



DANGER FORWARD

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April 26, 2010 | Issue 13

Iraqis train to assault by air

By Sgt. Cody Harding
1st Inf Div, TF 12 PAO

COB ADDER – As the drawdown of U.S. forces continues, the training of Iraqi Security Forces to assume the primary security responsibility remains paramount to both sides, so U.S. Soldiers throughout Iraq are training Iraqi troops to provide stability to the country.

So it goes on Contingency Operating Base Adder, where a group of Iraqi Commandos and members of the Iraqi Tactical Support Unit received training during April from the 12th Combat Aviation Brigade on loading and unloading a helicopter, providing security after landing and moving as a section after the helicopter departs.

The training, which was conducted with the help of two Special Forces Soldiers, was another step in the continuing change of responsibility between the two nations. According to one of the Special Forces Soldiers, the process was like working himself out of a job.

"If I work myself out of a job here," said the Soldier, who asked not to be identified. "It means I can go do other stuff. That's the intent."

The Iraqi TSU and Commandos will return to their units and train fellow troops on the tactics they learn from the U.S.



Photo by Sgt. Cody Harding
Iraqi Commandos "stack" against a truck after unloading from a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter during air assault training with the 12th CAB at COB Adder, April 13. The techniques the Iraqis learn allow them to take the primary security role as U.S. forces continue a scheduled drawdown of forces across Iraq.

forces, increasing the capabilities of the Iraqi Security Forces.

The training was supervised by the 12th CAB's plans section. Capt. Igan O'Reilly, a coordinator for the section, said that the training gives a new tool to the Iraqis to

help them act quickly against hostile targets and prevent enemy escape.

"With these newly developed techniques, [we're] pushing them towards self-sufficiency and, in the future, helping

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Danger Six sends

One could argue that Iran and Iraq have been neighbors for thousands of years, and therefore we should accept the aggressive actions we're seeing from Iraq's eastern neighbor. However, it is evident that Iran does not have Iraq's best interests in mind. We see imbalance in many areas where Iran is successfully creating Iraqi dependence on Iranian goods and services.

Our goal is a safe, stable, sovereign and prosperous Iraq that is free from malign foreign influence. While Iran's influence is not always malign, the Iraqis must recognize Iran's effort to create conditions of dominance or dependence in areas such as economic trade, water rights, and electrical power.

Right now, virtually all commerce along the Iraqi border in Wasit, Maysan and Basra, moves from east to west, but not west to east. Only empty trucks, or trucks filled with Iraq's mineral resources, flow into Iran. So Iran's economic dominance has a very negative impact on Iraqi farmers and merchants.

The Iranians have diverted the Karun River, one of the three rivers that used to flow into southern Iraq. The Karun River now flows along the western boundary of Iran, and does not come into Iraq. Consequently, Iraq's historic marshes along the eastern border are dried up.

Iran controls electrical power for the border crossing points inside Iraqi territory. Any time the Iranians feel like cutting off Iraq's electricity, it's within their ability to do so. That is an example of "dependence" not independence.

The best solution for Iraq is one the Iraqis design for themselves, with helpful American advice and assistance that creates balance and makes it possible for Iraq to compete internally. Iran must respect Iraq sovereignty so Iraqis can fill their own markets and meet their own needs, while exporting whatever it is they choose to export, whether it's scrap metal or oil or vegetables.

The key for Iraqis is seeing for themselves the potential their own country has and then working to fulfill that tremendous potential. Iraq has resources any other country in the world would marvel at having; resources such as intellectual capital, arable land, water and oil.

In the coming months we'll continue to work with our Iraqi partners to help them truly source their independence as a stable friend of the U.S. You and your predecessors over the last seven years have fought for this – let us help them succeed in the time we have remaining with them.



DUTY FIRST!



Vincent K. Brooks
Major General, U.S. Army
Commanding



Commanding General
Major General
Vincent K. Brooks



Command Sergeant Major
Command Sergeant Major
Jim Champagne

DANGER FORWARD

PAO

1st Inf. Div. PAO: Lt. Col. Matthew Hackathorn

Command Info OIC: 1st Lt. Shamika Hill
Command Info NCOIC: 1st Sgt. David Bennett






Email: MND-S_PAO@iraq.centcom.mil
Phone: (Iraqna) (0790)-194-2865
(770)-263-9379.

Danger Forward

Print NCOIC: Staff Sgt. Chris Carney
Editor: Sgt. Benjamin R. Kibbey
Layout: Spc. Samantha Johnson

Staff Writers: Sgt. Francis Horton, Sgt. Cody Harding, Sgt. Nathan Smith, Spc. Sam Soza, Spc. Jason Kemp

Contributing Units

-  17th FIB
-  4th BCT, 1st Armd. Div.
-  12th CAB
-  3rd HBCT, 3rd Inf. Div.
-  367th MPAD



Safety in the Workplace

By Joseph P. Zelko
USD-S Safety Manager



Worried about safety in the workplace? Read on to know more about various office safety tips.

Office safety is very essential in today's military. Not only is it essential, but it is also very important to be aware of workplace safety rules and regulations as a failure to do so could hamper the smooth operation of your office or workspace.

This article does not focus on the regulations regarding workplace safety, but on providing several workplace safety tips for ensuring that you, your Soldiers and your civilian counterparts have a safe working environment.

Obviously, the best course of action is to plan ahead for all kinds of workplace emergencies. Think fire, think electric shock – absolutely anything and everything that you can think about.

The following safety tips may not be comprehensive, but may provide you with enough guidelines to work on. Other than that, here are a few safety tips for the office or for the workspace:

- Keep your working area neat and clean. Piles of papers and stacks of files combined with a tangle of wires are a disaster waiting to happen. Also, a clean work space will enable you to identify a problem and tackle it faster and more effectively.
- Wires and office equipment placed across walkways, cubicles, and hallways can and do cause slips, trips, and falls, which are the most prevalent accidents in the Army.
- Ensure that all your important papers and personnel items are secure to ensure they remain with you. Weapons are everywhere and need to be secured; don't leave them lying around, and ensure you maintain weapon awareness and that it is on safe.
- Ensure that you and your civilian counterparts know what to do in case of a fire. Know the rules (such as getting low on the floor, and closing doors to contain the fire etc). Follow exit signs and know where to go to in case such an emergency occurs. Never lock these exits.
- Make certain that all workstations, machines and other equipment are installed properly. While installing such electric equipment and appliances, ensure that the wiring and switchboards are grounded properly to prevent electrical shocks.

With these safety tips for the workplace you can be sure to avoid most common accidents and emergencies of electrical shocks and fire.

This and other great information to help with risk mitigation can be found at:
<http://1idportal.1id.army.smil.mil/SpecialStaff/DivisionSafety/Shared%20Documents/Forms/AllItems.aspx>

Do you or a "friend" have a story about how safe habits saved you, or how a lack of them made for a close call? Send it to marc.greene@us.army.mil with your email and snail mail addresses. If your story is picked, we'll send you some cool safety incentives.

Have a suggestion to make *Danger Forward* better? Send a SIPR email to our suggestion box: 1IDPAO SUGGESTIONBOX@1id.army.smil.mil

This week in Army history

This week in Big Red One history

26 April, 1918

1st Infantry makes contact with the German Army. Plans begin for an attack and seizure of Cantigny to deny the Germans observation posts.

This week in OIF history

28 April, 2006

A Navy F/A 18 successfully struck enemy forces attempting to place an improvised explosive device near Al Miqdadiyah. The F/A 18's were providing close-air support to coalition forces.

This week in 1st Armored Division history

May 1940

The 7th Cavalry Brigade took part in the Louisiana Maneuvers in Monroe, La, that were instrumental in developing the armored division concept.

Military, tribal leaders meet

Spc. Maurice Galloway
17th Fires Brigade PAO

COB BASRA – While the stability of the Iraqi government continues to progress as U.S. forces prepare to draw down, everyday issues between both sides remain on the table.

In mid-April, Col. Steven Bullimore, 17th Fires Brigade commander and Lt. Gen. Muhammad Jawad Hawaydi, the Basra Operations Center commander, held a conference with the tribal leaders of several districts in Basra Province to discuss topics that are prevalent throughout the communities.

“We addressed multiple issues across Basra province thanks to the suggestions and feedback that we’ve received from the shaykhs,” Bullimore said. “However, what concerns me is the lack of voice that the shaykhs have with the Provincial Government.”

Upon the arrival of the 17th Fires Brigade, based at Fort Lewis, Wash., to Basra Province, Bullimore has met regularly with local tribal leaders to establish a working relationship. That relationship building continues, even though the brigade is scheduled to leave in July.



Photo by Spc. Maurice Galloway

Shaykh Sbieh Al Kramshy discusses issues in his district with Col. Steven Bullimore, 17th Fires Brigade commander during a key leader engagement held at the Basra Operations Center in Basra, Iraq, April 18.

“After each of our meetings with the shaykhs, I listened to the suggestions and concerns of the shaykhs and conveyed them to the Iraqi Provincial Government,” he said. “Every project that has been funded by the U.S. was ultimately approved by the Iraqi Government, so it’s critical that we connect the shaykhs with the government.”

During the meeting, the shaykhs brought up the quality of work provided by certain contractors on construction projects.

“We have noticed that some of the projects are being sub-contracted, allowing the original contractor to pay someone else a lower fee to complete the project while retaining a substantial amount of the original contract price,” said Shaykh Sbieh Al Kramshy.

Kramshy added that the quality of the work does not equate to the amount of money spent.

Gen. Muhammad said corruption is an ongoing problem that officials are trying to resolve by better monitoring.

“I have faced issues of corrupt contractors before and one of the things that helped me justify the removal of that contractor from obtaining future contracts was the shaykh constantly providing me with specific evidence of the fraudulent practices.”

Bullimore closed the meeting by addressing his most pressing concern.

“Each of you represents the men, women and children in your respective districts,” Bullimore said. “As U.S. Forces draw down here in Basra, we must ensure that you have a prominent voice with the Provincial Government so that the needs of the people can be heard and met.”



Photo by Spc. Maurice Galloway

Lt. Gen. Muhammad Jawad Hawaydi, Basrah Operations Center commander, addresses the concerns of the tribal leaders during a key leader conference held at the Basra Operations Center in Basra, Iraq, April 18, while Col. Steven Bullimore, 17th Fires Brigade commander listens.

For more from 17th FiB, visit
<http://www.lewis.army.mil/17FA/>

Iraqi Army takes reins at former U.S. Cavalry base

By 1st Lt. Juan Torres, Jr.
4th BCT, 1st Armd Div

COS HUNTER — For Soldiers once stationed in the remote marshlands of southern Maysan province, handshakes and offers of good will complete a mission highlighted with a ceremonial U.S. base transfer.

“The return of COS Hunter to the Government of Iraq, specifically the 10th IA Division, shows that the Iraqi Army in southern Maysan is ready to continue to secure the sovereign nation of Iraq without USF oversight,” said Lt. Col. William A. Walski, commander of 2nd Squadron, 13th Cavalry Regiment, a native of Chino Hills, Calif.

Final signatures sealed the deal on Contingency Operation Site (COS) Hunter March 26 as leaders from the Iraqi Department of Interior, 10th Division Iraqi Army and 2nd Squadron, 13th Cavalry Regiment “Saber” joined to celebrate the return of the U.S. base back to Iraqi control.

“Soldiers of the Task Force performed phenomenally in the return of the base, they ensured that the base was environmentally safe and operational for the Iraqi Army to conduct operations there, specifically using it as a training base for future improvement of their forces,” Walski said.

Strong partnerships set the foundation for what led to milestones for both nations, including the increased independence of a sovereign Iraq and the responsible drawdown of U.S. forces in an area once riddled with violent attacks. These achievements demonstrate the effectiveness of the advise and assist mission and the bright future for Iraq’s citizens in southern Maysan.

“Key for the transition of the advise and assist mission is that with U.S. forces decreasing in numbers, we focus on higher levels of the chain of command and processes for our partnership roles,” Walski said.

Operating in an area spanning over



Photo by: U.S. Army

A delegation of Iraqi Army officers and leaders from 2nd Squadron, 13th Cavalry Regiment watch as the Iraqi flag is prepared to fly over Contingency Operating Site Hunter for the first time since being returned to the Government of Iraq. The cavalry regiment is deployed from Ft. Bliss, Texas to advise and assist the Iraqi security forces.

1,600 square kilometers, the 2nd Sqdn., 13th Cav. Regt., over the past year, partnered with the 41st Iraqi Army Brigade, 11th Department of Border Enforcement Brigade and district Iraqi police departments.

With the support of military, police and border guard transition teams, the squadron formed a combined task force dedicated to the enhancement of the Iraqi security forces. It was this task force, united in a common goal, which fostered healthy partnerships early on in the deployment paving the way for future growth.

The establishment of the Common Training Center, a facility designed to host joint ISF training and mission planning, was just one of the enhancements created to boost the operational capacity of all ISF units.

“The ISF Soldiers and Police Officers at the ground level are ready to secure their country, we



Photo by: U.S. Army

Lt. Col. William A. Walski, 2nd Squadron, 13th Cavalry Regiment Commander, presents Staff Brig. Gen. Mohammed, 41st Brigade Iraqi Army Commander, a U.S. Cavalry style Stetson hat as a token of the appreciation and friendship established throughout their partnership.

See RETURN, page 12

'Nice guy' finishes with a smile

By Sgt. 1st Class Christopher DeHart
TF 12 PAO

COB ADDER – It's a heady résumé: war hero, veteran pilot, commercial pilot, safety officer, father, grandfather, husband and – most recently – projects officer: with such an extensive list of credentials to his name, one would expect this Soldier to be incredibly busy.

However, while he stays busy with his job, he never fails to have time for a smile and a friendly greeting to anyone who crosses his path, seemingly the nicest guy you could meet.

Chief Warrant Officer 5 William R. Halevy, who calls Jeffersonton, Va. home, is the Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 12th Combat Aviation Brigade, project manager, and finally preparing to redeploy from Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq.

"My primary role is the management of the ongoing construction projects and facilities management for the continued morale and welfare of the troops," he said.

For such an accomplished career brimming with accolades and achievements, it is remarkable that the headwaters of

Halevy's military career are rooted in chance.

"I had a full scholarship to play baseball," Halevy said. "I was in the post office one day and saw the [recruiting] poster for Army Aviation ... it said you just need a high school education and a desire to fly. I went from basic training to flight school as a warrant officer candidate."

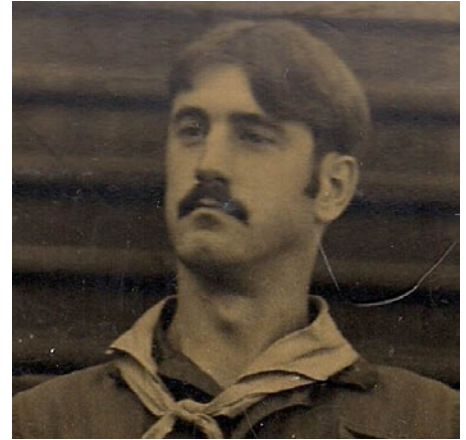
Since those auspicious beginnings, Halevy has established himself as a beacon of knowledge and respect within the Army. Throughout his 36 years of military service, he has been a member of Reserve and Guard units in New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Florida, holding positions ranging from a civilian emergency medical services pilot and aviation safety officer to his current position as a FORSCOM ARMS inspector.

Halevy actually came to Iraq several months before the 12th CAB arrived, but was asked to stay onboard to offer his extensive experience to the staff.

"I was in the process of re-deploying with the 28th CAB – as their [Transition of Authority] to the 12th came a few months early – and my conversations with the safety and standards staff of the 12th made me feel I could stay and lend assistance to a [smaller] staffed organization," he said. "I had only joined the 28th five months prior to assist with several safety issues, having been requested by the mostly Guard unit, and I was expecting to stay much longer."

Halevy continues his custom of offering quality workmanship and an unendingly cheerful attitude in his current position with the 12th CAB, planning and supervising various construction projects intended to improve quality of life and facilitate greater capability for all aspects of the taskforce's mission.

These projects include simple things like modifying or improving the office space within the tactical operations center, to wooden security buildings around the 12th CAB work area, to initiating repairs on the Aircraft Large Area Maintenance



Courtesy Photo

A 19-year old Warrant Officer 1 William R. Halevy, then a pilot with D Troop, 3/5 Cav, puts on his most distinguished look in Quang Tri, Vietnam, in 1971. Halevy has had a long and storied career since that photo was taken, during which time he has been shot down 3 times and earned more than 26 Air Medals, just to touch on a few achievements and events.

nance shells, to building a new chapel, and more.

He is about to finish his time in Iraq but, true to his work ethic, he has a few things he would like to be able to stick around for if possible.

A day off would be nice but I don't think I will be able to work it in," he said with a wry smile. "I would like to see the Chapel through completion and throw the first pitch on the ball field.

Previously, as the Army airfield safety manager for the 28th CAB, Halevy brought a wealth of experience to his role as an advisor to the brigade commander.

A veteran of the Vietnam War, Halevy is also a distinguished helicopter pilot, both militarily and commercially, flying over 6,270 accident-free hours. Still, despite his vast experience and notable success as an aviator, Halevy's focus was centered on safety.

"I did it, I don't miss it," Halevy said, referencing his days as a pilot. "I've moved on, and I [focused] on safety. I came here to help."



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Christopher DeHart
Chief Warrant Officer 5 William R. Halevy, Headquarters, Headquarters Company, 12th Combat Aviation Brigade, revisits a pose of himself from a photograph from 1971 in Vietnam, now 41 years later, at Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq, Mar 25.

See **CHIEF**, page 11

Geospatial specialists put troops on the map

By Sgt. Ben Hutto

3rd HBCT, 3rd Inf Div PAO

COS KALSU – The Soldiers of the 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, know exactly where they are in the world thanks to the hard work and dedication of the brigade's geospatial section.

The five-Soldier section works around-the-clock to keep up with Contingency Operating Site Kalsu's map needs.

"Our section provides real-time geospatial projects that allow the brigade to see anywhere on earth at any time," said Staff Sgt. Randall Williams, the noncommissioned officer in charge of the section. "More specifically, we provide terrain analysis to help enable reconstruction efforts in our area of operations."

Using overhead satellites, the group deciphers the cluttered topographical images and turns them into workable maps. Their job, however, is much more intricate than just producing images. They also interpret what they see on these images and pass that operational information on to the 3rd HBCT's leadership.

"We've put out about 4,000 maps and 200 special projects so far," said Williams, a native of Deer River, Minn. "The biggest

accomplishment for our section was, within six weeks of arriving in country, finding four weapons caches. That's 3,500 rounds that were seized because we did our job."

To add to his challenge, Williams is also working on training three of his Soldiers, who recently graduated from Advanced Individual Training. Still, they are responding positively to the challenge of learning on the fly, according to Williams.

"They are learning very fast," Williams said. "The challenge for me is finding the proper balance of battlefield operations and training. It requires me to double-check the quality of all the maps we do, but they do a great job. They still have a lot to learn, but they are coming along nicely."

Pfc. Scott Brayan, one of the newer Soldiers, said the training they have received in country builds well on their previous training.

"The training we received at AIT was solid, but it didn't prepare us for our job out in the field," said Brayan, a native of Inglewood, Calif. "We learned the basics there, but what we do out here is on a different level. I've learned a lot just by watching Sgt. Williams work."

According to Brayan and Spc. Nick Palmer, a native of Rochester, N.Y., part of what makes their jobs so difficult is the complex nature of the tools they employ to read what is on the earth's surface and how it could affect the brigade.

"I learn new things every day," said Brayan. "This is not an easy job. We use lot of in-depth programs. Most days we barely tap into 10 percent of what our programs can do. They are so complex."

Keeping those systems running smoothly is just as important, said Palmer.

"There are so many intricate machines that we have to work with," said Spc. Nick Palmer, a native of Rochester, N.Y. "If a



Photo by Sgt. Ben Hutto

Staff Sgt. Randall Williams trains Spc. Nick Palmer on map design techniques at COS Kalsu, Iraq, March 30. Williams and his section produce a variety of maps that are used by the 3rd HBCT's leadership. Most of Williams's Soldiers are recent graduates from Advanced Individual Training, but that has not prevented them from performing at a high level during their current deployment.

plotter doesn't work, we can't print maps. If the computer doesn't work, we can't make maps. We constantly have to maintain and service our equipment. The dust, the heat, puts wear and tear on them."

Despite the busy nature of their jobs and the lack of experience in the section, they have performed their jobs well.

During the March 7 Iraqi national elections, the section produced more than 300 maps in a two-week span without Williams there.

"I was on leave, but I'm very proud of how they stepped up and accomplished the mission," he said. "A lot of our Soldiers are still learning their jobs and to see them work at that high a level is encouraging."

"I work with a great team," Brayan said. "Everyone has a great personality. We are a tight-knit group."

Williams agrees with his Soldiers assessment, but has his own opinions on why they get along so well.

"The operation tempo doesn't allow us to murder one another," Williams said. "We are too busy."

As the 3rd HBCT's deployment prepares to finish its mission in Iraq, Williams knows that he and his Soldiers will have even more work to complete, but he is confident they will finish strong.

"The more they get trained, the easier the work will become," he said. "I'm very happy with the direction we are going in. We'll be OK."



Photo by Sgt. Ben Hutto

Pfc. Bryon Gambetta, a geospatial analyst assigned to the 3rd HBCT, prepares a map in his office at COS Kalsu March 30. Gambetta and his section produce a variety of maps that are used by the brigade's leadership.

For more from 3rd HBCT, visit www.facebook.com/3hbct3id

Soldiers remember to never forget

By Maj. Mark E. Martin
367th MPAD, USD-S PAO

COB BASRA – Proudly wearing his yarmulka, Maj. Michael Milliron, deputy for logistics operations for 1st Infantry Division, sat reverently, his face appearing perplexed.

Perhaps he was asking himself the same question many of the Soldiers sitting around him likely were: “How could this have happened?” It’s a question asked many times in the 65 years since the Holocaust ended.

These Soldiers from the 1st Inf. Div. were gathered for the Days of Remembrance Commemorative Service April 14, at Contingency Operating Base Basra. The service was conducted by the 1st Inf. Div Equal Opportunity office as a way to reflect on the Jewish Holocaust.

From April 11-18, the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum led the nation in commemorating the 6 million Jews who were killed in the Holocaust, as well as the millions of other victims of Nazi persecution, with commemorative servic-

es around the United States and at military bases overseas.

This year’s theme is “Stories of Freedom: What You Do Matters,” and encourages all Americans to reflect on the power of individuals to create a more just and humane world.

Milliron said that it is difficult to imagine entire groups of people being singled-out for elimination.

“It’s our responsibility to remember; if we don’t remember, there’s a possibility that something like this will happen again,” said the Syracuse, N.Y. native.

The U.S. Holocaust Museum has written nearly 600 personal biographies that chronicle the experiences of men, women and children who perished in the Holocaust, as well as the survivors.

As part of the service, 1st Inf. Div. sergeants major, led by 1st Inf. Div. Command Sgt. Maj. Jim Champagne, read some of the personal histories to the solemn audience. Each life story was visibly moving to its reader and the audience.

Sgt. Maj. Matthew Cloyd, 1st Inf. Div. operations sergeant major, a native of Sterling Heights, Mich., read the story of Marcus Fass, who was killed in 1943. Afterward, he reflected on the true meaning of the commemoration.

“It is through these ceremonies, when we pause to reflect and remember, that we provide ourselves with the mechanism to stave off the sins of the past and improve the world we leave for those to come,” Cloyd said.

Other Soldiers were similarly moved.

“It’s important to have the knowledge of what happened; we need to share it with young people to prevent further hatred,” said Sgt. Maj. Marvin Parker, 1st Inf. Div. logistics and sustainment sergeant major, from Grenada, Miss. “It’s good to see people have come a long way since that time, and to know that

things can always get better.”

The story he read told of a woman named Helene Lebel, who was born and raised in Vienna, Austria, and perished at Brandenburg, confined due to a mental illness.

The stories that were shared left a deep impression on those involved.

“I was tremendously honored to participate in the Days of Remembrance Observance,” said Sgt. Maj. Teddy Compton, a 1st Inf. Div. personnel sergeant major and Burlington, N.C. native. “The Holocaust was, without a doubt, one of the darkest periods in our world’s history. Reading the names and stories of these victims and survivors helped me to understand that the victims were human beings and not just a huge list of names.”

As part of the week-long remembrance, many Soldiers on COB Basra participated in the reading of names of Holocaust victims April 12-14.

Staff Sgt. Yuri Brown from Mesa, Ariz., who works in counter-intelligence with 1st Inf. Div., read names during all three days.

“My German mother thought it was important for me to know the history of Germany, good and bad, so I know these people should be honored, because of what they went through,” Brown said.

A total of 4,715 names were read over the three-day period, twice during the lunch meal on April 12 and 13, then again after the completion of the April 14 service. The original goal, set at 1,000, was surpassed the first day. In the end, 61 Soldiers participated. Champagne himself read 1,111.

The National Holocaust Memorial Museum, based in Washington, D.C., provided the names of those affected by the Holocaust to the 1st Inf. Div.’s EO office.

The museum also provided the EO office with biographies, time-line posters, handouts and the personal stories read at the remembrance service as well as a short, but touching, film.

Maj. Christine Pacheco, from Corozal, Puerto Rico, who manages the EO office, said she felt the event had a positive im-



Photo by Maj. Mark E. Martin
Staff Sgt. Yuri Brown from Mesa, Ariz., who works in counter-intelligence with the 1st Inf. Div., reads names of the Holocaust victims as part of the National Days of Remembrance observance held at COB Basra April 12-14.

See REMEMBRANCE, page 11

Archery, Big Red One style

By Sgt. Jason Kemp
1st Inf Div, USD-S PAO

COB BASRA – The Contingency Operating Base Basra Archery Range offers Soldiers of all skill levels — from beginner to expert — a way to draw an easy breath and release the tension from their duty day.

“The range has been open for about three weeks now, and we’ve had 18 users,” said Sgt. Maj. David Santos, president of the COB Basra Archery Range and the 1st Infantry Division’s Archery Club. We also have eight cadre that use the range. Of those 18, 12 are brand new to the sport of archery.

“Out of the 12 new Soldiers that showed up with no archery experience at all, six of them were female,” Santos continued. “I was pretty surprised to see some of the female Soldiers that excited and that willing to get involved with the archery sport and that is a very good sign because that is exactly what we want to see.”

The 1st Inf. Div. Archery Club has a mandatory range certification process that teaches the basics of the sport and

the safety precautions needed to keep the equipment in working order, and avoid any injuries.

“The biggest part of our certification process is ensuring that all shooters learn the safety aspects of handling archery equipment,” said Master Sgt. Justin Coffey, a cadre member of the 1st Inf. Div.’s Archery Club and the COB Basra Archery Range.

When he first arrived, Coffey said, most of the previously donated archery equipment was in a state of disrepair, partly because of the extreme temperatures and the sand and dust that permeates almost everything in Iraq.

“We are really working on repairing a few of the bows that are not shoot-able right now, putting together new batches of arrows and matching arrows to each bow draw length,” Coffey said.

Getting new equipment to Iraq isn’t easy either, Santos said, as it has to come through the regular mail.

Santos said the previous division, the 34th Inf. Div., had faced equipment issues as well, but the 34th’s deputy command-

ing general for operations, Brig. Gen. David Elicerio, helped to get the word out.

“General Elicerio actually had an article that was written about the Basra Bow Club in the Petersen’s Bowhunting magazine, and when he did that, it really shed a lot of light on the Morale Welfare and Recreation bow range here on COB Basra,” Santos said.

When Santos arrived, there were already many donations and letters from individuals showing their support.

“Every thing out there on the range now has been voluntarily donated and by some pretty big companies,” Santos said. “Cabela’s has donated some stuff to us; the Maryland Bowhunters Society has done some stuff for us; there are other small shops, like the Kaw Valley Archery right there in our home town of Manhattan (Kan.) has helped us out with some stuff; so that is how we are able to continue with the archery project.”

“The bottom line is, it’s just about fun,” Santos said. “Let them have some fun.”

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Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Carl Fryday
Master Sgt. Michael Barrera, a cadre member of the 1st Inf. Div.’s Archery Club and the Contingency Operating Base Basra, Iraq, Archery Range, takes aim at one of the 3-D targets at the range in early April. “Everything out there on the range now has been voluntarily donated by some pretty big companies,” said Sgt. Maj. David Santos, president of the 1st Infantry Division’s Archery Club and the COB Basra Archery Range.



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Carl Fryday
A Soldier from the 1st Infantry Division band helps set up two bows that were donated to the Contingency Operating Base Basra, Iraq, Archery Range in preparation for a mandatory range certification class in early April. The certification class teaches the basics of the sport, the safety precautions needed to keep the equipment in working order, and avoid any injuries.

Handling deployment stress

By Spc. Maurice A. Galloway
17th FiB PAO

COB BASRA – Deployed service members face the challenges of living in a dangerous environment away from their family for long periods, and some have seen things that have left emotional scars not easily ignored.

“The biggest misconception about coming to the combat stress clinic is that it will harm your career, but seeking help for one’s self is actually encouraged by leadership,” said U.S. Air Force Maj. Spring Myers, 732nd Expeditionary Support Squadron, officer in charge of the Combat Stress Clinic at Contingency Operating Base Basra and a native of Goldsboro, N.C.

Each deployed unit has a behavioral health advocate like Myers, who helps service members experiencing stress.

“It’s important to realize that things affect people differently,” Myers said. “The person has to first acknowledge it’s normal to experience these feelings.”

The combat stress clinic is not just for people who have combat-related traumatic experiences. There are many types of stress that affect deployed service members.

“Some people feel that they don’t need to go to the combat stress clinic because they don’t have combat-related stressors,” said Capt. Susan Mosier, HHB, 17th Fires Brigade surgeon. “A substantial portion of behavioral health appointments are for issues related to family, marital or career concerns.”

Myers and the combat stress clinic staff travel regularly to outlying bases to provide help to those in need of behavioral health services.

Mosier said that because stress can lead to significant health concerns such as high blood pressure and gastrointestinal issues, addressing behavioral health concerns is a priority among all medical providers.

For more from 17th FiB, visit <http://www.lewis.army.mil/17FA/>



Photo by Spc. Maurice A. Galloway
Staff Sgt. Teneka Pullens, HHB, 17th FiB, behavioral health advocate, helps a Soldier deal with the stress of being deployed at COB Basra April 6.



Photo by Spc. Maurice A. Galloway
U.S. Air Force Maj. Spring Myers, 732nd ESS, officer in charge of the Combat Stress Clinic at COB Basra and a native of Goldsboro, N.C., works in her office April 6. “The biggest misconception about coming to the combat stress clinic is that it will harm your career, but seeking help for one’s self is actually encouraged by leadership,” said Myers.



Photo by Spc. Maurice A. Galloway
The staff members of the Combat Stress Clinic at COB Basra are available to help service members with any of the stresses of deployment.

CHIEF, from page 6

There have been some notable differences between the two aviation brigades, he said, but he expressed his admiration for what each brought to the mission.

"I knew many of the 28th CAB personnel having worked at Guard Bureau for four- and- a- half years and then with the FORSCOM ARMS team doing their evaluations for six years," Halevy said.

"I thought the 28th did a commendable job of bringing together units from eleven states and then building their infrastructure, of which I'm still overseeing the developing," he said. "However, the 12th CAB's command and HHC present a greater synergy, having been working together much longer prior to their deployment."

"With my career spanning many years, I have been part of many units and I have learned an organization is only as good as

its performers and the leaders they support. The 12th has the best I've seen and now I am one of you," he said.

On a more serious note, Halevy remembers where his career all started and how things could have been back when he was flying over and through jungle canopies in Vietnam.

"I dedicate my continued service to Sgt. Gary Lee Westphal, who died 13 June 1971, while serving as my scout crew chief /gunner when he was hit by an enemy 51 cal. machinegun at close range while we were searching for a reported NVA position north of Quang Tri, Vietnam," Halevy said.

"He kept me alive through months of hostile fire with D Troop, 3rd Squadron, 5th Cavalry, 5th Infantry Division."

Halevy has focused all of that potential into his drive to do the best work he can at

any task, and he does it all with one of the best attitudes a person can have who has done so much.

Halevy, who will turn 61 this year, has no plans on slowing down after retirement. While he is looking forward to spending additional time with his wife, children, and grandchildren in the rolling hills of Virginia's Piedmont region, he also plans to devote time to his own hobbies.

"I just don't want to get sedentary after I retire," Halevy chuckled.

(This story was written using portions of a previous unpublished article by SGT Brandon T. Metroka of the 28th CAB.)

For more from 12th CAB, visit www.dvidshub.net/12thCAB

REMEMBRANCE, from page 8

pact.

"I gauged the success of this by community and leadership involvement, which we had; and, above all, the strong message and emphasis on 'What (You) Do Matters'."

The EO office conducts the Days of

Remembrance annually at Fort Riley, Kan., where 1st Inf. Div. is based, but this was the first time they included the name-reading event. Pacheco and her team were pleased with the results and thanked the supporters.

Spc. Elizabeth Peterson and Staff Sgt. Tracy Birdsong, both vocalists with the division band, read names April 12 and 13. The duo also performed with other members of the "Spirit of the First" choral ensemble at the remembrance ceremony along with the 1st Inf. Div.'s Brass Quintet.

Peterson, a signal support systems specialist with Signal Company, Division Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion, is a volunteer vocalist for the band. She said she feels it is important to follow the theme of 'What You Do Matters.'

"To read their name is a small thing, but to remember them and that this happened is significant," said the Decatur, Ala native.

In the film shown at the remembrance service, Holocaust survivor Estelle Laughlin encourages viewers to always remember.

"Memory is what shapes us. Memory is what teaches us. We must understand. That is where our redemption is."

For more from USD-S PAO, visit www.facebook.com/1stInfantryDivision



Photo by Maj. Mark E. Martin

Sgt. Maj. Marvin Parker, 1st Inf. Div. logistics and sustainment sergeant major from Grenada, Miss., reflects on the life of a woman named Helene Lebel, who was detained and later killed because of a mental affliction. Six other life stories of Holocaust victims and survivors were read to those attending the Days of Remembrance Commemorative Service at COB Basra April 14.



Photo by Maj. Mark E. Martin

Maj. Michael Milliron, deputy for logistic operations for the 1st Inf. Div. and Syracuse, N.Y. native, listens as personal histories of Holocaust victims and survivors are read at the Days of Remembrance Commemorative Service at COB Basra April 14.

TRAINING, from page 1

them collaborate with other organizations in Iraq,” said O’Reilly. “So that when we do draw down our forces later on, they will have that level of competence in their training and the ability to conduct their own missions.”

The missions are currently in the “walk” phase of the training, which means walking the Iraqis through the training before they begin to use it on their own, said O’Reilly, a Gloucester, Va. native. The “run” phase will include a practical training exercise where the ISF troops will enact what they’ve learned already.

Sgt. Hraade, who didn’t give his first name, a member of the Iraqi TSU and a police trainer, said that the training is helping them to be more professional and perform operations without making mistakes. He also said that the trainers and training were up to a high standard for the Iraqi

Soldiers.

“It’s not difficult, there’s nothing difficult,” Hraade said of the training. “The only difficulty we’re facing is with supplies.”

The one thing Hraade asked from his Soldiers was the patience to continue the training.

“I would like them to be patient with us, because we’ve asked them to do a lot of stuff,” said Hraade. “The thing is, it’s a short training course, only four weeks, so there’s a lot of information we need to give them and it’s not easy for them. We

appreciate them.”



Photo by Sgt. Cody Harding

A member of the Iraqi Commandos exits to provide security during Air Assault Training with the 12th CAB at COB Adder, April 13. The training teaches the Iraqi Commandos and TSU air assault techniques they can use and teach to other Iraqi units.

For more from USD-S PAO, visit www.facebook.com/1stInfantryDivision

RETURN, from page 5

are now just helping improve the processes and coordination between the different forces to ensure that the environment is set for them to succeed in doing their job,” said Walski.

“Our first victory was the execution of the elections without any incident in our sector, this was the step that showed that the ISF in southern Maysan were ready to secure their area without USF oversight,” he added.

Though not the typical deployment most Soldiers imagined, the advise and assist mission, is proving to be an important step in stabilizing Iraq and ensuring continued long-term success. The Sabers of 2nd Sqdn., 13th Cav. Regt. will return home to open arms and warm embraces from family, friends and a grateful nation knowing that their sacrifices, time and dedication have successfully established a firm foundation for a sovereign Iraq.

“All the activities of the Soldiers from training the multiple ISF agencies to establish a secure environment for the government to operate was what led to this success,” said Walski.

For more from 4th BCT, visit <http://www.facebook.com/4BCT1AD>



Photo by: U.S. Army

The final Soldiers of 2nd Squadron, 13th Cavalry Regiment depart Contingency Operating Site Hunter following a ceremony marking the transition of the base back into Government of Iraq control. The cavalry regiment is deployed from Ft. Bliss, Texas to advise and assist the Iraqi security forces.



Photo by: U.S. Army

Soldiers from 2nd Squadron, 13th Cavalry Regiment board a Chinook for the last time on Contingency Operating Site Hunter before transitioning the base back to Government of Iraq control. The cavalry regiment is deployed from Ft. Bliss, Texas to advise and assist the Iraqi security forces.

Swifts holing-up in downtown L.A. chimney

By Louis Sahagun
Los Angeles Times

LOS ANGELES - Two dozen naturalists gathered on the roof of a downtown Los Angeles parking structure at sundown Friday to witness an unusual spectacle: tens of thousands of migrating birds spiraling into an abandoned brick chimney for the night.

The aerial display began when Vaux's swifts — 4 ½-inch birds with cigar-shaped bodies and long, crescent-shaped wings — began heading in from all directions, swirling around the chimney of the adjacent 12-story, 84-year-old Chester Building.

The odd locale is believed to be one of the most populous roosting sites for the birds in North America, local avian experts said.

Vaux's swifts began seeking evening accommodations in the Chester Building about a week ago, according to parking structure attendant Tomas Hernandez. "I never dreamed I'd see something like this in the central city," he said.

The birds probably are in the peak of their northward migration from wintering

areas in Mexico to breeding grounds as far north as Oregon, Washington, south-eastern British Columbia and Alaska, according to Kimball Garrett, ornithology collections manager at the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County.

"That chimney is a good place for them to sleep," he said. "They spend all day feeding on nice hatches of insects blown skyward by updrafts along the Los Angeles River and Elysian Park area. At nightfall, they all come together to roost in the same safe resting area."

About 7:20 p.m., the birds began funneling down the chimney. Hungry ravens were waiting for them, using their beaks to snag birds out of the air as they plunged into the chute.

The swift watchers peering through binoculars were not happy about that.

"It's like watching bears grab salmon out of a river — where's the 12-gauge shotgun?" lamented Los Angeles Audubon spokeswoman Mary Locuvam.

"No way! Ravens have to eat too," Nicole Possert responded with a laugh.

Then there was 2-year-old Avery Van Gundy, who couldn't take her eyes off the chaotic waves of birds overhead. "There's



Photo by Allen J. Scaben

In a natural spectacle rare in an urban environment, a swarm of Vaux's swifts flies with a view of the moon before funneling into a chimney at the 84-year-old Chester Building in downtown Los Angeles. The birds are migrating northward.

a lot of birds, Mommy," she said, snapping photographs with a camera she learned to use a few days ago.

Chaetura vauxi generally spends most its time in flight, foraging on high-flying insects and baby spiders. It pauses at sundown to seek refuge and protection in the hollow trees of old-growth forests — or the next closest thing, brick chimneys.

Inglewood, Calif. is the hometown of Pfc. Scott Brayan, featured on p. 7

State proposal to limit tax-free Indian cigarettes

By Scott Rapp
The Post-Standard

SYRACUSE, N.Y. - Cayuga and Seneca counties are mounting an 11th-hour effort to encourage their residents to express support for the state's proposal to limit the flow of untaxed cigarettes to the Cayuga Indians and other Native American retailers.

The Cayugas sell an unlimited number of tax-free cigarettes at their combination gas stations and stores in Union Springs and Seneca Falls.

Last week Cayuga County Legislator George Fearon, R-Springport, said the regulations are needed to "level the playing field" for non-Indian merchants who

have to collect taxes on cigarettes, making them more expensive than those sold by Native Americans. "I'm in total support of this," Fearon said.

A lawyer representing the Cayugas declined comment but Mark Emery, an Oneida Indian spokesman, said he doubts the state would be successful in enforcing the proposed regulations.

"When New York is ready to engage with the Oneida Nation on a government-to-government basis in which the parties respect each other's interests we'll be ready to negotiate a final resolution that is fair and legal," Emery said in an e-mail.

At a news conference in Syracuse Thursday, supporters of the proposed regulations said the state is losing as much as

\$1.6 billion a year in uncollected excise taxes on the sales of Indian cigarettes.

Under the proposed regulations, Indian merchants who peddle cigarettes would be allotted 21 packs per member per quarter. For every three months, the Cayugas would receive 20,100 packs, the Oneidas would get 31,200 and the Onondagas would receive 60,600, under the plan.

The formula is based on census populations and is being considered as a way to force Indian retailers to collect state excise tax on cigarettes sold to non-tribal members.

Syracuse, N.Y. is the hometown of Maj. Michael Milliron, deputy for logistics operations, 1st Infantry Division, featured on p. 8

AROUND THE COB

Danger Forward

April 26, Issue 13

Legal

(VOIP 858-4098)

Legal Assistance Office

Mon. – Fri.
0800-1800
Sat.
0800-1700

Trial Defense Services

Mon. – Sat.
0900-1130
1300-1700

USO

Every day

Closes 0600
Re-opens 1000

Religious Services

(COB Basra Chapel)

Protestant Sundays

Contemporary Worship
1000

General Protestant
1130

Gospel Worship
1400

Liturgical Protestant
1700

Roman Catholic

Sunday Mass
0830

Saturday Vigil Mass
2000

Mon-Fri Mass
1130

Jewish
Friday
1800

LDS

**(COB Basra House of
Prayer)**
Sundays
1400 - 1500

Chaplain Programs

Bible Studies

Regular
(HHB 17th FiB Conf Rm)
Wednesdays
2000

Gospel of John
(RIVRON MWR - Camp
Alpha)
Wednesdays
1800

New Believers
(COB Basra Chapel)
Thursdays
2000

Fellowship

Men's Fellowship
(HHB 17th FiB Conf Rm)
Mondays

1900

The Truth Project
(308th MWR tent)
Wednesdays
1900

AA
(COB Basra Chapel)
Thursday
2000

Wild at Heart
(HHB 17th FiB Conf Rm)
Fridays
1900

Holy Joe's Coffee
Mon.-Sat.
0600 - 2200

Special Events Coming up

1st ID Band
Every Saturday
1900 at Echoes

**Salsa - Lessons and
Practice**
(Sand Pit)
Every Wednesday
2030-2230
(Echoes)
Every Friday
2030-2400

Rick Trevino

(MWR Stage)
Wed, April 28
MWR Stage
1900

Times & programs **Fire Warden and Fire Extinguisher classes**

(Fire Station 1, across
from D-Main)
Wednesday @ 1000
- All unit Fire Ward-
ers are required to
submit the USF-I Task
Force Safe Fire Safety
Checklist to the fire
chief monthly. This
form can be taken to
either fire station or
emailed to Mike White,
mwhite@sallyport-
global.com. For an
electronic copy, email
Mike White.

- Fire extinguisher ex-
change and re-service
program: Expelled
or unserviceable
extinguishers can be
brought to either fire
station for exchange
or reservice. We also
have a limited number
of extinguishers to
hand out.

A look around USD-S



photo by Lt. Col. Shawn Boland, Assistant Chief of Staff, Task Force Danger, U.S. Division-South,

A door gunner's faceshield reflects the landscape below, of Southern Iraq. Lt. Col. Shawn Boland's photo won 2nd place in the Cantigny First Division Museum's first ever photo contest, and will be on display in the "Snapshots from the 1st Division" exhibit running June 2nd through Labor day

Have a photo from around USD-S? Email it, along with the photographer's name, rank and unit, the date and place it was taken, and a short description, to benjamin.kibbey@iraq.centcom.mil, and you could have it featured here and receive a coin from DCSM Jim Champagne.

Sudoku

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

For solutions visit: www.puzzles.ca/sudoku_puzzles/sudoku_hard__017.html

Big Red One Puzzle of the Week

δ m*a

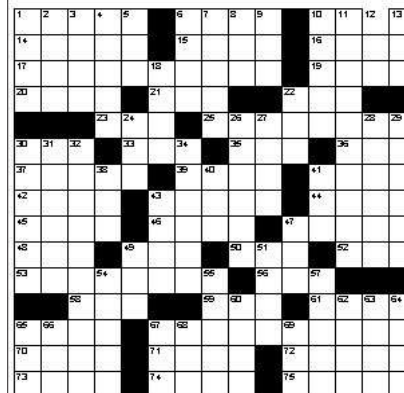
Hint for this week: WWCND?

Each week, look for a new brain teaser here, with the answer in the following week's Danger Forward.

Solution for last week: New Kids on the Block

Brought to you by the 1st Inf. Div. ORSA Cell

ANCIENT GREEK THEATER



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ACROSS

1. Tragedy by Euripedes based on the mythological tale of Jason and his wife
6. Prepare for publication
10. Waste produced from refining ore
14. Milky white gems
15. Stuff flowing down a volcano
16. Unintentional misspelling, for example
17. Tragedy by Sophocles about a legendary king of Thebes: 2 wds.
19. Previously owned
20. Home built by a bird
21. Service charge
22. 401, in Roman numerals
23. Big head
25. Greek god of drama, for whom a major ancient Athenian theater was named
30. ____ Paulo, Brazil
33. Donkey
35. Boy, as an adult
36. Blasting compound
37. "____ to your health!"
39. Word used when something suddenly disappears
41. Operatic solo
42. Circle segments
43. Items worn by actors in ancient Greek theater
44. Catch a quick breath
45. Cheerleaders' outbursts

46. Length times width, for a rectangle
47. Roadside lodging
48. Suffix with Manhattan or Brooklyn
49. He played Clubber Lang in "Rocky III": 2 wds.
50. "____-hoo!" ("Hey, you!")
52. Log-splitting tool
53. In ancient Athens, one of these was held annually in honor of 25-Across, at which plays were performed
56. Me, in France
58. Singing syllable
59. Near-infinite timespan
61. First item to be filled out on most forms
65. Main male character in an ancient Greek play
67. Character defect that causes the downfall of a play's 65-Across: 2 wds.
70. Jacob's twin, in the Bible
71. British nobleman
72. Saltwater solution
73. Take a breather
74. "Interview With the Vampire" novelist Rice
75. Part-human, part-horse woodland deity who was 25-Across's attendant

DOWN

1. Focus of a lunar eclipse
2. Fencing sword without a cutting edge
3. Fathers
4. Best of the best
5. Egyptian cobra

6. Otherwise
7. Took up the challenge
8. "____ had enough!"
9. Paycheck deduction
10. Crack the books
11. Comedy by the ancient Athenian dramatist Aristophanes
12. Gorilla, gibbon or orangutan
13. One of these was often represented as a character in ancient Greek theater
18. Alien spaceships
22. "Headline News" channel
24. It's pumped into a car
26. Reassuring comment from an accident victim: 2 wds.
27. Big klutzes
28. Suitable for both men and women
29. Alternative to a paper clip
30. "Lawrence of Arabia" actor Omar
31. Add carbonation to
32. In ancient Greek theater, circular spaces in front of stages
34. Ancient Greek city whose theater has ruins that are still visible
38. Letter on Superman's chest
40. Suffix of sugars
41. "A long time ____ in a galaxy ..."
43. Sportscoaster ____ Albert
47. Cow's call
49. "Mamma ____" (Broadway musical)
51. Arena where the Atlanta Hawks used to play
54. "Rainbow" fish
55. Acquire knowledge
57. Prefix with red or structure
60. Glance at provocatively
62. Came to rest
63. A whole bunch of
64. Wide-mouthed pitcher
65. That lady
66. U-turn from WNW
67. Chinese restaurant beverage
68. Participated in a marathon
69. "Everybody Loves Raymond" network