

Victory Times



Telling the United States Forces - Iraq story

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Outlook sunny for Iraqi forecasters

Story and photos by
Staff Sgt. Levi Riendeau
321st AEW

The Iraqi Air Force took one more step toward self-sufficiency with the recent acquisition of a new weather data reception and visualization system.

The European Organization for the Exploitation of Meteorological Satellite was installed this month at the Iraqi Air Operations Center in Baghdad.

The system allows Iraqi weather officers to generate weather maps for use in various products from flight briefings to local weather forecasts.

"This system provides real-time aviation weather information as the basis for decision support for all meteorological support activities spanning Iraq," said Maj. James Bono, Iraqi Training and Advisory

See Weather, Page 6 –



Secretary of the United States Army, the Honorable John McHugh, speaks with Soldiers during his visit at Camp Victory, Iraq, Jan. 26. McHugh said Soldiers and their families are his top priority.

Secretary of the Army ensures Soldiers, families remain service's top priority

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

The Secretary of the United States Army, the Honorable John McHugh, told Soldiers the Army's top priority is taking care of them and their families during his visit to Camp Victory Jan. 26.

McHugh, who made his 16th trip to Iraq, spoke with Soldiers during an open-forum luncheon where he discussed their careers, the mission in Iraq and how the Army is

working to improve how it takes care of military families.

"The purpose of my trip was to speak to the troops and make sure we are doing the right things for them," said McHugh. "We want to make sure we put the Soldiers and their families first."

Also, McHugh said the Army's biggest challenge is to reduce the stressors deployed Soldiers face, and one way he hopes to

See Sec Army, Page 3 —

INSIDE:



*Vision on
Life
Page 2*



*Non-lethal
training
Page 4*



*III Corps
Farewell Run
Page 8*

Chaplain's Corner

Persistence, perspective, patient vision on life

By Chaplain (Col.) Mike Lembke
USF-I Chaplain

I am inspired by persons that exhibit the ability to show strength of character and depth of soul in good times and bad.

I am empowered by the examples of those in history who have labored on in the face of huge obstacles, and I am uplifted by those who carry a broad and hopeful vision in the conduct of their daily activities.

I also know that I cannot allow these examples to be static displays of greatness, but must appropriate the actions and activities into my life for the good of the mission.

I would encourage you as well to be persistent in word and deed. Persistence is that quiet and determined quality; that 'steady as she goes' willingness to carry on in the tough times. To persist is an individual acknowledgment that, while one can't do everything, they can do something

that supports others, provides witness, and gets the job done.

Be persistent, see the task through, and know the joy that comes from those moments of satisfaction and accomplishment. You can do it.

"Perspective is important to the abundant life."

Perspective is how you look at life, people, relationships, duty and service. Every story has an angle. Seek perspective; work to understand your angle on life, your bias, your history and your contribution.

Look inward to analyze and discover your particular window on the world. A better understanding of your view will assist you in engaging those issues, ideas and people around you.

Sometimes it is important to step back, rather than attack, and gain the

broader view.

Perspective is important to the abundant life.

Gaining vision is not as easy as having a dream and leaving it there. Developing patient vision involves the employment of personal discipline and motivation to see beyond the planning horizon to what might be. It takes courage and character to be a person of vision.

Anyone can have a neat idea, a thoughtful dream or a general concept; it is the person who is willing to do the hard work of developing these ideas, dreams and concepts, that is able to gain patient vision.

I believe that persistence, perspective and patient vision are all part of duty and the joy of being in service to the nation. The great news is that this beautiful work is made even more wonderful when experienced collegially and has its ultimate expression in the exercise of one's faith.

SARC Smarts

Sexual Assault causes adverse effects



- Combat readiness suffers
- Destroys unit cohesion and teamwork
- Fear and loss of trust in others
- Loss of trust and confidence in chain of command
- Depression and feelings of helplessness
- Destroys self esteem
- Results in anger and guilt
- Risk of physical injury, disease and infection
- Sexual assault is never excusable.

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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Secretary of the Army, the Honorable John McHugh, spoke to Soldiers during the luncheon about their careers, their mission in Iraq, and how the Army continues to look at ways to improve military family life.

Sec Army, from Page 1

decrease the stress is to increase dwell time.

"The most important thing we can do is give people more dwell time at home," he said. "We are working very hard to get two years of dwell time for every year of deployment."

As the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan continue, McHugh credited the Soldiers' efforts and sacrifices with how the Army has adapted to both wars.

"The Soldiers coming back from Iraq and Afghanistan have taught us so much about how to develop an Army that can cover the full spectrum and is more than just ready for a full conflict," said McHugh.

During the luncheon, McHugh also answered questions about various topics from Soldiers including military occupational specialties, the status of the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy and the Army's force management.

"I am honored and humbled to meet the Secretary of the Army," said Capt. Gregory Gebhardt, commander, Headquarters Support Company, Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion, XVIII Airborne Corps.

"It was nice to be able to ask one of the senior leaders of our Army about the

repeal of 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' policy," he said. "He provided the troopers in the room with the most direct answer I've heard since the repeal of the policy."

Staff Sgt. Armando Rios, a motor sergeant with Headquarters Support Company, Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion, 25th Infantry Division, said he appreciated the opportunity to speak with McHugh during the luncheon.

"Eating lunch with the Secretary of the Army was definitely a great experience," said Rios. "I think it was awesome being able to talk to a person with his stature."

"It feels good in our level to know that there are people that actually care at his level," he said. "It's different when they talk about all the things they are trying to do for us on TV than when they talk to you face-to-face. I could tell he really does care about the troops."

In addition to speaking to Soldiers about taking care of their families, McHugh also told the Soldiers that their current mission is just as critical as it was at any point in the war. He told them to continue what they are doing to

help the Iraqi people.

"I don't want anybody to think this is the forgotten theater," said McHugh. "Do your duty, do your jobs and continue to look out for each other. 'This is the moment of success and you're the folks that we are relying upon to make it happen.'"



Capt. Gregory M. Gebhardt, commander, HSC, HHB, XVIII Airborne Corps, asks a question regarding the status of the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy during the luncheon.

NON-LETHAL FORCE: MPS TRAIN ON SAFER WEAPONS SYSTEMS

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



Sgt. Benjamin Jaramillo, a non-lethal weapons instructor with the 105th Military Police Battalion, sprays pepper spray on Pfc. Kyle Sauer, a military police officer with Company A, 145th Brigade Support Battalion. Soldiers who participated in the non-lethal weapons training Jan. 10, at Camp Cropper, Iraq, experienced the capabilities of the weapon system.

In theater internment facilities, Soldiers use non-lethal weapons in situations to limit the escalation of force and avoid the use of lethal weapons in the process of gaining compliance.

The 105th Military Police Battalion conducted training with Soldiers from Victory Base Complex, Iraq, to familiarize themselves with two types of non-lethal weapons, Jan. 10, at Camp Cropper.

The training gave Soldiers a chance to operate the taser gun and Oleoresin Capsicum spray to let them experience the effectiveness of the weapons.

"Instead of having to go directly to lethal force, the Soldier can apply a

standoff with a non-lethal weapon to gain compliance of the subject without having to risk injury to themselves or the person they need to control," said Staff Sgt. Randy Kite, the non-lethal weapons instructor with Headquarters Headquarters Company, 105th MP Bn.

The training occurred in two phases; the first consisted of classroom instruction, which focused on the basic functions and capabilities of the weapon systems. During the second phase, participants went through hands-on training on how to use the weapon systems and experience what they can do to a non-compliant person.

"After the classroom and hands-on

portion of the training, I had a better understanding of how to use the weapon systems," said Spc. Mara Hanson, a truck driver with Company A, 145th Brigade Support Battalion.

"This will help us determine the use of force and what weapon to use because we know how each system works and how it affects a person were using it on," she said.

Soldiers agreed that the most difficult part of the training was experiencing the severe symptoms of the non-lethal weapons.

"The OC spray gives you a horrible burning sensation that almost feels like grains of sand are in your eyes," said Pfc.

► Staff Sgt. Randy Kite, a non-lethal weapons instructor with the 105th MP Bn., demonstrates how to use the taser gun during the non-lethal weapons training.



◀ A Soldier washes his face after he finishes the OC spray familiarization portion of the training.

▼ Soldiers prepare to load air cartridges into their taser guns as they familiarize themselves with the weapon during the non-lethal weapons training. Soldiers shot at targets to see the maximum effective range of the weapon.

Jonathan Giorgio, a scout with Eagle Troop, 2nd Squadron, 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment. “You have to be mentally and physically prepared to deal with such pain.”

“The taser gives you multiple poundings throughout your body and all your muscles stiffen up to where you can no longer stand,” said Hanson.

Hanson said learning the affects of the weapon systems helps her determine what is most efficient to use on a non-compliant person.

“Now that I have the knowledge and experience from the training, it gives me an idea on what considerations I should take before determining the use of force,” said Giorgio.

Kite applauded the professionalism of the Soldiers who participated in the rigorous and sometimes painful training through the end.





Noah Rich, IPS MeteoStar contractor, teaches Iraqi airmen how to use the weather systems at the Iraqi Air Operations Center, Victory Base Complex, Iraq, Jan. 13.

Weather, from Page 1

Missions senior weather advisor. “The Iraqi Air Force weather officers will have the toolset they need to integrate important operational weather decision-making products directly into existing and future Iraqi weather systems.”

The purchase is part of an ongoing plan to provide the Iraqi airmen with the tools and skills to run their own weather forecast center. They are currently relying on data from the United States.

The Iraqi Air Force currently uses a TMQ-53 Weather Observation System on loan from the U.S. Air Force, but recently purchased eight new units to be set up throughout Iraq. Once the new systems are in place, the only thing missing for the Iraqis to run their own weather operation will be training.

With more training from U.S. Airmen, Bono said the Iraqis should be self-sufficient with their own equipment.

“They will support their own mission, their own aircraft, and provide protection for their airfields,” he said.

Technical Sgt. Stephen Hale of the 22nd Expeditionary Weather Squadron, from Fort Riley, Kan., makes sure Iraqi officers receive the training they need to run their own operations.

“Their meteorology background is different from ours,” he said. “Over these last five months we’ve tried to bridge the gap from the training they’ve received previously to what the capabilities are on the U.S. side.”

Once the Iraqi airmen are trained, Hale will work with his

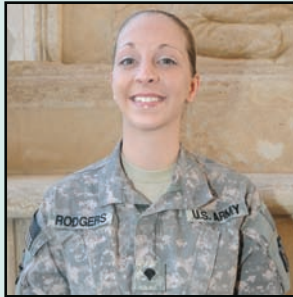
them to ensure they can produce all the weather products they need for their mission.

“I get to teach these young Iraqi weather officers to integrate the information they have into planning and executing missions,” Hale said.



U.S. Air Force Tech. Sgt. Stephen Hale, 22nd Expeditionary Weather Squadron advisor and trainer for Iraqi air operators, trains Iraqi airmen to do a systems check on the TMQ-53 automated weather observation system at the Iraqi Air Operations Center, Baghdad, Jan. 13.

Who is going to win the Super Bowl, and why?



**Spc.
Kassandra Rodgers**
Administrative Specialist
Headquarters, USF-I

"The Steelers, because they're a proven team and recently won two Super Bowls."



**Staff Sgt.
Victor B. Vinziant**
JOC NCOIC for J-2 Day Shift
Co. B, III Corps

"The Steelers, because they're battle tested and it's the AFC."



**Staff Sgt.
Michael Velasquez**
Surgeon Battle NCO, JOC
Headquarters Support Co., STB

"The Steelers. They have a better defense and Big Ben will pick apart Green Bay."



**Col.
Thomas C. Mckelvey**
Deputy Director
J-35, USF-I

"The Packers, because they have better looking cheerleaders."



**Lt.
Sarah Cottrill**
Operational Law Attorney
USF-I office of the Staff Judge Advocate

"The Steelers will win their 7th Super Bowl because 7 is their lucky number."



**Tech. Sgt.
Jonathan Liska**
Weather Forecaster
89th Operations Support Squadron

"The Steelers, because their roster is full of experience, a clutch QB."

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
Mon, Wed, Thur, Fri
08:30 - 10:30 & 1500 - 1700
Tuesday 0830 - 1030
Saturday 0900 - 1100
Sunday - Emergency Only

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

TASK FORCE PHANTOM FAREWELL RUN



▲ Brig. Gen. Joseph DiSalvo, United States Forces-Iraq deputy chief of staff and III Corps chief of staff, and Lt. Col. Robert Menti, III Corps Special Troops Battalion commander, lead the runners at the start of the Task Force Phantom Farewell Run on Camp Victory, Jan. 23.

► Capt. Timothy Curtis, a liaison officer with 25th Infantry Division, United States Division-Center, points out the run route and discusses his race strategy after finishing the Task Force Phantom Farewell Run.



A Soldier competes in the 7.35 mile TF Phantom Farewell Run. The course represented 7,350 miles, the distance from Fort Hood, Texas, to Camp Victory.

