



320 watts closer to bearable summer

US Coast Guard Donates generator to light nights and cool classrooms

By Sgt. 1st Class Merrion P. LaSonde
36th Inf. Div., USD-S PAO

BASRAH, Iraq - Students and faculty of the Arabian Gulf Maritime Academy will breathe a bit easier this summer thanks to a special delivery by the U.S. Coast Guard.

"During the summer, when (Coast Guard representatives) first came to Basrah to meet with AGMA officials to identify exactly what it was they needed to help train the Iraqi Navy and Merchant Marine fleet, it was extremely hot and the school had frequent, severe power outages that lasted for some time," said U.S. Coast Guard Lt. j.g. Franklin J. Bullock, Logistics Coordinator, USF-I Port Advisory Coordination Element (PACE). "The heat was unbearable."

PACE worked for five months to acquire a 320-watt generator which became available following the transfer of Camp Bucca, now known as the Basrah Logistics City. Not only would the generator help mitigate the heat, but it would also provide power to academy classrooms and administrative buildings.

"I helped facilitate the Coast Guard in getting this generator transferred from the U.S. Army over to (AGMA)," said 1st Lt. Eric Leatherman, 36th Infantry Division Engineer Operations officer-in-charge. "The academy identified a gap in their power needs and usage. To facilitate their job of getting everyone trained properly, they needed power throughout their buildings. Luckily, the U.S. forces were able to provide that power via transitioning of some of our bases."

The Assistant Head of AGMA explained, "We lack electricity from the national grid as often as is necessary. With this generator



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Merrion P. LaSonde

U.S. Coast Guard Capt. Kevin C. Burke, Maritime Security Advisor – Iraq, speaks with representatives of the Arabian Gulf Maritime Academy following the donation of a 320 watt generator in Basrah Province, Feb. 15.

being provided, we will have enough power to take care of the headquarters and every other part of the academy, especially in the summer." This is the first time the academy has received assistance from coalition forces, although not the first time they have had a need.

"Now that we are here and well established in Basrah and Baghdad, we are in a better position to help them get the equipment and services they need," said Bullock.

The academy supplies different entities of the government of Iraq with engineers and naval officers whether they go to the Ministry of Defense, Navy or the Ministry of Transportation. Graduates go on to become naval officers, Merchant Marines, port facility managers or port security officers.

Students of the academy learn Iraqi Maritime Law as well as defensive maneuvers

for protecting surrounding coastal waters, among many other areas during their course of study. The academy has just fewer than 500 students, and in March of this year, will have 120 new graduates.

"The benefit for having such a strong relationship with the academy, from a level of stability and security, is it enhances the Iraqi military and our role in keeping Iraq safe for its people," said Bullock.

"We look forward to more cooperation in the future with the coalition forces in Iraq," an academy representative explained. "Our academy is still in the process of rebuilding. We lack equipment for laboratories and some advanced skill training. We are going to need more equipment and more assistance so hopefully we will be able to work together. We thank them greatly for their assistance and cooperation with us so that we can run the academy the way it is supposed to be run." ▼

162nd trains their first class of Iraqi first aid skills

By Sgt. James Kennedy Benjamin
305th MPAD, USD-S PAO

BASRAH, Iraq – After a week of Power Point presentations, extensive hands-on training, and a written exam, Iraqi soldiers graduated from a basic first aid and lifesaver course at the Iraqi compound on Contingency Operating Base Basra, becoming the 162nd Area Support Medical Company's first batch of graduating students.

The five-day course, which lasted approximately three hours per day, is intended to build the soldiers' skills and confidence to provide first aid in a tactical environment, part of the U.S. mission of advising, training and assisting the Iraqi Security Forces.

Sgt. Justin Ball, the training noncommissioned officer-in-charge of the 162nd ASMC, was one of several instructors for the course.

"We are teaching them [Iraqi soldiers] some basic first aid and lifesaving skills for them to use on the battlefield," Ball said. "It is important because a lot of these guys have not gotten this training before."

Omran Jabar, a participant, said learning how to stop the bleeding was what he enjoyed most about the class.

Ahmed Ala'uddin Kadhem, another participant, said cardiopulmonary resuscitation, or CPR, was his favorite subject. Going through the lectures and getting hands-on training helped him better understand the role of CPR.

"This is a great coordination for the Iraqi Army and the American Army," said Dr. Sarmad Abdulkader Almayiahi, flight clinic commander. "Thank you for the American troops."

At the end of the course, participants were expected to demonstrate their knowledge and ability to save the life of a wounded soldier. Once they had done that, the soldiers received a certificate of completion from the class.

"I have learned that they [Iraqi soldiers] are intelligent, thoughtful, and, most of all, capable of understanding if given the chance," Ball said.

The course criteria, similar to the Army's Combat Lifesaver course, covered topics like tactical combat casualty care, respiratory breathing management, extremity injury and CPR.



Photo by Sgt. James Kennedy Benjamin

Soldiers from the 162nd Area Support Medical Company taught Iraqi soldiers how to give rescue breaths to an unconscious victim during a basic first aid and lifesaver's course at the Iraqi compound on Contingency Operating Base Basra. After a week of training, 12 Iraqi soldiers graduated from the course.

Even as U.S. forces prepare to leave Iraq by the end of this year, Ball and his team have taken steps to ensure that the medical training continues after they are gone.

"[We] have given them training aids and slide shows," Ball said, "and have been including them in the training whenever possible, giving them the skills to teach and thus sustain the program."

The medical company is scheduled to conduct more basic first aid and lifesaver classes for Iraqi soldiers in the upcoming weeks.

"They have responded very well," Ball said. "If these soldiers take this training to heart and use it and save even one life, then I feel like [we] have made a great contribution to the reconstruction of Iraq." ▼



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Field artillery unit reflects on their fourth tour in Iraq

By Spc. Khori D. Johnson
3rd AAB, 4th Inf. Div., Public Affairs Office

CAMP ADDER, Iraq – Since the initial moments of Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2003, the world has been watching Iraq's story unfold. While most are familiar with Iraq's journey, Battery B, 3rd Battalion, 29th Field Artillery Regiment, has been trudging across its landscape from its liberation to rebirth.

As the Bulldog Battery approaches the end of its fourth deployment to Iraq, it has become apparent to them how much hard work and dedication they have put into the advancement of this country.

During OIF I, which was a high-intensity combat situation, the Battery B Bulldogs provided cannon fire to support Soldiers on the ground, according to 1st Sgt. Craig Collins, who has been with the unit since 2004.

These operations included illumination missions that could bring sunlight during twilight, smoke missions that could provide concealment to an entire platoon, and fire missions that could eliminate or suppress any threat.

After arriving in Iraq to support OIF 10-11 and Operation New Dawn, Battery B conducted operations at Joint Security Station Jenkins as a quick reaction force, where they were required to be ready at a moment's notice to respond to a variety of situations or threats. They also partnered with nearby Iraqi security forces to assist in maintaining security and stability.

Following the closure of JSS Jenkins, the Bulldogs moved operations to Camp

Adder, where they assumed the route clearance and maneuver missions, ensuring safe travel on the roadways for Iraqi citizens and military personnel.

The Bulldog Battery is one of the key elements in the battalion's effort, said Battery Commander, Capt. Wyatt Brown.

"We cover thousands of kilometers a week," he said.

According to Collins, the Bulldog's have cleared more than 40,000 kilometers of roadways since assuming the mission. They've also worked closely with the Iraqi Police and the Iraqi Highway Patrol to keep the roads safe.

Along with route clearance, the battery conducts missions to prevent indirect fire and improvised explosive devices against Iraqi forces and U.S. forces.

"Our Soldiers have had a huge impact on this area," said Collins. "Sometimes it's transparent, and you don't see how much good you are doing because nothing happens. But our actions have prevented a lot of things from happening. We've prevented these insurgent elements from having freedom of movement and getting to do whatever they want to do."

Although patrolling roads can be a monotonous task, the Bulldog leadership prevents any potential complacency by keeping the Soldiers well rested and well informed.

"We're the working horse of the battalion," said Sgt. Mitchell Marks, of Tiffin, Ohio, a cannon crew member. "Our chain of command usually tries to schedule our missions so that we get maximum rest. They know how important that is."

During mission briefs, the Bulldog leadership gives their Soldiers up-to-date statistics, charts, and graphs, so they can see first-hand the results of their hard work.

Able to see the fruits of their labor, they continue to stay motivated during their day-to-day operations, said Spc. Joshua Peters, a cannon crew member from Lincoln, Neb.

Since the Bulldogs spend so much time outside the wire, they have forged positive relationships with both the security forces and the people of Iraq. Such relationships are critical to the synchronization of the security effort.

"Relationships are a pacing item," said Brown, referring to the Army's term for a mission-critical piece of equipment. "We cannot afford to lose a good relationship, not only with our ISF partners, but with the local populace as well. We always make sure to respect them and their culture in everything we do when we are in their area."

According to Brown, the respect the Bulldogs have shown the Iraqis has not only made for smooth work days, but also may have potentially saved lives.

Recently, a citizen within the Bulldog's area of responsibility witnessed insurgents emplacing an IED with the intent to harm U.S. Forces. Due to the strong bond that the Bulldogs have with the people in the area, the witness reported it to the Iraqi army, who was then able to catch the culprits and prevent U.S. forces from being harmed.

"That's one point for the good guys," said Collins. "Every one of our guys is an ambassador for the United States, and they act accordingly. We don't do anything that would be disrespectful to the Iraqis, because it's unprofessional and goes against the very grain of what we're trying to accomplish in this country."

Be it dropping shells in OIF I or clearing the roadways in Operation New Dawn, the Bulldogs are invested in working toward a brighter future for Iraq's next generation.

"I hope that once we finally complete our mission here, we leave this country in a better condition than that of the Saddam era. And I think we've really planted the seeds for that," said Collins. "Back in 2003, during the course of my patrols in Baghdad, I knew an elderly gentleman that had three or four small children. My goal is that I want those children to have a free society to grow up in." ♦



Photo by 1st Sgt. Craig Collins

4th Infantry Division Soldiers line their vehicles up prior to leaving a security operation near Nasiriyah, Iraq. Battery B, 3rd Bn., 29th FA Reg., 3rd AAB, 4th Inf. Div., conducts route clearance and security operations in southern Iraq.

"No one is more professional than I..."

Phoenix Battalion holds NCO Induction Ceremony

By Spc. Khor D. Johnson

3rd AAB, 4th Inf. Div., Public Affairs Office

CAMP ADDER, Iraq – The 3rd Special Troops Battalion recently welcomed 23 noncommissioned officers into the NCO Corps during an induction ceremony at Memorial Hall on Camp Adder Feb. 4.

The ceremony placed specific emphasis on what makes a good leader and several portions of the ceremony, such as the recitation of the NCO Creed, brought light to what is expected of the newly-inducted NCOs who are all assigned to 3rd STB, 3rd Advise and Assist Brigade, 4th Infantry Division.

"I've been around a lot of great NCOs who I have learned from," said Arend, a fire support specialist from San Diego, Calif. "I've learned to have loyalty to my Soldiers through them. Also, I've learned that integrity is an important quality to have. You have to lead by example."

Command Sgt. Maj. Leida Anderson, the battalion sergeant major, hopes the ceremony instills a level of confidence and pride in the inductees that will drive them to do well in their careers as leaders.

"This makes NCOs step up and fully understand their responsibility of when they accepted the rank of sergeant," she said.

"Every NCO has taken the necessary steps to make sure that they are successful in their jobs," said Anderson. "I hope that when we transition back to garrison, we put forth that effort to ensure that we are as successful in garrison as we have been [in Iraq]." ♡



The inductees:

Sgt. Clifford Arend

Sgt. Jeffrey Collins

Sgt. Jared Boss

Sgt. Jeremy Klingler

Sgt. Kevin Broderick

Sgt. Amon Santiago

Sgt. Samuel Brown

Sgt. Christopher Szuhay

Sgt. Matthew Murr

Sgt. Mark Wangerien

Sgt. Nicolai Rosario

Sgt. Aleksey Kolyushin

Sgt. Gilberto Salinas

Sgt. Steve McGloin

Sgt. Crystalynn Johnson

Sgt. Robert McHugh

Sgt. Anthony Palumba

Sgt. Matthew Perry

Sgt. Shaun Phillips

Sgt. Corey Trammell

Sgt. Steven Thorsen

Sgt. James Williams

Sgt. Denise Wilkie

Sgt. Mackey Issac



Photo by Spc. Khor Johnson

1st Sgt. Shawn Carns, with HHT, leads a formation of 23 newly-inducted NCOs in the Charge of the Noncommissioned Officer during the 3rd STB's NCO Induction Ceremony at Memorial Hall at Camp Adder Feb. 4. The 3rd STB is part of the 3rd AAB, 4th Inf. Div.



Headquarters Snapshots: Who We Are



Staff Sgt. Elmer Jackson - The noncommissioned officer-in-charge of mail that comes in and out of the mail room at COB Basra, hails from Bryan, Texas. A qualified Army Band Member (42R), the veteran with 34 years of service is here as a human resource sergeant in support of Operation New Dawn. "I love being here in the mail room, you get to talk and meet new faces coming in to pick up their mail." As a civilian, he is a music director and has a community band called the "Brazos Community Band." Another hobby he has at home is working on his model trains. "I miss working on my model trains and building a miniature town," said Jackson. "You can't do that here... no time." Instead, when he's off duty, he walks around the COB visiting the shops, "especially the Oasis," where he sits back and enjoys the entertainment. With one masters degree in music education, Jackson is pursuing a second masters in education administration. He plans to go back to teaching or "maybe become a principal."

Sgt. Erika Lamping - The city of Sierra Vista in Arizona is translated as "mountain view" from Spanish. Being able to see things clearly from a bird's eye view is something that this Sierra Vista resident enjoys, both in her official duties and in her hobby. As an imagery analyst for the 36th Infantry Division Special Troops Battalion, she sees what few others see from high above. What many would not suspect is how closely her job in support of U.S. Div.-South aligns with what she enjoys in her off-duty moments. "I usually surprise people when I tell them that I'm a tabletop wargamer. It's not a very typical thing." At work, Lamping is known amongst her colleagues as "the friendly one." "I'm the one that smiles all the time and says hello to everybody." Outside of that, the Medway, Mass., native loves playing with her children as often as she can, enjoys reading, and has a passion for "Star Wars" with a preference for the original trilogy over the prequels.



Sgt. 1st Class Christopher Watson - Almost everyone can claim that they've read a book. Only a few people can claim to have written a book. How many can claim to be on the cover of a book? This resident of Abilene, Texas can make that claim by being one of the people on the cover of the Soldier's Bible. "That picture was taken when I was getting ready to deploy with the division to Bosnia. We were in Fort Polk, Louisiana and two people walked up and took our picture." Time passed, and in 2001, Watson's captain told him that he had made it to the big time and that he was on the cover of the Bible. At first, Watson scoffed at the comment. "Yeah, like that's going to happen. But then he flopped (a copy of the Soldier's Bible) on the desk." Just like his captain said, there he was on the cover. "Of all names, the guy who's next to me in that picture is a guy named Mark St. Peter. So Christopher and Saint Peter are on the cover of the Soldier's Bible." With a smile, he frames that image as being his claim to fame. "And I didn't even get any royalties."

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william.culver@iraq.centcom.mil

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COB Basra Chapel

barbara.reilly@iraq.centcom.mil

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Wednesday at 1200

COB Basra Chapel

wayne.mays@iraq.centcom.mil

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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)

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0900 - Sacrament Service

Roman Catholic

Saturday

COB Basra Chapel

2000 - Rosary/Vigil Service

Sunday

COB Basra Chapel

0830 - Catholic Service

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Sgt. 1st Class
Joe Lawton



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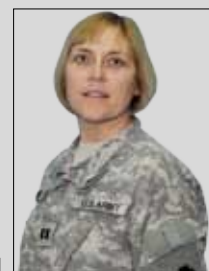
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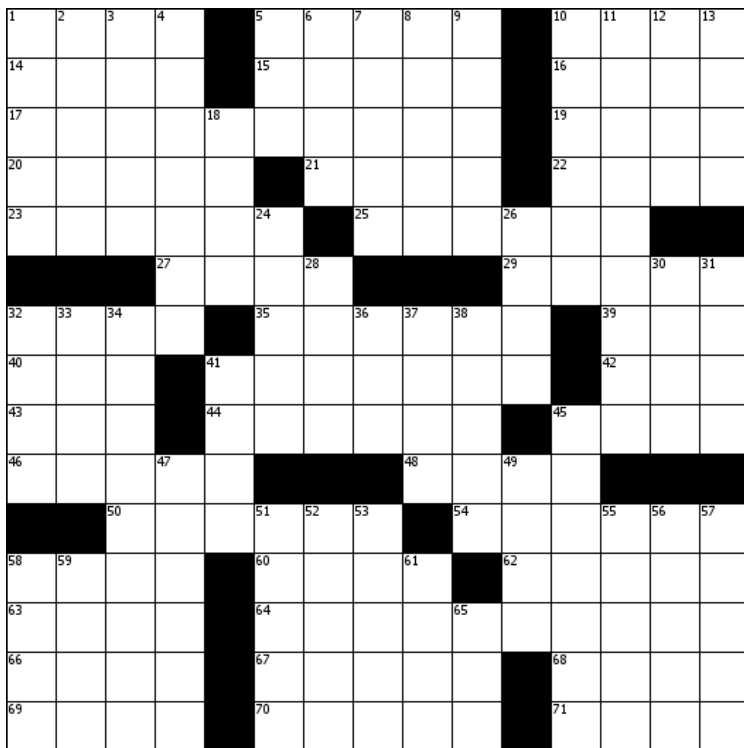
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Capt.
Lisa Ann Lerma





Across

1. Mediator's skill
5. Sweetshop order
10. Wax-wrapped cheese
14. Construction piece
15. The sum of all parts
16. Foe of 007
17. Prepare for later viewing
19. ____-Japanese War (1894-95)
20. In concert
21. Pad site
22. Verve
23. Fitted within one another
25. Put on the register
27. They're heard in rings
29. Cartoon pooch
32. Newswoman Paula
35. Move unsteadily
39. Forever, or close to it
40. In the manner of
41. They're nuts!
42. Cyberspace initials
43. ____ de guerre
44. Peter fit for this puzzle
45. Award for "60 Minutes"
46. Gulf of Aden country
48. Chubby lover
50. Enter into conflict
54. "For example ..."
58. Surf partner
60. Aitchbone locale
62. Glittered
63. Comic strip pooch
64. Visually sharp
66. "The Ballad of Reading ____" (Wilde)
67. "____ a Grecian Urn" (Keats)
68. "... and to ____ good night!"
69. Drop down?
70. "What's ____ like?"
71. Summer job seeker, often

Down

1. Satellite of Saturn
2. Demean
3. Major mafiosi
4. Garden State capital
5. Jeanne d'Arc, e.g. (Abbr)
6. Joint in the hind leg of a horse
7. Repent
8. Carpenter who could carry a tune
9. Word for a statesman
10. Ford fiascos
11. Halftime entertainers
12. Tolstoy's Karenina
13. "____ River"
18. It will hold the line
24. Coup ____
26. Bireme implements
28. Nothing special
30. Board accompaniment
31. Sole
32. Off-the-wall
33. ____ vera
34. Digit problem
36. Howe'er
37. BBC receiver
38. Still-life subjects
41. Viet ____
45. Legal right to property
47. Encompass or envelop
49. Boot out of office
51. Vacuum tube gas
52. Painter Reni
53. Irish patriot Robert
55. Card game authority Edmond
56. Anoint with oil
57. Flint product
58. Glad rags
59. Deseret, now
61. Story line
65. Brian of Roxy Music

Sudoku

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



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Photo of the Week



Photo by Capt. Mark Nettles

Pvt. Benjamin Corson, of Land-O-Lakes, Fla., shows off a stand and knight helmet he created as a gift for the outgoing first sergeant. He has been a carpenter for 10 years and has spent the deployment improving his carpentry skills as the repair and utilities specialist for Company F, 1st. 1st Bn., 68th Armor Reg., 3rd AAB, 4th Inf. Div.

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.

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