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June 4, 2009

Army deploys scientists to study Iraqi culture

By J.p. Lawrence
MND-S



COB BASRA – From inception, Soldiers are trained not to ask the question why? Maybe where? or when? – but never why. However, in today's battlefield, why? is more important than ever.

"If Soldiers want to know, 'Why are the children throwing rocks at us?' and 'Why are they rocketing us?' That's what we do," said Leslie Kayanan, team leader of the Human Terrain System team assigned to the 34th Inf. Div.

HTS, which was started in June of 2006 and expanded by Secretary of Defense Robert Gates in 2007, is a program that seeks to study cultural perceptions by attaching anthropological research teams to combat units in Iraq and Afghanistan. Currently there are 21 teams

in country, one for each brigade, division and corps.

"We are groups of scientists, and we work embedded with units," said 1st Lt. Nestor Carrasquillo, a San Antonio, Tex., native and research manager for the HTS team attached to the 34th Red Bull Infantry Division. "We talk to the local population and provide the commander with our assessment."

"On every team we have social scientists who are formally trained researchers," said Dr. Rubye Braye, a social scientist and a retired Lieutenant Colonel. "Team members have an opportunity to obtain the perceptions of the Iraqi people on key issues to better understand their needs and requirements. This gives them the opportunity to be the voice of the people back to the command."

For instance, Braye recently spoke on behalf of Iraqi workers who worked on Contingency Operating Base Basra. "We have Iraqis who come on the installation to work. And there has been concern that one of the gates has concertina wire and a very narrow path, so that if anybody would slip and fall they would fall into the concertina wire. They had said that it was disrespectful to walk along a criminal-like path."

After learning about the situation, Braye met with 34th Inf. Div. leadership. "We discussed alternative ways of security that would communicate a message of respect."

In addition, HTS scientists inform military leadership on the specific cultural characteristics of a region. "For example," said Braye, "the commander may have critical information requirements and we would take those requirements and turn them into a survey or a interview for the local people."

Through surveys and face-to-face interaction, HTS scientists ask Iraqis such questions as "Are you scared to vote in the elections? Do you trust the Iraqi police? Are there any disputes in your village? What can Coalition forces do for you?"

"We can talk to the sheikhs, and we do, but the common person can tell us a lot more," said Kayanan.

In fact, interactions with the people of Iraq revealed an avenue of communication previously unexplored by Coalition forces. "Most people think that the tribe members are entirely influenced by the sheikhs. They're not," said Kayanan. "They're also influenced by the sayyid."

The sayyid, especially in a tribe that



Photo by Photo by Dr. Michael Izady, Ph.D

Members of the Marsh Arab tribe traverse the marshes of southern Iraq. Once twice the size of the Florida Everglades, the marshes are now a fraction of their former size after their drainage by Saddam Hussein.

MP Mechanic chosen as Basra Idol

By J.p. Lawrence
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COB BASRA – Spc. Russell Dudley waited as the judges tallied up their scores. For three weeks, he had sung for Basra Idol, a music competition for service members in Basra that featured such surprises as last minute walk-on contestants, previously eliminated contestants coming back and even a contestant taking off his shirt to reveal a Superman T-shirt.

The final round on May 30 followed suit, when Dudley, eliminated in the second round, was chosen to become eligible for the title with Sgt. Joe Roos, Sgt. LeFena Washington, and Spc. Cleon Shack, who had been eliminated in the first round.

Now the four stood on stage, hopeful.

“And the winner is...Russell Dudley!”

The three judges and two secret guest judges chose Spc. Russell Dudley, a mechanic with the 178th Military Police Company, after his performance of “Ain’t Too Proud to Beg” and “My Girl” by the Four Tops.

After singing acapella through a few verses of “Ain’t Too Proud to Beg”, Dudley held nothing back as he tore through “My Girl.” When he sang that he “...didn’t need no money, no fortune or fame...”, he pulled out a roll of dollars and threw them out into the crowd. When he sang “...talking about my girl, my girl, my girl,” he pointed to cheering girls in the crowd as the song ended.

Roos clapped and shook Dudley’s hand. While disappointed that he did not win, Roos recognized a performer when he saw one.

“It was a bummer I didn’t win,” said Roos, a St. Paul, Minn., native, “but I have to respect the great showmanship of Dudley. He did exactly what he needed to do, and you could tell by the crowd’s response.”



Photo by Pfc.J.p. Lawrence

Spc. Russell Dudley hops around the stage while singing “My Girl,” by the Four Tops. Dudley was the winning contestant in Basra Idol, a music contest held in Basra May 30. Dudley, who was eliminated in the second round of Basra Idol, won based on his interaction with the crowd and overall energy.

For more photos, visit:

www.TheRedBulls.org/Photos



THE RED BULL REPORT

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41st Fires Brigade
343rd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment
193rd Military Police Battalion
Special Troops Battalion, 34th Inf. Div.
Task Force 28

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has linkages to a holy person, is not a religious person, but is nominally related to Mohammed and esteemed for their wisdom and judgment, said Kayanan.

"If it's business, they'll go to the sheikh," said Kayanan. "But if it's a matter of wisdom, they'll go to the sayyid. That's something we found out within a matter of three to four weeks, going out every other day."

"And it's more than just providing raw data," added Braye. "We analyze the data to determine the second and third order effects. When a decision or an option is being considered, we assess the effect it will have on the local population."

A recent study done by HTS on the marshes of southern Iraq illustrates this process. Often considered the location of the Biblical Garden of Eden, the fertile marshes of southern Iraq were once considered the breadbasket of the Middle East. But, like the Biblical Eden, paradise was lost through the evils of man. In what can be called ecological genocide, Saddam Hussein destroyed the marshes after the first Gulf War in order to drive out the dissident Marsh Arabs. Once twice the size of the Florida Everglades, the marshes are now a



Photos by Dr. Michael Izady, Ph.D

The Human Terrain System is a program that seeks to learn and inform Coalition commanders about Iraqi culture by embedding social scientists with combat units to talk to the Iraqi people.

fraction of their former size.

Taking all this data in conjunction with their own data gathering, HTS scientists informed 34th Inf. Div. leadership not only on the current situation, but also on possibilities for the future. "We believe that we should support the restoration of the marshes," said Braye. "If that is done, the second order effect is that you will have businesses and agri-businesses that will be restarting, farmers that live in the area will be able to farm to the extent that they did in the past."

"Restoring the marshes," added Kayanan, "will bring back the local economy and stop arms smuggling."

"The command is very interested in ensuring employment," added Braye. "If people have jobs, they're less likely to be co-opted by al-Qaeda or insurgents."

The third order effect, said Kayanan, would be the goodwill generated by the fact that the government of Iraq is working to restore an area ravaged by the old regime; it would be a highly sym-

bolic gesture showing the people of Iraq that the government of Iraq is back in the business of serving its citizens.

"The focus," said Braye, "is on helping people be able to realize, first political stability where there's a government in place that really works, and then to have that government work to promote economic opportunity for people who desire meaningful work instead of payments from insurgents to attack Coalition forces."

"I am really excited that one day the Iraqi children will see conflict resolution settled non-violently, and that they will have the tools to know that there are things you can do to settle and resolve conflict without having to resort to violent means," said Braye.

While critics have pointed to HTS as an example of the military "weaponizing anthropology", Braye and her peers believe that their work will bring long-lasting benefits to the people of Iraq.

"If the weapon is using tools of peace to better understand those we have conflicts with, and to use those tools to resolve conflicts peacefully, then that's the weapon. I would challenge my colleges who say we are weaponizing a tool that I believe is being used to promote peace," said Braye. "Our goal is to help save lives, and that includes both U.S. lives and Iraqi lives."

For more of Pfc. Lawrence's stories visit:
www.TheRedBulls.org/Lawrence



Chaplains reinforce more than faith

Capt. Stephen C. Short
172nd Inf. Bde.



FOB KALSU— Reinforcements are something every unit loves to have; more Soldiers to help win the fight and save lives at the same time. The duty of being a Soldier can be very difficult at times and no matter how many extra Soldiers arrive to the battlefield, the burden sometimes just does not seem to lift.

Those warriors who have experi-

enced deployments away from friends and family might know how heavy that burden can feel. One of the reinforcements all branches of service have come to count on in time of need is the chaplain.

Maj. Chuck B. Rizer, 172nd Infantry Brigade Chaplain, believes all faiths and even Agnostics or Atheists can receive help from a chaplain.

The Army expects chaplains to observe the distinctive doctrines of their

faith while also honoring the right of others to observe their own faith in accordance with U.S. laws and regulations.

"I've had Catholics come to me and say, 'I want to be a better Catholic,'" said Rizer, a resident of Chicago. "I've had Christians, non-Christians and even Atheists come to me and say they want to have a better relationship with their spouse."

The Army is a diverse environment with Rabbis, Ministers, Imams and Priests who serve Soldiers with conviction and commitment.

Rizer spends much of his time counseling Soldiers on marital issues and finds there are certain principles that apply to all people and faiths.

"I often tell people that if you want your spouse or significant other to stay with you then you need to be going somewhere," said Rizer. "You can see the enthusiasm in their eyes when they have a plan and others are attracted to that."

Some Soldiers need help dealing with anger. Rizer has seen that getting sleep and basic needs are some of the simple solutions he is able to help people find in dealing with anger.

"If a child doesn't get their sleep, food or other basic needs, then of course they get angry," said Rizer. "We are more mature than that, but we need to have some of our basic needs met or we become cranky or angry."

Rizer said he believes diet, exercise and just talking it out or venting to him is a good way to get over anger issues.

"If you take one straw off a camel's back, it may be just enough to keep him moving," stated Rizer. "It is the little things that you change, which can be all the difference in starting a chain of good things happening."

Capt. Richard O. Nevard Jr., 9th Engineer Battalion Chaplain, sees the chaplain as being out with the Soldiers where they are and doing what they are doing.

"I go out where they are and I see the results of what we have worked on,



Photo by Capt. Stephen C. Short

Chap. (Maj.) Chuck B. Rizer front right, 172nd Infantry Brigade chaplain, gets into the action with the brigade staff as he competes in the first ever brigade staff Olympics, here recently.

GENERALLY SPEAKING

RESPECT AND DIGNITY



It has been three weeks since our Transfer of Authority and I want to take a moment to let you know where I stand on some very important issues.

I have zero tolerance for sexual assault and harassment. Sexual assault and harassment are crimes and will be treated as such, regardless of rank, gender, color, creed or religion. There is zero tolerance as well for gender-bias crimes, slurs and innuendos. Neither I nor anyone in the 34th Infantry Division leadership will allow a permissive attitude that allows such actions to occur.

It is your duty as an individual Soldier to protect your battle buddy. This is not limited to attacks by the enemy, but also inappropriate behavior by your fellow Soldiers. Do not be afraid to report sexual assault, harassment or unwanted ad-

vance to the appropriate representative. I and the rest of your leadership take this issue very seriously and have zero tolerance for any violation of it. We will carry out our mission in Iraq with honor and success.

Respect and dignity matters. If we are going to indeed carry out our mission with honor and success, respect and dignity are an important part of the equation. Red Bulls, I am counting on each of you to do your part.

Attack!

- Maj. Gen. Rick Nash,
Commander, Multi-National Division South

For more of Maj. Gen. Nash's comments, or to leave comments of your own, visit:

www.TheRedBulls.org/GenerallySpeaking

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and I even see the results happen here while the session is going on in the office," said Nevard, a New Smyrna Beach, Fla. native.

The brigade dedicated the Chaplain's Coffee House on Apr. 23 to all Soldiers, which gives them a place to come and relax. The coffee house has a connecting hallway that runs right by the chaplain's office, which makes it easy for Soldiers to stop by anytime and ask to talk. Nevard's office attaches to the coffee house and has a uniquely decorated area for sitting down and talking.

"There's not an hour that goes by that a Soldier is not coming by and knocking on the door to ask if you have a minute," stated Nevard. "I am like, 'come on in and let's talk.'"

Chaplains are also responsible for caring for the Soldiers' families and may often find themselves serving the spiritual needs of Sailors, Marines, or Airmen.

"I have talked with spouses back home," said Nevard. "They email me or I call them because I already have that connection with them since I've done the marriage retreats back in the rear."

Chaplains can be new to deployment as well. Capt. Frank Halka, 172nd Support Battalion Chaplain, spent six years in garrisons serving as a Catholic priest and saw a different perspective of deployments by counseling those family



Photo by Pfc. Bethany L. Little

The coffee house is a place for Soldiers to relax and enjoy a drink, but also to give them a chance to talk.

members not deployed.

"You see what families go through in the rear and you are better able to help the Soldier here in Iraq because you can relate to both environments," said Halka.

Chaplains are available anytime to help, whether deployed or back home in garrison.

"I see myself being useful to the Soldiers when I'm there to listen to them and hear what they are going through," concluded Halka. "That is part of the healing process."

For more of Capt. Short's stories visit:

www.TheRedBulls.org/Short

Around the world in 34 seconds

World News:

CAMP CARVER, Iraq - The U.S. military is expanding some rural bases and building others to house thousands of troops displaced by a June deadline to withdraw from Iraq's major cities. With continual power outages pushing temperatures well above 100 degrees, that can't come soon enough for some soldiers living in sweltering tents. The Americans already closed or handed over 60 urban bases since the beginning of the year, with more than 50 others tentatively scheduled to be closed or returned by the end of June, said Lt. Col. Brian Maka, military spokesman. Many of the troops transferred to temporary housing on bases just outside cities. Under the security agreement that took effect Jan. 1, American troops are required to withdraw from cities by the end of June and leave Iraq completely by the end of 2011. President Barack Obama plans to withdraw all combat troops by Aug., 2010, leaving 30,000 to 50,000 troops to train and advise Iraq's forces.

U.S. News:

SANTA ANA, Calif. - A Chinese-born engineer stole secret information critical to the nation's space program and shared it with China, prosecutors said June 2 during the first economic espionage case to reach trial in the United States. Prosecutors laid out their case against Dongfan "Greg" Chung, 73, in U.S. District Court in Santa Ana. Chung, a Chinese-born engineer, is accused of spying for China for more than 30 years while employed at Rockwell International and Boeing Co. He pleaded not guilty to charges of conspiracy, economic espionage, lying to federal agents, obstruction of justice and acting as a foreign agent. The government says he stole secrets on the U.S. space shuttle and Delta IV rocket. U.S. District Judge Cormac Carney dismissed charges last week relating to the C-17 military transport at the government's request.

Sports News:

PITTSBURGH - The Pittsburgh Penguins lacked scoring and confidence while losing the first two games of the Stanley Cup finals in Detroit. With some calming words and a big goal, Sergei Gonchar supplied both with a performance that might have saved their season. Gonchar's power-play goal midway through the third period and Marc-Andre Fleury's strong work in the net revived the Penguins on June 2. The finals are far from over for Pittsburgh following a 4-2 victory against the Detroit Red Wings in Game 3. For the Penguins, that means it's not over. It's also a repeat of last year, when the Penguins won 3-2 in Game 3 after losing the first two on the road. Detroit went on to win in six.

Odd News:

SANTIAGO, Chile - Police say two suitcases carried by a woman who was about to fly from Chile to Spain were made of cocaine. Detective Leandro Morales at the Santiago airport says the drug "was not hidden in the luggage. This time the suitcases were the drug." Morales tells The Associated Press that the suitcases were made of a substance combining cocaine with resin and glass fiber. He said Tuesday a "chemical process" could be used to separate out the drug. The officer says the suitcases were heavier than their contents. The 26-year-old Argentine woman was arrested.



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For puzzle solutions visit: www.TheRedBulls.org/puzzlesolutions

The Basra Beat

MWR Stage

Centermass - June 5, 7 - 9:30 p.m.

The Mirage

Red Bull Riders - June 6, 8 -10 p.m.

Worship:

Daily Mass

Mon. - Fri., 8 p.m., DFAC 3 Chapel Room

Protestant Sunday

Contemporary Worship

10 a.m., DFAC 3 Chapel Room

General Protestant

11 a.m., DFAC 2 Chapel Room

Holy Communion-Protestant

11:30 a.m., DFAC 3 Chapel Room

Gospel Worship

2 p.m., DFAC 3 Chapel Room

Chapel Next Protestant

6:30 p.m., DFAC 3 Chapel Room

Contemporary Worship

7 p.m., DFAC 2 Chapel Room

Roman Catholic

Saturday Vigil - 8 p.m., DFAC 2 Chapel Room

Sunday Mass - 9:30 a.m., DFAC 2 Chapel Room

Sunday Mass - 8 p.m., DFAC 3 Chapel Room

LDS Sunday:

2-4 p.m., DFAC 2 Chapel Room

Eagle Cash Kiosks

Located at:

Division Main Building
Finance Office
PX

Finance

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

Barber Shop

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

Camp Alpha Gym

Open: 24 hours

Camp Charlie Gym

Open: 24 hours