity to "blow something up". We appreciate your hard work and leadership in working to improve life in the IZ.

Staff Sgt. Stephen Roberts, thank you for your constant watch over the office and our vehicles, for watching after all the administrative requirements and keeping a check on our medical well-being, especially everyone's mental well-being back during the IDF attacks. How 'bout those deployment babies?

Maj. Kris Evans, we have liked your style...let's cut the crap and

get it done....for throwing the BS flag and taking on some very controversial taskings for difficult people. You took a lot of dirty nasty jobs and got 'em done.

Maj. Elaine Donnelly, our number cruncher. Did you ever think you would know so much about computers? Special thanks for your magnifying glass to read all the fine

you's". You are the primary continuity for the BURP, tap that well of installations knowledge and show the 50th and all those OPTs what you've got. Best wishes.

Master Sgt. John Clifton, thank you for making sure our NCOs were well-cared for and for all the bazillion site surveys and visio drawings we put you through.

To our three interpreters: Areej, thank you for your bubbly, happy personality; Ahmed, congrats on the new baby; Farat not sure if your baby will be here by the time this is published or not, but congratulations on joining the ranks of fatherhood and developing your legacy a day at a time. And to all of you, thank you



print that no one really wanted us to read. Best wishes to you as you stay and provide continuity for the 50th.

Capt. Terry Hale, thank you for educating us on the environmental management and keeping us all from going to jail. You certainly are the environmental expert for the IZ. We got a little tired of those boys from MNC-I and MNF-I trying to steal you away and constantly asking you for all that advice.

Capt. Wesley Glisson, thanks for taking care of a lot of the "hey

all for sharing your culture with us. Many blessings to you and your families.

Lt. Col. Warren Griffis, thank you for the many lunches you bought and for keeping it light.

And finally, a big thank you to Capt. Tom Karnowski for your inspiring rhetoric, colorful brand of leadership, and for investing in us. We appreciate the confidence and trust that you have displayed as we worked through the array of tasks that we faced. You have been a great coach and mentor.

Department of Public Safety made IZ safer for all

by Sgt. Jeff Mackey, JASG-C Department of Public Work

The Department of Public Safety (DPS), a recent addition to the Installations Directorate, has undergone significant changes since its inception. Under the direction of U.S. Navy Capt. Thomas Karnowski, the DPS is responsible for ensuring that the International Zone Iraqi Fire Department (IZ-IFD) has everything it needs to function as an autonomous unit. This task carries great weight because the protection and safety of the Iraqi people and their property falls under the purview of the IZ-IFD with regard to fire, motor vehicle accidents and EOD.

This task would not be possible without the generous donation of time an effort on the part of Maj. Jimmy Thomas and his department. Without the assistance of the Badging Office much of the work performed by the DPS would not have been accomplished. The badging of the IZ-IFD Firefighters

provided the momentum needed for them to become operational. It is also important to mention the indefatigable Sgt. Maj. Michael Scott, who worked with the Security Directorate to facilitate the movement of the IZ-IFD within the International Zone.

Interagency teamwork made it possible for the Iraqi Civil Defense to attend meetings at the International Fire Service Accreditation Congress in Oklahoma. JASG-C personnel and Lee Calkins (Department of State), in conjunction with Eldonna Creager from Oklahoma State University, orchestrated the visit. The trip would not have been possible without the support of Col. Van Kinchen, 2nd Lt. Seth Urbanski, and the Soldiers of the Rear Detachment who worked tirelessly to make sure that the delegation was able to make all meetings on their agenda.

The DPS pulled together the

disparate agencies, both military and civilian, to facilitate medical transition within the International Zone. With the establishment of Medical Services Transition Team, DPS laid the ground work for the movement of the Combat Support Hospital (CSH), reserved space and assisted in developing plans for clinics to fill the void left behind when the CSH moves to Victory Base Complex and the subsequent turn-over of the Palace.

Lastly, the DPS co-chaired the development of both International Zone and FOB MASCAL Plans. In concert with many organizations, the DPS outlined, developed and established an interagency plan to address the issues of a mass casualty event in an ever changing environment.

Not bad for 3 medics who have no experience as fire fighters or travel agents.

Some final thoughts from the Real Property section

Capt. Roy Banes, Staff Sgt. Brian Enright and Sgt. Leigh Airey, make up the Real Property Team which is the Century 21 Realty for the International Zone.

It is the responsibility of the real property to manage all property under the Coalition Provisional Authority (CPA) that has been identified by Letters of Authority (LOA). This property is to be used by units and organizations supporting the U.S. Mission – Iraq in the International Zone. Real property monitors usage and insures that it

is in accordance with established standards, policies, and Department of Defense regulations as well as validating needs for organizations to occupy the properties.

Banes assigns and supervises the work of the Real Property Team, making sure that the documentation is correct and Temporary Property Use License (TPUL) is up to date. He also makes regular visits to the properties and monitors their usage in accordance with regulations.

Airey assists in the TPUL issuance and documentation; she also

works close with the Environmental Officer in Charge to make sure that all environmental issues are addressed for continued use and/or closure.

Enright works with the ArcGis, Geographical Information System, to assist in documentation and property use tracking. ArcGIS enables Staff Sgt. Enright to track and plot all current and previous LOA's/TPUL's in the IZ.

The Real Property Team is ready and willing to help with any of your IZ property needs.

DPW staff shares favorite experiences of time in JASG-C

by DPW Staff

The following are comments by the members of the Department of Public Works on their time here in Iraq and the work they have done.

Maj. Eric Tuck,

One of my focal projects was the renovation of two villas which will serve as consulates forming the centerpiece of a diplomatic zone near the new embassy complex along with the understanding the need to keep Iraqi citizens working is an important part of DPW's secondary mission. What a difference.

Another rewarding project was spearheading the efforts of a local national contractor, several Soldiers in DPW, and KBR to preserve the International Zone's potable water supply by directly supervising the repair of the Tigris pump station repair and installation of a raw water

pipeline.

Capt. Josh Lawson,

The most memorable moments from my deployment include the times that we visited the family and children that live in the International Zone and brought donated supplies, clothes, shoes and toys to them.

I also enjoyed working with many of the Iraqi local national contractors, completing projects that improved life for many people within the IZ and working in a joint environment that not only included our sister services but also other agencies and governments.

Spc. Brad Johnson,

The highlights of my tour has been the friends I have made through the numerous contractors that I worked with over the last nine months.

Chief Warrant Officer 2 Doug Izer,

The best part of my tour was working with Iraqi DPW Engineer Furat Mumin whose dedication to rebuilding the IZ infrastructure is crucial in assisting DPW accomplishing its mission.

Sgt. James Ellison,

I think that the positive interaction between the JASG-C and the local Iraqis has moved us another step toward winning this war. I don't think we need to worry about what we have accomplished during our time here but rather what we didn't do.

Spc. Terrace Rose,

My favorite thing about this deployment was going to DPW PT every Thursday.

Businessmen's View

Continued from page 6

later. Al-Qaeda in Iraq has been significantly reduced. Their base for recruitment and their ability to conduct operations are decreasing due to successful operations by the Coalition along with their Iraqi allies.

This success can be attributed to the surge of 30,000 U.S. troops mainly deployed throughout Baghdad neighborhoods. The surge made Coalition Forces more visible and accessible to local nationals, alleviating the fear of informing on insurgents. This surge of U.S. combat forces, coupled with the Sons of Iraq movement and the Sadrist cease-

fire, have been widely attributed in the media as being responsible for the turnaround in the security situation. Not only did attacks against CF/ISF decline, but ethno-sectarian violence decreased significantly as well. The ethnic violence was initiated by Al-Qaeda (Sunni) bombing the Sammara Mosque Dome (Shia). The third slide (page 6) depicts a 90% decline in ethno-sectarian violence in Baghdad between January 2007 and December 2007.

Conclusion

There are many hurdles that need to be negotiated before the rebuilding of Iraq can be seen as a full success. Given that the Iraqi people have elected a Council of

Representatives for the first time, have stood up a young and capable Army and police apparatus in only five years, and continue to improve their economy through everyday entrepreneurial efforts, it certainly seems as though a stable and thriving democracy is not out of reach in the coming years.

This progress must be maintained, and nefarious foreign influences kept at bay, if the remaining pieces of the puzzle are to be put in place. All signs point toward a more secure country, which in turn will allow economic activity to increase, which will someday, Inshallah (God willing), be the overriding cause of political tranquility.

Support Operations made life easier for JASG-C members

by Spc. Shea Weise, JASG-C Support Operations Directorate

How would life go on in the International Zone without the Joint Area Support Group-Central's (JASG-C) Support Operations Directorate? Everyday Chief of Mission and Multi-National Force-Iraq (MNF-I) personnel flood the offices of Support Operations with questions and concerns about everything the Support Operations or "SPO" has to offer. The SPO provides coordination and oversight to contractor operations in the areas of billeting, dining facilities, vehicle management, fuel, property accountability, laundry, Director of Information Management (DOIM) requests and air transportation. In addition, we also have Mayoral responsibility at four FOBs to include Union I, Union III, FOB Freedom, and FOB Blackhawk.

Since the men and women of the SPO set boots on the ground back in February, many accomplishments have been made and many successful projects have been completed around the FOB's. For example, the DOIM has completed over 3,000 work order requests and replaced 99% that was owned by KBR (Kellogg Brown & Root) with new computers and monitors owned by the U.S. government.

Billeting has made a huge contribution to our mission by providing and maintaining both temporarily and permanently housing for 38,500 Chief of Mission and MNF-I personnel since last February. Not to mention the 4,200 personnel they housed at the FOB's. The Billeting section also provided health and welfare inspections 3 to 6 times per

week to help ensure their tenants were meeting the safety and cleanliness standards.

Everyday our dining facility (DFAC) Contracting Officer Technical Representatives (COTR's) make sure our Servicemembers charged with head count are at their stations for all four meals throughout the day and that they get regular breaks.

The COTRs also conduct monthly inspections of the DFACs under Task Order 151 and they also perform spot checks as needed to ensure we have a clean and healthy environment to eat at every day.

When you need a vehicle at the last minute the SPO section can help with that too. Our transportation section increased the temporary fleet from zero Non-Tactical Vehicles (NTV's) to 20 NTV's. It has made life good for customers when they need a loaner vehicle or for when we get unexpected visitors that come through the International Zone.

Transportation also simplified a contract with International Zone Services which was more complex than necessary making it easier for units operating within the International Zone to complete their missions in a safe and timely manner.

A small section within the SPO Directorate that most Servicemembers don't know about is the Field Ordering and Property Book Officers. They have successfully tracked and accounted for purchase requests and contracts for goods and service that total \$32,644,335. They perform as a COTR for a \$280,000,000 gov-

ernment contract.

As far as FOB's, the FOB Blackhawk mayoral cell successfully renovated a mortar damaged building into a state of the art staggered stadium floored movie theatre that features leather couches for 50 Servicemembers with surround-sound and carpeted sound proof walls. The Blackhawk mayoral cell also renovated the Gym and made more space available for exercise equipment.

The mayoral cell at Union I maintained and managed contracts and property valued at more than \$6 million. Union I also has the only training facility for Triple Canopy's explosive dog team security services division and the mayoral cell also established a new Morale, Welfare, and Recreation (MWR) area.

These are just a few of the many accomplishments made by the JASG-C SPO during our deployment. The SPO has met and exceeded the 116th visions of the JASG-C and now we are ready for the 50th to take the reins and continue what we have started.

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

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The JASG-C Command Directorate served many functions

by Lt. Col. Louis Wilham, JASG-C Office of Command Directorate

Where has the time gone? I wish I could say I am sorry our time in Iraq is coming to an end, but that would be a lie, so let me just say, "Wow! The time has flown by." As the Torch Party OIC, I will get to depart a little earlier than most of you, but don't worry I'll be waiting for you with open arms at lovely Camp McGregor.

Once we redeploy and return to our individual versions of normalcy, there will be many things about Baghdad that I will not miss. Such as: the inability to get cold, or even cool, water out of a tap; brushing my teeth with bottled water; Maj. Andy Ballenger's daily weather forecast - "the high will be 117 degrees for the next five days;" being awakened at 2:00 a.m. by the C-RAM; hard fried yolks; and t-walls.

That being said, there is one thing I will most certainly miss - working with the people of this organization on a daily basis. For those of you returning with the Oklahoma Army National Guard, I look forward to working with you again, and for those of you departing to other organizations or remaining here, I wish you well wherever you may go.

I would specifically like to take this opportunity to thank the hard working folks of the Command Directorate, and just highlight a few of

their accomplishments during our tenure here.

Our Human Resources Management Office, directed by Capt. Carrie Remer not only did an outstanding job in ensuring you all received your awards, decorations, evaluations and mail in a timely manner, but they also managed to process over 7,200 Real-Time Automated Personnel Identification System (RAPIDS) transactions with 100% accuracy. Of these transactions,



over 5,000 were Common Access Cards (CAC), for an average of about 640 per month. Her team also processed over 500 recommendations for awards and badges, and handled over \$20,000 in official mail, much of it for Gen. David Petraeus.

Col. Kyle Goerke and the Command Judge Advocate's staff of Capt. Joel Kintsel, Staff Sgt. Douglas Collins, and Sgt. Muriel Irwin remained busy throughout the deployment. They provided a full complement of legal services to the

JASG-C, as well as numerous other U.S. Government and contract personnel. They reviewed over \$725 million in contracts, conducted over 1,000 legal consultations, issued over 450 Powers of Attorney, performed over 450 notarizations, and consulted on numerous wills and claims.

The JASG-C Chaplain's office has been busy as well. Col. Jack Byas and Lt. Col. Redmond Raux provide religious support in the form of numerous weekly protestant church services and daily celebration of Catholic mass. Their jobs do not end there, as they and their two chaplain's assistants, Sgt. Travis Haddock and Petty Officer 1st Class Monica Williams ensure that all faith groups represented in the International

Zone receive the pastoral care that they require. The spiritual care and guidance provided by this team has been a true blessing.

In May, Lt. Col. Cary Bryant took over the reins as our Comptroller from the lovable Lt. Col. "Shad" Defenbach, and his section has not missed a beat. The U.S. Air Force sent Maj. Bill Martin to round-out our very professional crew of 2nd Lt. Lavonda Cathey and Staff Sgt. Vaughn Wilcox. This section has had their hands in executing over

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JASG-C HRM staff proves to be second to none

by Capt. Carrie Remer, JASG-C Office of Human Resource Management

I am so proud of the job that the Human Resource Management (HRM) team has done during this mobilization. Not only have they been fully dedicated to the mission since our arrival in Baghdad, Iraq on February 2, 2008, but I could not have asked for a better team during our trying times at Camp McGregor, N.M., during our mobilization training. During those trying times - day in and day out - they worked 12-14 hour days in order to complete their mandatory mobilization training and then complete numerous command and control personnel issues into the late hours of the night. Those are three months of our lives that we will never be forgotten.

During our stay in the International Zone, customer service has been first and foremost in their daily routine while working in the U.S. Embassy. They have done an outstanding job and should be proud of their accomplishments!

I attribute the success of the HRM team to Master Sgt. Paul McElveen. He has served as the Non-commissioned Officer in Charge of the HRM office during the entire deployment. He knows how to build a team environment and has a genuine concern for all Soldiers, Airmen, Sailors



Photo provided by HRM
(Left to right) Tech. Sgt. Kecia King, Staff Sgt. Xuan Bohlman and Petty Officer 1st Class Kevin Rhodes pose for a photo at Al-Faw palace on Victory Base Compound.

and Marines. The Oklahoma Army National Guard is lucky to have Master Sgt. McElveen.

Sgt. 1st Class Mike Powell was reassigned from the Installations Directorate to the S-1 section before we departed Camp McGregor. Thank God for small miracles. He has picked up the slack whenever and wherever he was needed which is indicative of any good NCO. Sgt. 1st Class Powell is well respected



Photo provided by HRM
Members of the HRM pose for a final photo with Staff Sgt. Keith Lucas (back row center) before he returned to the U.S. last June.

by all.

Staff Sgt. Cheryl Williamson is always there to help anyone in need. She was our "go to" NCO on Red Cross messages during our time at McGregor and she always went the extra mile to ensure our Soldiers were notified immediately. Staff Sgt. Williamson has been a big part of our HRM team and we are all glad she made it through the hell at McGregor.

Everyone knows Staff Sgt. Xuan Bohlman. She's always there when you need a good laugh. She has worked diligently on our awards here in theater and has processed over 500 Joint and Army awards and decorations. She is always happy to throw a birthday party, as we are all aware. And, Staff Sgt. Bohlman is a subject matter expert if your CHU burns down and you need to file a claim.

Although we have not worked long with Tech. Sgt. Kecia King, we have come to know what a remarkable person she is. She has a beautiful smile and disarming attitude, which is perfect for the mission we have here at the Embassy. She has impressed us with her great attitude and the excellent customer service she provides. Tech. Sgt. King has and will con-

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JASG-C hand-off

Continued from page 1

mean we didn't take risks. Starting on Easter and continuing for the next six weeks we were under constant bombardment from insurgent rocket attacks.

As one of our civilian counterparts said "It is like playing Russian roulette every night when I go back to my room." Unlike that civilian, the Soldiers of the 45th have been trained on the proper way to react to indirect fire. In a few incidents throughout the Embassy Compound, 45th Soldiers were responsible for caring for injured personnel and providing assistance to the IZ Police in the aftermath of rocket attacks. The residents of the U.S. Embassy could always count on Soldiers to remain calm and perform our duties to the best of our ability.

In addition to being good Soldiers we have learned to be good humani-

tarians. There are many families throughout the IZ in need of assistance. Various Servicemembers throughout the JASG-C have taken it upon themselves to care for local Iraqi families.

Brig. Gen. Myles Deering, commander of the JASG-C and the 45th said, "If you are not here to make a difference then you are wasting your time." This is certainly a statement his troops have not taken lightly. We have received countless care packages from home with school supplies, toys, clothes, food and personal hygiene items. We have relentlessly distributed these items to deserving families in the IZ.

Well, our time in the spotlight is nearly up. If not for the mission we were given in the IZ we would not have been able to be such influential players in world events. We have had the opportunity to meet important people such as Oklahoma Con-

gressman Tom Coburn; U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice; Vice President Dick Cheney; U.S. Senator, and presidential hopeful, Barak Obama and who could forget Angelina Jolie.

We have also been fortunate to have served in such an important place and time. We had the privilege to work in the same building with Gen. David Petraeus. We witnessed what may have been the last attempts of the insurgency to assert its influence over the developing Iraqi Government.

As we are leaving a new era for Iraq is beginning. The IZ will continue to consolidate and Iraq will continue to prosper and grow. The citizens of Iraq are just learning the hazards and benefits of having freedom. In the coming years as Iraq matures; we can look back and be proud the Soldiers from Oklahoma actually made a difference.

Security Directorate

Continued from page 9

expertise to the operators of our systems. His ability to relay highly technical concepts in layman's terms has re-enforced and re-energized the operators to conduct safe missions using these systems.

I would also like to raise to everyone's attention the work done by Spc. Jacob Smith, 1st Lt. Brent Weece, Staff Sgt. Jonathan Carter and Sgt. 1st Class John Hernandez. Through their diligent efforts we were successful in installing the best and newest protection system in our CG's PSD vehicle. This was a first ever in any theater of operations. This will lead the way

for installs of this vital equipment in other PSD Suburbans.

The Army is gearing up to assume this emerging area of warfare from the Navy. This would be a great opportunity to get in on the ground floor and it should provide upward mobility to climb the ranks.

Lt. Cmdr. Michael J. Brand, USN, Electronic Warfare Officer

Plans and Future Operations

The Plans and Future Operations section is responsible for preparing the mission plans of the IZ. The Plans section is critical for maintaining successful operations, readiness and coordination between the 3-29 FA and IZ Police.

Thanks to the 3-29 FA and IZ Police for your professional and positive attitudes and performing each missions with precision. Thanks to my finance Sergeant Major, Sgt. Maj. Jeff Hale, for your desire to think outside the box and transform yourself into a successful operations Sergeant Major. Without your help our success would not be possible.

And finally thanks to our leadership Lt. Col. Michael Thompson and Lt. Col. Michael Kinnison for supporting our ideas and providing valuable insight as needed throughout this deployment.

Maj. Matthew J. Harsha, USA, Plans Section OIC

Command Directorate

Continued from page 14

\$200 million dollars to help us accomplish our mission and to keep us living the lifestyle to which we've become accustomed. They also had the opportunity to let \$24 million in cash slip through their fingers (on purpose) when they closed out the Developmental Funds for Iraq (DFI) which were held here in the palace vault.

Of course, there are not enough thanks to go around for our very capable Public Affairs crew. Backed by Lt. Col. Rhonda McGuire's and Capt. Geoff Legler's broad profes-

sional public affairs experience, Sgt. Shawn Riley and Spc. Leslie Goble provided fresh insight as combination medics/photographers/videographers/writers/editors. They have supported countless events, taken thousands of photos and have ensured that your stories will be told far and wide and your fame shall never die. This team set a high standard that our successors will find hard to meet, even though they are bringing 50% more personnel.

Last, and pardon the cliché, but certainly not least, are all the other Soldiers who made up the Command Directorate. From our part-

time NCOIC Sgt. Maj. Jeff Hale, to our full-time "linchpin" Capt. Jeremy Bolyard, the Soldiers of the PSD, the commander and staff of the HHC, and everyone in the command group - the officers, noncommissioned officers and enlisted personnel who made up the Command Directorate all displayed great professionalism and flexibility when dealing with the myriad problems that were dropped on us in Room M-111.

Thanks for all your hard work. Stay focused and I will see you when you get off the plane at Biggs Army Airfield at Fort Bliss, Texas.

JASG-C HRM

Continued from page 15

tinue to go far in life and we wish her the best of luck in the future.

We didn't know much about Sgt. Jake Turner before the deployment but it didn't take long to get to know him. He is outgoing and a pleasure to be around. His infectious smile and good attitude will take him far. We are hoping Sgt. Turner will reenlist and join us in the Brigade, but if he doesn't he will be missed.

We were privileged to work with not only the Air Force but the Navy as well. Petty Officer 1st Class Kevin Rhodes joined our team in May and will carry on for us when we depart. He'll be the subject matter expert for the HRM office and he'll do a great job with the responsibility that will entail.

Whoever said a mechanic doesn't make a good Personnel NCO? Sgt.

Brandon Williamson is proof that one does. We have been impressed by his initiative and desire in running our RAPIDS machines and making CAC cards. He is a bright and meticulous NCO that can be



Photo by Capt. Geoff Legler, JASG Public Affairs
The HRM staff poses for their first group photo in the palace rotunda last March.

counted on to complete any task.

Spc. Shannon Boyd has been the saving grace for Senior Master Sgt. Larry Buchanan and the Postal Detachment that runs the U.S. Embassy Post Office. We have received numerous compliments from units

all over the IZ on Spc. Boyd's great attitude and first-rate performance in the Post Office. We are proud of our 11B.

Lastly, we would be remiss if we didn't recognize our Air Force Postal Detachment that ran the U.S. Embassy Post Office. Senior Master Sgt. Buchanan, Tech. Sgt. Engram, Staff Sgt. Booze, Airman 1st Class Alcedo and Senior Airman Miller performed in an outstanding manner during their four month tour. On a weekly basis, we received compliments by individuals from all over IZ on how quick and courteous our postal folks worked. Great job guys!

This has been a demanding and rewarding mobilization, and we will miss all the personal relationships we have built with so many people from all over the world. Farewell, until we meet again.



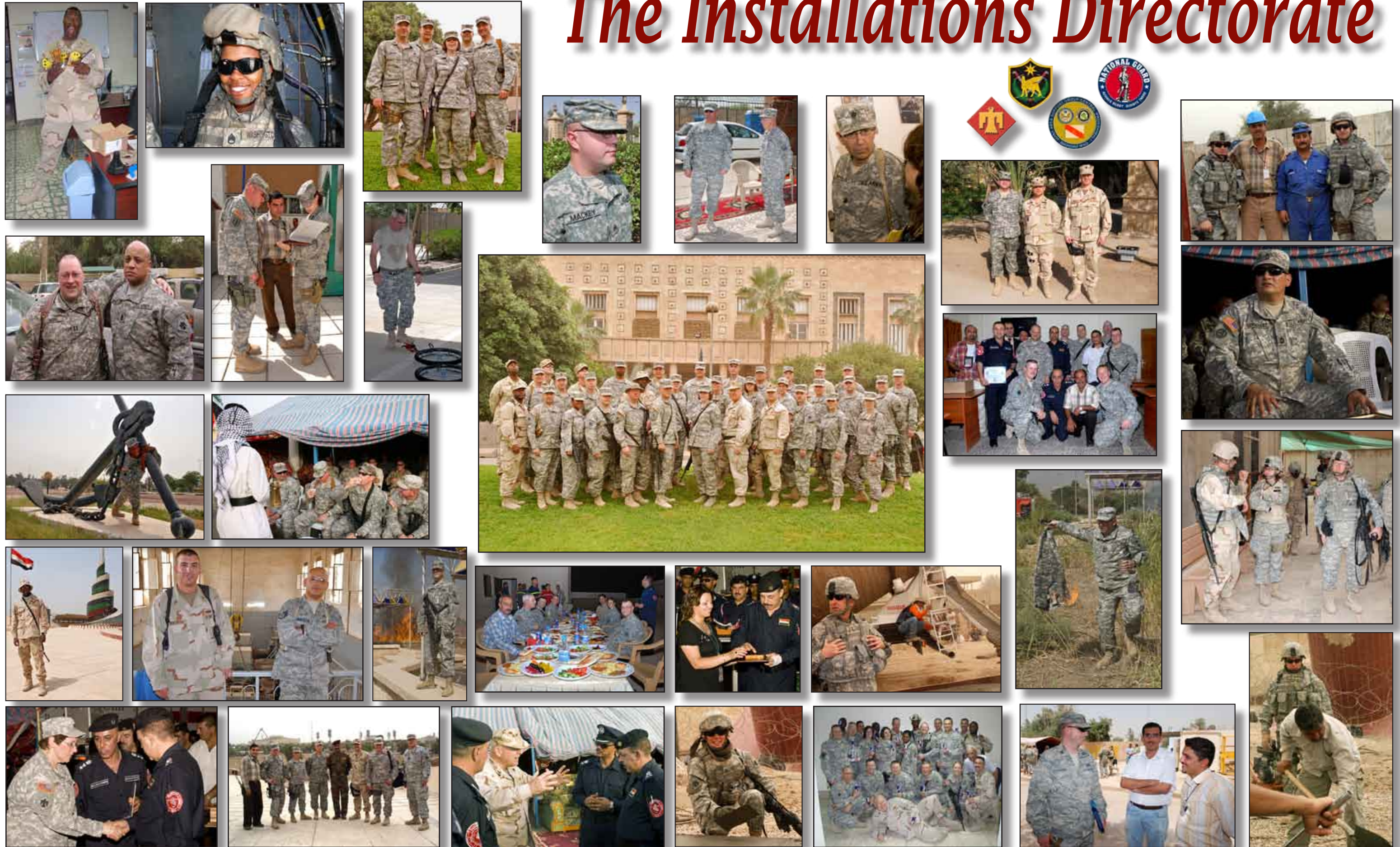
The Command Directorate



The Support Operations Directorate



The Installations Directorate





The Security Directorate



All photographs on this and the previous photo pages were shot by members of the Joint Area Support Group-Central and the JASG-C Office of Public Affairs.

JASG-C Birthdays September 15th to October 14th

Staff Sgt. Douglas Collins Command/JAG September 16th	Capt. Roy Banes Installations September 27th	Maj. Eric Tuck Installations October 5th
Staff Sgt. Christina Matlock Installations September 25th	Capt. Scott Glenn DOIM September 27th	Sgt. Shawn Riley Command/PAO October 12th
Spc. Stefan Stevenot Security September 26th	Capt. Joel Kintsel Command/JAG September 28th	Sgt. Robert Pineiro Security October 14th
	Master Sgt. Terrance Edwards Support October 2nd	



The 45th Infantry Brigade
Combat Team, Oklahoma
Army National Guard,
wishes our replacements from
the 50th Infantry Brigade Combat
Team, New Jersey Army National
Guard, the best of luck
during your time in
Baghdad, Iraq.

