

# Victory Times



***Telling the United States Forces - Iraq story***

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## Vigilance is key to abduction prevention

Story and photos by Sgt. Joseph Vine  
USF-I Public Affairs

Abductions are a threat that everyone should be aware of while deployed, and service members should implement counter measures in their everyday routine to help mitigate the danger.

"Kidnapping is a threat that is absolutely real," said Command Sgt. Maj. Timothy Livengood, command sergeant major for Task Force Phantom, III Corps. "Being on Victory Base Complex, there is a false sense of security and that the enemy is not going to attack, which couldn't be further from the truth."

Sgt. 1st Class Ryan Faulkner, operations noncommissioned officer for the VBC provost marshal office, with the 192nd Military Police Detachment, said that service members should not let complacency get the best of them.

"We have a lot of force protection measures in place, but we are never 100 percent safe here," he said.

Livengood said that the first step in mitigating the threat is making sure that every service member and civilian knows that the danger exists.

**See Kidnapping, Page 8** —

## Iraqi Army partners with U.S., train on radar system operation



*Staff Sgt. Bruce W. Zolman, an instructor with Battery B, 2nd Battalion, 5th Field Artillery Regiment evaluates two Iraqi Army Soldiers performing operator-level maintenance on a humvee during the radar system training on Forward Operation Base Constitution, Jan. 4.*

Story and photos by  
Staff Sgt. Edward Daileg  
USF-I Public Affairs

U.S. artillerymen recently began a new training program on Forward Operating Base Constitution with the Iraqi Army to assist them in combating terrorist indirect-fire-attacks.

The fire finder radar system training is a 30-day class designed to teach the IA how to operate and maintain a system that will allow them to detect and track incoming artillery and rocket fire.

A team of radar section leaders and senior radar operators from Battery B, 2nd Battalion, 5th Field Artillery Regiment, is partnering with the Iraqi Army to teach them operator-level maintenance and operation of the radar system.

The training is broken up into four phases covering all components of the system including preventive maintenance checks on the humvee, generator and the radar system.

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*Unsung Hero*

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# Chaplain's Corner

## *Nothing big is accomplished without 'little things'*

By Chaplain (Maj.) Wyly H. Collins  
Combined Joint Task Force Troy

One of my favorite verses is Zechariah 4:10 "Who despises the day of small things ..." (New International Version).

We often focus our lives on the big things: the mission, promotions, births and weddings. However, achievement of the greatest things in life is often done by daily effort with the "little things."

Passing the PT test is accomplished by regular sacrifice and effort in our physical fitness programs. Developing in professional skills demands intentional efforts. Someone growing in his or her faith requires daily efforts as well.

Sometimes we do not see the sum total of our efforts when we are in the "ground hog" day syndrome. However, I would encourage all of us to occasionally take a step back and evaluate how much we are doing.

We are all part of something that is bigger than our individual efforts alone. Operation New Dawn is a mission

that will affect the course of the entire nation of Iraq. Our efforts in working with our Iraqi partners have an effect on more than 28 million people. The "small things" that we do every day can add up to a lot. I can truly say that serving on this mission is one of the greatest honors in my life.

It is also good to acknowledge the "small things" that those around us do.

Do we ever give a short thank you to an SOC guard who protects us day and night? Or do we say thank you to the staff that hands the food to us at the dining facility?

How do you treat those who work under you? Do you try to encourage them as they work to carry out the mission?

I love the saying "we are all in this together." Every one of us has a part to play in the mission here in Iraq. Some of the smaller parts can actually be very critical to what we do.

During the tour that we serve in Iraq, let's all take some time to take inventory about what we have been doing and let us not despise the day of "small things."

## *SARC Smarts*

### **To Report or Not to Report a sexual assault?**

Often times, taking the first step and reporting the incident proves difficult. According to defense officials, of the 6.8 percent of women and 1.8 percent of men who indicated they experienced unwanted sexual contact, the majority, 79 percent of women and 78 percent of men, chose not to report it.

The most frequently cited reasons for not reporting the incident include:

- Felt uncomfortable making a report (58 percent of women and 51 percent of men);
- Thought they would be labeled a troublemaker (56 percent of women and 41 percent of men);
- Did not want anyone to know about the incident (56 percent of women and 47 percent of men);
- Did not think anything would be done (53 percent of women and 44 percent of men);
- Feared retaliation (50 percent of women and 38 percent of men);
- Not important enough to report (48 percent of women and 60 percent of men);
- Thought they would not be believed (41 percent of women and 35 percent of men);
- Thought reporting would take too much time and effort (36 percent of women and 46 percent of men);
- Did not report because they did not know how (18 percent of women and 26 percent of men).

Take the first step and report sexual assault!

**Call the USF-I Deployed Sexual Assault Response Coordinator (DSARC) at 485-5085 or 435-2235 for help. Army members should seek assistance with their Unit Victim Advocate (UVA) or DSARC.**



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# III Corps gears up for redeployment

Story and photos by Staff Sgt. Edward Daileg  
USF-I Public Affairs

III Corps Soldiers moved a step closer to redeployment as they packed hundreds of storage boxes to prepare for redeployment back to Fort Hood, Texas.

During their preparation, Soldiers filled 26 military vans and 24 quad containers with their equipment and supplies on Camp Victory, Jan. 1 – Jan. 5.

While the Phantom Corps Soldiers filled their bags and the containers this month, the planning began in August 2010.

Unit movement officers from the corps' four companies worked hand in hand with the 840th Transportation Battalion to get the movement process started.

"The UMOs had to plan their pack-out dates and verify all the cargo going back," said Capt. Garren Bremer a movement control officer for the III Corps Special Troops Battalion.

"We work with the UMOs to get the information on what cargo is going out, where it's heading to and who will pick them up. From there, the 840th Transportation Battalion handles all the movement," said Capt. Alvaro Ramirez the officer-in-charge of the deployment distribution support team center with the 840th Trans. Bn.

To ensure the corps' success, they trained a group of Soldiers to become certified to conduct customs inspections. "We had to send Soldiers to the Customs and Border Protection Agency class so that we would have certified agents during our customs inspections," said Sgt. 1st Class Daniel Broman, operations sergeant for Company A, STB, III Corps.

While the planning and paperwork required for the Soldiers to accomplish getting their gear

packed and ready for shipment was detailed and tedious, everyone agreed the result of this effort was worth any amount of work.

"All the paperwork and packing we did out here is worth it, knowing that we will be reunited with our families soon," said Cpl. Cooper Syvertsen a unit armor with Company A, STB, III Corps.

"Anything that involves the Soldiers getting back to their loved ones is worth all the challenges that come with redeployment," said Broman.

While everyone is excited about going home, leaders like Sgt. Maj. Nelson Castro, the United States Forces – Iraq Joint Fires Cell senior enlisted advisor, emphasized the importance of keeping mission focus and staying vigilant throughout the remainder of their deployment.

"The rules of engagement have not changed," said Castro, who is also assigned to III Corps. "Someone is expecting you back home in a few weeks; we came here together and were leaving together."

III Corps is scheduled to depart Iraq in early February after transferring the mission to the XVIII Airborne Corps out of Fort Bragg, N.C.



*Soldiers from Company A, STB, III Corps pack their items into containers, Jan. 3, as they prepare for redeployment. III Corps arrived in Iraq, Feb. 2010.*



*Master Sgt. John Brown, J3 Operations NCO, Company A, STB, III Corps, inventories items he packed for redeployment, Jan. 3.*

# Partnership:

## *U.S., Iraqi troops conduct route-clearance patrols*



Story and photos by  
Sgt. Joseph Vine  
USF-I Public Affairs

A group of Soldiers stand side by side while they receive their brief for their upcoming mission. Some with American flags and others with the Iraqi flag on their shoulders. They don't speak the same language, but that doesn't stop them from communicating with each other.

After the brief, they roll out of the gate in their vehicles on a route-clearance patrol to look for roadside bombs to keep the roads safe for all who travel upon them.

The 228th Engineer Company, 36th Engineer Brigade, has been

partnering with the Iraqi 6th and 17th Field Engineer Regiments on route-clearance tactics, techniques and procedures since October 2010.

"We are helping the Iraqi Army develop their route-clearance techniques and skills in order for them to assume the role of providing freedom of movement and security for Iraqi forces and civilians," said Capt. Joseph Martinkis, commander, 228th Eng. Co., from Johnstown, Pa.

"The 17th Field Eng. Reg. has never had route clearance teams before," he said. "We have developed a route-clearance academy for their Soldiers, teaching them proper route-clearance fundamentals."

The 228th Eng. Co. conducts the

training with the 6th and 17th Field Eng. Regs. on Joint Security Station Deason, south of Baghdad. This allows the IA to train on their own equipment and in their element, said Sgt. Nicholas Allen, from Laurence, S.C., and a squad leader with the 228th Eng. Co.

"We teach them what to look for on the roads, such as warning signs and indicators of roadside bombs," he said. "We also show them how to cordon off and clear out an area, as well as how to call up reports in case an improvised explosive device goes off."

"They're very eager to learn," said 1st Lt. John Banks from Bedford Pa., and a platoon leader with the 228th Eng. Co. "Getting hands-on training is how they like to learn their job, and they love doing it."

"The Iraqi Soldiers are looking at us to be their mentors, so it makes it easier to teach them," said Allen. "They want to be just like the American Soldiers."

"We helped build the 17th Field Engineer Regiment from the ground up," said Banks. "They've completed months of training and recently started to do route-clearance missions with us."

"With the 6th FER, we let them take the lead, as they already had been conducting missions before we started working with them," he said.

The route-clearance patrol mission is a way for the ISF to prove to the Iraqi populace that they can secure their roads and keep civilians safe, said Martinkis

"The 6th and 17th FERs have accepted their role in this mission like an American unit would when they get assigned a mission," he said. "The senior leaders of their unit have embraced this,





*1st Lt. John Banks, a platoon leader with the 228th Engineer Company, speaks to his Iraqi counterpart and team leaders with the help of an interpreter before their joint route clearance patrol on Joint Security Station Deason Jan. 3. The 228th Eng. Co. has been working with and training the Iraqi 6th and 17th Field Engineer Regiments since October.*

which have made the junior leaders and Soldiers take their job seriously.”

As the IA continues to improve their ability to conduct route-clearance missions they will take over as the primary route-clearance teams on the roads throughout Iraq, said Banks.

►An Iraqi Army explosives ordnance disposal team member gets his remote controlled robot ready before a joint route-clearance patrol with the 228th Engineer Company, 36th Engineer Brigade, at Joint Security Station Deason, south of Baghdad.



*The Iraqi 17th Field Eng. Reg. conducts weekly training and route-clearance patrols with the 228th Eng. Co. on Joint Security Station Deason.*





# UNSUNG HERO



Spc. Christopher Zoeliner is recognized as this week's Unsung Hero and received a Certificate of Achievement from Brig. Gen. Joseph DiSalvo, Deputy Chief of Staff, United States Forces - Iraq, at Al Faw Palace Jan. 7. Zoeliner received the certificate for his exemplary performance while serving as a supply clerk in the Co. C Task Force Phantom, III Corps.

## Training, from Page 1

The Iraqi Soldiers also worked with communication systems like the Single Channel Ground and Airborne Radio System.

Staff Sgt. Danny W. Tinnie an instructor with Btry. B, 2nd Bn., 5th FA Reg., said this training gives the Iraqi Army more capabilities to defend itself from terrorist attacks.

"This training is important for the



*An Iraqi Soldier demonstrates how to conduct preventive maintenance checks and services on the radar system.*

Iraqi Army because they will have the capability to detect indirect fire from mortars, artillery and rocket fire," said Tinnie. "This gives them the point of origin where the round came from and the point of impact."

Staff Sgt. Bruce W. Zolman, an instructor with Btry. B, 2nd Bn., 5th FA Reg., said the Iraqi Soldiers picked up how to operate the system quickly and wanted to learn everything about the equipment.

"They were able to understand and grasp each subject and were able to demonstrate the proper maintenance and safety procedures for each piece of equipment," said Zolman. "The Iraqi Army Soldiers were very eager to learn the system. It helped the instructors teach this course to them."

"With the training we provide the Iraqi Army, they'll be able to identify



*Two Iraqi Army Soldiers set up an antenna during the communications training for the radar system.*

and maintain the major components of the radar system and use the system to defend themselves against indirect fire," he said.

# What would you advise your Soldiers about kidnapping prevention?



**Sgt.  
Wayne Saunders**

USF-I DCG-O  
Communications NCO

HHC, III Corps

*“Be aware of your  
surroundings and remain  
vigilant.”*



**Sgt. 1st Class  
Corey Meyer**

Platoon Sgt.

Co. B, 145th BSB

*“Always have a battle  
buddy with you at all  
times.”*

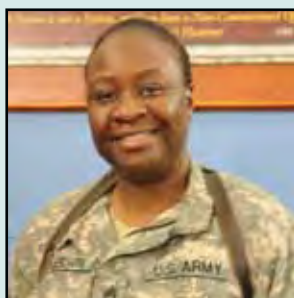


**Sgt.  
Anthony Hinojosa**

Geospacial Analyst

Co. A, III Corps

*“Take notice of suspicious  
activity.”*



**Sgt. 1st Class  
Yolanda Dickerson**

DCG-O CSM Admin NCOIC

HHC, III Corps.

*“Avoid being out at night  
by yourself.”*



**Tech Sgt.  
Melissa Griffin**

Admin NCO

USF-I J33

*“Be aware of your  
surroundings.”*



**Cpl.  
Roger Rochester**

Team Leader

Co. B, 145th BSB.

*“As much as possible, stay  
in well-lit areas.”*

## VBC Facility Operating Hours

### Sports Oasis DFAC

Breakfast 5:00 - 8:30 a.m.  
Lunch 11:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.  
Dinner 5 - 8:30 p.m.  
Midnight chow 11:00 p.m. - 1:00 a.m.  
Sandwich Bar open 24 hours  
Sunday brunch 7:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

### Education Center

8 a.m. - 8 p.m.

### Camp Liberty Post Exchange

8 a.m. - 10 p.m.

### Camp Victory Post Exchange

8 a.m. - 10 p.m.

### Paul Smith Gym

Open 24 Hours

### Victory Main Post Office

Monday - Friday 7:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.  
Saturday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
Sunday 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

### USF-I Unit Mail Room Customer Services/Mail Call:

Daily 3 - 6 p.m.

### Al Faw Palace Post Office

Wednesday and Sunday  
12:30 - 5:30 p.m.

### Golby TMC Sick Call

Monday - Friday 7:30 - 11:30 a.m.  
Saturday & Sunday 9 - 11:30 a.m.

### Mental Health Clinic

Monday - Friday 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.  
Saturday 9 a.m. - noon

### Pharmacy

Monday - Friday 7:30 a.m. - noon;  
1 - 4:30 p.m.  
Saturday & Sunday 9 a.m. - noon

## Websites

### Check it out:

### USF-I Web pages

[www.usf-iraq.com](http://www.usf-iraq.com)  
[www.flickr.com/photos/  
mnfiraq](http://www.flickr.com/photos/mnfiraq)  
[www.twitter.com/  
USF\\_Iraq](http://www.twitter.com/USF_Iraq)

### Facebook -

United States Forces-Iraq  
U.S. Army III Corps  
Phantom Battalion  
III Corps Fort Hood



## Kidnapping, from Page 1 —

“Abductions are a viable threat that everyone needs to be aware of, from senior leaders down to the junior enlisted,” he said.

“The common misconception is that it’s not going to happen to them,” said Master Sgt. Michael P. French, noncommissioned officer-in-charge of operations for Task Force Phantom, III Corps. “It could happen to anybody.”

United States Forces – Iraq leaders have increased the emphasis of this threat to ensure the safety of all service members and civilians deployed here.

“There are things you can do to lessen the possibility of getting kidnapped or assaulted, such as staying in well-lit areas, using the buddy system and letting your chain of command know where you are and when you are coming back,” said French.

“Everyone needs to be aware of their surroundings,” said Livengood. “You need to take appropriate measures to make sure you’re not a target.”

“Terrorists are looking for soft targets such as Soldiers by themselves,” he said. “Soldiers can limit their exposure outside of work, their living area as well as during hours of darkness.”

If someone feels they are being targeted or an attempt is made, notify the MPs and chain of command as soon as possible, said French.

“The sooner the MPs can get the information from the time of the incident, the better chance they have to do something about it,” he said.

“As you are getting yourself out of that situation try to get as much information and details as you can from the license plate number to what the person looked like,” said Livengood.

Faulkner said that complacency is the biggest enemy throughout a deployment and people being aware of their surroundings can help mitigate most threats on and off of VBC.

“Everyone needs to stay vigilant throughout their whole tour, not just the beginning or end,” said French.

## Personal protection measures

- *Maintain possession of personal weapon at all times*
- *Walk with a battle buddy or in small groups*
- *Have an unpredictable routine*
- *Always maintain situational awareness; know surroundings*
- *Avoid low-light and isolated areas of VBC*
- *Maintain positive control of your keys*
- *Remember and practice OPSEC at all times*
- *Immediately report suspicious activity to MPs and chain of command*
- *Inform chain of command of your location and when you will return*
- *Stay alert; look for the unexpected or unusual*



*Wearing reflective belts and walking in groups are two ways to help mitigate the threat of abductions.*

## Sexual Assault is incompatible with Army Values and the Warrior Ethos



For more information  
or to report an incident,  
contact your Deployed  
Sexual Assault Response  
Coordinator (DSARC) at:  
**485-5085 or 435-2235**