



www.taskforcemountain.com

May 8, 2009

## IA commandos graduate in Southern Iraq



Photo by Spc. Rebekah Lampman

An Iraqi officer from the Commando Battalion, 10th Iraqi Army Division stands in front of his Soldiers during their graduation ceremony at Camp Dhi Qar May 2. The Soldiers trained for eight weeks with the U.S. and Romanian Special Forces.

SPC. REBEKAH LAMPMAN  
4TH BCT, 1ST CAV. DIV.



COB ADDER – After an intense eight weeks of training, 65 Iraqi Soldiers from the Commando Battalion, 10th

Iraqi Army Division marched across the Camp Dhi Qar parade field near the operating base here during their graduation ceremony May 2.

“Training’s been hard from the beginning,” said Maj. Gregory Stroud, Military Transition Team Chief for the

4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division. “But they worked just as hard and it definitely shows.”

Stroud worked closely with the Romanian Special Forces from the 26th

See GRADUATE, page 2

# GRADUATE

From page 1

Infantry Battalion to train the Iraqi Commandos on various tactical skills such as small unit tactics and patrolling.

"The U.S. Special Forces have the same training and doctrine as us," said Maj. Nicolaescu Constantin from the Romanian 'Red Scorpions' Battalion. "That made the training go smoothly and was more effective for (the Iraqi Commandos)."

To show the audience of Iraqi Army and Coalition forces what they learned during the course, the Commandos demonstrated how to conduct a cordon- and-search.

"This is a high level of skill and professionalism you are at now," said Gen. Habib, the Commander of the 10th Iraqi Army Division, as he stood at the podium during the ceremony. "But don't let this be the last level you reach."

For some of the Commando graduates, the next level for them will be training the next group of Iraqi Soldiers.

"I think these guys are ready to be trainers," said Constantin. "They are professional, they know what they're doing now and it will be good for their Army."



Photo by Spc. Rebekah Lampman

**Leaders from the Iraqi Army and Coalition forces watch a graduation ceremony for 65 Iraqi Soldiers of the Commando Battalion, 10th Iraqi Army Division at Camp Dhi Qar May 2.**

## COMING May 21

## THE RED BULL REPORT

### THE Mountain View

*The Mountain View* is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. Army. Contents of *The Mountain View* are not necessarily official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, Department of Defense, Department of the Army or the 10th Mountain Division. All editorial content of *The Mountain View* is prepared, edited, provided and approved by the Task Force Mountain Public Affairs Office.

### TASK FORCE MOUNTAIN PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE

Commanding General - MAJ. GEN. MICHAEL L. OATES

Command Sergeant Major - COMMAND SGT. MAJ. JAMES W. REDMORE

#### Editorial Staff

TF Mountain PAO — Lt. Col. Kevin Olson  
OIC, Command Information — Maj. Page Baldwin  
NCOIC — Staff Sgt. Dave Lankford  
Managing Editor — Staff Sgt. Derek Smith  
Editor — Sgt. Frank Vaughn  
Editor/Design — Sgt. Debralee P. Crankshaw,  
Sgt. Joe Roos  
Photo Editor — Pfc. Tyler Maulding  
Staff Writers — Sgt. Brandon LeFlore, Spc. Darryl Montgomery, Sgt. Eric Jungels, Spc. Stephanie Cassinos

#### Contributing Units

172nd Infantry Brigade Combat Team  
2nd BCT, 4th Infantry Division  
4th BCT, 1st Cavalry Division  
41st Fires Brigade  
343rd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment  
793rd Military Police Battalion  
Division Special Troops Battalion, 10th Mtn. Div.  
Task Force 449



Media queries please contact TF Mountain Public Affairs at MND-S\_PAO@iraq.centcom.mil



# Mother sacrifices tradition for country

**SGT. DEBRALEE P. CRANKSHAW**  
MND-S



COB BASRA – Motherhood is full of joys as well as trials. Mother's Day is a time to celebrate those joys.

While many deployed mothers will miss out on their traditional Mother's Day celebrations, some remain optimistic and make the best of the situation.

"This is not forever. This is a temporary stomping ground in your overall life," said Sgt. 1st Class Angela Amundson, actions and awards noncommissioned officer-in-charge, 34th Infantry Brigade.

The Hastings, Minn. native is spending a year away from her 14-year-old stepson, Alex and her 7-year-old daughter, BriAnna. But for her, Mother's Day is about more than just her children. Every year the Amundsons have a tradition for Mother's Day.

"What I like to do is get all the mothers together and we all go to brunch on Mother's Day with all our children and my husband's sister, my sister – anybody we can get to go," said Amundson.

The Amundson family started this tradition because they were going to multiple houses for a short time.

"We're all family, whether we're blood or not. So I said, 'Let's all get together,' that way you don't have to go five different places, kind of like Thanksgiving or Christmas," said Amundson. "It's much nicer and easier to have everyone together."

This Mother's Day while Amundson's family is having brunch, she will acknowledge other mothers here.

"I want to make sure to recognize other mothers this Mother's Day," she said. "Being a mother isn't about yourself – it's about everybody else."

Motherhood has also aided in Amundson's skills as an NCO.

"I think being a mother really helps with being in charge," she said. "It helps you balance positive and negative discipline."

Amundson mentors and guides her Soldiers as she would her children. She said some of the younger males even remind her of Alex.

Whether being a motherly figure to her Soldiers or her children, Amund-

son sees Mother's Day as an important holiday.

"(Mother's Day) is special to me because I have the privilege to be a

mother," she said. "I remember the day I got home with my daughter, I thought there was nothing better than being a mother, and I still think that."



Photo by Sgt. Debralee P. Crankshaw

(Top) Sgt. 1st Class Angela Amundson, (left) actions and awards noncommissioned officer-in-charge, 34th Infantry Brigade, from Hastings, Minn., discusses correct wording for awards with one of her Soldiers. Amundson, a mother of two, sees her Soldiers as her children.

Courtesy photo

(Left) Sgt. 1st Class Angela Amundson, (center) actions and awards noncommissioned officer-in-charge, 34th Infantry Brigade, from Hastings, Minn., says goodbye to her family before her deployment to Contingency Operating Base Basra. The Amundsons have brunch every year to celebrate Mother's Day.



## Staff Section Round-up

# IG Corner: Before you tell your IG

We want to welcome the new 34th ID Command IG team on board. As we do this we want to provide everyone a short reminder as what you should do before you come to see them.

It's been a great rotation and we appreciate the support from every level of command we have worked with throughout this deployment; as you start or finish up be safe and be smart.

To complain without fear of reprisal is the right of any Soldier, Civilian, family member seeking IG help. Assistance and problem solving is one of the IGs primary mission.

Occasionally we still get Soldiers and leaders who don't know what the IG can do for them or when it is the appropriate time to see an IG. Below are some key points to keep in mind before coming to the IG. By all means if you are still unsure please don't hesitate to stop by, call, or e-mail.

- Be sure you have a problem not just a peeve. Just because the DFAC only has three flavors of ice cream on a given day, and you don't like the flavors, doesn't mean the DFAC isn't providing the standard for service.
- Give your chain of command a chance to solve the problem. This is one of the first questions an IG will

ask. Many of the issues that come to the IG will be solved by the chain of command.

- If IG assistance is needed, contact your local IG first. An IG at Corps for instance will normally refer the case to the local IG for action.
- Be honest and don't provide misleading information. IGs will quickly discover the truth and there are penalties for knowingly providing false information.
- Keep in mind IGs are not policy makers.
- IGs make recommendations, not order resolutions. Commanders make orders; the role of the IG is to advise the commander.
- IGs can only resolve a case on the basis of fact. A claim that someone violated the rules doesn't make it a fact. A claim must be support with evidence. A quote often heard is "you can have your own opinion, but you can't have your own facts".
- Don't expect instant action on your request...patience please.
- Be prepared to take "No" for an answer. Regardless of the answer, yes or no, the IG will explain why.

Thanks,  
Your IG team.

*The Search Is On!*

*Basrah Idol*

We are looking for  
Basrah's Best Entertainers!  
Singers • Bands • Musicians •  
Dancers • Jugglers • Comedians

Contact information below for an  
Auditions. Auditions are be held  
6-8 p.m. • location: TBD

Show to be held:  
Saturday, May 16, 2009  
1800 • Basrah MWR Stage  
PRIZES AWARDED  
Individuals &  
Groups Invited to Audition!



Judges will evaluate talent performances and determine who will be the next Basrah Idol.

If you're interested in participating, contact CW2 Meeks at DSN:858-4526 or email at robert.l.meeks@iraq.centcom.mil. This competition is open to everyone, Military, civilian, contractors, and Iraqi. If you have a talent, why not show off what you can do to the FOB.

INQUIRING  
MINDS WANT  
TO KNOW...

SCHEDULE A  
HOMETOWN INTERVIEW  
[WWW.THEREDBULLS.ORG](http://WWW.THEREDBULLS.ORG)





# Headline Round-up

## U.S. News:

**SANTA BARBARA, Calif.** - Fierce winds blew a wildfire into Santa Barbara homes May 6, forcing residents to flee. TV news helicopters showed homes ablaze, but the number could not be immediately determined because of thick smoke. Authorities ordered 2,000 homes evacuated May 6, up from an earlier evacuation order of 1,200. California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger declared a state of emergency and asked federal authorities to issue an assistance grant to ensure financial resources are available for firefighting. The flames erupted May 5 and quickly spread through brush at elevations above the city, which still bears the scars of a November blaze that burned more than 200 homes in Santa Barbara and Montecito.

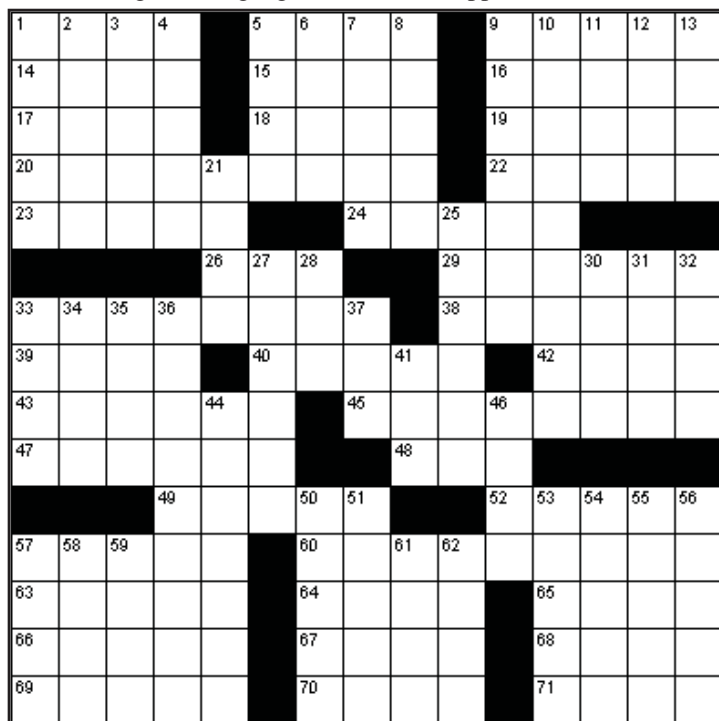
## Crossword

### ACROSS

- |                                |                        |                       |                          |
|--------------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Expectorated                | 18. Consequence        | 39. Wings             | use                      |
| 5. Fabrics made from goat hair | 19. Employed           | 40. Blunder           | 63. A Muse               |
| 9. Storage area                | 20. Schedule           | 42. Operatic solo     | 64. Agreement            |
| 14. A Roman emperor            | 22. Dwelling           | 43. Repeat mindlessly | 65. One who accomplishes |
| 15. Destroy                    | 23. Anagram of "Deals" | 45. Copiousness       | 66. Glacial ridge        |
| 16. What something costs       | 24. Delete             | 47. The whole thing   | 67. Slave                |
| 17. Weightlifters pump this    | 26. Famous boxer       | 48. G                 | 68. "Oh, my!"            |
|                                | 29. Plates             | 49. Devilfish         | 69. Apprehensive         |
|                                | 33. Enticing           | 52. Construct         | 70. Flower stalk         |
|                                | 38. Harm               | 57. Aspect            | 71. Scarce               |
|                                |                        | 60. Convenient for    |                          |

### DOWN

- |              |                              |                 |                          |                                     |
|--------------|------------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Vexations | 7. A long narrow passage     | 10. Clan member | 25. Advance evidence for | Caribbean and Adriatic, for example |
| 2. Danger    | 8. Contemptuous look         | 11. Novice      | 27. Hear                 | 33. Adhesive strip                  |
| 3. Fragrance | 9. Inability                 | 12. Chilled     | 28. Motel                | 34. Distinctive flair               |
| 4. In shape  | 6. A device that emits light | 13. Formally    | 30. Rabbit               |                                     |
| 5. Region    |                              | surrender       | 31. Auspices             |                                     |
|              |                              | 21. Nipple      | 32. The                  |                                     |



35. Shopping place  
36. Circumference  
37. Needlefish  
41. A Mediterranean fruit tree  
44. Speech  
46. Scoundrel  
50. Cassettes  
51. Stop (nautical)  
53. Detecting by radio waves  
54. Hemorrhagic fever  
55. Transparent  
56. Brusque  
57. Sense  
58. Backside  
59. A birthday dessert  
61. Pimples  
62. Detail

## AROUND THE COMMUNITY

### DFAC 1 Worship

Sunday

Roman Catholic Mass, UK  
led @ 9:30 a.m.

General Protestant @ 11 a.m.

Church of Jesus Christ of

Latter Day Saint @ 2 p.m.

General Protestant @  
6:30 p.m.

### DFAC 3 Worship

Sunday

Gospel Worship @ 2 p.m.

### DFAC 4 Worship

Monday - Saturday

Daily Mass @ 8 p.m.

Sunday

Protestant Contemporary

Worship @ 10 a.m.

Holy communion, Protestant  
(UK) @ 11:30 a.m.

Roman Catholic Mass, UK  
led @ 8:30 p.m.

### MWR Stage

May 16

Basra Idol @ 6 p.m. To

audition contact CW2

Meeks at 858-4526 or email  
robert.l.meeks@iraq.centcom.  
mil

### Barber Shop

Open: 9 a.m. - 8 p.m.

### Finance

Monday - Saturday

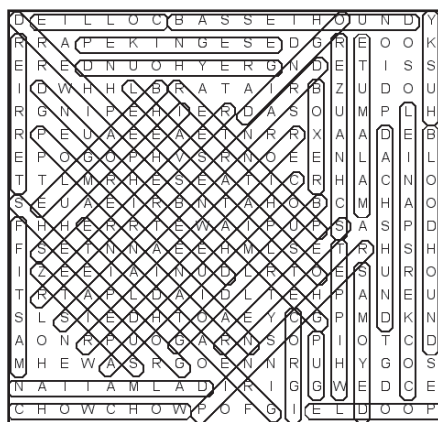
Open: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Sunday

Open: 9 a.m. - noon

## Solutions

## Monday, May 4



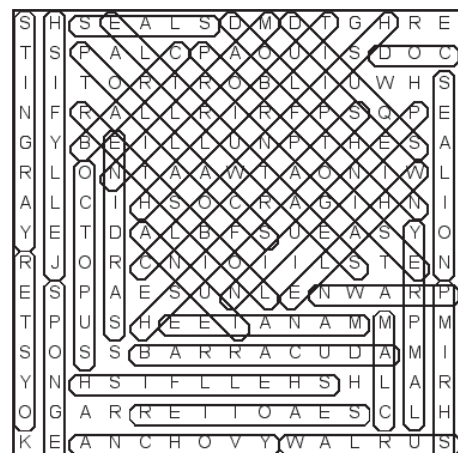
from LiveWire Puzzles

## Tuesday, May 5

1	2	5	8	9	7	4	3	6
3	4	8	1	2	6	9	5	7
6	7	9	3	5	4	8	1	2
7	6	4	2	3	9	1	8	5
5	8	3	7	4	1	2	6	9
9	1	2	5	6	8	7	4	3
8	3	6	9	1	2	5	7	4
2	5	1	4	7	3	6	9	8
4	9	7	6	8	5	3	2	1

from LiveWire Puzzles

## Wednesday, May 6



from LiveWire Puzzles

## Thursday, May 7

9	7	5	3	8	2	4	1	6
1	2	8	6	4	7	9	5	3
3	4	6	5	9	1	7	8	2
7	3	9	4	2	5	1	6	8
8	5	4	7	1	6	2	3	9
2	6	1	8	3	9	5	4	7
4	9	2	1	6	8	3	7	5
5	8	3	9	7	4	6	2	1
6	1	7	2	5	3	8	9	4

from LiveWire Puzzles

## Friday, May 8

S	P	A	T	A	B	A	S	A	T	T	I	C
N	E	R	O	R	U	I	N	P	R	I	C	E
I	R	O	N	E	L	S	E	H	I	R	E	D
T	I	M	E	T	A	B	L	E	A	B	O	D
S	L	A	D	E	E	R	A	S	E			
				A	L	I		D	I	S	H	E
T	E	M	P	T	I	N	G	D	A	M	A	G
A	L	A	E	S	N	A	F	U	A	R	I	A
P	A	R	R	O	T	R	I	C	H	N	E	S
E	N	T	I	R	E	G	E	E				
				M	A	N	T	A	E	R	E	C
F	A	C	E	T	A	V	A	I	L	A	B	L
E	R	A	T	O	P	A	C	T	D	O	E	R
E	S	K	E	R	E	S	N	E	A	L	A	S
L	E	E	R	Y	S	T	E	M	R	A	R	E

from mirroreyes.com

***What topics would you like to see the CG post on the blog for discussion?***

To let the CG and others know, go to the Mountain Sound Off Blog at

[www.taskforcemountain.com](http://www.taskforcemountain.com)