

T-PATCH

United States Division-South Weekly Newsletter



Volume 3, Issue 9

Contingency Operating Base Basra, Iraq

Mar. 14, 2011

Babil Museum opens gate to past

Hopes rest on ancient city of Babylon as key to city's future

By Staff Sgt. Garrett Ralston
3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment PAO

BABIL, Iraq – The Babil Provincial Reconstruction Team, with support from 1st Squadron, 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment, officially opened the doors of the historic Babylon Museum, Feb. 27.

The restoration of this historic landmark is a reflection of the U.S. Government's commitment to implementing the Strategic Framework Agreement between the U.S. and Iraq, and these efforts will assist Iraq in preserving its heritage.

"I have been so privileged to participate in events such as these," said Dr. Rick Roberts, of the Babil PRT. "This is the most important one of all to me. The city of Babylon is a treasure, not just for the people of Iraq, but for the whole world."

The newly renovated museum sits among the old Babylon ruins, a nearby palace, and other buildings that date back to the 3rd century B.C. Projects such as these are intended to preserve Iraq's rich history and tradition for future generations.

The U.S.-supported project cost nearly \$300,000 and features a replica of the famous Ishtar Gate, several beautiful outdoor color murals, and architecturally appropriate front and side gates.

The inside of the museum has many exhibits that bring the past to life. Some of these include a portion of a brick wall with the Lion of Babylon emblazoned on it, many backlit pictures of historical Babylon, and a model of the old layout of the city. The efforts in Babil are intended to bolster a new basis for tourism and opportunities for the outside world to see



Photo by Staff Sgt. Garrett Ralston

Dr. Rick Roberts of the Babil Provincial Reconstruction team, and the governor of Babil province, cut the ribbon in a ceremony to open the newly renovated Babil museum Sunday. The opening of the museum marks yet another successful project completed in partnership between U.S. and Iraqi officials.

firsthand the wonders of Iraq, both past and present.

Members of the 3rd ACR have worked with the PRT consistently to ensure the successful completion of this and many other local projects over several months.

Completion of the museum will bring new potential for Iraq's history to reach

new audiences and provide a way for its own citizens to access their heritage.

"A rehabilitated and protected Babylon site will create sustainable tourism development for the people of Babil province and ultimately, the world," said Bob Wong, Public Diplomacy Officer for the Babil PRT. ♥

Engineers introduce sanitation vehicle to route clearance

By 1st Lt. Christopher Painter

3rd Bn., 29th FA Reg., 3rd AAB, 4th Inf. Div.

CAMP ADDER, Iraq – For nearly a year, route clearance teams assigned to 3rd Battalion, 29th Field Artillery Regiment, 3rd Advise and Assist Brigade, 4th Infantry Division, have been vigilantly clearing and reconnoitering Route Tampa day and night, investigating debris and suspicious dirt piles.

The two platoons attached to 3rd Bn., 29th FA Reg., employed the interim high mobility engineer excavator for the first time this month. The IHMEE, as it is called by Soldiers, clears debris along the highway that could potentially conceal improvised explosive devices.

“The machine can crush and pick up a concrete barrier or remove a large berm that could conceal an anti-armor IED. The IHMEE definitely adds capabilities to our patrol,” said Sgt. Jason Jones, IHMEE operator and spotter, from Hudson, N.Y.

The process began earlier in the tour, when both platoons’ route clearance teams recognized the need for route clean-up, after meetings with their counterparts in the Iraqi Highway Patrol and Iraqi Army.

By detecting changes in the amount of debris along the highway, the route clearance teams determined that a significant amount of debris that could be used for IED concealment should be removed or cleared.

After weeks of coordination and research, Chief Warrant Officer John Waterman, an electronic warfare officer assigned to 3rd Bn., 29th FA Reg., from Fountain, Colo., assisted the Camp Adder electronic warfare shop in designing a counter IED system for the IHMEE.

On its maiden voyage outside the wire, the IHMEE performed beyond expectations said Sgt. Thomas Sturtz, IHMEE operator. The IHMEE sanitized 22 kilometers of highway and removed over 20 bucket-loads of material that could be used to hide a roadside bomb. Sturtz sees the IHMEE as a powerful enabler for route clearance operations.


“The IHMEE allows us to remove the large amounts of trash and debris that we note as part of our change detection during missions,” said Sturtz, of Manitowoc, Wis.

Not only does the vehicle aid route clearance operations, it improves the Iraqi’s perception of U.S. forces, as the engineers use the IHMEE to improve the safety of the highway. ♡



Photo by 1st Lt. Christopher Painter

The engineer platoon from 1st Bn., 8th Inf. Reg., attached to 3rd Bn., 29th FA Reg., uses an interim high mobility engineer excavator to remove a concrete barrier from the shoulder of Route Tampa. The IHMEE clears debris along the highway to reduce locations to conceal improvised explosive devices.



The T-PATCH Staff

Public Affairs Officer Lt. Col. Eric N. Atkisson ♦ **Deputy PAO** Capt. Brian Melanephy ♦ **Command Information OIC** 1st Lt. Adam J. Musil ♦ **Editor** Sgt. 1st Class Merrion LaSonde ♦ **Print NCOIC** Staff Sgt. Chanelcherie DeMello ♦ **Layout & Design** Sgt. Jason Kaneshiro ♦ **Writers and Photographers** Sgt. James Kennedy Benjamin, Sgt. David A. Bryant, Sgt. Raymond T. Quintanilla, Sgt. Jeremy Spires, Spc. Eve Ililau

The T-PATCH is a weekly newsletter distributed in electronic and print formats. It is authorized for publication by the 36th Infantry Division Public Affairs Office. The contents of The T-PATCH are unofficial and are not to be considered official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, including the Department of Defense. The T-PATCH is a command information publication in accordance with Army Regulation 360-1. The Public Affairs Office address is: 36th Infantry Division Public Affairs Office, APO AE 09374. Contact Sgt. 1st Class Merrion LaSonde via e-mail at merrion.lasonde@iraq.centcom.mil.

Dogs of War

From sniffing out explosives to hounding criminals, military working dogs protect the force



Photo by Staff Sgt. Chanelcherie DeMello

Spc. Edmond Adams, 13th Military Police Detachment, Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, and his dog partner Sgt. Balto are deployed together at Contingency Operating Base Basra, Iraq. Deployed for use in patrols, drug and explosives detection, and specialized mission functions, they provide warfare support and safety for the COB.

By Staff Sgt. Chanelcherie DeMello
305th MPAD, USD-S PAO

BASRAH, Iraq – “Can I see some ID?” asks Spc. Edmond Adams as a man walks toward him and his partner Sgt. Balto. Noncompliant, the man takes off running. Adams commands Balto with a “Get’ em!” and Balto lets out a loud bark and takes off after the man.

Military Working Dogs (MWD) like 6-year-old Sgt. Balto, 13th Military Police detachment out of Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, and 2-year-old Staff Sgt. Miky, 6th Military Police detachment out of Fort Rucker, Ala., accompany their Soldier partners on deployments like this one to Contingency Operating Base Basra for Operation New Dawn.

“They are considered a Soldier and deploy just like we do,” said Sgt. Adam Kusnerick of Fort Rucker. “They are all active duty and they belong to the installation where they came from.”

Deployed for use in patrols, drug and explosives detection, and specialized mission functions, these four-legged warriors provide warfare support and safety for the COB and its personnel.

Training Monday through Friday, Kusnerick and Adams run Miky and Balto through obedience, bite work, and detection courses to build their partners’ skills in conducting patrols, locating explosives and narcotics, and aggressive attacking.

“We have to work them so many hours a week,” said Kusnerick. “We let the dogs take a break, because they can get burnt out just like we can. Everything is built off of the foundation of obedience.”

Just like a Soldier who attends basic combat training, the dogs undergo rigorous basic level training at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio before being transitioned to their duty station.

The dogs start training at a year and a half old, said Kusnerick. On average it takes about 90 days to train one dog in the basics of detection and patrol work, he added. Once they are sent to the field they can be cross-trained for their specific mission.

“Our main thing here is force protection and VIP sweeps for incoming personnel,” said Adams. “We do cache searches, scouting, and tracking.”

“Usually when they are searching, the tail will be between his legs, kind of not doing anything,” said Kusnerick “As soon as he starts smelling something that he’s trained to find, his tail will start wagging, his ears will perk up, and he gets all excited.”

“Really all he thinks he’s looking for is his tennis ball,” said Adams. “Once you give him his ball he loves it! His tail will be flagging.”

“It took me about five weeks to learn Balto’s behavior,” said Adams. “It’s very satisfying when your dog gets proficient at what he does. You see that all the hard work and training you have put into them has paid off and that you will be saving lives.”

When not deployed overseas, Kusnerick, Miky, Adams, and Balto provide law enforcement support for their home stations. On occasion, they work closely with the U.S. Secret Service and other branches of the military providing support for visiting foreign dignitaries and for the Vice President and President of the United States.

“Him (Miky) and I have actually gone on TDY (Temporary Duty) to support the President of the U.S. for explosives sweeps before we deployed in October,” Kusnerick stated. “We’re a team and we do everything together.”

“Most people look at them as a piece of equipment,” said Kusnerick. “But for us it’s different because they’re our partner.”

Working dogs are an asset to the team, added Adams. Their keen sense of smell, speed, endurance, intelligence, strength and adaptability to the environment are among the best.

“They work just as hard, if not harder than we do,” said Adams. “And they save lives on the battlefield. ♥

3rd ACR assists in Kuwait celebration

By Staff Sgt. Mark Albright
3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment PAO

KUWAIT CITY – Thousands of Kuwaitis celebrated Kuwait's independence Feb. 26. The country held a military parade outside Kuwait City marking the 50 year anniversary of its independence from Great Britain and the 20 year celebration of the liberation of Kuwait from Iraq after Operation Desert Storm.

Soldiers of the 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment had the honor of driving the lead Tanks and Bradley Fighting Vehicles in the parade. The regiment was one of the initial units in Desert Storm and is currently serving in southern Iraq in Operation New Dawn to help close out the military mission there.

"This is a great honor. It's something that represents the United States, what we have done in the past and what we can do in the future. Hopefully, it can go the same way in Iraq in time, and in 20 years we do the same for Iraq," Spc. David Arnett, B Troop, 1st Squadron, 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment, a Tulsa, Okla., native.

Operation Desert Storm started Jan. 17, 1991, after the refusal of Iraq to withdraw from its invasion of Kuwait. It culminated in a 32 country coalition that fought to return

"This is a great honor. It's something that represents the United States, what we have done in the past and what we can do in the future. Hopefully, it can go the same way in Iraq ... and in 20 years we do the same for Iraq."

-Spc. David Arnett

Kuwaiti independence and push Iraq out of the country.

"This is really cool, being able to experience everyone participating, the French, English and Kuwaitis," said Pfc. Adam Harmon, 1st Squadron, C Troop, 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment, and a Columbus, Ohio, Native.

"I think this is great. I actually came to Desert Storm, and I think being in this parade allows me to see the celebration of the end of it and what we did," Sgt. 1st Class Jeff Rivera, a Native of Killeen, Texas.

The 3rd ACR was one of the initial units in Kuwait to free its people.

The Soldiers chosen to lead the parade were from the three combat squadrons of the 3rd ACR, 1st (Tiger), 2nd (Sabre) and 3rd (Thunder) Squadrons. These Soldiers manned M1A2 Abrams tanks and M2 Bradley Fighting Vehicles.

"We have 23 people representing the 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment, which in essence is representing the United States Forces-Iraq," said Sgt. 1st Class Christopher Snead, a native of Falls Church, Va. "I think it's an honor to represent the 3rd ACR and USF-I. Something like this doesn't come around very often, and I think we all are honored to participate." ▼



Photo by Staff Sgt. Mark Albright

The Soldiers of the 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment stand proudly before their armored vehicles in Kuwait. The 3rd ACR participated in a military parade that celebrated the 50th anniversary of Kuwait's independence from Great Britain and the 20th anniversary of Kuwait's liberation from Iraq.



Headquarters Snapshots: Who We Are



Maj. Rita Holton - After enlisting in the Army in 1982 as a private, Holton spent five years on active duty before transitioning to the Army Reserve and then finally to the Army National Guard. The San Antonio native reached the rank of staff sergeant before receiving her commission in 2001, becoming one of the first Soldiers to receive a direct commission in Texas. She currently serves as the human resources officer for the 36th Inf. Div. Holton received her Masters in Business Administration in December 2010 from the University of the Incarnate Word, San Antonio. Holton is a former tri-athlete and continues to participate in volleyball matches here and at home. It's a sport she has been playing since her high school years. She also enjoys tending to her garden back home. She considers herself very fortunate and honored to be a part of history by bringing peace and stability to Iraq. She also hopes to have a positive affect on her team, whom she feels has helped her become a better officer.

Sgt. 1st Class Antonnia E. Robinson - Originally from Edenton, N.C., Robinson serves as the senior movement noncommissioned officer for the Division Transportation Office. She has had a distinguished career with service in Operation Desert Shield and Operation Desert Storm. She served for more than 12 years in the active Army before joining the Army National Guard in 2002. She is also qualified in two additional military occupational specialties: military police and ammunition specialist. She currently resides in Killeen, Texas, and since 2004 has held a military technician position as a traffic management specialist for the Texas Army National Guard. Robinson is the proud mother of three, with two of her children currently serving in the Air Force. One of them is scheduled to deploy to nearby Balad, Iraq. When in the states, she takes every opportunity to spend time with her 19-month-old grandson, Jayce.



Staff Sgt. Francisco Estrada - This resident of San Antonio is currently serving as the governance and political noncommissioned officer with the 350th Civil Affairs, from Pensacola, Fla. Estrada enlisted in the Army Reserve in May 2007 after a 13-year break in service. He had previously served in the Air Force as a crew chief for F-15s. He has earned a degree in mechanical engineering from the University of Texas, San Antonio and had already submitted his packet for officer candidate school, which he chose to postpone when the opportunity to deploy to Iraq arose. Although this is his first with the Army, he is a veteran of Operation Desert Shield and Operation Desert Storm. He also served alongside the Soldiers of the 36th Inf. Div. in Honduras in 2008. He enjoys the big screen back home spending every Friday watching movies with his family. His favorite movie is "The Bourne Identity."

CHOW

Midnight • 0000 - 0130
Breakfast • 0530 - 0830
Lunch • 1130 - 1400
Dinner • 1700 - 2000

We may need YOU
to save your battle
buddy's life.

COB Basra Troop Medical
Clinic Lab Department.
Call Monday to Saturday for a
screening appointment from
0830-1130 or 1300-1600.

Walk-ins welcome!

NIPR: 858-4832

SIPR: 241-2426

"Give blood, and give the gift of life."

Chaplain Programs and Religious Services

Holy Joe's Coffee

(Coffee Bar and Fellowship)
Monday - Saturday
0600 - 2200
william.culver@iraq.centcom.mil

Ladies of the Rosary

Tuesday at 2000
COB Basra Chapel
barbara.reilly@iraq.centcom.mil

Mid-Week Prayer with Chaplain Mays

Wednesday at 1200
COB Basra Chapel
wayne.mays@iraq.centcom.mil

Basra Chapel Bible Studies Thursday

1900 - New Believers Bible Study
2000 - Bible Study Classes

Protestant Services

Sunday

COB Basra Chapel
1000 - Contemporary Service
1130 - Traditional Service
1400 - Gospel Service
1700 - Liturgical Protestant

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (LDS)

Sunday

Old PX Building
0900 - Sacrament Service

Roman Catholic

Saturday

COB Basra Chapel
2000 - Rosary/Vigil Service

Sunday

COB Basra Chapel
0830 - Catholic Service

LEGAL ASSISTANCE

Having family issues
and need to seek legal
advice? Need a will or a
power of attorney? The
Legal Assistance office
is here to help you.

Monday-Saturday, 0800-1700
*Closed Mondays 1030-1300
Bldg #26G03
COB Basra, Iraq

*"A legal
assistance
attorney is the
SOLDIER'S
attorney; we
represent
YOU, not your
command!"*



Spc. Genevieve Plaza

Paralegal Specialist
858.4098 (VOIP)
768.0213 (S-VOIP)
genevieve.plaza@iraq.centcom.mil

Need
**Public
Affairs**
support?



Go to the home page on the
SIPR computer web portal.
Click "Effects" on the drop-down
menu, and scroll down to Public
Affairs. Then click on the PAO
Asset Request button! Follow the
directions and submit your request.

MAIL CALL!

Outbound certified/official mail:

1000 - 2000

Mail pick up hours:

Mail handlers:

1000 - 2000

1400 - 1600

Individual pick up:

1000 - 2000

36th Infantry Division Equal Opportunity Advisors Cell

Sgt. 1st Class
Joe Lawton



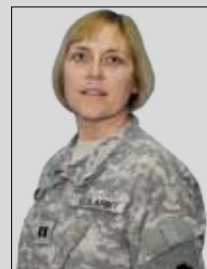
"Contact us if you are the victim
of an Equal Opportunity or Sexual
Harassment Complaint."

COB Basra
Resiliency Campus
858-4672

joseph.lawton@iraq.centcom.mil

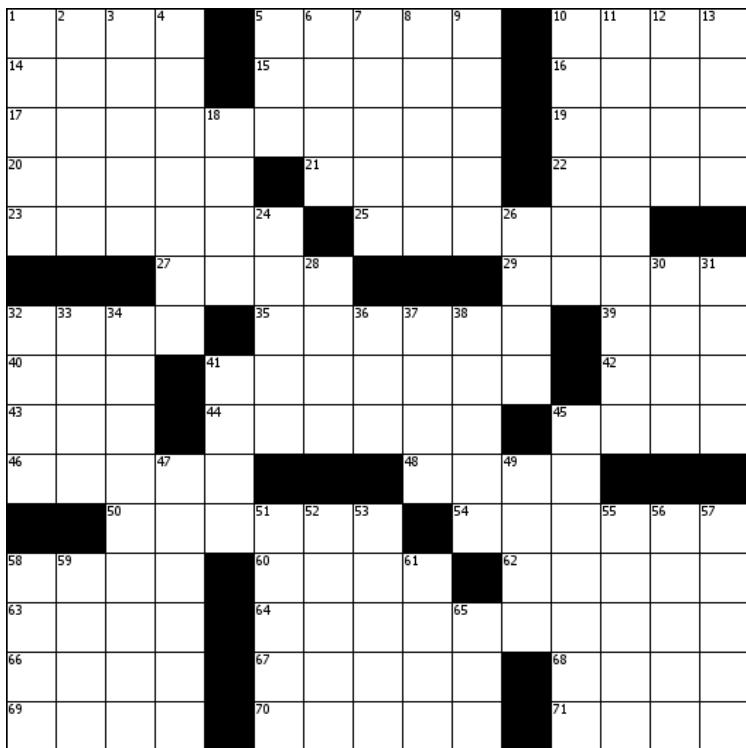
lisa.lerma@iraq.centcom.mil

Capt.
Lisa Ann Lerma



Anonymous Tip Hotline on NIPR

<https://msc.forces.iraq.centcom.mil/usds/default.aspx>



Across

- 1. Word of reproach
- 6. Roseanne, once
- 10. Curse
- 14. Expressed wonder
- 15. Dies ---
- 16. Apt name for a colleen
- 17. What the fat lady sings
- 18. Babe in the woods
- 19. Exploit
- 20. Multiplication aid
- 22. Never again?
- 23. --- a soul
- 24. Emulated Huck Finn
- 26. Obey
- 30. Child of fortune?
- 31. 2000 presidential also-ran
- 32. Rural festivities
- 36. Old measures equal to 45 inches
- 37. Slowly trickles
- 39. Sole support
- 40. They're not accessible on Sunday (or Saturday)
- 42. Let fly
- 43. Hipster's lingo
- 44. Like some average reviews
- 46. "Cheers" proprietor
- 49. Coffeehouse reader
- 50. "Lawrence of Arabia," e.g.
- 51. Orchestra position
- 57. Hazard
- 58. Warts and all
- 59. Blood line
- 60. Maroon's locale
- 61. Show up
- 62. What rookies must learn
- 63. Group's pronoun
- 64. Genesis grandchild
- 65. It's stuck in the corner

Down

- 1. Chimney sweep's coat?
- 2. Pueblo people
- 3. "Excuse me!"
- 4. Measly
- 5. Mary Tyler Moore co-star
- 6. Consisting of two components
- 7. Sheik's land, in film
- 8. Get a grip on it
- 9. Court officials
- 10. Comfortable situation
- 11. "--- you the clever one!"
- 12. One who cries "Uncle"
- 13. All over
- 21. Filer's convenience
- 25. Lend a hand
- 26. All over
- 27. Bound bundle
- 28. Between engagements
- 29. Typical office worker
- 30. High school dance
- 32. "--- a real nowhere man ..."
- 33. Come again?
- 34. Observatory observation
- 35. Future witness
- 37. Avoid embarrassment
- 38. Needle part
- 41. Cacophony
- 42. Chop shop inventory
- 44. Discards
- 45. Freshly painted
- 46. Like some raises
- 47. Given to imitation
- 48. Knit goods thread
- 49. First class
- 52. "Time --- My Side" (Stones song)
- 53. Knee-slapper
- 54. Florentine angel's instrument
- 55. Checklist bit
- 56. Carpenter's tool

Sudoku

2		8		7				
1		4	2	3	6	5		
				5	9			
3	4			9	7		8	1
			6	2		7		
	2						4	5
			3				1	
	8						5	6
	3							

UNITED STATES DIVISION-SOUTH
INSPECTOR GENERAL

You may remain anonymous
 To complain without fear of reprisal is the right of any Soldier, Civilian or Family Member seeking IG help.

COB Basra
 Bldg. 26G13
 858-4597/858-4547

COB Adder
 Bldg. 327
 833-1710/833-6550

usds-ig@iraq.centcom.mil



Photo of the Week



Photo by Spc. Eve Illiau

A Soldier with the 340th Iraqi Army Battalion fired his M-16 at target silhouettes during a weapons training exercise held at the Badra range in Nasiriyah, Feb. 23. The exercise was designed to solidify the soldiers' skills in basic movement drills and infantry tactics. U.S. Forces-Iraq and U.S. Div.-South will continue their commitment to the people of Iraq by providing training, advice, and assistance to the Iraqi Security Forces and the Government of Iraq until Dec. 31, 2011.

Think your photos are good enough for the Photo of the Week? Send them in! Just e-mail us your photo in a high-quality format, along with your full name and rank and a description of what your photo is about and when it was taken. Remember to include full name, rank and job title of each person in your photo. We look forward to seeing what you can do.

Send your photos to:
36idpao@gmail.com

Want your family and friends to see just how awesome you look in full gear?

They can find you on the internet!



www.facebook.com/pages/36th-Infantry-Division



www.youtube.com/user/36IDArrowheadNetwork



pao36id.smugmug.com