

# Ramadi Star



Camp Ramadi Command Information Newsletter

JUNE 28, 2009



*1-158<sup>th</sup> FA Commander Lt. Col. Gregory Lankford gives Sgt. Robert H. Brown a flag that was flown over Camp Ramadi, Iraq, as a gift while MNF-I Command Sergeant Major Command Sgt. Maj. Lawrence Wilson looks on June 23, 2009. Brown lost a leg due to injuries suffered serving in Ramadi in 2006 and returned with fellow wounded warriors to see the improvements made in Iraq since then. To read more of his story see page 3. (Photo by Army Staff Sgt. Matthew Lima)*

## Then and now: Soldier sees changes in Ramadi

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# SAFETY NOTES

By Army Maj. Kasey Vu  
Camp Ramadi Safety Officer

Hello Tenants of Camp Ramadi!

As everyone can see and feel, summer has arrived full force in Iraq! Along with the daily triple digit temperature, we also have to deal with the weekly dust storms. So far, we have had a handful of people, both military and civilian, who have suffered heat injuries. Please use some common sense – hydrate often, and early, so that your body has the chance to absorb the liquids into your system. In addition, it is probably prudent to refrain from running outdoors on days that we have dust storms. Suffice it to say, the suspended particles in the air from the dust storms cannot be good for your lungs!

It has come to our attention that some smokers are smoking inside toilet and shower trailers. This is a reminder to everyone that there is absolutely NO SMOKING indoors, including offices, living quarters, bathrooms, shower trailers, etc. If you are a smoker, please help everyone out and refrain from smoking indoors.

This is my last article for the camp newsletter before Chief Warrant Officer Kenneth Curry and I turn over duties of the Camp Safety Office to Mr. Miles Bowman and

1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Jonathan Aslan, both from Regimental Combat Team 6.

It is always bittersweet when an experience such as this comes to an end. On one hand, you are glad that your time has come to depart, and that you will soon return home. On the other hand, you realize that you will leave behind a multitude of people with whom you have shared a unique experience and collaborated for the past however many months to accomplish a shared goal. Chief Warrant Officer Curry and I would like to thank everyone for their support during our time here on Camp Ramadi. I am confident that you will offer the same level of support to Mr. Bowman and 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Aslan as they take over the Camp Safety Office. Their contact information is as follows:

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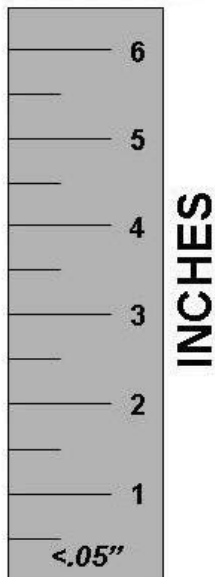
Continue to integrate safety into your everyday activities and operations. Take care and God bless! 



## Ar Ramadi, Iraq Climatology (July)



### PRECIPITATION Monthly Mean



Extreme Max: <.05"  
Extreme Min: 0.0"

### SKY CONDITION



0% ≤ 3,000'  
0% ≤ 10,000'

### MONTHLY

# Day(s) with:  
Rain

0

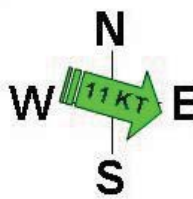
Thunderstorms

0

RH: 37 % (0600D)

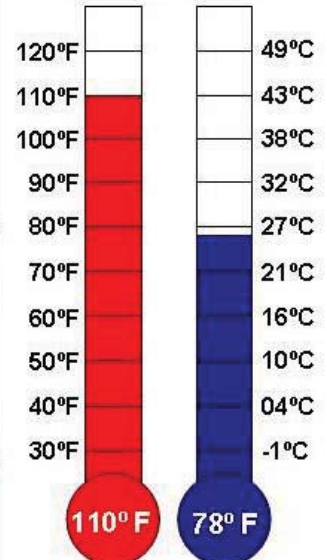
RH: 13 % (1500D)

### WINDS

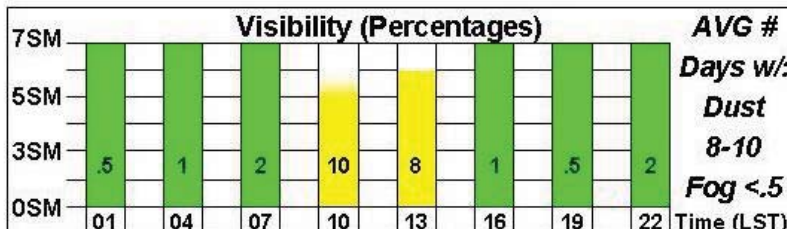


Max Gust 37 KT

### TEMPERATURE Monthly Mean



Extreme Max: 126°F/52°C  
Extreme Min: 70°F/21°C



- The thermal Lows over Iran and SE Saudi Arabia maintain peak strength.
- Frontal systems no longer reach this area and rainfall essentially stops.
- Northwesterly winds in the lower 15,000 feet of the atmosphere maintain a persistent dust layer.
- Shamal reaches maximum intensity occurring suddenly and can persist for weeks at a time. It is weakest at night and strongest in the afternoon.
- Ceilings below 25,000' are very rare, while ceilings below 10,000 feet do not occur.
- Low level turbulence is moderate for UAV's and helicopters.





81<sup>st</sup> BCT Command Sergeant Major Command Sgt. Maj. Robert Sweeney shows Sgt. Robert H. Brown, a wounded Soldier, the changes Camp Ramadi, Iraq, has gone through since from a balcony in the command building June 23, 2009. (Photo by Army Sgt. Amanda Gauthier)



1-158<sup>th</sup> Commander Lt. Col. Gregory Lankford and MNF-I Command Sergeant Major Command Sgt. Maj. Lawrence Wilson sit with six wounded Soldiers who returned to Iraq to see the progress since their injuries. (Photo by Army Staff Sgt. Matthew Lima)

## A journey into the past, wounded warrior revisits Camp Ramadi

By Army Sgt. Amanda Gauthier  
81<sup>st</sup> BCT Public Affairs

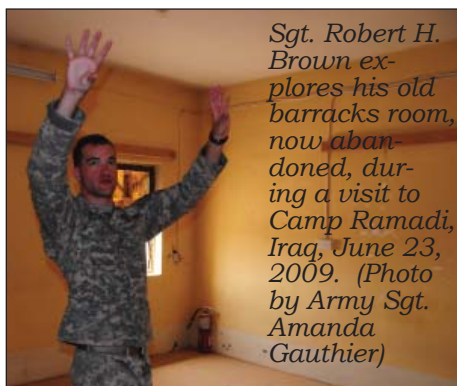
Six Operation Iraqi Freedom veterans who were wounded while serving with the U.S. Army in Iraq got a chance to return to the land where they were injured.

The Troops First Foundation, USO and Multi-National Forces-Iraq arranged for the wounded warriors to travel through Iraq to the bases they were once stationed. Their injuries are as different as their stories but they all shared a desire to come back to Iraq and leave on their own terms. Camp Ramadi was just one of the stops they made on their trip.

All six of the Soldiers were interested in seeing the transformations that have been happening around Ramadi, but it was more significant to one Soldier. Sgt. Robert H. Brown lost his leg due to injuries he sustained while on a mission just outside Camp Ramadi, Iraq, Sept. 24, 2006.

According to Brown, he and his squad were on a mission investigating a series of attacks on their base. During their mission, the house they occupied came under attack. He didn't even realize his leg was injured until he tried to stand up

and wasn't able to. His unit took him to the local medical treatment facility where they did what they could before sending him to Baghdad for surgery. After his surgery he went to Landstuhl, Germany to recover before going to Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington D.C. That was just the beginning of his journey.



Sgt. Robert H. Brown explores his old barracks room, now abandoned, during a visit to Camp Ramadi, Iraq, June 23, 2009. (Photo by Army Sgt. Amanda Gauthier)

"I started a fairly long rehabilitation process, and doctors did what they could to save my leg, but two years into the running they realized that they really couldn't," said Brown. "A rehabilitation specialist told me they needed to amputate it. They took it in 2008, but now I am back up to speed. I am running now."

When Brown was injured he felt

guilty about leaving his comrades behind to fight without him.

"Personally, I felt really bad leaving my buddies over here still fighting the fight," said Brown. "The day I got injured is the day our unit got extended from a 12-month deployment to a 15-month."

June 23, 2009 Brown was given the chance to return to the place he had been with his unit just hours prior to that fateful mission. He even walked the halls of the barracks, now abandoned, he and his buddies slept in during their deployment. He stood in the place where his bed used to be. He pointed to the place where his microwave and refrigerator once were. He even walked in to his old company office.

Coming back here is like the end of a journey that began almost three years earlier.

"It's almost like a final stepping stone, finishing the chapter of my life that I left here," said Brown.

He, like the other five Soldiers returning to Iraq, was grateful to the Troops First Foundation for making their trip possible and giving them the chance to see that their efforts had been beneficial.

Col. Ronald Kapral from the 81<sup>st</sup> Brigade Combat Team, Washington  
See BROWN page 12



# CAMP RAMADI AT A GLANCE

NCOs from the 81<sup>st</sup> BCT put their hands in after beating the 81<sup>st</sup> BCT Officers team in a softball game on the Army's birthday June 14, 2009 on Camp Ramadi, Iraq. (Photo by Army Sgt. Timothy Kettlewell)



Command Sgt. Maj. Robert Sweeney, the command sergeant major of the 81<sup>st</sup> BCT, walks with Command Sgt. Maj. Frank A. Grippe, the command sergeant major of MNC-I, who was visiting Camp Ramadi, Iraq, June 23, 2009. (Photo by Army Sgt. Amanda Gauthier)



Army Spc. Vireak Sok, Army Sgt. Edward Brock, Army Staff Sgt. Paulo Burnside and Army Pfc. Timothy Powell, all with the 81<sup>st</sup> BCT, take a breather during the Camp Ramadi softball tournament May 24, 2009. "Team Ramrod" made up of Soldiers from the 81<sup>st</sup> BCT and 1-158<sup>th</sup> FA took first place in the tournament. (Photo by Army Sgt. Amanda Gauthier)



Country singer Joe Nichols takes time for some target practice at the Camp Ramadi, Iraq, range while visiting the camp June 7, 2009. (Photo by Army Sgt. Amanda Gauthier)



Army Sgt. Charles Einarson of the 81<sup>st</sup> BCT, a member of the Washington National Guard Honor Guard, holds a flag after raising it over Camp Ramadi, Iraq, on Memorial Day. Einarson was later awarded the flag and a certificate of appreciation for his continued service to Camp Ramadi and the U.S. Army. (Photo by Army Sgt. Amanda Gauthier)

# Lionesses help local Iraqi families

By Marine Sgt. Sally Theodore  
PGC Lioness NCOIC

**T**he first week of each month, hundreds of Iraqi family members line up in front of the Ramadi Government Center to receive Martyr's Pay. Iraqis who lost a spouse or child under Saddam Hussein's regime are entitled to this compensation. In many cases a woman has lost her husband and this is the only source of income her family has to survive. Martyr's Pay lasts for six days - three days for men and three days for women.

The Marine Lionesses are female Marines trained to interact and work with the Iraqi females. Their main mission is to make sure all women and children are searched thoroughly prior to entering the Ramadi Government Center to prevent any incidents that might occur otherwise. In addition, they

have tasked themselves to help out as much as possible while attending Martyr's Pay each month. Throughout the month they collect hygiene products, clothes, toys, snacks and many other items that could be useful to the families in need. By the end of each month the Lionesses have accumulated enough items to provide each person with at least one gift. During the three days that women receive their money, the female Marines do what they can to interact constructively with the local Iraqi families, which helps to earn their acceptance and project a positive outlook of Americans. They do this by showing the Iraqi people their willingness to help and support all the families who have suffered. The families show tremendous appreciation and the smiles from the children are more than worth it! 🙏



Lance Cpl. Rachel Bauman holds an Iraqi child during Martyr's Pay. (Photo courtesy of the Lionesses)



Sgt. Sally Theodore, Sgt. Milagros Ambert and Lance Cpl. Rachel Bauman handout John Deer t-shirts to Iraqi children during Martyr's Pay. (Photo courtesy of the Lionesses)





## CAMP RAMADI CELEBRATES THE ARMY'S 234<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY

Army Sgt. Tobais Suhr of the 81<sup>st</sup> BCT carries the HQ Co., 81<sup>st</sup> BCT guidon during the Army Birthday/Flag Day 5k race June 14, 2009. Approximately 25 servicemembers from across Camp Ramadi took part in the race. Suhr took first place in the men's division and Marine Staff Sgt. Michelle Kent of 8<sup>th</sup> Comm took first place for the women's division. (Photo by Army Sgt. Amanda Gauthier)

## INDEPENDENCE DAY 10K RUN 4 JULY, 2009 AT 0600

Race Starts @ MWR REC CENTER

### AAFES GIFT CARD PRIZES FOR TOP 3 FINISHERS IN MALE & FEMALE DIVISION

1<sup>ST</sup> PLACE-\$120.00

2<sup>ND</sup> PLACE-\$60.00

3<sup>RD</sup> PLACE-\$30.00

\$15.00 FOR MOST PATRIOTIC COSTUME

**Exchange**  
new car sales  
American Vehicles For America's Heroes™

Race Sponsored By:

THE ONLY  
NEW-CAR BUYING PROGRAM  
CREATED FOR THE MILITARY  
BY THE MILITARY

## Meet the Philadelphia Eagles Cheerleaders July 4, 2009 at 7 p.m. at the Green Beans Stage



# National Guard Soldiers take on Marine Corps challenge

By Army Staff Sgt. Matthew Lima  
1-158<sup>th</sup> FA Public Affairs

Army Spc. Scott Pepi and Army Spc. Wesley Sharp, both from 1-158<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery, 45<sup>th</sup> Fires Brigade, Oklahoma National Guard, attended the Tactical Small Unit Training Course in Al Asad, Iraq, where they had the opportunity to give a new perspective on the National Guard by attending a course which has been traditionally comprised of U.S. Marines.

Pepi volunteered to attend the course and Sharp was selected by his battery commander, Capt. Robert Mcleod, to represent the battalion. Both individuals were the first non-Marines to attend the two-week course.

Upon arrival, both Soldiers assumed they would be staying in tents on Al Asad Air Base and be transported to ranges to conduct weapons training. The surprise came when the two Soldiers and 30 Marines attending the course were loaded onto trucks and moved out into the desert where they would spend the entire course living in two-man tents with no electricity, refrigeration or showers. It was truly living in the field.

The desert environment was their temporary home where they drank bottled water that shared the same high temperatures as they did and ate military meals (MRE's) three times a day.

There was only one hardened building which was used to conduct classroom training on the tactics and weaponry that they would have to perform in order to complete the course. Following the blocks of classroom instruction, the Soldiers walked up to three miles through the desert to perform the required tasks. During the course, the temperatures reached as high as 134 degrees, which was difficult enough to deal with, but with the addition of full combat gear was often excruciating.

The training the Soldiers conducted was referred to as "big boy" training. This meant that the maneuvers were all performed utilizing live rounds as the servicemembers moved and engaged targets. Teamwork was the key to success. It allowed them to coordinate all movements and actions while engaged in a full combat scenario. Sharp said the school stressed "being able to be a leader in a situation where you may not necessarily know every-



Army Specialists Scott Pepi and Wesley Sharp of 1-158<sup>th</sup> FA stand outside the Advanced Infantry Training Center on Al Asad with their battalion commander, Lt. Col. Gregory Lankford, and their command sergeant major, Command Sgt. Maj. Jimmy Venable. (Photo by Army Staff Sgt. Matthew Lima)

body." The training was designed as advanced infantry training with the emphasis on developing leadership skills.

The most difficult part of the training was dealing with the heat. The Soldiers dealt with it by consuming a lot of water and just "sucking it up." Each day started at 5 a.m. and didn't end until 11 p.m. Maintaining the energy level necessary to perform became difficult as the temperatures continued to rise and the sand storms swept through the area every two to three days.


During one of the weapons courses, Sharp was clearing an M240 Machine Gun when a round "cooked off" in the chamber. This happens when the temperature of the weapon is so high it has the ability to ignite a round just by contact. Though Sharp experienced what it feels to have a nose broken by a bullet casing coming out the wrong end of a weapon, he didn't complain. Instead, he continued through the remainder of the training in order to test himself and know he could do it.

At the start of the course, the Marines did not know what to expect from the two Soldiers who

had infiltrated their training. They did not believe that Army Soldiers would have the heart and dedication to complete the course. Pepi and Sharp were both told that their performance during the course broke a lot of the stereotypes that the Marines had toward the Army.

Sharp and Pepi trained and fought with the drive of true Soldiers. They were never last during any event, and Sharp graduated second in the class based on his overall performance.

"I don't know why more Army Soldiers don't attend. The course is open to anyone," said Marine Sgt. Morgan, the lead instructor for the course. He went on to say he "would be proud to have more Army Soldiers come through, especially if they [have the] heart and mindset of you two," referring to Pepi and Sharp.

These two 1-158<sup>th</sup> FA Soldiers not only completed the course, which had the ability to challenge the most dedicated Soldier, but they also demonstrated that some of the assumptions about National Guard troops are as realistic as believing this course would have air conditioning. 



# PERFORMING LIVE AT CAMP RAMADI



*Effects plays an afternoon show for Camp Ramadi, Iraq, June 10, 2009. (Photo by Army Sgt. Amanda Gauthier)*



*Comedian Todd Justice entertains the crowd on Camp Ramadi, Iraq, June 16, 2009. (Photo by Army Staff Sgt. Emily Suhr)*



*Members of the 81<sup>st</sup> BCT laugh during a comedy show on Camp Ramadi, Iraq, June 16, 2009. (Photo by Army Sgt. Amanda Gauthier)*



*Country singer Joe Nichols performs for Camp Ramadi, Iraq, June 7, 2009. (Photo by Army Sgt. Amanda Gauthier)*



*Sevendust gets the Camp Ramadi, Iraq, crowd going May 25, 2009. (Photo by Army Sgt. Amanda Gauthier)*



*Dropping Daylight performs for Camp Ramadi, Iraq, June 25, 2009. (Photo by Army Sgt. Amanda Gauthier)*



*Army Sgt. Tamara Brown of the 81<sup>st</sup> BCT meets members of Effects after their show on Camp Ramadi, Iraq, June 10, 2009. (Photo by Army Sgt. Amanda Gauthier)*



*Comedian Kris Shaw entertains the crowd on Camp Ramadi, Iraq, June 16, 2009. (Photo by Army Staff Sgt. Emily Suhr)*



*Servicemembers crowd surf during a May 25, 2009 Sevendust concert on Camp Ramadi, Iraq. (Photo by Army Sgt. Amanda Gauthier)*



**ARTIE DEAN HARRIS**

*Artie Dean Harris*

**PERFORMING AT  
THE  
GREEN BEANS  
STAGE  
JUNE 3, 2009  
TIME TO BE  
DETERMINED**

**Best Bad Habit**

## Military Equal Opportunity

By Army Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Sheletha Quillin  
Camp Ramadi EO Advisor

**A**s we approach the celebration of our nation's independence, I urge each of you to think of freedom at all levels. Challenge yourself and others to foster an environment that is "free" from sexual harassment, discrimination and sexual assault. Create a place within our ranks where your spouse, children or siblings can be safe and "free" to reach their full potential.

Stop ignoring and condoning violations of the EO and SAPR programs. This leaves offenders "free" to harm servicemembers, family members and civilians in our workforce. Imagine what a wonderful world it would be if we could celebrate that kind of freedom. Do

your part!

"Sometimes the only difference between a weed and a flower is perception."



Camp Ramadi EO Advisor/SARC

Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Sheletha Quillin

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DSN 344-0919 VoSIP 696-5171

**THE NEW CAMP RAMADI EQUAL OPPORTUNITY ADVISOR WILL BE FROM RCT-6"**

**GYSgt JEREMY D. MARKS  
S-4, BLDG 1120, CAMP RAMADI  
DSN 344-0849/0850 VoSIP  
696-5410  
JEREMY.MARKS@AR.MNF-WIRAQ.  
USMC.MIL**

## What does patriotism mean to you?

Army Sgt.  
1<sup>st</sup> Class  
Mickey  
Kearny, 81<sup>st</sup>  
BCT



"It means to be loyal to your country and the ideals that country is based upon: life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness and the constitution. It means that you don't necessarily need to agree with your leaders but it is important to support them. It means serving the greater good and overall serving your country."



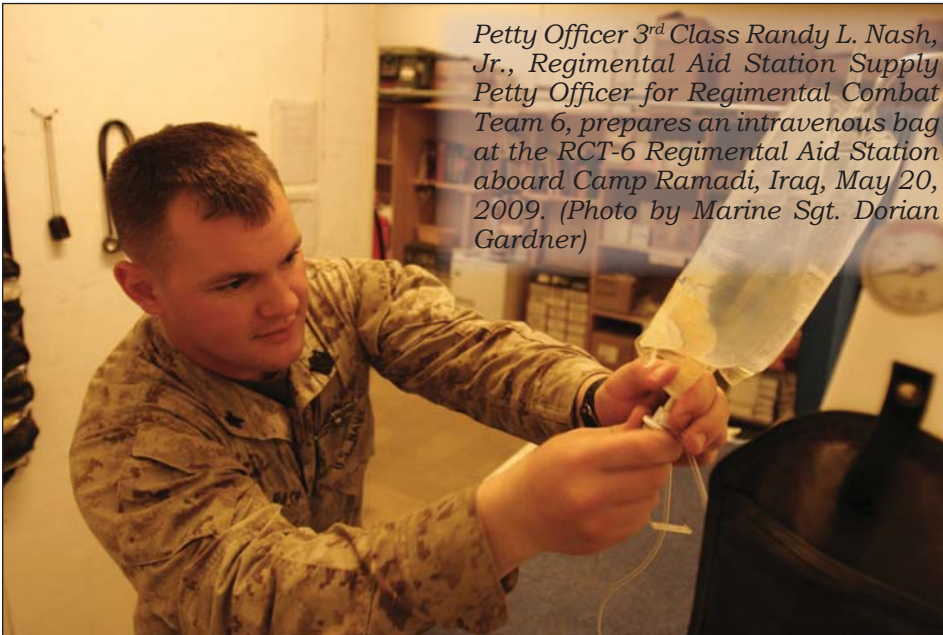
Army Sgt.  
Lisa Scott,  
81<sup>st</sup> BCT

"...When you care more about others, not necessarily care more about others than yourself, but you are willing to give part of your life to help others."



Army Staff  
Sgt. Paul  
Staley, 81<sup>st</sup>  
BCT

"Patriotic means putting others before yourself. When you are serving your country... it is serving with the people next to you. Being patriotic is putting those people's [needs] in front of your own needs."



*Petty Officer 3<sup>rd</sup> Class Randy L. Nash, Jr., Regimental Aid Station Supply Petty Officer for Regimental Combat Team 6, prepares an intravenous bag at the RCT-6 Regimental Aid Station aboard Camp Ramadi, Iraq, May 20, 2009. (Photo by Marine Sgt. Dorian Gardner)*

## RCT-6 Sailor escapes hardship to thrive in U.S. Navy

By Marine Cpl. Ryan Turnage  
RCT-6 Public Affairs

Coming of age in a broken home cluttered with adversity and hard-learned lessons, the struggles of a young corpsman from Regimental Combat Team 6 forged character that has proven useful on his path upward in the U.S. Navy.

Once he realized his life needed direction, Petty Officer 3<sup>rd</sup> Class Randy L. Nash, Jr., the RCT-6 Regimental Aid Station supply petty officer, focused his efforts toward a new life as a corpsman. Today, he serves alongside the Marines and Sailors of RCT-6, though, not long ago, he was struggling to keep his feet planted in one state.

Nash experienced life on the road at a young age, constantly packing bags and relocating. At age 14, Nash entered Sequoyah High School in Madisonville, Tenn., for the start of his freshmen year. Before the end of his first semester in December of 2000, disputes with his father forced him to relocate to Old Town, Fla.

A difficult home-life led to Nash

moving back and forth from Tennessee to Florida, alternating between spending time with his father and his mother. Nash went on to change schools nine times during his high school years, but surprisingly enjoyed the change of scenery each time.

"I've always been a 'people-person' so I loved changing schools and meeting new people," said Nash.

Nash eventually planted roots long enough to graduate from Seabreeze High School in Daytona, Fla., where he was living with his mother. He was the only high school graduate in his immediate family.

Faced with a challenging childhood, Nash was forced to mature quickly.

"My mother was going through some rough times, so I decided to stay with her rather than further my education," he said.

Nash's father, in the meantime, was a recovering alcoholic who was sober for nearly four years. During a brief phone conversation, Nash's father had spoke of his relapse with alcohol. The next day, Nash's

mother received a phone call from the Madisonville Police regarding his father's suicide. Though he had just graduated from high school, his father's death had brought Nash's life to a screeching halt.

"Times were pretty rough when my father was alive, but after his death I lost sight of any future I might possess," said Nash.

Consumed by his family's misfortune, Nash temporarily lost focus of his future goals. Before he knew it, a year had passed and he had done nothing to improve his life.

"I had promised myself that I would help my mom for a little while after I graduated, but then I would either try college or join the military. One day I realized it had already been a year since I graduated and I was nowhere in life," Nash recalled.

That day, Nash went to a U.S. Navy recruiter's office and enlisted without hesitation. He went to boot camp in February 2006 at The Great Lakes Naval Training Center in Illinois. Nash did not enjoy the winters in Illinois.

"So everyone gets a good mental picture: there was snow everywhere, it was about 10 degrees below freezing, 20 mph winds, and everyone was wearing ski masks; it looked like a terrorist camp," he described.

Existing traits reinforced by the Navy and discipline instilled in him during basic training increased his potential to succeed in the military. He arrived at the 6<sup>th</sup> Marine Regiment, 2<sup>nd</sup> Marine Division, Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C., in October of 2006, and left three months later in January of 2007 for a 13-month deployment to Fal-lujah, Iraq.

"During that deployment I was a general sick-call corpsman, so I did a lot more work with combat operations," said Nash.

Currently on his second deployment with RCT-6, this time to

*See NASH page 15*



# CAMP RAMADI AT A GLANCE



*A dust storm rolls into Camp Ramadi, Iraq, June 16, 2009. (Photo by Army Sgt. Amanda Gauthier)*



*Army Sgt. Earle Hudson of Bravo Battery, 1-158<sup>th</sup> FA walks inside after a dust storm that hit Ramadi last week. (Photo by Army Staff Sgt. Matthew Lima)*



*Servicemembers from across Camp Ramadi, Iraq, take a moment to honor those who have come before them during a memorial day service May 25, 2009. (Photo by Army Sgt. Amanda Gauthier)*



*Command Sgt. Maj. Lawrence Wilson, the command sergeant major of MNF-I, poses with a group of Marines during his visit to Camp Ramadi, Iraq, May 28, 2009. (Photo by Army Sgt. Amanda Gauthier)*



# Chaplain's Corner

By Army Lt. Col. Carl Steele  
Camp Ramadi Chaplain

Theodore W. Edmonds, JR CDR, CHC, USN (RET) wrote in his book "Refuge and Strength,"

Going Home Soon

Your author remembers flying back to the States with a deploying unit for the first time. One might assume that everyone was happy about going home and that the whole scene was a party atmosphere. Not so.

Most folks were delighted to be going home to welcoming families and time off to enjoy them. A small number were going home to disastrous personal situations. Some had no idea about whether there would be anybody waiting to greet them – or not.

Pay attention to the others around you, especially those trying to hide their worry and prevent their anxiety from disrupting the joy of others. Pray for them – they need it, and you can afford it.

If you are going home to delightful greetings and good times with family, do enjoy the reunion. Fall in love with your spouse all over again. You earned it, and you deserve it.

I would include remember your training. Whether it is from Battlemind or Combat Operational Stress Control watch out for others in your unit. Those that have a while yet before you return starting thinking even now about how you can make that reunion a joyous time. 🚫



**NOTE: AFTER THE 81<sup>ST</sup> BRIGADE COMBAT TEAM DEPARTS IRAQ IN JULY, THE REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM 6 CHAPLAIN, CMDR. GARY CLORE, WILL BE TAKING OVER AS THE CAMP RAMADI CHAPLAIN. HE CAN BE REACHED AT THE MEMORIAL CHAPEL AND/OR RCT-6 AO 344-0645/344-2400.**



## WORKING TOGETHER FOR A GREATER CAUSE

By Army Staff Sgt. Matthew Lima  
1-158<sup>th</sup> FA Public Affairs

Army Spc. Denny Cargal and Spc. Michael Moore from 120<sup>th</sup> FSC were presented a coin from Command Sgt. Maj. Robert Sweeney of the 81<sup>st</sup> BCT.

The 81<sup>st</sup> BCT is in command of Camp Ramadi and its operations. Some of those operations include the construction and placement of small buildings that are used as offices and work areas for all the units housed on Camp Ramadi. As these building were being moved to their permanent location, they were experiencing structural damage during their placement. Cargal and Moore devised a support system for the buildings that would distribute the weight of the building and prevent it from becoming damaged.

They put their welding skills to use and presented their idea to the 81<sup>st</sup> BCT. Their support system quickly became a part of the emplacement process for these buildings and saved the military thousands of dollars in repair during a short amount of time.

Sweeney wanted to recognize their devotion to not only their own mission, but to other unit's outside the battalion. Their actions show that they recognize all forces are a team and together we can ensure mission success. 🚫

## BROWN continued from page 3

National Guard, and commander of Camp Ramadi, greeted the group and discussed the economy of Iraq and changes to the infrastructure with the Soldiers. There was a sense of satisfaction for them knowing their efforts were not in vain. They learned that many of the markets are now open and that there are

even trains running again.

Kapral, who deployed to Iraq for the first time in 2004, told the group: "The difference between '05 and now is remarkable. We drive around and I see the [Iraqi Police]; I see the Iraqi Army out there, and we have an Iraqi Army base right next to us. The efforts that you guys are a part of, and the things we've done for the last six or seven years, are starting to really pay off. The Iraqi

Army is starting to take charge."

Reality sunk in for Brown during an interview with the public affairs personnel who were traveling with the group.

As they stood on a roof of a building on Camp Ramadi he looked around and said: "Honestly, I never thought I would be standing on a roof in Ramadi getting interviewed, that just goes to show how far this place has come." 🚫



## Chapel Service Times

### Sunday

- 0930 Communion Service (Fellowship Hall)
- 0930 Roman Catholic Mass (Chapel)
- 1100 Contemporary Protestant Service
- 1400 Gospel Service
- 1600 Contemporary Worship Service
- 1900 Five Love Languages
- 2000 LDS - Lay Leader
- 2100 Evening Praise

### Monday

- 1930 Bible Study (Fellowship Hall)
- 2000 Ugandan Choir Practice

### Tuesday

- 1900 AA meeting (Fellowship Hall)
- 2000 Contemporary 1600 Band Rehearsal

### Wednesday

- 1900 Gospel Bible Study
- 2000 Gospel Choir rehearsal

### Thursday

- 1900 Contemporary 1100 Band Rehearsal
- 2100 Roman Catholic Eucharistic Adoration and Rosary

### Friday

- 1245 Muslim Service "Juma'a" prayer
- 1700 Jewish Service
- 1900 AA 12 steps/12 traditions (Fellowship Hall)
- 1900 Gospel Intercessory Prayer
- 2000 Gospel Choir rehearsal

### Saturday

- 0900 RCIA (RCT-6 Alamo)
- 1730 Contemporary 1600 Band Rehearsal
- 1800 RCIA (RCT-Alamo)
- 1830 The New Testament Challenge
- 1900 Contemporary 1100 Band Rehearsal
- 2100 Roman Catholic Mass

## Camp Ramadi Memorial Chapel United through Reading Program

- ~Record a CD for your loved one
- ~Read a book to a child
- ~Wish happy birthday, anniversary or say hello

Walk-ins welcome or e-mail [william.murdy@ar.mnf-wiraq.usmc.mil](mailto:william.murdy@ar.mnf-wiraq.usmc.mil) to schedule an appointment

## Church Bulletin Bloopers

(taken from actual church bulletins)

This being Easter Sunday, we will ask Mrs. Brown to come forward and lay an egg on the altar.

Our youth basketball team is back in action Wednesday at 8 PM in the recreation hall. Come out and watch us kill Christ the King.

The ladies of the Church have cast off clothing of every kind. They may be seen in the basement on Friday afternoon.

The Associate Minister unveiled the church's new tithing campaign slogan last Sunday "I Upped My Pledge - Up Yours."

The peacemaking meeting scheduled for today has been cancelled due to a conflict.

The church will host an evening of fine dining, superb entertainment, and gracious hostility.

Attend and you will hear an excellent speaker and heave a healthy lunch.

Don't miss this Saturday's exhibit by Christian Martian Arts.



## *This month in history*

**July 1, 1862** - President Abraham Lincoln signed the first income tax bill, levying a 3% income tax on annual incomes of \$600-\$10,000 and a 5% tax on incomes over \$10,000. Also on this day, the Bureau of Internal Revenue was established by an Act of Congress.

**July 1, 1863** - Beginning of the Battle of Gettysburg during the U.S. Civil War.

**July 2, 1788** - Congress announced the United States Constitution had been ratified by the required nine states and that a committee had been appointed to make preparations for the new American government.

**July 2, 1881** - President James A. Garfield was shot and mortally wounded as he entered a railway station in Washington D.C. He died on September 19.

**July 2, 1964** - President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the Civil Rights Act of 1964, prohibiting discrimination on the basis of race in public accommodations, publicly owned or operated facilities, employment and union membership and in voter registration.

**July 3, 1775** - During the American Revolution, George Washington took command of the Continental Army at Cambridge, Massachusetts.

**July 3, 1988** - Iran Air Flight 655 was destroyed while flying over the Persian Gulf after the U.S. Navy Warship *Vincennes* fired two surface-to-air missiles, killing all 290 passengers aboard. A subsequent U.S. military inquiry cited stress related human failure for the mistaken identification of the civilian airbus as an enemy F-14 fighter.

**July 4, 1776** - The Declaration of Independence was approved by the Continental Congress.

**July 5, 1775** - The Continental Congress adopted the Olive Branch Petition expressing hope for a reconciliation with Britain. However, King George III refused even to look at the petition and instead issued a proclamation declaring the Americans to be in a state of open rebellion.

**July 6, 1885** - Louis Pasteur gave the first successful anti-rabies inoculation to a boy who had been bitten by an infected dog.

**July 16, 1769** - San Diego was founded as the mission San Diego de Alcala by Father Junipero Serra.

**July 16, 1945** - The experimental atomic bomb "Fat Boy" was set off at 5:30 a.m. in the New Mexican desert, creating a mushroom cloud rising 41,000 ft. The bomb emitted heat three times the temperature of the interior of the sun and wiped out all plant and animal life within a mile.

**July 17, 1996** - TWA Flight 800 departed Kennedy International Airport in New York bound for Paris but exploded in mid-air 12 minutes after takeoff then crashed into the Atlantic Ocean off the coast of Long Island about 8:45 p.m. All 212 passengers and 17 crew members on board the Boeing 747 were killed. The exact cause of the disaster has not been determined, although investigators have ruled out terrorism and know that the center fuel tank exploded.

**July 18, 1947** - President Harry Truman signed an Executive Order determining the line of succession if the president becomes incapacitated or dies in office. Following the vice president, the speaker of the house and president of the Senate are next in succession.

**July 20, 1969** - A global audience watched on television as Apollo 11 Astronaut Neil Armstrong took his first step on the moon. As he stepped onto the moon's surface he proclaimed, "That's one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind" - inadvertently omitting an "a" before "man" and slightly changing the meaning.

**July 25, 1956** - The Italian luxury liner *Andrea Doria* sank after colliding with the Swedish liner *Stockholm* on its way to New York. Nearby ships came to the rescue, saving 1,634 people, including the captain and the crew, before the ship went down.

**July 26, 1944** - The U.S. Army began desegregating its training camp facilities. Black platoons were then assigned to white companies in a first step toward battlefield integration. However, the official order integrating the armed forces didn't come until July 26, 1948, signed by President Harry Truman.

**July 28, 1932** - The Bonus March eviction in Washington DC occurred as U.S. Army troops under the command of Gen. Douglas MacArthur, Major Dwight D. Eisenhower and Major George S. Patton, attacked and burned the encampments of unemployed World War I veterans. About 15,000 veterans had marched on Washington, demanding payment of a war bonus they had been promised.

**July 31, 1790** - The U.S. Patent Office first opened its doors. The first U.S. patent was issued to Samuel Hopkins of Vermont for a new method of making pearlsh and potash.



## Pesky little bugs can be a big deal

By Navy Lt. Cmdr. Craig Stoops  
Camp Ramadi Preventive Medicine

**W**hat's in a name? When it comes to understanding insect-borne disease there is a lot. One of the major insect threats we face here in Iraq are sand flies.

The sand flies here are different from what we call "sand flies" in the United States. If you have ever been to Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island you know the sand flies I am talking about - "No see ums" and "Flying teeth" are common names we give to our sand flies in the U.S. Those sand flies are just a painful nuisance to us, but here the sand flies carry parasites and viruses that can make us sick. These parasites and viruses cause diseases such as cutaneous and visceral leishmaniasis and sand fly fever.

Often when Preventive Medicine gets calls about people on Ramadi being bitten the caller usually attributes the bites to bed bugs. This is probably due to the recent upswing

of bed bug infestations back home and getting bitten while they are sleeping. There is a resurgence of bed bugs in the U.S. Bed bugs are now a problem on ships, in college dorms and even in five-star hotels. But they really aren't a problem here in Iraq. Many people have claimed to have bed bugs and many people have looked for bed bugs, but few have been found.

What has been biting people are sand flies. There are some mosquitoes flying around out there as well, but the main problem on Ramadi is sand flies. And sand flies can even enter your air conditioned housing.


The best way to protect

yourself is through personal protection. Sand flies collected on Camp Ar Ramadi (Photo courtesy of Ramadi Preventive Medicine)



Photo of a cutaneous leishmaniasis sore (Photo courtesy of Ramadi Preventive Medicine)

tion. Wear your permethrin treated uniform properly and wear a repellent that contains DEET. If you are being bitten at night consider sleeping under a bed net. All of these, including bed nets are available through the National Stock System.


For assistance treating uniforms, questions about procurement of repellents or bed nets and anything that has to do with critters with four or more legs, contact the Ramadi Preventive Medicine Officer, Lt. Cmdr. Craig Stoops at [craig.stoops@ar.mnf-wiraq.usmc.mil](mailto:craig.stoops@ar.mnf-wiraq.usmc.mil) or DSN 3442-375. 

## HEALTH CORNER

By Army Lt. Col. Stephen Anderson  
81<sup>st</sup> BCT Brigade Surgeon

**T**he sunrises and sunsets in Iraq can be beautiful. However, one of the things that make a striking sunset is the large amount of dirt and dust in the air. Many servicemembers have been to Iraq before, so knew what to expect of air quality. There is no Environmental Protection Agency or Occupational Safety and Health Administration in Iraq. The Iraqis seem to burn everything. So do we at many of our bases. The U.S. Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine has done many air quality studies. One recent study followed the air quality at Joint Base Balad for one year. The study also looked at Soldiers who were stationed there and lived close to the burn pit for the year. The conclusions indicated that although the particulate matter count was higher than recommended values, there was probably no long term health damage. In addition, they measured Dioxin, a known cancer causing agent, in Soldier's stationed in JBB. Their studies indicated no build up of Dioxin after a year's exposure.

However, the common sense interpretation of this data is: When the air quality is especially bad, with high particulate matter or smoke, stay indoors. Do not do strenuous physical training when the air is unusually heavy. Scarves or particle masks can help filter out the larger particles such as dust, but don't do much for smoke and fine particles.


If you currently have or have had any breathing problems, chronic cough, or exercise intolerance, please see your medical provider. If there is any question about the air here causing chronic problems, talk to your provider about an LOD for possible future care. 

## NASH cont. from page 10

Camp Ramadi, Iraq, Nash tries to utilize his time off with others who share his love for music. Nash makes time to play his guitar with his band, entertaining Marines and competing in talent shows.

Nash plans to attend a Navy "C" school, an advanced secondary school in which sailors learn more specific skills within their military occupational specialty. Nash went on to say he wants to take the skills he acquired in the Navy and apply them as a civilian.

"I was taking some nursing courses in high school and I want to continue my previous goal of becoming certified," Nash said.

While he continues to better himself as a Navy corpsman, Nash works towards larger goals, not forgetting the struggles and accomplishments he underwent along the way. 

During a recent meeting held aboard Camp Ali, Iraq, the Fallujah ePRT, Coalition Forces, Iraqi Security Forces and the Sheik council discussed the plans to rehabilitate the water sources of Karmah, Iraq, May 31, 2009. (Photo by Marine Cpl. Ryan Turnage)



## War-torn Karmah to receive easily accessible drinking water

By Marine Cpl. Ryan Turnage  
RCT-6 Public Affairs

Residents of Karmah, Iraq, a once war-torn city in eastern Al Anbar province, and surrounding areas lack clean drinking water. During a meeting held aboard Camp Ali, Iraq, May 31, 2009, Iraqi and Coalition leaders discussed how to rehabilitate the area's water treatment plants in order to serve a population of nearly 100,000 civilians.

With the help of the Fallujah embedded Provincial Reconstruction Team (ePRT) the Sheik council, a group of local tribal leaders, the Director-General of Water Salwa Hady, and engineers Jamal Qassim and Ahmed Eaden, Karmah will soon have a source of clean water, much like that of American suburban areas.

Ideas to reconstruct and build new water treatment plants throughout Karmah were brought to the attention of the Fallujah ePRT by the Iraqi engineers.

"We appreciate the attention being paid to the concern for the people of Karmah," said Sheik Lawrence, a

prominent sheikh from Karmah.

"This is my fourth time in Iraq and I have never seen such teamwork among the ePRT, Coalition Forces, the Sheik council, and the Iraqi government," said Col. Matthew A. Lopez, commanding officer of Regimental Combat Team 6.

They plan to construct seven new larger water treatment plants, which will replace the need for 23 smaller plants that are practically rundown, according to Scott Albert of the Fallujah ePRT. It will also provide new job opportunities, such as construction and maintenance crews, as well as employees to maintain the water treatment plants, he added.

"The engineers came to me with a list of areas that are in dire need of water," said Albert.

The Sheik council agreed to improve areas based on need, rather than helping just their local areas. Not only will the larger water treatment plants be constructed, but plans to improve the distribution pipelines will also be vastly improved.


"Many of the pipes are above

ground and have been tapped into by those in need of water or by insurgents," said Engineer Kasim.

There are 27 planned projects that will begin immediately after approval. In the near future, the above ground distribution pipelines made of rusty iron will be replaced by underground polyvinyl chloride (PVC) pipes.

"This will reduce polluted water and keep people from tampering with the pipes," said Maj. Ashley Burch, commander of Civil Affairs Detachment 3, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 10<sup>th</sup> Marine Regiment.

Burch went on to say Karmah has been underdeveloped due to its history of insurgent activity. In the past, civil affairs teams could only carry out smaller short-term project that could be completed in a combat environment. Now that the fighting in Al Anbar province is less kinetic, they can focus their efforts on the true needs of the people, he said.

Every organization involved believes these new facilities, if maintained, will have a long-lasting effect on the population of Karmah. 



# In case of any emergency: Fire- Medical -Security CALL..... 911

AVAILABLE  
THROUGH ALL  
DSN PHONES



Members of the Camp Ramadi Fire Department gather for a photo April 26, 2009. (Photo by Army Sgt. Amanda Gauthier)

The Camp Ramadi Fire Department gives Fire Warden classes every Saturday at 2 p.m. at the Camp Ramadi Fire Station. Classes are meant to teach Camp Ramadi tenants proper use of a fire extinguisher, how to identify fire hazards and fire safety.

If you have general questions about fire safety, extinguishers, smoke alarms or fire warden training, call: DSN: 344-0770

If you find an unexploded ordnance, or for any other emergency, call the Ramadi Operations Center: VOIP: 696-5966/5967 DSN: 344-0696/2179

## Camp Ramadi Hours of Operations

### Sick Call

0900-1000 & 1600-1700 Monday - Friday

1300-1400 Saturday and Sunday

24 Hours / 7 Days for emergencies

### Combat Stress

0800-1700 Monday - Saturday

### Dining Facility

0530-0830 Breakfast

1130-1400 Lunch

1730-2000 Dinner

2330-0100 Midnight Chow

### MCX / PX

0900-2000 Monday - Saturday

1100-1900 Sunday

### Green Beans Coffee

24 Hours / 7 Days

### Barber Shop

0900-1900 Daily

### Subway

0900-2300 Daily

### Alteration Shop

0900-1900 Daily

### Gift Shop

0900-1900 Daily

### AT&T Calling Center

24 Hours / 7 Days

### Laundry Facility

0500-1900 Drop Off

24 Hours / 7 Days Pick Up

### Post Office

0830-1700 Monday - Saturday

0900-1400 Sunday

### Finance Office

0900-1600 Wednesday and Thursday



## Camp Ramadi Phone Numbers

### Support

Camp Mayor:

344-0986

KBR Operations:

344-0884

Chaplain's Office:

344-0834

Public Affairs Office:

344-0801

Safety Office

344-0921

### Medical

Sick Call:

344-0376

Combat Stress:

344-0998

### Emergency Services

#### Emergency

**911**

Fire Emergency:

344-0911

KBR Fire Department:

344-0770

### Services

Post Office:

344-0515

MCX / PX:

344-0885

Marine Finance:

344-0886

Army Finance:

344-0763

## Camp Ramadi Legal Office

The final Legal Assistance Walk-In Day conducted by the 81<sup>st</sup> BCT SJA office will be Thursday, July 2, from 0900 to 1130 and 1315 to 1630. After July 2 all requests for legal assistance should be directed to the TQ Legal Services Support Team at DSN 3422-123 or 3422-116.

# CAMP RAMADI COMBAT STRESS

## Unit Level Classes:

- ~ Unit Climate Survey
- ~ Stress Management
- ~ Anger Management
- ~ Healthy Living
- ~ Tobacco Cessation
- ~ Critical Event Debriefing
- ~ Redeployment Education
- ~ Sleep/Relaxation



## Clinic Services:

- ~ Anxiety / Depression
- ~ Insomnia
- ~ Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder
- ~ Tobacco Cessation
- ~ Stress/Anger Management
- ~ Relationship Problems
- ~ Medication Management
- ~ Command Referrals
- ~ Individual Counseling

Call the Combat Stress Team at DSN: 344-0998 or SIPR: 696-5051, or stop by building 3100 to set up an appointment, get more information or just to visit

## Suicide prevention resources

<http://www.usmc-mccs.org/suicideprevent/>

<http://www.armyg1.army.mil/hr/suicide/>

[www.militaryonesource.com](http://www.militaryonesource.com) - 1-800-342-9647

National Suicide Hotline - 1-800-SUICIDE (784-2433)

[www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org](http://www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org) - 1-800-273-TALK (8255)

## CAMP RAMADI PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE



MANAGING EDITOR  
STAFF SGT. EMILY SUHR

ASSISTANT EDITOR  
SGT. AMANDA GAUTHIER

THE 81<sup>ST</sup> BCT WILL BE DEPARTING CAMP RAMADI IN JULY. ALL CAMP COMMAND AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS INQUIRIES SHOULD BE ADDRESSED TO THE RCT-6 PUBLIC AFFAIRS TEAM

1<sup>ST</sup> LT EVAN PETTYJOHN  
EVAN.PETTYJOHN@AR.MNF-WIRAQ.USMC.MIL  
344-0801

