



In The Zone

Vol. III, Issue 5
May 2010



INSIDE!

Football Coach Mike Sherman visits troops
Carabinieri Graduation Photo Spread
Troops Support Ballot Recount at Al Rasheed

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Soldiers in E Company, 536th Special Troops Battalion watch the road into Ashraf City outside, ensuring the safety of the supply trucks moving in and out of the city and the forward operating base with the same name, Camp Ashraf. Photo by Sgt. Melissa Shaw



On the Cover:

Soldier with 571st guards the helicopter landing zone on Camp Prosperity in May. Photo by Sgt. Melissa Shaw

in the ZONE



*Produced by the Joint Area
Support Group-Central Public
Affairs Office*

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In The Zone is published monthly as an electronic news magazine under provisions in the AR 360-1, para 3-6 by the Command Directorate's (JASG-C) Command for all military personnel serving as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom in the International Zone. The views and opinions expressed herein are not necessarily those of the Department of Defense, the U.S. Army, Air Force, Navy or the Marine Corps, or the National Guard Bureau.



From the Top JASG-C Commander

Through your hard work, the International Zone (IZ) is now staged for the departure of the 336th Military Police Battalion, the largest U.S. unit currently in the IZ, in early June.

Over the past several months, we have also prepared the transition of the Joint Area Support Group-Central to a smaller force and the entry control points for turnover to the Iraqis.

A great deal of work has gone into these key tasks for our mission. And there's still hard work ahead in the coming months.

Now is the time to go the extra mile to make your mark on this mission. How well the next unit is prepared to do the mission is an indication of how well we did ours.

Because time is getting short, use focused energy to accomplish key tasks going forward. Look to do things that need to be done, not just those that have to be done.

Like I've said before, go home better than you came. And, as you plan for going home, ensure your family is as informed as they can be; this comes from using those entities back at home.

The Army funds preparedness for soldiers and families now more than it ever has. Take the time to learn about these options online and through your leadership.

When focusing on your family, remember also that R&R gives us a false picture. The relationships that go on during R&R are not the way things will be when we go home. Keep those lines of communications open and prepare your family for your return.

Locally, we need all soldiers to reach out and grab somebody else that's here and pull them into an active participation during off periods of time. We need to take care of everybody. We can't afford to leave any soldiers behind.



Col. Mark Campsey
Joint Area Support Group
Commander

As we prepare to scale down our efforts, let's not leave anything up to somebody else to complete just because we can. Clean up what needs to be cleaned up and turn in what needs to be turned in.

We need to finish as strong as we started back in December. I'm proud we've executed very well so far, but everybody needs to push to the end.

ANZIO!

COL Campsey



(R) Col. Mark Campsey, 72nd Infantry Brigade Combat Team brigade commander and (L) Capt. Jeremy Prado, HHC Co. 72nd IBCT company commander after a promotion ceremony in front of the As Salaam Palace in Baghdad.

*Photo by Texas Army National Guard
Sgt. Melissa Shaw*

JASG-C Command Sergeant Major

The month of May has come and gone already and what do we feel we have personally accomplished? Some of us are closer to our goals - professional, educational and personal.

For others, May has found us to be stronger in our faith and more knowledgeable or proficient in our profession. Regardless, we're all closer to the end of our tours, a successful mission and closer to seeing our families.

And however the end of May has found us, this will always be a time for you to remember. We are here making history in many ways that may not be visible for years to come.

I will always look back and remember what an honor and a privilege it has been to serve with the men and women beside me today.

A unique opportunity for us on this deployment was the chance to honor those our country lost to military service through the observance of Memorial Day.

Memorial Day has traditionally been a time to reflect on the ultimate sacrifices made by so many to secure and ensure our way of life, the freedom and opportunity to make our own choices.

And here in what was once a fierce combat zone, with the evidence of that violent struggle all around us, we joined together as a community to honor and celebrate those that came before us and those that struggle still today.

My sincerest wish is to have that reflection carried over to your families and friends, for what they've had to endure to support us being here. It is up to us to remember their sacrifices and show our appreciation.

As Soldiers, one of the easiest and hardest ways to show this appreciation is to dedicate time and effort into returning home to our loved ones a better individual than when we left.



Command Sgt. Maj. Alfred Cordova,
Joint Area Support Group-Central CSM

Doing this can mean many things, but they are personal choices. It can take the form of furthering both civilian and military education, improving your physical fitness or taking on additional and more challenging leadership roles.

So, let us continue to improve ourselves and recognize that leadership experiences can be both rewarding and troubling, but for the most part, are educational.

Leadership can come in many forms but starts with those closest to us. Show strength, good will and compassion to those around you. Recognize weakness and always look out for your buddy.

Remember that though we are close to the end of our time here, we are not finished yet and our mission is not complete until everyone is safe and sound at home with our families.

"Return with Honor"
ANZIO 9

The highest enlisted advisor to the Texas Adjutant General, Command Sgt. Maj. Juan Morales (R) talks to Command Sgt. Maj. Alfred Cordova, the 72nd Infantry Brigade Troops command sergeant major, during a troop visit on Camp Prosperity, Baghdad.

*Photo by Texas Army National Guard
Sgt. Melissa Shaw*



FOB Prosperity & Union III 411

Common Access Cards

The IZ Common Access Card (CAC) office is in Room 110 on the first floor of the Palace (Bldg. 100) at FOB Prosperity, Monday through Saturday from 0800 to 1700. For questions, call DSN 312-239-1765 or e-mail: jasg-chrm@iraq.cent-com.mil



TMC
BLDG 87 Active-duty U.S. and Coalition Forces, retired U.S. military and Department of Defense federal government employees. Routine immunizations and PDHRA are available for individuals during sick-call hours.

Sick-call (Mon-Fri only)
0800 -1000/1300 - 1500.
Medical staff is present 24/7 in case of emergency. The clinic is closed on Saturdays and Sundays.

The Union III TMC relocated to the west side of Bldg. 5.
Sick-call (Mon-Fri only)
0800 -1000/1300 - 1500.
& 0800 to 1045 Saturdays.
Audiology services are now located at Phipps TMC in Balad; optometry and dermatology are located at Camp Liberty's Witmer TMC.



Laundry

Since dirty laundry is serious business, FOB Prosperity now has two drop-off points.

Locations and Hours:

A-Pod Trailor-

7 days a week 0700-2000

Facility in front of DFAC

7 days a week 24-hours a day

Things to Remember

- Pick it up where you drop it off.
- Both locations have a limit of 20 pieces per laundry bag.
- Blankets and comforters must be separated from clothing or uniform items.



Dining facility

The Prosperity dining facility across from the Palace (Bldg. 100) offers four meals a day with Grab-n-go options between meal hours. Meal hours are:

Breakfast: 0600 to 0830

Grab-n-go: 0830 to 1100

Lunch: 1130 to 1330

Grab-n-go: 1330 to 1700

Dinner: 1730 to 2000

Grab-n-go: 2000 to 2230

Midnight Meal: 2230 to 0100

Grab-n-go: 0100 to 0530

The Union III DFAC across from the Bldg. 1 parking lot offers four meals a day. Meal hours are:

Breakfast: 0530 to 0800

Lunch: 1130 to 1330

Dinner: 1730 to 2000

Midnight meal: 2330 to 0100

Post office

Free mail, limited to 13 ounces, still exists for the letter home. If you are mailing pictures, a small souvenir in an envelope or packages, then you must go to the post office. Packages will be inspected and limited to three items per visit. A military ID card is required for the transaction. Civilians need two forms of identification to conduct postal transactions.

Items forbidden to be shipped include weapons items, drugs, alcohol, and perishable material. For a complete list of items, consult CENTCOM AR 25-200 or HRSC Policy 07-26.

FOB Prosperity: Located at the west entrance of the Palace. The hours are **0900 to 1700 Monday through Friday.**

FOB Union III: A mailbox is located in front of Bldg. 6. The post office is located in Bldg. 5. The hours are 0800 to 1730 daily.

Gym/MWR

The Prosperity gym is located on the first floor of the Palace and is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

The MWR center, in rooms 122, 125 and 127, are also open 24/7 and offer a large-screen television, DVDs, books, boardgames, and other fun activities. The Union III gym is located in Bldg. 5 and is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

The MWR center, next to the gym, is also open 24/7 and offers a large-screen television, DVDs, books, boardgames, Xbox, and other fun activities.

Finance

Finance office hours:

FOB UNION III (BLDG 6, WING A, 2nd Floor)

Disbursing:

0900-1600 Monday - Saturday

0900-1200 Sunday

Drawing and Clearing of Funds by appointment only Monday - Saturday.

Military Pay:

0900-1600 Monday - Saturday

0900-1200 Sunday

FOB PROSPERITY (1st Floor Prosperity Palace)

0900-1200 Monday - Saturday, Closed Sunday

1200-1300 Closed for Lunch

1300-1600 Monday - Saturday

Check cashing:

-Casual Pay can be authorized for up to \$50.00 incl. letter from Co. Comm.

-Check Cashing Limit is \$100.00 per month in cash.

-R&R Check Cashing Limit is \$400.00.

-No starter checks / check number# 1-100.

Eagle cash card (ECC):

-ECC Unload limit is \$100.00 per month

-ECC Load limit is \$350.00 per day

Family Separation Policy:

-Family Separation Allowance (FSA) is payable to members w/dependents

-on temporary duty (TDY) for more than 30 days

-duty station is 50 miles or more away from dependents*

-Soldier married to Soldier, as long as the above qualifications are met

-Effective October 1, 2002, FSA is payable in a monthly amount of \$250

-Initial FSA payments will not be made until the 31st day of the SM being separated from his/her family.

-Service member must submit paperwork to start FSA to Finance, FSA does not start automatically.

Savings Deposit Program (SDP)

-SDP deposits can be started 31 days after Soldier arrives in country.

-Monthly SDP deposit is all entitlements minus deductions and allotments

"pay home pay" If you paid \$5000, but have \$3000 in allotments, garnishments, and deductions, you can only deposit \$2000 per month into SDP.

-SDP deposit can be by check, Eagle Cash Card, or by an allotment started at the Finance Office (cannot be started online)

-All Service Members are required to bring a copy of their LES to start or add to their SDP





Enriching the soul in a barren land

Chaplain's Corner

(L) Sgt. 1st Class Manuel Perez and Chaplain Laing stand with the Ziggurat of Ur in the background during a visit to Camp Adder.

Photo by Sgt. Melissa Shaw

By Chaplain (Lt. Col.) John Laing
JASG Chaplain

On May 31, 2010, we celebrate Memorial Day, the day set aside each year to honor the sacrifice of those individuals who paid the ultimate price in defense of our country.

The history of Memorial Day is not as cut and dry as we may think. It was first observed nationally as "Decoration Day" by the *Grand Army of the Republic*, a Union soldiers' veteran's organization, in 1868, though local observances preceded it and it was not a federal holiday.

Its roots in the North led many communities in the South to reject Decoration Day, but after World War I, it was pretty secure. From that time until 1967, it was observed on May 30.

The original name was meant to promote the decorating of war veterans' graves in addition to solemn assemblies, thus the practice of gatherings at cemeteries and the placing of flags and poppies on gravesites; following John McCrae's poem, "In Flanders Fields," written during World War I.

One of the unenviable, but important tasks of chaplains is to **honor the dead**. In executing this responsibility, we normally pay tribute to the life and service of the deceased individual and in so doing, glean insights about his/her example from which we can learn.

Lessons in selflessness, honor, courage, and duty are most common. The Bible talks about honoring the dead as well. The writer of the book of Hebrews in the New Testament offers an extensive discussion of the examples of several people of faith. It comprises an entire chapter, chapter 11, and is commonly referred to as "the roll call of faith."

Memorial Day Prayer

"Oh God, we thank you for those service members who sacrificed for freedom's sake, who paid the ultimate price in the service of the ideals of democracy, justice and truth; who stood up for those who were weak and helpless against tyranny. We ask that You would help us learn from their courage, selflessness and honor. We pray your blessings upon their families and friends. We also thank you for those who have gone before us in the faith and humbly ask that You teach us by their examples of faith, piety and steadfastness. Amen."

We are told that Abel's offering was one born of faith, of Enoch's close relationship with God (so

close that he was taken directly to Heaven), of Noah who built an ark in an area that seemingly never had rain (and certainly had never flooded), of Abraham who left his hometown to follow God's voice and believed God's promise of many descendants, of Moses' faith which helped him lead the people of Israel out of Egypt, and many others.

The point of this reiteration of the names and exploits of those saints is to inspire the readers to endure persecution and to learn from the examples of those who have gone before them in the faith. We gain strength when we reflect upon the stories of those who have preceded us, whether in earthly battles/struggles or in spiritual conflict.

When we hear inspiring stories of persons who overcame adversity or hardship, we feel like we have additional strength to face whatever life may bring our way. It works the same way in our spiritual lives. As it says in Hebrews, "Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us."

As we reflect on those who have gone before us, may we find strength to face whatever may come our way.

Graduation Held At Iraq's FP Medical Training Center-Baghdad

By Sgt. Melissa Shaw JASG-C PAO

Baghdad- A graduation ceremony for individuals completing a pilot program designed to put more medically trained individuals into military and government organizations was held at Iraq's Federal Police (FP) Medical Training Center in Baghdad, May 10th.

Several key leaders were in attendance and took part in the ceremony, including Brig. Gen. Abdul Salam, FP Sustainment Brigade commander, Rear Adm. Charles Ray, director of the Iraq Training, and Advisory Mission for the Ministry of Interior (ITAM-MOI).

While the twenty-three graduates included eight men from the Ministry of Interior and fifteen from the FP, the classes are open to all government and military organizations.

Future plans include more than doubling the class size and incorporating females from the Federal Police.

"There are currently approximately 240 women in the FP and we are confident we will be able to eventually utilize about 50 in the medical battalion, either as instructors at the center or in hospitals and clinics where they will be able to see the family members of those in the Federal Police," said Brig. Gen. Salaam said during the ceremony.

"The course-work completed by the graduates over the last six weeks is comparable to that received by American Army combat medics," said Maj. John Louch, "with increased emphasis on aid traditionally practiced in a hospital or clinical setting."

"For example, the Iraqi medics skill set includes the ability to set and cast broken bones, not something traditionally done by our combat medics."

Maj. Louch has been working with the FP as the transition team senior medical advisor since Dec. 2009.

"This class is 99 percent Iraqi ran and 1 percent U.S. assisted. We provided little more than a couple of the classroom training aides," he added proudly.

With Iraq's continued struggle to achieve stability in the nation and the opportunity for violence during this time of transition, the men and

women that graduate from this class room are needed more than ever.

"It is these first graduates that will provide hope to their organizations. They will be in place to help save the lives of the men and women beside them," said Rear Adm. Ray in recognition of the increased quality of life this training will provide.

A second set of students is on track to begin training May 15th and will include several members of the Border Patrol.

(TR) Brig. Gen. Salaam addresses the graduating class (BR) for the first medic course taught at the FPMTTC in Baghdad. A number of the FP transition team out of Camp Prosperity attended the ceremony (BM) including Lt. Col Demetrius Jackson, from San Antonio, TX.

Photos
by Sgt. Melissa Shaw



13th Class of Iraqi FP Completes Carbanieri Training



Seven-hundred ninety-three Iraqi Federal Police celebrated completing Italian Carbinieri training with a parade and demonstration of skills on Camp Dublin, April 27.

Speakers for the commencement included Jawad al-Bolani, Iraq's interior minister, Maurizio Melani, Italian Ambassador to Iraq and Lt. Gen. Michael Barbero, NATO Training Mission-Iraq Commanding General.



It can and does often look like a rippling river of camouflage during a parade, but there were definite spots of bright color about the neck of the men as they passed the grandstand. Prior to events like today's, battalions choose a color for all their men to wear to help distinguish who is in which unit.



In keeping with tradition, the class leader for the today's graduating students hands off the training flag to the leader of the incoming class. The training takes nine weeks to complete, 8 weeks of course work and one week of vacation.



Around Iraq

13th Class of Iraqi FP Completes Carbanieri Training



The Carbinieri training demonstration included riot control, stabilization of a hostage situation and simulated crime scene forensics.



Taken the GI Bill as far as it can go? Capitalize on \$cholarships And Fellowships

Gone are the days when searching for funds required long trips to the library, phone calls with school administrators or in-person visits to the schools themselves (although these are all still good ideas).

With innumerable opportunities available to veterans and service-members, it's actually easier to get money now than ever before.

Use your education counselor as your starting point and if you haven't already, check the Internet for sites

created specifically to help service-members along the path to educational funding.

This article will not enumerate every Web site or list every scholarship available; what it will do is show you several examples of each and hopefully highlight a few opportunities that would not have been considered before.

<http://www.fedmoney.org/grants/0-scholarships.htm> identifies scholarships and grants and has links to various scholarship programs.

Requirements for applications

Those interested in applying for the different scholarships are required to submit the necessary documentation of eligibility.

This includes, at minimum, a packet containing transcripts proving completion of GED program, high school and/or college credit and the Student Aid Report which delineates the expected family contribution to the school.

In addition, often the program have a minimum time in service or time deployed requirement that must be met and the DD214 (Active Duty, Reserve Component or National Guard) must clearly state the dates of service in Iraq or Afghanistan or participation in OIF or OEF.

Working with an education guidance counselor diminishes the chances that the paper-work will be incomplete and hamper the awards process and all service members are encouraged to contact their closest education office early on in the process.

The most important bit of information to remember, no matter what your education goals are, is not to feel overwhelmed, talk to your chain of command, use your resources and know that there is always a way.

Department of Veterans Affairs Advanced Fellowships and Professional Development

develops physician and dentist clinical proficiency, academic scholarship and leadership in emerging areas of health care important to employees of the VA. Fellowships concentrate in health issues of women veterans, advanced geriatrics, and dental research. Additional information may be found on <http://www.va.gov/oaa/specialfellows/default.asp> and <http://www.fedmoney.org/grants/0-fellowships.htm>.

Joseph P. and Helen T. Cribbins Scholarship

provides a \$2,000 scholarship to enlisted and honorably discharged soldiers of the Army, Army Reserve or Army National Guard. The award is based on personal and academic achievement; however it is restricted to obtaining a degree in engineering, computer science or a related field. Along with the application, applicants will need to submit a letter of recommendation, a one-page autobiography and a current transcript.

Presidential Management Fellowship (PMF) Program

provides Master's Degree level graduates with an appointment in the Federal service. Administered by the Office of Personnel Management (OPM), successful candidates receive an excepted service appointment with OPM, which then matches them with agencies who have been given a PMF authorization. PMFs are hired at the GS-9 level, and have promotion potential to GS-11 after the first year. <http://www.pmf.opm.gov/>

Continued on Pg 11

Camp Victory
Education Office
Guidance Counselor
318-485-5318

University of
Maryland University
College
Field Representative
318-485-6027

Camp Prosperity
Maj. August Murray
Education Officer
Sgt. 1st Class Daigle-Hutchins
Education NCO
318-239-1780

The National Flagship Language Initiative (NFLI) at the National Security Education Program (NSEP)

The NFLI represents the nation's first major partnership between the Federal government and higher institutions of education to implement a national system of programs designed to produce advanced language proficiency in languages critical to the nation's security.

Working in partnership with the National Foreign Language Center at the University of Maryland, NSEP has established national flagship programs across the U.S.

These Flagship Programs, coupled with directed and targeted fellowships for individual students, have produced graduates, many of whom will be candidates for employment with agencies and offices of the Federal government, across a broad range of disciplines with advanced levels of proficiency in languages critical to national security. <http://www.iie.org/programs/nsep/undergraduate/Flagship.htm>

Worldstudy is sponsored by the National Security Education Program (NSEP). Worldstudy is a U.S. government program dedicated to advancing global education for American college and university undergraduate and graduate students. <http://www.worldstudy.gov/index.html>

Larry Strickland Leadership Award and Scholarship rewards a non-commissioned officer who exhibits leadership and influence upon others to be leaders while practicing good stewardship of our soldiers. This award consists of a bronze eagle and \$2,000 to cover fees, books and expenses that tuition assistance doesn't cover.

DOE-Sloan Postdoctoral Fellowship in Computational Molecular Biology/Bioinformatics The Alfred P. Sloan Foundation and the U.S. Department of Energy recognize that exceptional scientific potential is emerging from the interplay between molecular biology and computational science. The purpose of these postdoctoral fellowships is to catalyze career transitions into computational molecular biology from physics, mathematics, computer science, chemistry and related fields. <http://www.sc.doe.gov/ober/educ.html>

Department of Defense Information Assurance (IA) Scholarship Program

This program was established to recruit and retain well-qualified personnel for work in the vital information assurance field and to cultivate continuing capacity for information assurance workforce development at select institutions of higher learning. The Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Networks and Information Integration; ASD (NII)) delegated program authority and responsibility to the National Security Agency. <http://www.defenselink.mil/nii/iasp/>

The National Security Education Program (NSEP) (David L. Boren Undergraduate Scholarships)

provides U.S. undergraduates with the resources and encouragement they need to acquire skills and experience in countries and areas of the world critical to the future security of our nation. NSEP is especially designed to support students who will make a commitment to Federal service. Recipients of NSEP scholarships and fellowships incur an obligation to work either for an office or agency of the Federal Government involved in national security affairs (broadly defined) or in higher education. <http://www.iie.org/programs/nsep/undergraduate/default.htm>



Soldiers grabbed lots of information packets during the IZ Education Day, held in April on Camp Prosperity. Photo by Spc. Jennifer Taylor

Texas A&M Coach Mike Sherman Visits Troops in Iraq



From Left to right, Capt. Jesse Jones, Maj. David Burger, 1Lt. Christopher Mersinger, Maj. Jon Lee, Maj. Kevin Smith, Coach Mike Sherman, Sgt. Jeremiah Dey, Maj. Cory Matthews, Maj. Sean Ibarguen, Lt. Col. David Farr and Capt. Mark Grahmann Photo by Texas Army National Guard Sgt. Melissa Shaw

Mike Sherman (R) and Maj. Jon Lee (L) participate in an interview conducted by AFN. Photo 1st Lt. Darryl Frost

By Dwain Price
reprint from the Fort Worth Star Telegram

COLLEGE STATION -- Still a bit jet-lagged after a week-long trip to visit American troops in Iraq, Texas A&M football coach Mike Sherman said the journey was a real eye-opener.

Speaking at a news conference Wednesday on campus, Sherman recalled stories of shaking hands with the troops and other military personnel, talking with soldiers, taking pictures and signing more than his share of autographs. The trip, which Sherman paid for himself, was his way of giving back and saying "thank you" to the men and women who have sacrificed so much.

"I feel very fortunate that I'm able to enjoy all the luxuries that I have here and I appreciate the fact that there are people out there protecting my freedom to allow me an opportunity to enjoy it," Sherman said.

"And so I just wanted to be able to go thank some people that allowed me to live my life, to let my kids live their life, my grandkids -- and sacrifice their lives in order for us to do it." Sherman was able to confirm the trip with help from A&M administrators, the Pentagon and top-level U.S. military officials in Iraq.



"There were security issues that had to be addressed when you have a civilian going into Iraq and into Baghdad and into different spots around," Sherman said.

"Everybody had to be on board and a lot of people had to sign off on it." The trip didn't start smoothly. Sherman was prepared to depart from Houston to Iraq last month, but his flight was postponed for two weeks because of the ash from the Iceland volcano that drifted over parts of Europe.

When Sherman eventually arrived in Iraq, he met several troops with ties to A&M.

"I met a lot of Aggies over there and at nighttime we watched the [recent A&M] spring game," Sherman said. "I brought the video with me and put it on the computer and showed it on a sheet up on a wall."

Continued on Pg 17



Memorial to the Unknown Soldier in Baghdad.

Photo by Texas Army National Guard Sgt. Melissa Shaw





Mike Sherman (R) talks with JASG-C soldiers on top of As Salaam Palace on Camp Prosperity.



Mike Sherman (L) talks with an Iraqi officer at the Joint Visitors Bureau Hotel on VBC.

"Obviously they had questions about all our players and about A&M. They were very supportive and see progress coming... As do all Aggies, they want to win a championship."

Sherman had two troops tell him they still had some college eligibility remaining and that they wanted to play for the Aggies. He even saw an A&M banner hanging on a lunchroom wall next to a Texas Longhorns banner.

While abroad, Sherman also received a telephone call from the states from a recruit's dad -- at 3 a.m.

"He told me this is where he wants his son to go to school," Sherman said. "I had to tell him, 'I am in Iraq, so this will probably be the first recruiting call any coach has ever received in that capacity.'"

The biggest challenge Sherman may have faced was telling his wife of 27 years that he intended to visit a war zone.

"I didn't tell her necessarily until she found out from somebody else," said Sherman, who returned home Sunday. "I wasn't going to tell her until the last minute. She was apprehensive about it, to say the least."

Sherman said he never feared for his life while in Iraq, but he did experience some anxious moments.

"There was one time when I went up in the Black Hawk [helicopter] when you put on the gear and the armored vest and the helmet and you see the guys sitting there with guns watching the grounds, you think something might be up there, and you get a little cautious," said Sherman, whose grandfather served in World War I and father served in World War II.

"Unfortunately my sunglasses flew off my head into the middle of Baghdad, so I was distracted by that.

"There was another time....I just heard some gunshots and it was a little alarming. It was kind of a wakeup call to where we all think we're so invincible until all of a sudden we're placed into a real-life situation.

"But it was the Iraqis who were practicing their target practice. I wish somebody would have alerted me to that before I jumped out of my shoes."



Mike Sherman presents Gen. Raymond Odierno with an Aggie jersey.



Mike Sherman raises American flag atop Al Faw Palace at VBC.



Mike Sherman signs autographs at evening event on Victory Base Complex during his visit.



Military Occupational Specialty Corner

Intelligence Analyst

96B/35F Army/ IS-3924 Navy/1N4X1 Air Force

Intelligence specialists use information derived from all intelligence disciplines to determine changes in enemy capabilities, vulnerabilities and probable courses of action. The Intelligence Analyst is primarily responsible for supervising, coordinating and participating in the analysis, processing and distribution of strategic and tactical intelligence.



San Antonio resident Capt. Melva Rivera, Joint Defense Operations Command battle captain for the 72nd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, gets the attention of the people in her area by tagging them with a bright green foam football. Photo by Sgt. Melissa Shaw

A service-member in this occupation;

- Prepares all-source intelligence products to support the combat commander.
- Assists in establishing and maintaining systematic, cross-referenced intelligence records and files.
- Receives and processes incoming reports and messages.
- Assists in determining significance and reliability of incoming information. Assists in integrating incoming information with current intelligence holdings and prepares and maintains the situation map.
- Assists in the analysis and evaluation of intelligence holdings to determine changes in enemy capabilities, vulnerabilities, and probable courses of action.
- Assists in the preparation of Order of Battle records using information from all sources and in the preparation of strength estimates of enemy units.
- Assembles and proofreads intelligence reports and assists in consolidating them into military intelligence.
- Prepares Intelligence Preparation of the Battlefield (IPB) products.
- Analyzes current intelligence holdings to identify gaps, and subsequent intelligence collection requirements.
- Considers enemy Order of Battle records in the development of collection tasks and assessment of enemy vulnerabilities and probable courses of action.
- Assists in the preparation of reports on captured enemy material. Drafts periodic and special intelligence reports, plans, and briefings.

Similar Civilian Occupations

There is no civilian occupation that is directly equivalent to MOS 35F. However, the following civilian occupations make use of the skills developed through MOS 35F training and experience.

- Business Operations Specialists
- Computer Operators
- Database Administrators
- Electrical and Electronics Repairers, Commercial and Industrial Equipment
- First Line Supervisors/Managers of Protective Service Workers, All Others
- Management Analysts
- Operations Research Analysts
- Radio Operators
- Technical Writers
- Training and Development Specialists

Training Information

16 weeks, 3 days at at Fort Huachuca, AZ

ASVAB Score:

105 in aptitude area ST

Security Clearance:

Top Secret



Other Requirements

- Normal color vision required
- Must be US Citizen
- Never been a member of the U.S. Peace Corps
- No record of conviction by court-martial
- No record of conviction by a civil court for any offense other than minor traffic violations
- Soldier and spouse must not have immediate family members who reside in a country within whose boundaries physical or mental coercion is known to be common practice
- Have neither commercial nor vested interest in a country within whose boundaries physical or mental coercion is known to be a common practice against persons acting in the interest of the U.S. This requirement applies to the soldier's spouse as well



Bring on the Pain: 571st MPs Line Up For OC (Pepper) Spray Certification



By Sgt. Melissa Shaw JASG-C PAO

Even before the sky had completed its transition from night to day, over 30 men and women with the 571st Military Police Company had filed into their headquarters orderly room on Camp Prosperity, Baghdad, to sit through the half-hour classroom portion of their OC (Oleoresin Capsicum) Spray certification class on May 7th.

Approximately 120 MPs on Camp Prosperity will take advantage of the opportunity to receive this certification before returning to the U.S. Staff Sgt. Jonathan McDonald walked the students through a short presentation covering the full gamut of the 5-Ws; who, what, when, where and why.

All Soldiers are issued either an M-4 rifle or M-9 pistol while deployed. However, due to the nature of their particular mission, MPs are given additional equipment that enables them to use non-lethal force when subduing and pursuing combatants.

One piece of this equipment is a small canister of OC Spray. OC is an aerosol spray that consists of an

active agent injected into a pressurized canister and dispersed, or sprayed, by aerosol.

The active agent, oleoresin capsicum, or OC, is a derivative of various hot pepper plants. It's the chemical that gives peppers their hot quality and, for this reason, it is also called pepper spray.

OC is an inflammatory that can cause swelling in the face, temporary blindness, running noses and shortness of breath. When used, it causes the person sprayed to involuntarily raise their hands to their eyes, further diminishing their ability to attack.

Fog vs. Spray

There are two types of OC Spray commonly employed by the military: fog and stream. For training's purposes, the MPs were only be tested with the stream canisters.

Fog sprays put out a super fine mist similar to fire extinguishers and are generally considered to be the most effective in terms of stopping power.

An attacker caught in an OC fog is virtually helpless instantly.

Foggers are excellent for creating a barrier while escaping an attack because the fog tends to hang in the air. The mist goes directly to the sensitive lung tissue and makes all but life support breathing difficult. They are the most efficient spray type for multiple attackers.

A stream spray is more successful in covering distances without affecting a large area. A good stream shot directly in the face is likely to stop all but the most determined attackers.

Also, a stream is not as affected by wind as the fog spray. Even in a stiff breeze, a good stream spray has good range and is unlikely to come back if shot into the wind.

The Training Purpose

There are many benefits to the training: "One, the carrier will gain a healthy respect for the pain it can cause and will be judicious in its use. Two, the carrier will have the foreknowledge that working through the

Continued on Pg 17



Soldiers with the 571st are first sprayed with an inert liquid to get them used to the feeling of something hitting them in the eyes.

Photos by Texas Army National Guard Sgt. Melissa Shaw



pain is possible for both the assailant and defender. Three, familiarity with a weapon leads to more proficient usage,” explained McDonald.

The Obstacle Course

After the classroom portion was complete, 1st Lt. Brittney Patton led the group outside for a brief walk through of the obstacle course they would be required to complete after receiving the spray.

They then moved over to the inert spray portion of the demonstration to allow the soldier to get used to the functionality of the spray can as well as prepare them for the involuntary flinching that naturally occurs when being sprayed in the face.

After receiving one more round of advice on how to work through the pain, everyone lined up behind Master Sgt. Michael Sweeney, the first OC victim.

Sgt. Josh Stevens watches Pfc. Jonathan Sandoval approach the white board where he will be required to recite six letters accurately to complete the obstacle course.



Sgt. First Class Michael Sweeney takes down the assailant and secures him with zip ties for this portion of the obstacle course.



The men and women of the 571st approached the task at hand courageously. The obstacle course tasks took relatively little time for the twenty-some-odd men and women to complete, depending on each individuals' tolerance for pain.

The course tasks included ordering an assailant to the ground and securing them with handcuffs, cor-

rectly identifying the clothing worn by a soldier posing as an assailant, from shoes to head covering, and reciting six letters written on a white board correctly.

Once the obstacle course has been successfully navigated, the MPs proceed to the medic station where they have their faces and eyes washed to remove the remaining OC. Here, Pfc. Justin Tyler, follows their instructions to the letter.

rectly identifying the clothing worn by a soldier posing as an assailant, from shoes to head covering, and reciting six letters written on a white board correctly.

Sweeney got the attention of the crowd gathered to watch the second day of the event when, as he reached the white-board event, he grabbed up the prop and shook it screaming out “I hate OC Spray.”

The soldier running that event, Sgt. Josh Stevens, just laughed and said, “Yeah, I think you got it.”

After completing the course to the satisfaction of Staff Sgt. McDonald and 1st Lt. Patton, the Soldiers moved on to have their faces and eyes decontaminated and were allowed to rest for an hour.

After running three groups for three days, both instructors and newly certified MPs were all red-eyed and slightly worse for wear, but also a little bit wiser to the power of the weapons placed in their hands.



Memorial Day History:

When was Memorial Day first celebrated?

Memorial day was first celebrated on May 30, 1868. It was observed by placing flowers on the graves of Union and Confederate soldiers during the first national celebration. Gen. James Garfield made a speech at Arlington National Cemetery, after which around 5,000 participants helped to decorate the graves of the more than 20,000 Union and Confederate soldiers who were buried there.

Why was Memorial Day celebrated on May 30?

Three years after the Civil War ended, on May 5, 1868, the head of the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) established Decoration Day as a time for the nation to decorate the graves of the war dead with flowers. Maj. Gen. John A. Logan declared that Decoration Day should be observed on May 30. This date was chosen because flowers would be in bloom all over the country. (It now is celebrated on the last Monday of May, which can change the date.)

Who started the custom of wearing red poppies?

In 1915, inspired by the poem "In Flanders Field" Moina Michael replied with her own poem.

She then came up with an idea of wearing red poppies on Memorial Day in honor of those who died serving the nation during war. She was the first to wear one, and sold poppies to her friends and co-workers with the money going to benefit servicemen in need.

*We cherish too, the Poppy red
That grows on fields where valor led,
It seems to signal to the skies
That blood of heroes never dies.*

What is the National Moment of Remembrance Resolution?

In the year 2000, the National Moment of Remembrance Resolution passed.

At 3pm on Memorial Day, all Americans are asked to voluntarily and informally observe in their own way a moment of remembrance and respect by pausing from whatever they are doing for a moment of silence or listening to taps.

And in 2004, Washington D.C. held its first Memorial Day parade in over 60 years.

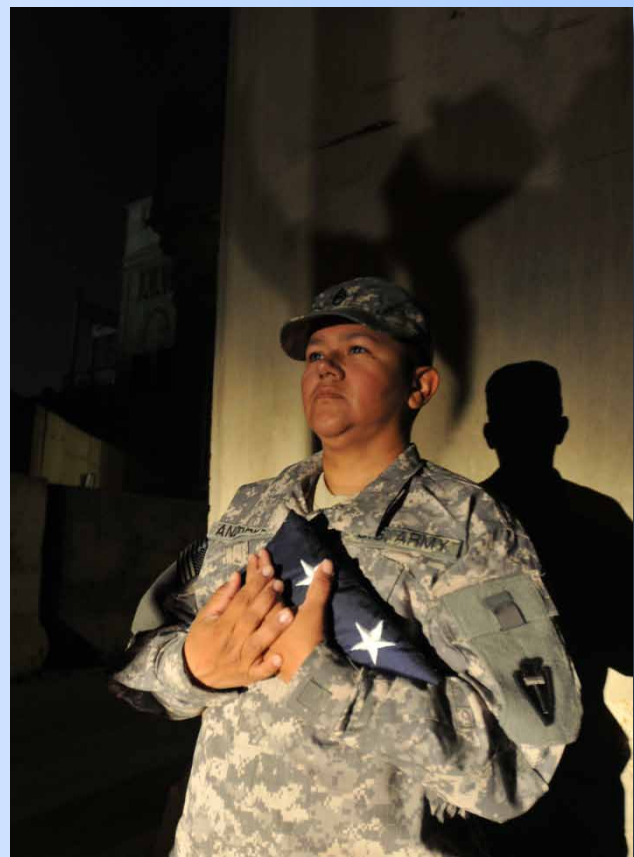
How is the 3rd U.S. Infantry associated with Memorial Day?

Since the late 1950's on the Thursday just before the Memorial day, around 1200 soldiers of the 3d U.S. Infantry place small American flags at each of the more than 260,000 gravestones at Arlington National Cemetery.

They then patrol 24 hours a day during the weekend to ensure that each flag remains standing. In 1951, the Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts of St. Louis began placing flags on the 150,000 graves at Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery as an annual Good Turn, a practice that continues to this day.

More recently, beginning in 1998, on the Saturday before the observed day for Memorial Day, the Boys Scouts and Girl Scouts place a candle at each of approximately 15,300 grave sites of soldiers buried at Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park on Marye's Heights (the Luminaria Program).

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Staff Sgt. Maria Andrade, from Houston, Texas, holds the flag prior to the start of a sunrise memorial service in front of the As Salaam Palace in Baghdad. Photo by Sgt. Melissa Shaw



Memorial Day History cont.

Formal Observance of Memorial Day:

- Wear a red poppies on Memorial day to honor those who died serving the United States during war.
- At 3 p.m. local time, Americans should pause for a moment of silence or listen to "Taps".
- Visit cemeteries and place flags or flowers on the graves of veterans.
- Visit a memorial.
- Attend a parade to honor fallen heroes.

Informal Observance of Memorial Day:

- Family and friends get together for a Picnic.
- Unofficial kick-off of the summer season.



Headquarters Company of the 72nd Infantry Brigade Combat Team participates in the sunrise Memorial Service in front of the As Salaam Palace in Baghdad. Photo by Sgt. Melissa Shaw

*Soldier, rest! Thy warfare o'er,
Sleep the sleep that knows not breaking,
Dream of battled fields no more.
Days of danger, nights of waking.*

Sir Walter Scott

For love of country they accepted death...

James A. Garfield

Memorial Day Trivia:

- Memorial Day is a day of remembrance of those who have died serving our country.
- General John Alexander Logan ordered the Memorial Day holiday to be observed by decorating the war dead.
- On Memorial Day, the flag should be at half-staff until noon only, then raised to the top of the staff.
- Red Poppies are recognized as the Memorial Day flower.
- "Taps" is often played at ceremonies on Memorial Day.
- Memorial Day was first called "Decoration Day" because of the practice of decorating soldier's graves with flowers.
- New York was the 1st state to officially recognize Memorial Day.
- Flowers and flags are the two most popular items people use to remember soldiers.
- The South refused to honor the dead on Memorial Day until after World War I when the meaning of Memorial Day changed from honoring civil war dead to honoring Americans who died fighting in any war.
- Memorial Day was declared a federal holiday in 1971.

*We come, not to mourn our dead soldiers, but to
praise them.*

Francis A. Walker



A sunrise memorial service is held in front of the As Salaam Palace in Baghdad in observance of Memorial Day.



Australians in the IZ Observe ANZAC Day

Memorial
Observations
around Iraq

Baghdad--- Deployments to foreign countries have a way of forging bonds that cross language and geographic barriers and expose similar traditions and values in ways never thought possible by the individuals lucky enough to experience life in the military.

This bears true for the men and women of the 72nd Infantry Brigade Combat Team serving in the International Zone of Baghdad and those with the Australian Embassy Security Detachment XVI-Baghdad.

The two groups have been working together, since 72nd IBCT first hit the ground in Dec. 2009, to ensure the continued safety and security of their countrymen currently inside the International Zone.

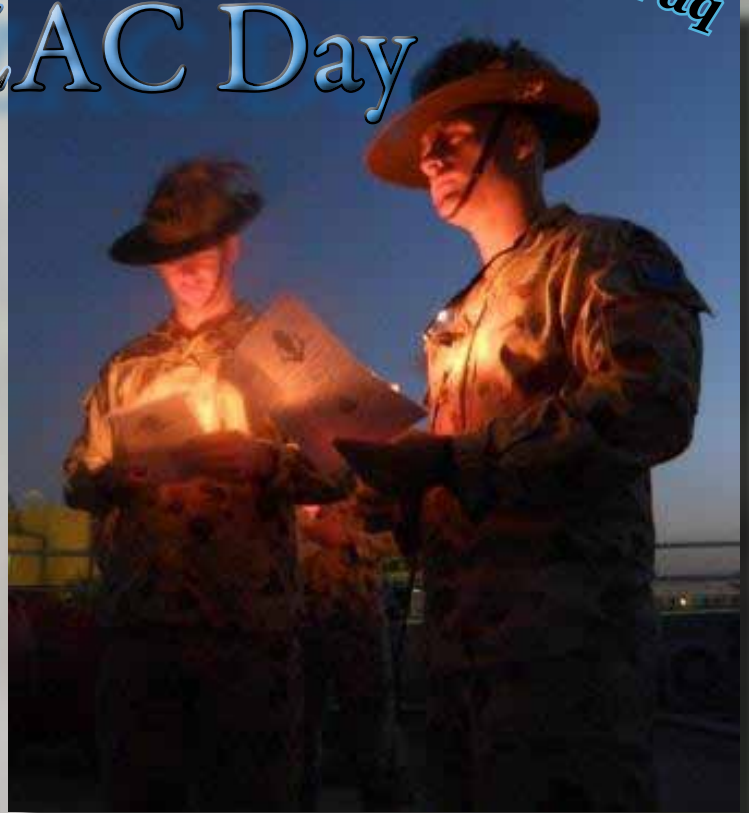
As with most militarily focused individuals, conversations between the groups regularly turn towards the parallels between the two great nations and of the many great battles fought and won by their forefathers.

Both countries can trace their military roots back centuries, with a history rich, full of loss and anguish, agony and defeat. And, while held on different days in different months, America and Australia have each created a time dedicated to stop and reflect on the futility of war and remember those who fought and lost their lives for their country.

ANZAC (Australian and New Zealand Corp) Day – 25 April –marks the anniversary of the first major military action fought by the Australian and New Zealand forces during the First World War.

First celebrated in 1914, it became established as a National Day of Commemoration for the 60,000 Australians and 18,000 New Zealanders who died during the war.

April 2010 was no different for the men and women on the Australian Embassy Compound in Baghdad where commemorative services were held at dawn, marking the time of the WW1 ANZAC forces landing at Gallipoli.



Half-left Face: Worldwide Memorial Held For Fallen Airman



Senior Airman Jarrod R. Chavana
ACCE Public Affairs

BAGHDAD, Iraq-- A memorial ceremony was held globally May 26, by tactical air control party Airman to honor a fallen comrade.

The ceremony was held precisely at 9:11 a.m. Central Standard Time, in honor of Senior Airman Bradley Smith who is being forever memorialized on the Tactical Air Control Party (TACP) memorial at Hurlburt Field, FL.

"It's most important that when we lose someone in combat, we take the time to honor them and today Brad Smith's name is memorialized on the TACP memorial at Hurlburt Field," said Col. Jeffrey Staha, the 368th Expeditionary Air Support Operations Group commander, deployed from Fort Hood, Texas. "More than anything is remembering the sacrifice, which this young man gave on the battle field that day and for this force to remember, so he's never forgotten."

An Air Force TACP team acts as the battlefield liaison between ground forces and aircraft weapon systems. They're generally a two-man team, working in an Army ground unit and directing close air support firepower toward enemy targets on the ground.



Airmen of the 368th EASOG face west, the direction of Hurlburt Field, FL., May 26, bowing their heads during a moment of silence. (U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt Morgan Sneed/released)

Airmen of the 368th EASOG stand in formation May 26, awaiting the start of the memorial ceremony at Camp Victory, Iraq. (U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt Morgan Sneed/released)

On Jan. 3, Airman Smith and his teammate Senior Airmen Michael Malarsie were on a dismounted patrol when his unit came under indirect fire. While scrambling for cover, someone stepped on a land mine, injuring several unit members including Airman Malarsie. The rest of the platoon regrouped after crossing a bridge.

The Army platoon sergeant assessed the situation, and asked for volunteers to go across the bridge to retrieve the wounded and locate missing Soldiers. The sergeant stated there were likely additional mines and that it was a risky operation. Without hesitation Airman Smith volunteered, and after locating the missing Soldiers and carrying back the wounded, someone triggered another land mine, killing Smith instantly.

"It's very important for us to remember those who've given their lives while protecting our country," said Air Force Chief Master Sgt. O'Neill, 368th EASOG chief enlisted manager, deployed from Fort Hood, Texas. "We've had three TACPs killed in action since the war began and it's very important to remember the guys who've gone on before us."

To honor one of their own the 368th EASOG added a special touch to the memorial. The 52 person formation performed a left face, in the direction of Hurlburt Field. From this position Colonel Staha, led the formation in a moment of silence, then called the participants to a 'position of exercise', where everyone performed 10 four count memorial pushups, one pushup for team work and one for their fallen comrade.



Air Force Central Command Chief Master Sgt. Mark Vilella and Ruben Gonzales participate in pushups May 26, with the members of the 368th Expeditionary Air Support Operations Group (U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt Morgan Sneed/released)

News you can use

New Law Governing How Retirees and Vets Salute Flag

Traditionally, members of the nation's veterans service organizations have rendered the hand-salute during the national anthem and at events involving the national flag only while wearing their organization's official head-gear.

The National Defense Authorization Act of 2008 contained an amendment to allow un-uniformed servicemembers, military retirees and veterans to render a hand salute during the hoisting, lowering or passing of the U.S. flag.

A later amendment further authorized hand-salutes during the national anthem by veterans and out-of-uniform military personnel. This was included in the Defense Authorization Act of 2009, which President Bush signed on Oct. 14, 2008.

Sgt. Nick Tran salutes the flag as it is raised in front of the As Salaam Palace in Baghdad. Photo by Spc. Jennifer Taylor



Here is the actual text from the law:

Sec. 595. Military Salute For The Flag During The National Anthem by Members Of The Armed Forces Not In Uniform And By Veterans.

Section 301(b)(1) of title 36, United States Code, is amended by striking subparagraphs (A) through (C) and inserting the following new subparagraphs:

(A) individuals in uniform should give the military salute at the first note of the anthem and maintain that position until the last note;

(B) members of the Armed Forces and veterans who are present but not in uniform may render the military salute in the manner provided for individuals in uniform; and

(C) all other persons present should face the flag and stand at attention with their right hand over the heart, and men not in uniform, if applicable, should remove their headdress with their right hand and hold it at the left shoulder, the hand being over the heart;



Proud families and members of the community watch as the 72nd Infantry Brigade Combat Team marches through downtown Houston, Texas in October of 2009 prior to their deployment to Iraq.

Photo by Sgt. Melissa Shaw

The 72nd Infantry Brigade Combat Team marches through downtown Houston, Texas in October of 2009 prior to their deployment to Iraq later that year. Photo by Sgt. Melissa Shaw



Note: Part (C) applies to those not in the military and non-veterans. The phrase "men not in uniform" refers to civil service uniforms like police, fire fighters and letter carriers - non-veteran civil servants who might normally render a salute while in uniform.

News you can use

600 Museums Offer Free Admission To Military

By Brett Zongker -
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — More than 600 museums nationwide are offering free admission to military families all summer in a new partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts.

The list includes some of the nation's premier art museums, including New York's Museum of Modern Art and the Art Institute of Chicago, as well as science centers, children's museums and other sites in all 50 states.

The program, called Blue Star Museums, is being announced Monday in San Diego, where 14 museums will participate. The offer for active duty military personnel and their families runs from Memorial Day through Labor Day.

It was the brainchild of Kathy Roth-Douquet, chairwoman of the group Blue Star Families. Her husband, Marine Corps Col. Greg Douquet, is on his third deployment to Afghanistan.

"You can feel a little alone in America right now, being part of the 1 percent that's involved in fighting these wars," she said, adding that the recession has changed priorities for many people. "When the kids and I go to museums this summer, we know we're being welcomed. It will make us feel less alone."

Roth-Douquet, who lives in Parris Island, S.C., said military bases are sometimes far from cultural centers, though museums can be a good escape.

The Defense Department is helping to promote the offer, and Roth-Douquet said some military bases may coordinate bus trips.

When her family was based in London for a time, she and her son and daughter spent an entire summer visiting museums because many were free. As a result, she said, her 8-year-old son Charlie now draws for hours each day.

This summer, they're planning a road trip along the East Coast to visit museums. Normally, a \$20 ticket to MoMA in New York might rule it out, she said. Now they could also stop for free at Washington's Corcoran Gallery of Art or New York's Jewish Museum.

NEA Chairman Rocco Landesman said he was surprised by how many museums joined the effort, despite the poor economy, from the Alaska Aviation Heritage Museum to the International Quilt Study Center and Museum in Nebraska.

"I think it is good karma for the museums," he said. "Long-term, it promotes museum-going and engagement with the arts."

Also, over Memorial Day weekend in New York City, Sen. Kristen Gillibrand has announced more than 50 museums and historic sites will offer free admission to military personnel and veterans.

Visit Facebook To Help Transitioning Veterans

If you or someone you know is honoring a deceased service member this Memorial Day, be sure to also pay a visit to Facebook to help honor the current generation of service members.

For every person who "likes" the [Call of Duty Endowment's Facebook page](#) between Thursday morning and midnight on Memorial Day, CODE will donate \$1 to Hire Heroes USA, a nonprofit that helps transitioning veterans find jobs. That money — up to \$30,000 — will be added to a \$20,000 grant from the endowment.

CODE was founded last November by the video game maker Activision Blizzard to fight veterans' unemployment.

A \$50,000 check would fund two years of transition workshops at military installations around the country, said former Marine Capt. Brian Stann, Hire Heroes' executive director. He is spreading the word with help from Facebook, Twitter and the Ultimate Fighting Championship, where he fights as a mixed martial artist.

"The veteran unemployment rate is about 20 percent," Stann said. "These men and women deserve the first chance in line for the American dream, not the last chance in line."

In addition to holding workshops, Hire Heroes works one-on-one with veterans who register on its site, matching them with job opportunities at its employer partners. It has placed 240 vets so far, he said.



Maj Sean P. Ibargüen

JASG-C Inspector General

May Topic

Post Deployment/Mobilization Respite Absence (PDMRA)

The Department of the Army Personnel Policy Guidance for Overseas Contingency Operations or PPG, Post Deployment/Mobilization Respite Absence (PDMRA) recognizes Soldiers who are required to mobilize or deploy with a frequency beyond established DOD rotation policy thresholds (AC deployment-to-dwell ratio of 1:2 and RC mobilization-to-dwell ratio of 1:5). PDMRA is considered non-chargeable leave or administrative absence.

The latest update to the PPG was 17MAY10 and may be found at <http://www.armyg1.army.mil/MilitaryPersonnel/ppg.asp>.

According to the PPG, the Army has defined the criteria for PDMRA with regard to creditable deployments/mobilization, administrative absence calculations, and program administration.

Bottom line: Get with your unit ADMIN and/or BN S1 for further assistance!

Reserve Component:

- Creditable mobilizations include involuntary mobilizations under Title 10, USC, sections 12301(a), 1230, or 12304; or voluntary mobilizations under 12301(d) if the duty is performed in Iraq, Afghanistan or Kuwait. To qualify a 12301(d) period of duty for PDMRA, the Soldier must provide an LES showing Hostile Fire/Imminent Danger pay to verify period of Boots on Ground (BOG) in Iraq, Afghanistan or Kuwait. ***KFOR and MFO both fall under Title 10, USC, 12302.***
- Computation of creditable time for mobilizations commences on October 7, 2001, or the date that is 72 months prior to the member's mobilization, whichever is the most recent. Creditable time includes the day the member is mobilized through the date the mobilization is terminated includes the effective date of the Soldiers mobilization orders through the date of the expiration of the mobilization order, to include periods of R&R and temporary duty (TDY) outside Iraq and Afghanistan for TDY periods of 30 days or less.
- PDMRA usage: RC Soldiers may use accrued PDMRA during any authorized R&R leave period, or during a current mobilization order/authorized extension of current mobilization order. Soldiers unable to utilize accrued PDMRA days during their current mobilization order may be voluntarily retained on active duty under the provisions of Title 10 USC 12301(d), Contingency Operations-Active Duty for Operational Support orders (CO-ADOS), to utilize accrued PDMRA days.

Previous deployment/mobilization credit: Active and Reserve Component Soldiers may qualify for deployment/mobilization "time" credit for a qualifying mobilization or deployment prior to implementation of this program. PDMRA "days" do not accrue for earlier deployments or mobilizations.

Deployment/mobilization "time" credit approved for a previous deployment/mobilization period would simply be used to begin computation of PDMRA days for deployments/mobilizations that are currently underway on, or commencing after January 19, 2007.

Active Component:

- Creditable deployments include deployments to Afghanistan, Iraq or within certain theater units (units that routinely conduct operations or support units that conduct operations in Iraq but not based in Iraq); deployment time for this purpose includes the day of the member's arrival in theater through departure of boots-on-ground (BOG).
- Computation for creditable time commences January 19, 2004 or the date that is 36 months prior to the member's deployment, whichever is the most recent. Creditable time continues to accrue during periods of rest and recuperation (R&R) leave and for temporary duty (TDY) outside Iraq and Afghanistan for TDY periods of 30 days or less.
- PDMRA usage: Soldiers may use accrued PDMRA during any authorized rest and recuperation (R&R) leave period, within 12 months of returning from deployment or during permanent change of station (PCS) travel between the Soldier's old and new permanent duty station (PDS). Accrued PDMRA cannot be carried over into the next PDS until an automated accrual, tracking and usage system is implemented. Check your Soldiers' Master Military Pay Account and the Unit Commander's Pay Management Report IOT ensure pay and allowances are in correct order.

Detailed information on determining a Soldier's eligibility for credit for previous deployments can be found at the following link:

<http://www.armyg1.army.mil/MilitaryPersonnel/PPG/Hyperlinks/Adobe%20Files/PDMRA%20Information%20Sheet.pdf>

No tax benefits (combat zone tax exclusion/tax relief) accrue or are attached to days of PDMRA regardless of where they were earned or awarded. PDMRA cannot be sold back at separation, REFRAD, or retirement.

For more information, contact the IG, MAJ Sean P. Ibargüen, on FOB Prosperity at Building 78. He may also be reached at sean.ibarguen@iraq.centcom.mil or at 318-239-7902.

Respect By The Letter

Excerpt from speech given by Chief Master Sgt. David Popp, Air Combat Command, to those transitioning into the non-commissioned officer corp

The key to success is respect—not only earning it and keeping it, but also understanding the fundamentals behind the word itself. It's a message he delivers regularly to newly minted NCOs and Sr NCOs.

R = Responsibility

Winston Churchill once said, 'The price of greatness is responsibility.' The R in the word respect stands for responsibility. As an NCO we expect you to stand up and step up to your responsibilities, the chief said.

It is your responsibility to ensure the Soldiers are housed properly, trained properly, equipped properly and ready to deploy to carryout the mission.

E = Example

What you do speaks so loudly, your Soldiers may not hear what you're saying! Gen. George S. Patton once said, 'Troops, you're always on parade!'

You're an example to your fellow Soldiers when you're in the shoppette Saturday night when you've got your earring in and are purchasing those three cases of Miller Light. You're an example to your fellow Americans when you deploy to fight the hurricanes, floods or forest fires, Chief Popp explained. And you're an example when you wear this

uniform overseas, driving that convoy or working at the Camp Cropper Internment Center. To earn respect, you must set the right example.

S = Standards

If you don't stand for something, you will fall for anything! If you don't enforce the standards, then who will? Never, never, never apologize for enforcing our high standards. When we don't enforce the technical orders, the AFIs, the General Orders — equipment gets wrecked, people's lives are placed in jeopardy and our fight to win the GWOT gets set back. To earn respect, you must stand up and enforce the standards.

P = Performance

There is no second place in war; you either win or you lose! NCOs are responsible for their individual performance, their team's performance and the overall outcome of the mission. This war on terrorism is much bigger than Iraq or Afghanistan. When you put on our team's jersey, this is a joint fight — that's why it says, US-AF, US-Army, US-Navy, US-Marines.

Many NCOs now are familiar with 15 straight years of deployments to Desert Shield, Desert Storm, Operations Northern and Southern Watch, Operation Iraqi Freedom I/II and Operation Enduring Freedom. As we move into Phase IV, we will

be asking all Soldiers to step up and perform at 100 percent of their ability. To earn respect, you must continue to perform.

E = Evaluate

How do you evaluate those daily crisis', issues, and problems brought to you?

I believe every NCO shows up to these fiery situations with a bucket in each hand. In the left is a bucket of water and in the right is a bucket of gasoline, the chief said. Which one do you use? The water to extinguish the situation or the gasoline to get it roaring out of control? I challenge NCOs to get the facts before they use either bucket — evaluate the situation before you empty one of those buckets. To earn respect, you must evaluate before you take action.

C = Communications

I have found that Soldiers are always down on what they are not up on. How well do you share the 'big picture' with your Soldiers? How well do you provide your performance expectations to your Soldiers? Do you share with them: the Who, the Where, the When and most importantly the Whys? To earn respect, you must keep the lines of communications open.

T = Taking care of the Soldiers

Your Soldiers do not care how much you know — until they know how much you care about them!

If I asked you to tell me about your Top 3 performing Soldiers, could you? Could you tell me their: Date Arrived Station, family status, hobbies, goals, their CDC score or their PT Score? Do you know what they did last weekend?

To earn respect, you must know and take care of your Soldiers.

Staff Sgt. Collier (left) and Lt. Col. Quick share the burden of shuffling hundreds of bags during the inbound trip to Iraq. This was one baggage load up out of many Quick, the 72nd Infantry Brigade Combat Team executive officer, and Sgt. 1st Class Gerald Collier took part in during the trip overseas. Photo by Sgt. Melissa Shaw



Ballot Recount at the Al-Rasheed Hotel

By Sgt. Melissa Shaw JASG-C PAO

Baghdad- U.S. soldiers from the 571st Military Police Company and the Joint Area Support Group-Central (JASG-C) security directorate have been working round the clock since May 2nd on request from the Iraqi government to augment the security surrounding the partial recount of the Baghdad parliamentary election ballots.

Several weeks ago, an Iraqi review panel decided to unseal the roughly 11,300 ballot boxes and recount more than two million ballots after a complaint from Maliki's bloc alleged fraud in the initial tally of ballots in Baghdad, which holds more than a fifth of the seats in parliament.

Officials had expected the Baghdad recount to take as long as two weeks to complete. However, thus far, they have been right on schedule. By May 12th, 74 percent or approximately 8,500 ballot boxes had been processed.

The 571st and JASG-C fulfilled the request for support from the Iraqi government by providing movement and security over-watch coordination as the ballot boxes traveled from their storage facility outside the International Zone (IZ) to the Al Rasheed Hotel, which is located inside the IZ.

"This is why we are here, I am glad for the opportunity to be taking part in something this historic event. I think everyone in my team is ready for this, ready to assist should we be needed," said 1st Lt. Angela Zecca,

the 571st MP Co. quick reaction force team leader.

Maj. David Burger, JASG-C security directorate, explained the recount processes as he watched a line of counters leaving the second shift grow: "Each day 700 counters come through the front gate, in two different shifts."

"They unseal the boxes by district, count the votes, put the results on a tally sheet and reseal the boxes. The tally sheets are then taken back to the IHEC and compared to the original results."



Ballot counters inside the Al Rasheed Hotel.

"If there are discrepancies with the original results, a second recount is done, if not the results are validated and reported up."

In the Al Rasheed hotel, a flurry of activity can be seen throughout the day under the watchful gaze of Mr. Qassim Al-Darraj, the Independent High Electoral Commission general manager.

Sgt. James Bittle, of Amarillo, Texas stands guard at the helicopter landing zone on Camp Prosperity. Bittle is part of the 571st Military Police.



Ballot counters leaving the Al Rasheed May 11th. Photos by Sgt. Melissa Shaw



Locals load and unload the ballots everyday for the counters working inside the Al Rasheed Hotel.

When asked how the Iraqi people feel about the transparency of the recount and whether the results will be accepted a second time, Mr. Qassim said: "As for me, I don't speak for the Iraqi people."

"I can say, however, the counters are under constant observation. There are roughly 600 outside observers and 14 national media organizations covering this event."

This is truly a national event, evidence of which can be seen in the counters themselves. While many are from the Baghdad province, just as many are not from the urban district.

Samy Hayder Wali, a farmer from Mosul, said he became a part of the group because it was his responsibility. He is here representing his community.

"I am here because it is a good job, with good money and will be good for my family," said Kirkuk resident, Saad Ali Gaseem



Are You Ready To Die?

Wills and Living Wills

This is the second in a two-part series on legal documents the Legal Assistance Office can draft for you.

By 1st Lt. Dana Collins 72nd JASG-C JAG

A standard will and ancillary documents could easily cost over \$1000 per person at a civilian law firm. But, more importantly, they can save your family thousands in legal bills and taxes, if done properly.

Wills

A will is good for the life of the document or until you make a new will. As your life changes, you should update your will. Marriages, divorce, childbirth, the death of someone or moving to a new state are all reasons to update your will.

Safeguard the original will in a place where family members will be sure to find it. Legal assistance offices will write a will for your spouse, upon request. Wills can create trusts for your children and appoint a guardian so your family avoids excessive taxation or drawn-out court battles.

The executor named in your will has control over your entire estate, including your bank accounts and property. You can speed up the probate process by naming a person to "Pay upon Death" on all your accounts.

If you have a designated executor with the "Pay upon Death" paperwork, the bank will close the account and send all proceeds to that person when the executor presents a death certificate.

Living Wills

A living will is not a will at all. It is a written declaration of the types of medical treatment you do or do not want to receive under certain medical conditions.

A living will is often the equivalent of a "Do Not Resuscitate" letter stating if you are in a coma or have little hope of recovering from a serious medical condition, the medical staff should not take drastic steps to prolong your life, i.e. placing you on life support.

Living wills are not common for younger soldiers, but if you feel strongly about not being placed



on life support, your local Legal Assistance Attorney can draft a living will for you.

Another option is to appoint a Medical Power of Attorney and express your wishes to the person you appoint to make those decisions if you are incapacitated.

Taking advantage of the free legal services provided while you're activated can save you and your family money and aggravation. If you have any questions about legal documents for your situation, contact your local Legal Assistance Office.

The legal assistance office for the International Zone is located in building 78 on FOB Prosperity. For information, contact 1LT Dana Collins at usf-ijasg.legal.assistance@iraq.centcom.mil or 318-239-1708.

Fast Facts about Texas Wills

- Naming your executor as an "Independent Executor" can save you thousands in legal bills and court costs.
- Without a self-proving affidavit, the witnesses to your will need to testify that they saw you sign your Will.
- If you are single with no children and no significant assets, you probably should not have a will.
- If you die in 2010, there is no federal estate tax, but that will change again in 2011.
- Texas does not have an estate tax.
- If you write on or cross out anything on your will, it may void the entire document.

Keeping The IZ Fresh and Clean: KBR Opens New Laundry Facility on Camp Prosperity



By Sgt. Melissa Shaw JASG-C PAO

Baghdad-There's no doubt about it service-members are a dirty group of people. From their sweat drenched PT uniforms to their dusty, dirty, grime encrusted combat uniforms.

And thanks to the newly built 24-hour KBR laundry facility on Camp Prosperity, it's now easier than ever for them to clean up their act.

The 12,000 square foot metal building is equipped with eighty regular washer/dryer sets that use cold water, low heat as specified for the military uniforms, but also maintain six industrial-size sets that use hot water and high-heat for bedding and MWR towels.

Behind the building is a large storage tank, capable of holding fifty-thousand gallons of city water. This system is much more efficient than the previous storage tanks of only five-thousand gallons they used on Camp Hope.

The occasional city-water outages have the tendency to stop operations. The capability

to stockpile enough water to complete the day's task reduces the down-time the facility is forced to deal with when this occurs.

The new efficiency is not limited to saving time through smart water storage; the central location has now turned to computer automation when customers turn in their clothes.

There is no longer any need to fill out the ubiquitous triplicate carbon copy (only at this location) when turning over your bag and streamlines looking up prior turn-ins. However, it is always a good idea to make sure to keep your receipt as computer systems are fallible.

In addition to its wet laundering capabilities, the KBR team also procured sufficient dry cleaning equipment and pressing machines to take care of the Department of State and Triple Canopy needs.

All in all the, the facility is more than able to process the clothes brought in from the Embassy, North-Wedge, Camp Condor and, of course, Camp Prosperity.

"There are ninety local nationals at this particular site. We run 24-hours a day and are constantly bringing in shipments from our satellite drop-off and pick-up sites around the IZ," said Sanja Maksimovic, KBR laundry services manager.

Sanja is able to use her twelve years of experience, over five in her native Bosnia and seven here in Iraq, working in KBR laundry facilities to deal with the small issues that can arise.

"Sometimes it's customers coming in wanting us to rush their bag through or just looking for a lost item."

Continued on Pg 28



(R) Pressing machines make short work of the hundreds of uniforms that are processed through the facility daily.

(L) The 24-hour facility is equipped with a computerized system that tracks all the drop-offs per person, making locating lost items and bags much more efficient. Photo by Sgt. Melissa Shaw



Clean: Continued from Pg 27

"We are more than happy to work with our customer, that's what we are here for."

As for how they handle the occasional surge in bags that happens as units move in and out of the area: "There were thirty-four thousand bags of laundry washed, dried and folded last month, but we can definitely handle that and much more. It all depends on the needs of our customers."

The State Department funded project took shape after Camp Hope, the previous location for the International Zone's centralized laundry facility, was designated in 2009 as one of the sites to be turned back over the Government of Iraq.

Planning for the new facility began later that year in May and once Prosperity was identified as the ideal location, the project proceeded at a swift pace.

It took only four months before construction began with, ironically, the destruction of the old jail-house that previously occupied the current location.

Little fanfare, but much joy accompanied the doors opening for the first customers seven months later in March of 2010.

"The quick turnaround from planning to finished product is attributed to the one-hundred twenty-five industrious contractors that participated in the bottom-up construction. From digging the foundation to laying the wires and installing the HVAC, it was their round-the clock efforts that got us going," said William Bodie, a KBR director of services.



Dry cleaning is offered to the Department of State Employees working at the American Embassy in downtown Baghdad.

The facility is capable of handling more than just the service-members, security forces and civilians that dutifully turn in their green bags filled with sweat soaked and food stained clothes.

Added to the mix are the endless towels used by the MWR patrons and bedding sets from billeting.

The number of towels the facility runs through usually increases steadily as spring inches towards summer.

For example, there were 40,840 washed in February and 46,820 just two months later in April, 46,820, a fifteen percent increase.

The billeting office is another of its regulars, turning over approximately four-thousand bedding sets each month.

But it doesn't matter who you are or what you turn in (remember-there is a twenty-piece per bag limit). You can expect your belongings to be returned to you within seventy-two hours, give or take a bit depending on your drop-off location.

And just in case you think you've left something in your pockets: "All pockets are checked before clothes are put in the washer. At that point found items are placed in a sealable envelope with copy of the laundry ticket," said Bodie.

"We keep all items secured until they are ready to be handed over to the Mayor Cell or customer. Notification with all information is attached to laundry ticket; once the person comes to pick-up their laundry, we will show the person the notice. If they don't return within six weeks, the item is turned over to the mayor's cell. Anyone looking for their lost items should check both places."

So no need to fear about your dog-tags or thumb-drives, passports or credit-cards, or even the odd rattle-snake tail that somehow find their way into the bags (yes, I'm serious). All you need to do is ask at the front desk. But just to be on the safe side, take that extra few minutes and have them do an inventory when you first drop it off.

The clothes are sorted and stored in spacious rooms making locating each person's bag that much easier for the employees.



Bottom-up Recognition

Giving A Shout Out To Three Individuals That Are 'Over The Tops'!

By Sgt. Muriel F. Saintiny-72nd IBCT

72nd Infantry Brigade Combat Team (72nd IBCT) Soldiers read stories or articles about our command sergeants major, but rarely is information reported on or sought on our sergeants major.

These senior non-commissioned officers (NCO) contribute development training, career progression while providing support and morale to our Soldiers.

They mentor junior and senior NCOs while assisting their commissioned officers.

They are the "above all" experts in their field. They possess the "know-how" to accomplish missions with accuracy.

They are husbands, brothers, fathers and, believe it or not, human.

At Forward Operating Base (FOB) Prosperity, we have three phenomenal sergeants major in the Joint Area Support Group-Central (JASG-C).

The sergeant major is a subject matter expert in his technical field, primary advisor on policy development, analytical reviewer of regulator guidance and often fulfills the duty of the command sergeant major in his absence.

"As NCOs, regardless of the Service you're in, Army, Marines, Navy, Air Force, or Coast Guard, there is a line that runs through them all that makes us all the same."

Command Sgt. Maj. Tomas R. Hawkins

"Take time to analyze what you are doing, don't lose focus on your Soldiers' needs. If you really listen to your Soldiers, you will learn a lot, and understand the different styles of leadership and know what yours is and how to adjust that to different situations and personalities.

My reward is my Soldiers' success!"

Sgt. Maj. Michael R. Tibbetts

"What to do in difficult situations: Base your judgment on; Army values and attributes, and your experiences."

Sgt. Maj. Raul Mangual-Colon

It is what it is, make adjustments and move forward."

Sgt. Maj. John F. Sampa

Definition of Over the Tops

Origin: created in 2002 by Sgt. Muriel Saintiny who identifies her former 1SG/ mentor as Over the Tops.

***Command Sgt. Maj. Tomas R. Hawkins,
Senior Enlisted Leader for U.S. Transportation Command***

a. person or person(s) who are not a first sergeant (Top) but a sergeant major (Sgt. Maj.) hence being, Over the Tops.

b. According to author, an honorable name.

c. indicating a special Sr. NCO that always "Takes Care of Troops" no matter what.

Sgt. Maj. Michael R. Tibbetts, Sgt. Maj. Raul Mangual-Colon and Sgt. Maj. John F. Sampa.

This trio of sergeants major rather have their Soldiers recognized instead of being mentioned in honor.

Fortunately we, the Soldiers in the 72nd IBCT, do appreciate them and their accomplishments, their success and their honorable devotion to duty.

We need them, are proud of them and some of us would like to be like them, if we're lucky.

The point of featuring these sergeants major in this forum is to introduce to all Soldiers and family members who they are, and the way they want to be represented.

Know this – All these sergeants major are superb, thank-you for your service, your specialties and just thank-you sergeants major.

Continued on Pg 30





Sgt. Maj Michael Tibbetts, the JASG-C Security Directorate NCOIC & Brigade Operations Sgt. Maj., has more than 26 years of military experience.

Sgt. Maj. Tibbetts accepted his position as sergeant major to fulfill the opportunity to take care of Soldiers and effect change.

When asked about his mentors, Sgt. Maj. Tibbetts was quick to name several people who have influenced his career such as; Brig. Gen. James (Red) Brown, Col. Mark Camspey, Sgt. Maj. Don Morrison and Command Sgt. Maj. (Ret.) Clyde Worrell.

They provided him the skills to give Soldiers different ways to look at situations and approaches.

He developed the ability to assist Soldiers to think "outside the box" and challenge them to help fellow Soldiers.

You may not know this about him however, he is approachable and willing to assist, help and mentor anyone.

His job is his heart and Soldiers are part of his family, literally, as his brother, sons, nephews and sister-in-law have enlisted, plus countless friends.

Sgt. Maj. Tibbetts says: "Good leaders/ Soldiers do this because they want to, not because they have to".

His advice to future/current NCOs is: "Ask yourself, are you part of the solution or part of the problem?"

Upon return to the states, Sgt. Maj. Tibbetts will be retiring. He will be missed.



Sgt. Maj. Raul Mangual, the Department of Logistics sergeant major, Texas Army National Guard, G4, has been in the military for 26 years.

While Sgt. Maj. Mangual is grateful to many people, he accredits two specific mentors, Master Sgt. Allen and Chief Warrant Officer Cuellar with advising him on the implementation and use of the new supply information system, while providing him time management skills, both vital in the supply industry.

The skills he developed are what propelled him to the honored rank of sergeant major.

Overall, he specifically gives thanks to God, and his wife, Barbara and children. She advised him, stayed by him and was the source of great inspiration.

Sgt. Maj. Mangual's advice to Jr./Sr. NCO is: "Provide guidance to your Soldiers, keep them informed and make sure they are trained."

"Call them from time to time, not only about work, but about their well-being, their families and any issues". This advice, Sgt. Maj. Mangual says, "Takes you a long way".

After this deployment, Sgt. Maj. Mangual plans to return to his G4 position.



Sgt. Maj. John Sampa, the JASG-C Installations NCOIC, has 23 years of experience in the military.

In 2008, he accepted the promotion to sergeant major to fulfill a goal, which he set for himself.

He attributes his success to Brig. Gen. James K. (Red) Brown and his cousin Command Sgt. Maj. Jasper Williamson. He indicated that they taught him the standards of military leadership, how to care for Soldiers, dedication of duty and selfless service.

The opportunity to lead and mentor Soldiers has never been stronger, nor more evident to him than during this deployment to Iraq.

One of his more frequently used

methods of delivery of mentorship is "A Soldier's Tool Box".

This program, he designed, assists Soldiers with their career, military and civilian, finances, spirituality, physical health and a myriad of other areas that need care and attention.

His advice for Jr./Sr. NCOs is simple and direct: "1) Be open-minded about your career and adjust to change. 2) Be realistic and set goals based on your ETS date prior to 20 years or after. 3) Stay involved in managing your own career and don't just rely on others."

He easily admits he didn't reach his successes alone. "As leaders, we must assist Soldiers to achieve their military goals".

Sgt. Maj. Sampa, loves to cook!

After Iraq, he plans on returning as a Texas State Trooper.



72IBCT Launches Post-Deployment Soldier Support Page

Many reserve component Soldiers face employment and education challenges when returning from deployment. These issues can range from learning how to complete a resume, searching for civilian or federal employment and seeking to continue serving in the military in a full time position. The 72nd Infantry Brigade Combat Team is committed to providing helpful information and resources to its Soldiers while deployed, during redeployment and during reintegration back home.

In May 2010, members of the 72nd IBCT, with 22 units deployed in Iraq, were administered a survey inquiring about their post-deployment concerns.

Over 2,650 Soldier responded to the online survey.

Based on the feedback, many Soldiers asked for assistance with post-deployment employment and education. To support the Brigade's Soldiers, the 72nd IBCT has begun a post-deployment employment and education Web page on the Army Knowledge Online (AKO) portal.

The 72nd IBCT AKO support page has begun providing military and civilian employment postings, links to key Web sites, and helpful benefits information and points of contact. The intent of the 72nd IBCT support page is to provide assistance and resources on the two most sought after concerns; employment and education.

AKO users can access the page at: <https://www.us.army.mil/suite/page/636223>

The screenshot shows the AKO portal interface. At the top, there's a navigation bar with 'Home', 'My Account', 'Favorites', 'Quick Links', and 'Self Service'. Below this is a search bar and a '72IBCT Post-Deployment Soldier Support' header. The main content area is divided into several sections:

- Files: Files Viewer**: A 'My Private Knowledge Center' with folders for 'Education - GI Bill' (4 files), 'Education - TA' (4 files), 'Employment Resources' (6 files), 'Job Postings-CV' (1 file), 'Job Postings-MIL' (10 files), and 'Veteran Benefits' (3 files). There's also a file named 'SFP News-May 10' (744.03 KB .pdf file).
- Tools: Links**: A list of useful links including 'Resume, Cover Letter & Interview Tools', 'Occupational Info Network (O*NET) - US Department of Labor', 'MilitaryConnection.com', 'Hire Heroes USA', 'In Fort Worth, National Guard pilot program helps vets find work', and 'TXARNG Employment Opportunities'.
- Viewer: Photo Viewer**: A gallery of four photos with captions:
 - Jan 10 - GI Bill Flyers
 - May 10 - MG Mayorga visit
 - Apr 10 - Education Brief
 - May 10 - Promotion
- 72IBCT Employment Bulletin Board**: A section titled 'Employment Postings' with email announcements to august.murray@us.army.mil. It lists several job opportunities:
 - 24MAY10: USF-I Job Opportunities (DA Civilian Jobs - Iraq)**: USF-I is recruiting for multiple vacancies (\$50,287 - \$110,104). See announcement in the above folder "Job Postings-Military".
 - 23MAY10: Operation Warrior Trainer (OWT) program**: 1 Year jobs at TF Outlaw (Ft Bliss) as SME in DET OPS. Eligible after tour is complete in Iraq. APFT Score important. "See folder "Employment - Military" for packet info.
 - 20MAY10: TXARNG Counterdrug Task Force**: Multiple vacancies posted on TXNG Jobs Website: <http://www.texasnationalguard.us/inbs/default.asp>.

The bottom of the page shows the Windows taskbar with the Start button, taskbar icons for 'Inbox - Microsoft Outlook', 'Army Knowledge Onl...', and 'My Pictures'. The system clock shows '10:45 PM'.

Army Values: A Soldier's Point of View

Personal Courage
Respect
Loyalty
Integrity
Self-less Service
Duty
Honor-

living up to the Army Values



Honor is incorporating my fears and my weaknesses and finishing the task regardless.

Sgt. Shawn Cruz ,
Camp Cropper,
Unit Administration
A Co. 72nd STB,
Houston, TX



I define honor as standing up for the weak, knowing the consequences of not doing so are worse than any other retribution I could receive.

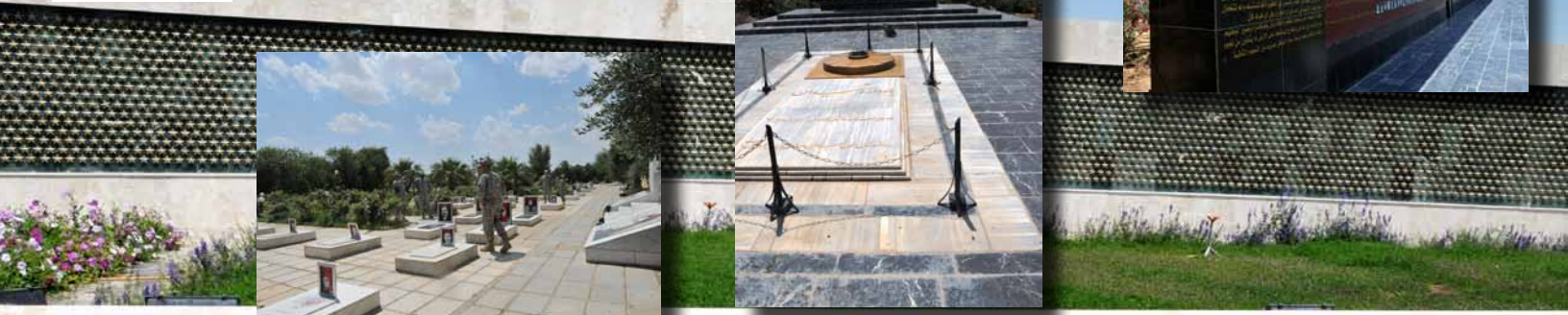
Honor is a way of life, one's character and accomplishments are the two key factors to living a life of honor.

Sgt. Joshua Whitmore,
Camp Cropper,
TIF team leader.
D Co. 3/141,
Arvada, CO



Sgt. Larry Williamson,
Camp Cropper,
TIF team leader
D Co. 3/141 Infantry,
Dickinson, TX





HERE WE MARK THE PRICE OF FREEDOM

Did you know...

There are about 3,500 refugees in Ashraf, Iraq, a city created in 1981 specifically for their use, about an hour's drive from both Baghdad and the Iranian border. They represent members and supporters of the main

Iranian opposition, the Peoples Mojahedin Organization of Iran. The citizens there built a memorial to the lives lost to conflicts such as those between Iran and Iraq as well as the internal Iranian struggle. Similar to our Vietnam War Memorial, the names of thousands of men and

women mark on section of a park outside the city gates.

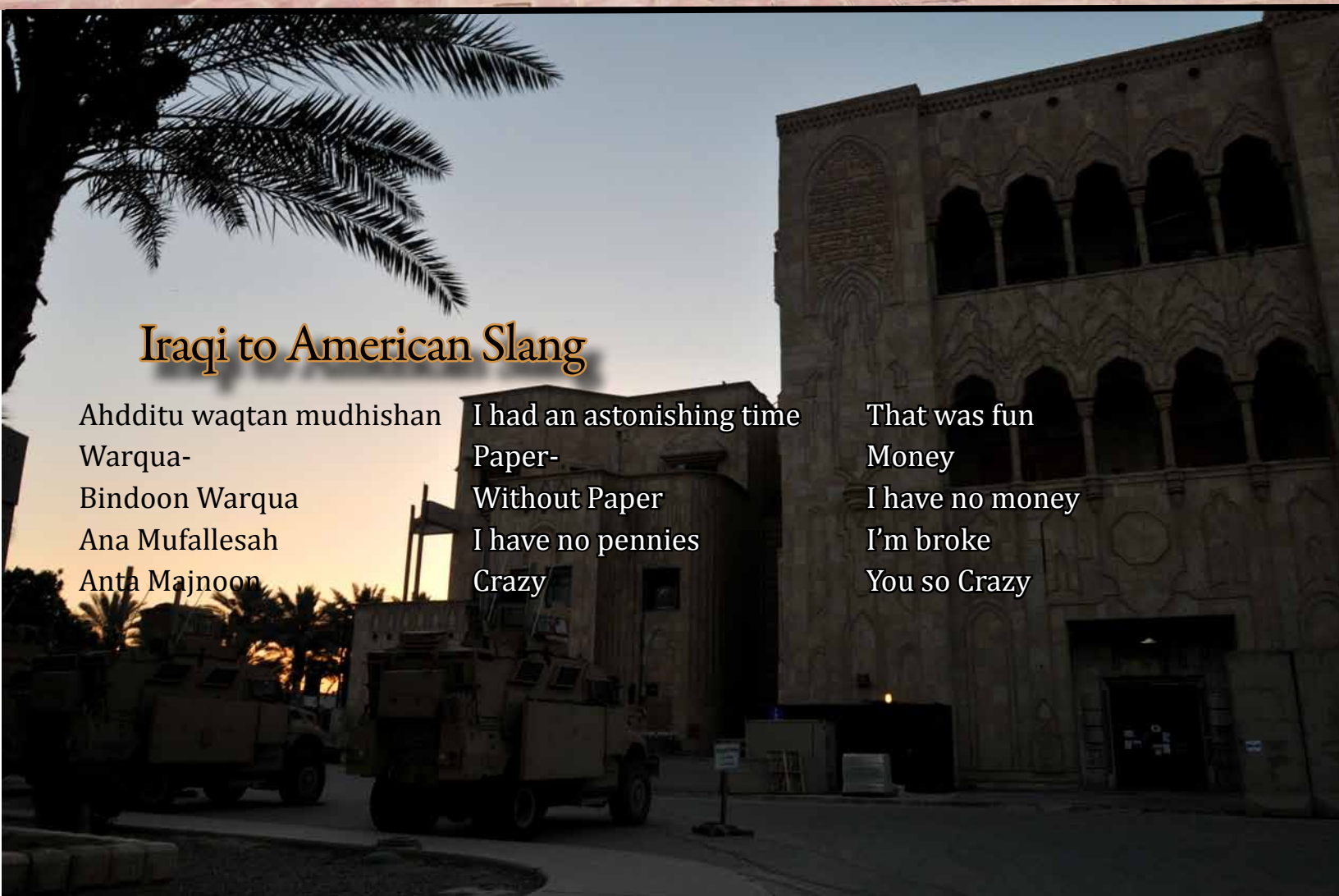
The park has a mix of graves, larger than life murals, an eternal flame, elaborate flower gardens and a curved wall inset with row upon row of stars meant to represent a light permanently put out in the violent struggle for power, both in the past and present.

Iraqi to American Slang

Ahdditu waqtan mudhishan
Warqua-
Bindoon Warqua
Ana Mufallesah
Anta Majnoon

I had an astonishing time
Paper-
Without Paper
I have no pennies
Crazy

That was fun
Money
I have no money
I'm broke
You so Crazy





*Soldiers pose at the
base of the Crossed
Swords of Baghdad.*

Photo by Sgt. Melissa Shaw