

Quartermaster makes dirty water drinkable

By Capt. Jeffrey Witherspoon and
Maj. Courtney L. Abraham
4th BCT, 1st Armd. Div.



CAMP DHI QAR – Soldiers from 121st Brigade Support Battalion conducted sustainment training on the reverse osmosis water purification unit for the 10th Iraqi Army Division water purification teams.

The training was conducted at the request of the 10th IA Div. commander

after several Soldiers and leaders expressed concerns of contaminated or salty water.

The BSB senior water purification noncommissioned officer, Sgt. 1st Class Jason Tellez, from El Paso, Texas, and his team met with the Iraqi water purification team at Camp Dhi Qar to assess the problem. The meeting revealed glaring issues requiring immediate attention.

Tellez, along with Sgt. Christopher Dunlop of North Richland Hills, Texas, provided the Iraqi water purification team with hands-on training, troubleshooting techniques, preventive maintenance assistance and advice on assessing supply requirements for the system.

“Typhoid, E. coli, parasites and cholera are all found in this water. Proper operation of this water purification unit will reduce illness among Iraqi Soldiers.”

– Capt. Jennifer Shields
Brigade environmental health officer



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Jason Tellez

Sgt. Christopher Dunlop, from North Richland Hills, Texas, assesses the raw water area. Dunlop conducted training on the reverse osmosis water purification unit for the 10th Iraqi Army Division water purification teams.

The BSB water purification team drew water samples to identify pollution levels. The samples showed visible pollutants even prior to laboratory testing.

“The source water was terrible and it tested positive for different forms of bacteria,” said Dunlop. “It could cause typhoid, because there was almost no chlorination for the water.”

“Typhoid, E. coli, parasites and cholera are all found in this water,” said Capt. Jennifer Shields, brigade environmental health officer from Bradenton, Fla. “Proper operation of this water purification unit will reduce illness among Iraqi Soldiers.”

Due to high levels of pollutants and salt, the water was deemed unfit for consumption by U.S. standards. The team also discovered several operator

Attention on deck! Hail to the chiefs!

COB Basra holds first chief petty officer pinning ceremony

By Sgt. 1st Class Jeff Mullett
MND-S



COB BASRA – “Attention on deck!” bellowed Command Master Chief Petty Officer John T. Lees, a New York native and the most senior enlisted member of Riverine Squadron Two, based out of Norfolk, Va. Lees brought the first Chief Petty Officer Pinning Ceremony held at Contingency Operating Base Basra to order at the Moral, Welfare and Recreation stage Sept. 16.

Standing on the stage in front of their fellow RIVRON TWO Sailors, 13 chief petty officer selectees were promoted to the rank of chief petty officer.

“The ceremony is only held once a year, so this is the only time we will do this,” said Chief Petty Officer Josh Mazer, intelligence specialist, RIVRON TWO. “It is held at the same time for all of our Sailors, and it’s the biggest milestone in a Sailor’s career.”

“Unlike petty officer first class and lower ranks, advancement to chief petty officer not only carries requirements of superior evaluation scores and specialty examinations, but also carries an added requirement of peer review,” according

to Ensign Gilbert Baughn, Riverine communication officer, and a former chief petty officer.

“A chief petty officer can only advance after review by a selection board of serving senior and master chief petty officers, in effect choosing their own.”

After the completion of the opening ceremony, the inductees were called to the stage one by one. They made their way toward the center of the stage and were joined by their sponsors. Sponsors are chiefs who joined the ranks in prior years and are tasked with guiding the Sailors through the transition process.

As the petty officers took center stage to receive their promotion, their spon-



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Jeff Mullett

Newly inducted Chief Petty Officer Nathan Gibbs receives his new rank in the first Chief Petty Officer Pinning Ceremony held at Contingency Operating Base Basra Sept. 16.

sors positioned themselves on either side of their Sailors. One stepped forward to place the new chief’s hat on his head, and the other pinned the fouled anchors on the Sailor’s collar. The fouled anchor is a gold anchor, a chain and the letters U.S.N., which stand for unity, service and navigation. In many cases the rank is supplied by another chief, a mentor or family.

The pinning ceremony is the last step in the long process. However, there is more to promotion to chief petty officer than just the ceremony.

PINNING
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HOMETOWN HIGHLIGHT

New York is sometimes referred to as “The City that Never Sleeps”, while other nicknames include The Capital of the World, Gotham and the Big Apple.

THE RED BULL REPORT

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Public Affairs Office



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- 17th Fires Brigade
- 4th BCT, 1st Armored Division
- 343rd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment
- Task Force 28

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Basra archery range offers MWR opportunity

By Sgt. Debralee P. Crankshaw
MND-S



COB BASRA – The arrow flies through the air, arcing with great speed and accuracy. It whistles a steady melody before the loud clunk as it sinks into the target.

Service members on Contingency Operating Base Basra now have the opportunity to take part in archery on the base. The archery range opened recently with a plethora of equipment donated by Cabela's, a chain of sporting goods stores.

"We set up an archery range to showcase the equipment Cabela's has donated to us," said Sgt. 1st Class Brian Theis, a coordinator for the range.

The equipment donated included bows, arrows, animal targets and stands for the bows.

The range, located in the far corner of Camp Bravo, is opened 24 hours for any service member to use. There are six bows available for checkout with the key to the facility at the Red Bull Life Sustainment Area billeting office.

Theis believes this is a great opportunity for service members and hopes to see the facility used frequently.

"I believe it's important for Soldiers to have a few more MWR options. There (aren't) a whole lot (available), especially (to) some folks who work nighttime," he said. "They don't get the opportunity to take advantage of some of the MWR opportunities and with this being open 24 hours a day, seven days a week, it gives the Soldiers the opportunity to come out and get some off time and kind of relax a little bit and take part in some of their past hobbies."

Theis said service members' ability to enjoy this range wouldn't have been possible without this donation; he was very impressed by the items donated and appreci-

ates the thought.

"I would really like send a thank you to Cabela's for donating all this equipment – it's certainly going to good use. It will definitely help pass the time and get everybody out."

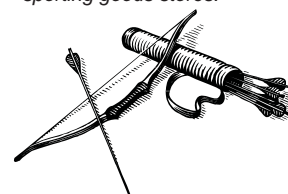
For more of Sgt. Crankshaw's stories, visit:
www.TheRedBulls.org/Crankshaw



Photos by Sgt. Debralee P. Crankshaw

(Above) Soldiers remove arrows from one of the animal targets at the Basra Archery Range at Contingency Operating Base Basra recently. Equipment was donated for the range by Cabela's, a chain of sporting goods stores.

(Left) A Soldier takes his turn shooting a bow at the Basra Archery Range at Contingency Operating Base Basra recently. Most of the equipment at the range was donated by Cabela's, a chain of sporting goods stores.



New Post Exchange opens on COB Basra



Photo by Spc. Darryl L. Montgomery

With anxious Soldiers watching in the background, Col. Ronald Albrecht, deputy chief of staff for 34th Red Bull Infantry Division, cuts the ribbon to open the new Post Exchange here Sept. 19. The new PX is at least 10 times larger than the previous PX on COB Basra, and is the second largest in Iraq, according to Albrecht, a Cedar Falls, Iowa, native. The new facility will continue to undergo improvements, like the addition of a food court with multiple restaurants. A bazaar will also be set up inside the facility to give Soldiers further shopping choices.



COB Basra Church Choir

The COB Basra Church Choir is looking for singers . . .

Rehearsals take place in the Chapel Room of DFAC 3, Wednesdays and Fridays at 2030hrs. The choir performs at the 1400hrs. service on Sundays in the Chapel Room of DFAC 3.

join today

From Page 1**WATER**

errors and system faults in the water purification system.

"Once we figured out their chlorination injector wasn't working properly, we adjusted the settings on it," said Dun-

lop. "The samples of the water we took after that came out okay."

A second visit was made to correct the faults and train the equipment operators.

"There were cartridge filters that needed replacing, as well as reverse osmosis elements that needed to be replaced," explained Dunlop. "It was causing water to come out salty and hard. We showed them how to clean the media filters."

The senior water plant engineer informed the team the system had not been operating properly for nearly three years.

The BSB team and Iraqi ROWPU team immediately went to work on properly routing the water through the purification system. Additional problems were identified and addressed, included significant damage to piping used to carry water between stations, causing leaks and loss of pressure. The team fabricated a replacement pipe.

Follow-up sustainment training was established through partnership with the Iraqi teams to ensure clean water would remain part of Camp Dhi Qar's future.



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Jason Tellez

Sgt. Christopher Dunlop, from North Richland Hills, Texas, takes samples from the purified water tank. Dunlop and water purification specialists were called in because the purification system had not been operating properly for nearly three years.

For more of Capt. Witherspoon's stories, visit:
www.TheRedBulls.org/Witherspoon

For more of Maj. Abraham's stories, visit:
www.TheRedBulls.org/Abraham

Word Search: Autumn



ACORN

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BLUSTERY DAY

CANNING

CHESTNUTS

CHILLY

COLD

CROPS

EQUINOX

FALL

FARMING

FEAST

FROST

HALLOWEEN

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OCTOBER

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PIE

PUMPKIN

RAKE

RED LEAVES

SCARECROW

SCHOOL

SEASON

SEPTEMBER

SHORTER DAYS

SQUASH

SWEET POTATOES

THANKSGIVING

TURKEY

WINDY

YELLOW LEAVES

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



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Jeff Mullett

Chief Petty Officer Michael Byrd progresses through the honors from the 'Side Boys' after becoming one of the newest chiefs in the U.S. Navy in the first Chief Petty Officer Pinning Ceremony held at Contingency Operating Base Basra Sept. 16.

From Page 2 PINNING

"Chief selectees were announced Jul. 31, and during the six weeks of chiefs transition training, a period that prepared us as leaders in the navy," said Chief Petty Officer Select Edward Pruitt, an intelligence specialist from Tangier Island, Va. "We learned the leadership and responsibility that we will use to take care of the Sailors. We did events that stressed physical fitness, navy traditions and camaraderie."

"It's a life-long dream. Every since I've been in the Navy, I've known this is something I wanted to be," said Pruitt.

"In the Navy, their uniform changes to reflect this change of duty, becoming identical to that of an officer's uniform except with different insignia," added Baughn.

Each of the new chiefs filed off stage through a line of their peers to receive the first salute in recognition of the milestone they achieved.

"It's time to step up and lead Sailors," said Mazer.

For more of Sgt. 1st Class Mullett's stories, visit:
www.TheRedBulls.org/Mullett

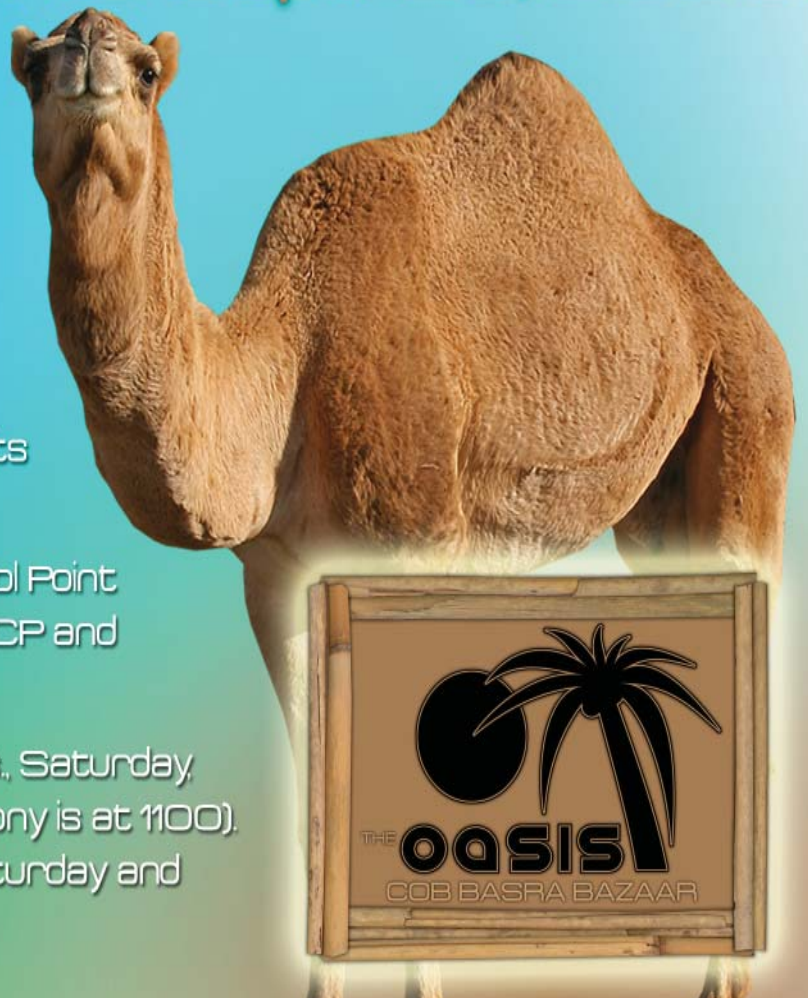
GRAND OPENING Sept. 26, 2009!

Who: All COB Basra-based service members, contractors, & tenants

What: Opening of "The Oasis," COB Basra Bazaar (including 20 local vendors selling clothes, rugs, leather goods, pottery, crafts and souvenirs)

Where: Adjacent to Entry Control Point Delta. (Bus service goes to the ECP and on-site parking is available)

When: Bazaar opens at 1000hrs., Saturday, Sept. 26. (Grand opening ceremony is at 1100). "The Oasis" will be open every Saturday and Sunday from 1000 to 1600 hrs.



The Basra Beat

34th ID Mailrooms
DSTB Mailroom:
 Monday-Saturday: 1 - 9 p.m.
 Sunday: 1-5 p.m.
Division Main Mailroom:
 Monday-Saturday: 2-8 p.m.
 Sunday: Closed

Basra 10 Miler
 Oct. 4, 5:30 a.m.
 To register, Email
 joseph.d.corley@iraq.centcom.mil
 * Include name, shirt size & unit.

TAEKWONDO
 Classes now offered!
Tuesdays, 8 p.m.
New Gym, Ab room
 For more information, contact:
 Master Sgt. Adam T.V. Johnson
 Email:
 Adam.Johnson4@Iraq.Centcom.Mil

Did you know ...
 Financial Assistance of up to \$6,000 is available for military spouses who are pursuing degree programs, licenses or credentials leading to employment in portable career fields?
 To Learn more about The Department of Defense's expanded Military Spouse Career Advancement Accounts (MyCAA) program, Click here or visit:
www.TheRedBulls.org/Education

COB Basra Inaugural AA Meeting
When: Sept. 25, 8 p.m.
Where: Chaplain Annex Trailer
Anyone interested is welcome to attend.

The Education Center has NEW HOURS!
Education Computer Lab:
 Mon-Fri: 9 a.m. - 9 p.m.
 Sat: 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.
 Sun: Noon - 6 p.m.
Education Center:
 Mon - Sat: 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.
 Sun: Closed

Legal Assistance hours:
 Mon-Fri 8 a.m. - 6 p.m.
 Sat 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
 Sun 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.
 Located in Staff Annex

Hair Cut!
 Barber Shop hours:
 9 a.m. - 8 p.m.
 Beauty Shop hours:
 9 a.m. - 8 p.m.

EVENTS
 What is going on in COB Basra at:
www.TheRedBulls.org/Events

Note to self!
 Beginning Sept. 26
 Finance will no longer disburse dollars - only dinar!

Around the world in 34 seconds



WASHINGTON - President Barack Obama scrapped the Bush-era plan for a missile shield to defend Eastern Europe Sept. 17, prompting some Republicans to accuse the White House of going soft. Obama said a new system would be cheaper, quicker and more effective against the threat from Iranian missiles. The original plan had complicated ties with Russia, which objected to where the shield installations would be built. "Our new missile defense architecture in Europe will provide stronger, smarter and swifter defenses," Obama said. "It is more comprehensive than the previous program." Obama said the decision was based on "unanimous recommendations" by his national security team.



WASHINGTON - President Barack Obama Sept. 17 praised a U.S. Soldier who three times left cover for an attempted rescue while Taliban bullets and grenades rained around him, ultimately losing his own life on an Afghan battlefield. Obama, standing with Sgt. 1st Class Jared Monti's parents, told a White House audience the 30-year-old Soldier's sacrifice should give Americans pause when they throw around words such as duty, honor, sacrifice and heroism. "Do we truly understand the nature of these virtues, to serve and to sacrifice?" Obama asked. "Jared Monti knew. The Monti family knows and they know that the actions we honor today were not a passing moment of courage. They were the culmination of a life of character and commitment." Presenting his first Medal of Honor, Obama praised the Soldier from Raynham, Mass., who was leading a mission along the Afghanistan - Pakistan border when a resupply helicopter blew their cover. Taliban fighters converged, and one of Monti's men, Pvt. Brian Bradbury of St. Joseph, Mo., was shot. Monti braved intense enemy fire to retrieve the Soldier.



NEW YORK - Ads for erectile dysfunction drugs, beer and not-for-children films abound on pro football and baseball telecasts, upsetting parents and politicians worried about harm to young viewers. This new wave of complaints doesn't seem to be swaying the leagues, networks or advertisers. Earlier this year, a national media monitoring group urged the leagues to "clean up their act" after reporting half the ad breaks during National Football League telecasts showed at least one ad featuring sex, drugs or alcohol. The San Francisco-based monitoring organization, Common Sense Media, last week provided The Associated Press with preliminary results of a similar study on Major League Baseball daytime telecasts. It found the rate of ads for alcohol and ED drugs at least as high as for the NFL. "We follow the lead of our broadcasters as it relates to ads, yet we are always sensitive to the opinions of our fans," said MLB spokesman Matt Bourne. NFL spokesman Brian McCarthy said "we are comfortable with our policies and those of our network partners."



SATELLITE BEACH, Fla - Not many people claim a notable alligator kill on their first hunting trip, but Arianne Prevost of Satellite Beach can. Prevost, 23, guided by Capt. Peter Deeks, 23, of Merritt Island, claimed the 11-foot gator Sept. 14 in marshland between Lake Washington and Lake Winder. Deeks estimated the gator to be between 400 and 450 pounds and about 30 years old. Prevost shot the gator several times with a crossbow and finished it with a broadhead. It was her first noteworthy kill of any kind. "I'm originally from Mississippi, so I used to hunt there with my dad," said Prevost, a mom to a 10-month-old daughter. "When I moved down here, I wasn't into it as much because the deer are so small, but I've never been gator hunting at all." She began hunting with a bow about two years ago. She has one gator tag remaining and plans on using it. "I can't seem to kill a deer, but I can kill an 11-foot alligator," she said.