

Victory Times



Telling the United States Forces - Iraq story

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Vice president visits Camp Victory

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

Vice President Joe Biden visited service members at the United States Forces – Iraq headquarters at Al Faw Palace on Camp Victory, Jan. 13.

During his visit, Biden spoke to the service members who gathered in the palace rotunda to thank them and their family members for their continued service and sacrifice.

“Because of your incredible sacrifices in Iraq, the Iraqi people
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Photo by Lee Craker

Vice President of the United States Joe Biden speaks with service members at Al Faw Palace on Camp Victory, Jan. 13. During Biden's trip to Iraq to meet with Iraq's leaders, he took time to speak with service members and thank them and their family members for their service.

Iraqi personnel graduate from basic interrogators course

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

Thirty-four representatives from four Iraqi intelligence agencies graduated from two nine-week interrogation courses during a ceremony at the Joint Visitors Bureau Hotel, Camp Victory, Jan. 9.

During the course, 24 students

attended the Basic Interrogators Course, while nine students concurrently attended the Interrogator's Train-the-Trainer Course.

“The students who are taking the train-the-trainer course are simultaneously teaching the Basic Interrogators Course while we provide oversight, monitoring, feedback, coaching and mentoring for both the

students and the teachers,” said Maj. Harry Hung from New York City, and deputy commander for the Joint Interrogation Debriefing Detachment-Iraq.

“This is the first time the history of this course that Iraqis are teaching Iraqis,” he said.

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Chaplain's Corner

Going beyond racial tolerance is path to righteousness

By Chaplain (Capt.) Jonathan M. Averill
USF-I 40th Signal Battalion

Unfortunately, growing up, I did not celebrate Martin Luther King Day. In fact, I didn't even know much about him.

When the holiday was put place at my high school, my main excitement came from having another day off from school.

Why is important to remember Martin Luther King?

First, it reminds us of our past. Or, as one historian said, in order to keep our minds focused on future progress, we have to remember and learn from our past.

No matter your politics, there is no crime in admitting that America had a racist past. For too many years the terms "liberty and justice for all" were just words and not a reality for many people.

Even today, racial incidents can and do occur. Unfortunately for some, racial animosity still festers. Suspicion about these events affects both sides of the racial divide. Nowadays, racism tends to be more

covert than overt. An African-American politician's trial in Boston has led some to imply that African-American politicians tend to be more corrupt.

In contrast, many constituents of this political figure see this trial as a result of racist white prosecution. The truth is not so clear. Being videotaped accepting cash bribes tends not to help one's cause for innocence. However, punishment of a heavy fine and jail time given to this African-American politician for accepting a relatively small bribe seems excessive especially since a white politician's wife recently got away with just an apology for the laundering of millions of drug dollars.

What if they were judged equally by the content of their character, rather than the color of their skin, as Martin Luther King so eloquently stated 47 years ago?

Why is it so difficult for us to make progress on Dr. King's dream? Partially, I feel this is due to our cultural education, which has been focused on the ideals of relativism and tolerance. This program has not fulfilled its mission of eliminating racism. The

reason is that tolerance by itself often brings with it an implicit moral relativism.

Moral relativism allows for the idea that there are no absolutes to be accountable to. In contrast, we must see racism as wrong wherever and whenever it occurs.

Such relativism was not in the writings of Martin Luther King. He wanted people of different races and cultures to go beyond just tolerating each other. Dr. King's dream was to have love and respect for each other. For love and respect to occur for different groups we must go outside our narrow toleration of others.

The best way to do this is to listen to each other and focus on learning from each others differences. Take risks and step outside your comfort zone. You'll be a better person for it.

Corporately, the Armed Services have made great strides in eliminating racism in our units. It is now up to us individually to fulfill Dr. King's dream of love and respect for people of different groups. Are you willing to do it?



DSARC Smarts

American Soldiers are members of a band of brothers and sisters, bonded by Army values, duty to country and loyalty to each other. As Soldiers and Leaders, it is our responsibility to set the climate and conditions where safety is promoted and where a fellow Soldier is not hampered by fear of sexual assault or reprisal against reporting a 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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ITAM-Air Force changes command

Story by Tech. Sgt. Jason Lake
321st Air Expeditionary Wing

A general formerly charged with shaping the U.S. Air Force's brightest officers took command of the Iraqi Air Force training and advisory mission during a change of command ceremony, Jan. 6.

Brigadier Gen. Anthony Rock, who recently served as Air Command and Staff College commandant and vice commander of Spaatz Center for Officer Education, took command of the 321st Air Expeditionary Wing and Director of ITAM – Air Force from Brig. Gen. Scott Hanson.

"If you examine General Rock's career background, you'll likely conclude the



Photo by Tech Sgt. Jason Lake

Brig. Gen. Anthony Rock salutes his Airmen for the first time after taking command of the 321st Air Expeditionary Wing and Iraq Training and Advisory Mission - Air Force, during the change of command ceremony, Jan. 6.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Levi Riendeau

Brig. Gen. Scott Hanson, 321st Air Expeditionary Wing commander and Director of Iraq Training and Advisory Mission - Air Force, gives his departing speech at Al Faw Palace on Camp Victory, Jan. 6, after he turned the 321st AEW over to Brig. Gen. Anthony Rock.

U.S. Air Force specifically crafted it for him to command this wing at a crucial time in its history," said Brig. Gen. Russell Handy, 9th Air and Space Expeditionary Task Force - Iraq commander, who presided over the ceremony at. "He has led Airmen and commanded in every capacity of combat aviation and training specialties."

Before handing over the guidon to his successor, Hanson reflected on his year in Iraq.

"I've witnessed first-hand great leaders, many in this room, whose courage, patriotism and determination bring the reality of a safe and secure nation for the people of Iraq closer each and every day," said Hanson. "It has been my privilege to have been part of the team whose training and advising support for the Iraqi Air Force has helped with their astonishing growth and development."

After accepting the command guidon, Rock addressed his Airmen

and Iraqi partners.

"Our American and coalition advisors work daily with our Iraqi partners and every day, Iraqi forces are more capable of securing the citizens and providing a brighter future," said Rock, from San Antonio. "While there are many things that make us unique, one thing we have common is the desire for a more secure future for our nations."

Rock urged those under his command to finish strong their time in Iraq strong.

"It is obvious this will be a historic year and together we will all be better at the end of it, but there can be no progress without hard work," said Rock. "It is clear the Iraqi Air Force has developed an exceptional capability for the nation and will work hand-in-hand with the ground forces."

"It is just as clear that the best path for our nations is to work together to achieve this goal. We must, can and will work side-by-side to ensure a brighter future and we will reach new heights for our Air Forces," he said.



Twenty-five Iraqi military and government employees graduate from the Basic Interrogators Course, and nine graduate from the Interrogator's Train-the-Trainer Course, during a ceremony at the Joint Visitors Bureau Hotel, Camp Victory, Iraq, Jan. 9.

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The courses consist of two parts; classroom training and on-the-job training with detainees that are in United States custody at the theater internment facility on Camp Cropper.

"The course is based on the U.S. Army Interrogation School Course," said Hung. "The biggest difference is that we actually have real detainees that the students are interrogating as part of the training instead of running through a script. This is the real deal."

Throughout the course the students were trained on interrogation techniques that are humane, which leads to a mutual trust between the detainee and interrogator.

"There is a lot of stigma attached to interrogation, particularly torture," said Hung. "This course goes a long way in showing the Iraqis that you can perform interrogations effectively without the use of torture."

"The course taught us to be humane to the detainees, which we learned, made them more honest in the information they gave us," said Ahmad Hussein with the Ministry of Defense director general of intelligence and security.

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Hussein, who graduated from the train-the-trainer course, said that he will continue to work with his classmates when they return to their individual agencies to make their jobs easier.

"We will continue to keep in contact and share information with each other's agencies, which will help enforce security within our country," he said.

"This is a new age of interrogation and investigation for all the agencies in Iraq," said 1st Lt. Sahib with the Iraqi Counter-Terrorism Force. "The agencies used to work alone, but now after working and training with people from the different agencies, we can start to share information and continue to work with each other from this point on."

Hung said the JIDD-I has two more scheduled classes for both the train-the-trainer and basic interrogators courses for 2011.

"As more military and government agency personnel

graduate from the courses, Iraq will be better equipped to sustain themselves and grow their abilities within each agency," he said.



Maj. Gen. Jerry Cannon, USF-I deputy commanding general for detainee operations, presents 1st Lt. Abed Al Sahib with a graduation certificate during the ceremony.

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are on the verge of creating a country that is democratic, sustainable, and God willing, 'prosperous,'" said Biden.

"Your families had made incredible sacrifices for you to be here to promote the interest of the United States of America. I thank you from the bottom of my heart".

Biden also told them that good progress was made during his meetings with Iraqi President Jalai Talabani, Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki and Kurdish President Massoud Barzani.

During his speech, Biden applauded the service members for their efforts throughout the years and told them they've been the key for Iraq to sustain its government.

"You have trained the Iraqi forces to where they're now



Photo by Lee Craker

Vice President Joe Biden meets with service members and civilians after his speech to show his token of appreciation for their service and sacrifice.



Photo by Lee Craker

Gen. Lloyd J. Austin III, United States Forces – Iraq commanding general, introduces the vice president to the service members and civilians at Al Faw Palace.

in the lead. They are getting better and better every day," he said.

He also told the service members they are part of the best fighting force in the world.

"You are the greatest warrior class that the world has ever created," said Biden. "This is not only the best run, but this is the most powerful, significant military force in the history of mankind."

Biden concluded his speech by telling the service members, "I'll end where I began. We owe you; we owe you more than what we can ever repay you. After all that you have done, so few of you expect anything back, even 'thanks.'"

The vice president then went into the crowd and took time to shake their hands and take photos as a token of his appreciation for their service.

"To see the vice president and hear the emotional words that he said, it makes me proud to serve a great country as we do," said Spc. Esteban Gonzalez an administrative specialist from Boise, Idaho with Troop A, 2nd Squadron, 116th Cavalry Regiment.

"Never in my life had I ever expected to shake the vice president's hand and speak to him. I am honored," said Pfc. Marquise Willis a food service specialist with Headquarters Support Company, Special Troops Battalion, III Corps.

Biden completed his visit by going back on stage to tell the service members thank you one last time before departing.

UNSUNG HERO



Staff Sgt. Edward D. Daileg 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. 14. Daileg received the certificate for his exemplary performance as the Print NCOIC for the United States Forces-Iraq Public Affairs Office.

Kidnapping U.S. personnel is a stated goal of anti-U.S. forces.

We must take personal responsibility to protect ourselves from this threat. Take simple actions to protect yourself and your teammates to avoid or lessen the chance of abduction.

Keep a close eye on your battle buddy and frequently check accountability of your fellow Soldiers.

Maintain a calm, subdued, professional profile. Do not bring unnecessary attention to yourself or your fellow Soldiers.

Do not let your guard down. Maintain OPSEC and do not discuss personal information with strangers.

Always maintain control of identification, communication equipment and sensitive items.

Maintain situational awareness. Scan your operating environment for threats. Frequently scan your sector in 360 degrees. Make note of routes of approach to your current location.

Constantly ask yourself, "What could happen right now?" Be alert for that possible event.

Always drive with your windows rolled up and doors locked. Open doors and hatches only when absolutely necessary to accomplish the mission. Secure outside access to gunners hatches.

Look for unusual or suspicious behavior in the local population.

Get familiar with the normal activity in your immediate area. Report any suspicious activity to the chain of command.

Establish a communications schedule to let your unit know that you are OK.

All U.S. personnel should be within visual and auditory range of another at all times. Ask yourself, "Where's my buddy?"

Do not set predictable routines or patterns for the enemy to exploit.

Maintain safe distances from crowded areas or instances of civil unrest, such as protests.

If captured, do everything possible to escape.

NEVER LET YOUR BUDDY FIGHT alone

Be willing to listen

Not all Wounds are Visible

Prevent Suicide.

It is your responsibility to get help for a fellow soldier

Talk to your Chaplain or a Behavioral Health Professional or Call 1-800-342-9647
<http://www.militaryonesource.com>

USACHPPM

TA-064-0107

What is your most memorable moment during this deployment?



**Sgt. 1st Class
Robin Foe**

*Assistant Inspector General
USF-I Inspector General office*

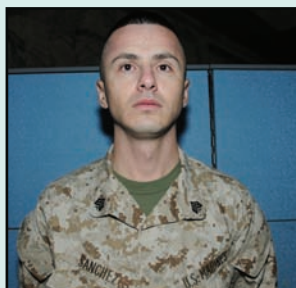
"My first C-RAM warning of 'incoming' on Christmas night."



**Lt. Col.
Donald S. Walker**

*J2 JOC night OIC
USF-I J2*

"Seeing how hard the people work here with no time off."



**Sgt.
Moises Sanchez**

*R & R NCOIC
USF-I J2*

"I got to meet Leean Tweeden and took plenty of memorable pictures."



**Tech. Sgt.
Derrick Mayo**

*Chief of Staff communications
NCOIC
USF-I*

"Handing out Christmas stockings to the troops with the chief of staff."



**1st Lt.
Joshua Ryburn**

*Battle Captain
USF-I J33*

"Working in a joint environment and getting to meet new people."



**Petty Officer 3rd Class
Raja Armstrong**

*Chaplain assistant
USF-I Chaplain*

"I got to meet General Austin and Lieutenant. General Cone."

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
www.flickr.com/photos/mnfiraq
www.twitter.com/USF_Iraq

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

DISNEY HALF MARATHON

Photos by Staff Sgt. Edward Daileg
USF-I Public Affairs



Service members take off as the horn sounds to mark the start of the Disney Half Marathon on Victory Base Complex, Jan. 8. More than 500 participants joined the race that started simultaneously with the Disney Half Marathon in Walt Disney World, Fla.



Sgt. Tanya Moller smiles as she runs the 13.1 mile course. Moller was the first female to finish the race.



Runners wear mickey mouse ears before the start of the Disney Half Marathon.



► Soldiers stretch as they wait for the start of the Disney Half Marathon. The race took place on Camp Liberty.

◀ Capt. Brian Benestad was the over-all winner for the half marathon. Benestad is assigned to the 9th Reconnaissance Wing, Judge Advocate, Air Combat Command.

