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June 5, 2009

IP, MPs work to build forensic lab in Basra

By Staff Sgt. Carlos M. Burger II
2nd BCT, 4th Inf. Div.



BASRA – As Soldiers from the 793rd Military Police Battalion, attached to the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, toured the forensics crime laboratory at the Basra Provincial Police Headquarters recently, they were instantly impressed and amazed by what they saw.

The laboratory was littered with ballistic evidence and dominated by high-powered microscopes. Some commented that the room looked more like a lab they would find in a stateside police station than what they were expecting in Iraq.

Impressive as the room was, the Iraqi Police and 793d MPs know there is a long way to go before the building reaches its full potential.

“Things are progressing and that’s good,” said Capt. Jay Cash, assistant operations officer with the 793rd MP Bn. “I have seen the progress since we have started and the IP have come a long way.”

The overall plan for the building consists of a complete overhaul of its infrastructure and security. Then the building has to pass a cleanliness test and the IP lab technicians have to become certified forensic specialists. Once that’s completed, the last step is to move in more than \$2.5 million worth of state-of-the-art forensic equipment into the building, said Keith Curtis, the law enforcement professional for 2nd BCT, 4th Inf. Div.

The IP are already well on the way to meeting these requirements.

Since the project began, the IP have removed four truck loads of rubbish from the area, cleaned the upper levels of the building and have sent seven of their lab technicians to Baghdad to become certified in forensic science, said Brigadier General Abed Kariem Gabar, chief operations officer for the provincial police forensics crime lab.

He added that when his technicians return, they will be able to perform many levels of forensic operations, such as analyzing DNA, chemicals and explosive residue.

“We are building now, so everyone needs



Photo by Staff Sgt. Carlos M. Burger II

Capt. Jay Cash, assistant operations officer with the 793rd MP Bn., attached to the 2nd BCT, 4th Inf. Div., and Brigadier General Abed Kariem Gabar, chief operations officer for the provincial police forensics crime lab, watch as a lab technician compares ballistic evidence at the Basra Provincial Police forensic crime lab during a visit recently.

Soldiers from HHC, 2nd Bn., 8th Inf. Regt., awarded CIB, CAB

By Sgt. Brandon LeFlore
MND-S



COB BASRA – “These Soldiers had the misfortune of getting hit by an (improvised explosive device), but they were fortunate in that no one was injured,” said Lt. Col. Doug Cardinale, commander, 2nd Battalion, 8th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, during a Combat Infantryman Badge and Combat Action Badge Ceremony at Camp Wessam recently.

Three Soldiers from the battalion were hit by an IED while on a combat patrol in Basra May 7. Fortunately, all Soldiers survived the blast with no injuries.

Our survival in the blast is a testament to the safety of our vehicles, said 1st Lt. John Crumpacker, an **Excelsior Springs, Mo.**, native and mortar platoon leader with the 2nd Bn. “The humvee does its job and the Army is always working to make a safe and reliable vehicle,” he added.

Along with Crumpacker, two other Soldiers from the battalion were in the vehicle when the IED detonated. They were Spc. Justin Orf and Pfc. Matthew Campos, both of Mortar Platoon, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Bn., 8th Inf. Regt., 2nd BCT, 4th Inf. Div.

“The blast was completely unexpected and it was over as quickly as it had started,” said Orf, a Bowling Green, Mo., native and infantryman with the mortar platoon.



Photo by Sgt. Brandon LeFlore
Lt. Col. Doug Cardinale, commander, 2nd Bn., 8th Inf. Regt., 2nd BCT, 4th Inf. Div., pins the Combat Action Badge on Spc. Justin Orf, infantryman with the 2nd Bn., 8th Inf. Regt., during an award ceremony at Camp Wessam recently.

Orf said he was in the turret of the humvee and when he heard the blast he quickly checked to make sure he was alright. He then checked to make sure everyone else in the vehicle was okay.

“The vehicle took all of the impact. We only had two flat tires,” Orf added.

Both Crumpacker and Campos were awarded the CAB, while Orf received the CIB.

The CIB has been a very distinguished award among infantryman since its establishment during World War II. Its purpose is simple: to enhance the morale and prestige of the “Queen of Battle.”

According to the Army Regulation on military awards, for a Soldier to receive a CIB at least three special conditions must occur: The Soldier must be an Infantryman or Special Forces Soldier, the recipient must be physically present and under hostile fire while serving as an assigned special forces or infantry Soldier and the Soldier must be actively engaged in ground combat.

I’m proud to have a CIB. It’s one of the more celebrated achievements in the infantry, said Orf. “I’m just really glad no one got hurt,” he added.

The requirements for the CAB are similar to those of the CIB, except for one stipulation. The CAB does not require an infantry or special forces military occupational specialty.

“It’s an honor to receive a Combat Action Badge from Lt. Col. Cardinale,” said Crumpacker. “But it was just one IED. There are many other people that are more deserving,” he added humbly.

For more of Sgt. LeFlore’s stories visit:
www.TheRedBulls.org/LeFlore



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HOMETOWN HIGHLIGHT

Brenda Joyce, best known as “Jane” from Tarzan movies during the 1940s and 1950s, was born Betty Leabo in Excelsior Springs in 1917.



THE RED BULL REPORT

34th Red Bull Infantry Division
Public Affairs Office



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Special Troops Battalion, 34th Inf. Div.
Task Force 28
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MINNESOTA MILITARY APPRECIATION FUND

**1st Prize Men & Women: Hotel stay in MN for one night
T-shirts for participants (first 200 registered)**

5K RUN

BASRA 5K

WHO: Anyone wishing to participate
WHAT: 5K MMAF run
WHERE: COB Basra, Starting point: TBD
WHEN: Father's Day, 21 June 09 06:00 start time
WHY: MWR effort to familiarize MN soldiers about MMAF its grants and more

TO REGISTER Contact:
adam.m.hoffman@iraq.centcom.mil
with Name, Unit, whether you are a father, and
whether your family will be participating in the run back in Minn.

Thanks

MINNESOTA'S MILITARY APPRECIATION FUND

From Page 1 *FORENSICS*

more (time), but we are learning," Kariem continued.

One challenge the general continues to face, however is gaining the people's confidence in forensic science. Fortunately, the IP recently arrested criminals accused of burglary and theft and the forensic team played a critical part leading up to their arrest. This seemingly simple action went a long way to establishing the team's credibility.

"We've faced some problems; before the people didn't understand (what we do)," Kariem said. "We gained the trust of the people and we proved how important our role was."

As the Soldiers and IP parted ways, the general gave his thanks to the U.S. forces for their continued support in making both Basra province and Iraq a safer place for its citizens.



Photo by Staff. Sgt. Carlos M. Burger II

For more of Staff Sgt. Burger's stories visit:
www.TheRedBulls.org/Burger

Capt. Jay Cash, assistant operations officer with the 793rd Military Police Battalion, attached to the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, and Keith Curtis, the law enforcement professional for 2nd BCT, 4th Inf. Div., inspect the Basra Provincial Police Headquarters during a key leader visit recently.

IMPROVING OUR FOXHOLE

An update on COB Basra projects

by Col. Curly Albrecht, Deputy Chief of Staff

COB BASRA
Contingency Operating Base Basra

By Sgt. Brandon LeFlore
MND-S



COB BASRA – Home is a place for refuge and comfort. It's a place to relax. Humans are creatures of habit, so the state of the place a person calls home can easily influence their behavior and emotions.

For the next nine months, COB Basra will be home to the 34th Red Bull Infantry Division. For this reason, they're working to "improve the foxhole" through new morale, welfare and recreation facilities and housing units.

Some of the projects currently in the works are the new Sandstorm Life Sustainment Area, a post office building, a finance office, two new coffee shops, a fitness center and a Post Exchange shopping center.

"Soldiers need to feel at home and be able to relax," said Col. Ronald Albrecht, deputy chief of staff, 34th Red Bull Inf. Div., "We'll improve the Soldiers' well-being by providing them with the type of morale, welfare and recreation activities they need."

As part of the "Improving The Foxhole" project, dining facility number one near Trenchard Lines will become the new United Services Organization building and will be home to a fitness center, café and lounge, movie theater and internet room. The new USO will



Photos by Sgt. Brandon LeFlore

(Above) Col. Ronald Albrecht, deputy chief of staff, 34th Red Bull Infantry Division, cuts the ribbon at the opening of the new Green Beans Coffee shop at COB BASRA recently. The new coffee shop is one of two planned to serve Soldiers and civilians here. (Bottom left) Staff Sgt. Adrian Silerio, 577th Expeditionary Red Horse Squadron, prepares a paint sprayer for the walls of COB Basra's new USO building recently. The new USO will occupy the former DFAC 1 on COB Basra.

likely open the first week of July.

"The equipment for the new fitness center recently arrived and it's completely brand new," said Sgt. 1st Class Deborah Allen, the division MWR noncommissioned officer-in-charge. "The Red Horse Engineers are currently working on building the interior structures."

The other major project planned is converting DFAC 4 into the new Post Exchange shopping center.

"The new PX will be part-shopping center and part-food court," said Allen. "There will be a Burger King, Pizza Hut, Green Beans Coffee, a carpet shop, a photo framing shop, a local national bazaar, a beauty shop for haircuts and other spa-style amenities and four other shops not yet determined."

"This PX will be a lot like the Camp Liberty PX and it should open on or around Sept. 1," she added.

Both the new USO and PX are being constructed by the 819th Expeditionary Red Horse Group, a group of U.S. Air Force combat civil engineers. These airmen are working every night to build walls, paint and clear out unnecessary equipment.

These new facilities, designed to improve the living conditions and

morale of Soldiers on COB Basra, will be augmented by a previously established restaurant here.

The success of the restaurant Echos has encouraged the Red Bulls to keep it open after the British leave COB Basra.

"Echos will remain a fixture on COB Basra," said Allen. "We're not yet sure what type of food will be served but it will still be here to provide a comfortable, restaurant-style setting for the Soldiers to eat here."

Although some of the improvements will not be seen for a few weeks, the Soldiers at COB Basra have already noticed some of the changes, such as the new finance office, which opened in late May, and the Green Beans Coffee shop near division headquarters.

"It will take time to bring the COB to what we want it to be, but when it's all finished, it will increase morale and I'm confident the Soldiers will appreciate it," said Allen.

"Everyday we're improving our foxhole," said Albrecht. "We'll keep improving until the day we leave here."

Questions or Comments about our Foxhole? Leave them at:
www.TheRedBulls.org/improvingourfoxhole



WORSHIP

DAILY WORSHIP

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

ROMAN CATHOLIC

Saturday Vigil

8 p.m., DFAC 2 Chapel Room

Sunday Mass

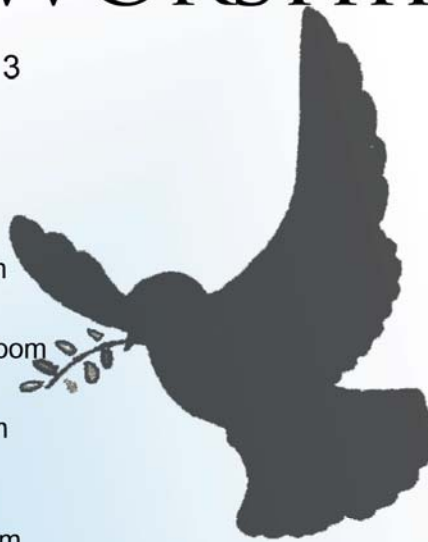
9:30 a.m., DFAC 2 Chapel Room

Sunday Mass

8 p.m., DFAC 3 Chapel Room

LDS SUNDAY:

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



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



The camp is for children of
Minnesota National Guard soldiers.
The age groups for the children are
10-12 and 13-15.

Sign up your children on-line at:

www.mngyc.com

**July 26 - Aug 1
and
Aug 2-9**

For more information, contact:
richard.e.kemp@iraq.centcom.mil
braden.hughes@iraq.centcom.mil

Crossword

Across

- | | | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------|
| 1. Products of human creativity | drinks | 36. Soil | 51. Leg (slang) |
| 5. Petrol | 22. Consumed food | 38. Supposedly, a cat has nine | 52. Be in debt |
| 8. A bunch of hair | 23. Consumer Price Index | 40. Propelled oneself through water | 54. Rescue |
| 12. Dolt | 24. Verbal | 41. Killed | 61. Valley |
| 13. Donkeys | 26. Morals | 43. To yield or submit | 63. Sea duck |
| 15. Nothing but | 29. Safe to eat | 45. Sixth sense | 64. Egg on |
| 16. Distinctive atmosphere | 31. American Dental Association | 46. Infuriate | 65. Gawk at |
| 17. Loansharking | 32. Artificial waterway | 48. Not outside | 66. Adolescents |
| 18. Lash | 34. New Zealand native | 50. A unit of pressure | 67. Border |
| 19. Snacks and | | | 68. Genuine |
| | | | 69. Father |
| | | | 70. Spotted |

Down

- | | | | |
|--------------------|-------------------|------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Winged | 7. Arid | with songs and dancing | from goat hair |
| 2. Debauchee | 8. Haul | 14. Church council | 26. Ancient Roman magistrate |
| 3. Territory | 9. Desecrated | 20. Majestic | 27. A whirling Italian dance |
| 4. Cloth stiffener | 10. Dart | 21. Clip | 28. Malicious |
| 5. Spew forth | 11. Sort | 25. Fabrics made | 29. Lacquer ingredient |
| 6. Astringent | 13. A play filled | | 30. Delete |
| | | | 31. Commercials |
| | | | 33. Blvd. |
| | | | 35. Babysitter's handful |
| | | | 37. Novice |
| | | | 39. Vocalists |
| | | | 42. An aromatic ointment |
| | | | 44. Russian emperor |
| | | | 47. Say hello |
| | | | 49. Pictures |
| | | | 52. Smell |
| | | | 53. Earnings |
| | | | 55. Told an untruth |
| | | | 56. Notion |
| | | | 57. Sell |
| | | | 58. Connecting point |
| | | | 59. For a bird or a hamster |
| | | | 60. Biblical garden |
| | | | 62. Moray |

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



Around the world in 34 seconds

World News:

TOKYO —Facing perhaps 10 years in a labor camp, Laura Ling and Euna Lee, TV reporters accused of illegally entering North Korea and committing unspecified “hostile acts,” were scheduled to go on trial June 4 in Pyongyang in a case that has become part of a nail-biting face-off between North Korea and much of the rest of the world. In a brief but unusual announcement for the secretive North, the country’s official news service said the trial would begin at 3 p.m. No other information was released.

U.S. News:

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama says he’s open to requiring all Americans to buy health insurance, as long as the plan provides a “hardship waiver” to exempt poor people from having to pay. Obama opposed such an individual mandate during his campaign, but Congress increasingly is moving to embrace the idea. In providing the first real details on how he wants to reshape the nation’s health care system, the president urged Congress on June 3 toward a sweeping overhaul that would allow Americans to buy into a government insurance plan. Obama outlined his goals in a letter to Sens. Edward Kennedy, D-Mass., and Max Baucus, D-Mont., chairmen of the two committees writing health care bills. It followed a meeting he held Tuesday with members of their committees, and amounted to a road map to keep Congress aligned with his goals. Obama has asked the House and Senate each to finish legislation by early August, so that the two chambers can combine their bills in time for him to sign a single, sweeping measure in October.

Sports News:

PARIS – Dinara Safina shanked shots, endured a flurry of double-faults, screamed profanities at herself and still advanced to the French Open final. The combustible Russian beat Dominika Cibulkova of Slovakia 6-3, 6-3 in the semifinals Thursday and needs one more win for her first Grand Slam title. Safina, ranked No. 1, won despite seven double-faults and 24 unforced errors. Twice in one game, her shots landed short of the net. “It wasn’t an easy match,” she said. “I was nervous at the beginning because I was eager for this win.” Safina was runner-up to Ana Ivanovic last year at Roland Garros, and lost this year’s Australian Open final to Serena Williams. Her opponent Saturday will be the winner of the second semifinal between Svetlana Kuznetsova of Russia and Samantha Stosur of Australia. “I really want to win this tournament,” Safina said. “I had a very good experience last year, and I hope to do better this year. I still have a match to play, and I will give everything I’ve got.”

Odd News:

TRENTON, N.J. – If it’s Thursday, it’s time to rob a bank. That was the schedule followed by a man who admitted robbing six New Jersey banks on consecutive Thursdays between late January and early March. Peter Bielecke pleaded guilty Wednesday in federal court to a single count of bank robbery, but admitted he robbed five others as well. The 41-year-old said he robbed banks in Brick, Toms River, Lakewood, Howell and Old Bridge on successive Thursdays. No reason was given for choosing that particular day of the week, but authorities said the pattern made it that much easier to track him. He was arrested after a March 5 robbery in Old Bridge. He faces up to 20 years in prison when he is sentenced Aug. 25.