

Silver and Black marches on COB Basra



Photo by Staff Sgt. Derek Smith

Raiderette Meena pumps up the crowd during the Oakland Raiders Cheerleaders show for troops at COB Basra May 29. "Football's Fabulous Females" stopped here on their two-week tour through the region.

Staff Sgt. Derek Smith
[MND-S](#)



COB BASRA— The latest set of boots to hit the ground were a sharp contrast to the tan and green of military footwear as the stark white boots of the Oakland Raider Cheerleaders, the Raiderettes, marched through COB Basra and right into service members' hearts May 29.

The silver and black-clad sirens performed their variety show, met with Soldiers and gave thanks for military members' efforts in Iraq as part of

their tour through the region.

"It's been exhilarating and thrilling," said Emily, one of "Football's Fabulous Females." "The experience has been nothing short of an honor since the first moment we got here."

The Basra heat found some strong competition this night, but the Raiderettes were not to be denied their place in the hearts and minds of service members crammed up against the Morale, Welfare and Recreation stage. Camera flashes erupted like an approaching storm yet were still outshone by the

smiles of the Oakland Raiders' ambassadors.

The conditions in Iraq also allowed them to put things into perspective, the ladies said.

"We've experienced travelling with the Soldiers first-hand and feeling what it's like to go through the heat out here," explained Cole, the brunette veteran of the squad. "People explained that it was going to be hot here in Iraq,

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but you don't know until you're out here and the wind is blowing. It feels like a blow-dryer."

"We look at (the Soldiers) and we know that we're going through it and we're trying to be soldiers for them and be strong for them," she said, solemnly. "We know that they do this every day and to experience that is very humbling to us."

Service members here responded to the Raiderettes' visit with one of the biggest turnouts of any MWR event since the stage's completion. Cheerleaders and morale seem inseparable.

"It's like a big party bonus!" exclaimed 1st Lt. William "Wild Bill" Morgan, cavalry scout platoon leader, 10th Cavalry Regiment. "I'm ready to go out on patrol tomorrow."

It doesn't get much better than this, said Morgan, a resident of Los Angeles and long-time Raiders fan.

"Those are the best ladies in the NFL right there," emphasized the silver and black-bleeding Wild Bill. "The Raiderettes are on the cutting edge of battle."

As with all good things, this visit too had to end.

More stops in Iraq remain for the Raiderettes, who left with memories of hot winds, the grit of sand and, of course, the adoration of hundreds of smiling service members.

For all of Staff Sgt. Smith's stories, go to:
www.TheRedBulls.org/Smith

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Photo by Staff Sgt. Derek Smith



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(Above) Raiderettes Tiphane and Ashlee meet with troops after the show. (Top) Service members at COB Basra contest for the attention of the Raiderettes during the cheerleaders' show May 29. No Soldiers were injured during this contest; only a little pride. (Right) Raiderette veteran Cole performs for service members.



Photo by Pfc. Tyler Maulding

THE RED BULL REPORT

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IA Commandos graduate at Camp Dhi Qar

By Spc. Creighton Holub
4th BCT, 1st Cav. Div.



COB ADDER – The 10th Iraqi Army Division Special Forces Battalion graduated another class of Romanian-trained Iraqi Commandos at Camp Dhi Qar near the operating base here recently.

The Commandos received a higher level of combat training compared to regular Iraqi troops.

"I am proud to have served and trained this Commando Company," said Capt. Marius Bumbac, Romanian company commander and head trainer. "My troops have put a lot of effort into mentoring the best the 10th IA Division has to offer."

The new Commandos will work under the 10th IA Division's umbrella in the tri-province area of Maysan, Muthanna and Dhi Qar provinces in the southern-most belt of Iraq.

"You have done a lot of hard work and have merited the honor to be known as Iraqi Commandos," Iraqi Maj. Mohammed, the master of ceremonies, said to the graduates.

For more of Spc. Holub's stories, visit:
www.TheRedBulls.org/Holub



Photo by Spc. Creighton Holub

Capt. Marius Bumbac, a Romanian Army company commander and lead advisor to the Iraqi Commando Course held at Camp Dhi Qar, congratulates one of the course graduates during a ceremony held recently. A company of Iraqi Commandos graduated from the Romanian-led course.

Red Bull Reel

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Beach

BARE FEET	SKY
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SAND	WADING
SEAGULL	WATER
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Around the world in 34 seconds

World News:

PESHAWAR, Pakistan — Multiple bombs exploded in two Pakistani cities on May 28, just hours after Taliban groups warned people to evacuate several large cities, saying they were preparing “major attacks.” The groups also claimed responsibility for a bloody attack in Lahore a day earlier that killed at least 26 people. A victim of a bomb blast at a bazaar in Peshawar, Pakistan, was treated at a local hospital. There were contradictory accounts of the number of fatalities. The attacks were reminders of the potency of militants in Pakistan, a nuclear-armed American ally that is fighting a war against the Taliban in its north and west. Pakistan is central to American policy in this region. Militants in its lawless tribal areas cross the border into Afghanistan, where the United States is fighting a similar insurgency.

U.S. News:

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — Nearly every state park in the Bay Area, from the towering redwoods at Big Basin to Angel Island, Mount Tamalpais to Mount Diablo and every state beach from Año Nuevo in San Mateo County to Big Sur, would close as part of budget cuts proposed by Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger. In all, 220 of California’s 279 state parks, about 80 percent, would be padlocked starting as soon as Labor Day under details of a historic closing plan released May 28 by the state parks department. “We’ve never been in as serious a predicament as we are facing right now. It is potentially devastating,” said state parks spokesman Roy Stearns. Layoffs could hit 1,500 or more of the 2,900 state parks employees, Stearns added. “This is a clear indication of the absolute seriousness of the state budget deficit. We have driven to the cliff and some would argue we are already falling off the cliff.”

Sports News:

DENVER — The Los Angeles Lakers entered the Western Conference Finals drowsy, distressed and disjointed. Thanks to the Denver Nuggets, they’re heading back to the NBA Finals with their old L.A. swagger. Behind Kobe Bryant’s 35-point, 10-assist performance, the Lakers dispatched Carmelo Anthony and the pesky Nuggets with a 119-92 victory in Game 6 of the Western Conference finals May 29. That set up half of the glamorous Kobe-LeBron matchup that Madison Ave. is hoping for, but LeBron James will have to lead Cleveland to two more wins over Orlando to keep it from being a Kobe-Superman pairing against Magic star Dwight Howard instead. The Lakers are back in the finals for the second straight year and the 30th time overall. “Denver is a great team, very skilled at all positions,” Bryant said. “Because of that, we had to elevate our level as a unit. And if we didn’t do that, we’d be going home early.” Instead, it’s the Nuggets whose season ended early. “Forget about tonight. Tonight wasn’t Nuggets basketball,” Denver coach George Karl said.

Odd News:

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. — A man aged 29 has fathered 21 children with 11 different women. Desmond Hatchett’s brood came to light after authorities in Tennessee in the U.S. took him to court for non-payment of child support. He has apparently set a U.S. record but said “It just happened.” He added that he would not have any more children. “I’m done. I’ll say I’m done,” he said. Hatchett, who earns a minimal wage, told TV reporters he knows the names and ages of all his offspring. Their ages range from newborn to 11 years old. Authorities in Knoxville said they plan to take half of his monthly salary to pay for the youngsters but officials said that would work out to just over one dollar per week for each. His lawyer Keith Pope said, “The children can’t all be supported by Desmond, so the state of Tennessee has had to step in.” Many Knoxville residents called for him to be castrated. Authorities in Knoxville ordered Hatchett to court to explain how he intends to pay child support.

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. - Sat., 8 p.m., DFAC 4 Chapel Room

Protestant Sunday

Contemporary Worship

10 a.m., DFAC 4 Chapel Room

General Protestant

11 a.m., DFAC 1 Chapel Room

Liturgical Protestant

11:30 a.m., DFAC 4 Chapel Room

Gospel Worship

2 p.m., DFAC 3 Chapel Room

General Protestant

6:30 p.m., DFAC 1 Chapel Room

Roman Catholic

Saturday Vigil - 8 p.m., DFAC 4 Chapel Room

Sunday Mass - 9:30 a.m., DFAC 1 Chapel Room

Sunday Mass - 8:30 p.m., DFAC 4 Chapel Room

LDS Sunday:

2-4 p.m., DFAC 1 Chapel Room

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