

T-PATCH

United States Division-South Weekly Newsletter



Volume 3, Issue 14

Contingency Operating Base Basra, Iraq

April 18, 2011

At the Bazaar

Basrawi women share crafts and culture



Capt. Lisa Lerma, equal opportunity program manager, and Lt. Col. Ivonne Daly-Guzman, general surgeon with the 911th Field Surgical Team at Contingency Operating Base Basra look through the merchandise offered by local Basrawi women during the Basrawi Women's Bazaar at the Oasis Bazaar business center on COB Basra, March 18.

Photo by Sgt. Raymond Quintanilla

By Sgt. Raymond Quintanilla
305th MPAD, USD-S PAO

BASRAH, Iraq – A Basrawi Women's Bazaar-Expo, coordinated by the Women's Initiative from the Provincial Reconstruction Team-Basrah and supported by the United States Division-South Women's Initiative, was held at the Oasis Bazaar on Contingency Operating Base Basra.

Service members, Defense Department civilian personnel, local dignitaries from the Iraqi parliament, legislative heads and other committee leaders attended the festive event.

According to Farida Samano, the U.S. Div.-South Women's Initiative advisor, the bazaar was the first of its kind held at COB Basra and was an opportunity for

local women to flex their free enterprising skills.

"This would encourage the women and give them better ideas how to improve their business," said the Phoenix resident. "Just by (people) buying their merchandise, they can learn better pricing and what sells more."

Shereen L. Daniel, the Women's Initiative coordinator for the PRTB, said that although the bazaar was an opportunity to display locally made products and a source of income, it was also another chance to work as a community.

"Most importantly, we wanted to encourage the women in Iraq to unite and work closely with each other," the Chicago resident said. "When women work together and support each other, all of society benefits."

For Capt. Lisa Ann Lerma, the U.S. Div.-South Equal Opportunity and Sexual Assault Response and Prevention program manager, the event was an indication of the Iraqi women's progress for equality.

"As Americans, we take our freedoms for granted," said Lerma, from Copperas Cove, Texas. "Having never had to experience a struggle for these freedoms, I can only stand in awe, and respect the strength and courage these ladies showed today by coming and sharing a part of their culture with us."

"We empower women," said Samano of the WI's mission. "We encourage Iraqi women and support them through education and training. If we can do this for the businesswomen, then we can do many other missions similar to this." ♡

SCHOOLED

3rd ACR Troopers focus on education in Babil province

By 1st Lt. Tyson A. Silver
3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment

BABIL, Iraq – From the beginning of their tour in Iraq, members of C Troop, 1st Squadron, 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment, have focused on developing and improving the education system in northwest Babil province.

The month of March marked the completion of “Crazyhorse” troop’s fifth and sixth projects aimed at improving education in their operational environment.

The troop used funds from the Commander’s Emergency Response Program to renovate the Mussayib High School of Technology and purchase three school buses for the Mussayib District.

The project renovated the high school’s auditorium, built new bathrooms, fixed the library, and fixed numerous wiring problems in the school. A second phase of the project included the purchase of three school buses to assist children in outlying areas to attend the school.

Many children in northwest Babil drop out of school at a



Iraqi students stand with their books outside the Mussayib High School of Technology after a ribbon cutting ceremony held in March.

Photo by 1st Lt. Casey Luskin

young age because they are unable to travel to urban areas to attend schools and the buses directly address that issue.

The opening day ceremony for the projects was held in the newly renovated auditorium of the high school. Attendees included the Musayyib District Education Director, the school headmaster, district education representatives, and the contractors for both projects.

During the ceremony, guests spoke about the projects and how they would help the community and the students who attended the high school.

“The contributions the United States Forces have made to the school to fund this project will never be forgotten and the improvements would not have been possible without the hard work of the soldiers from Hamiyah,” the education director said.

The final ceremony for these projects marks the end of a process of identifying numerous requirements, assessing sites, and inspecting and verifying the work.

These projects were in development for several months, but it was well worth it to 1st Lt. Casey Luskin, project manager for the squadron.

“It has been a pleasure working with the director on this project and I’m happy to see so much good has come from it,” said Luskin. “Hopefully the students at the school will be able to enjoy the new facilities for years to come.”



Local educators of Babil province and Soldiers of C Troop, 1st Squadron, 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment, listen as the provincial director of education speaks at the re-opening of the Mussayib High School of Technology in March.

Photo by 1st Lt. Casey Luskin



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.



Chief Warrant Officer Ron Jupiter, instructor of the Sexual Assault Self-Defense class, demonstrates a technique to break free of an assailant's grasp, April 3 at the U.S. Div.-South Resiliency Campus at Contingency Operating Base Basra. The first class coincides with the month of April being Sexual Assault Awareness Month, but the series will continue for the next few months.

Photo by Sgt. Jason Kaneshiro

Self-Defense class kicks off Sexual Assault Awareness Month

By Sgt. Jason Kaneshiro
305th MPAD, USD-S PAO

CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE BASRA – “The goal is not to engage, but to escape.” That was the instruction given to the Soldiers who stood in a circle at the U.S. Division-South Resiliency Campus at Contingency Operating Base Basra, April 3.

The instructions were not part of an operation brief, but the first class of the Sexual Assault Self-Defense course that kicked off Sexual Assault Awareness Month.

Both males and females looking to gain an edge in any unwanted encounter that has the potential to develop into something worse attended the class.

Although there is a popular misconception that females are the sole victims of sexual assault, Capt. Lisa Lerma, equal opportunity advisor for the 36th Infantry Division, was quick to point out that males can become victimized as well.

“There was an incident where an assailant hit a male victim over the head and then took advantage of him while (he was) unconscious,” she said.

“I believe that a stigma still exists in regards to reporting a sexual assault, whether the victim is a male or a female,” said Lerma. “As a society we tend to look at the victim and initially question what that person did wrong to find themselves in a position to be sexually assaulted. For males, I have had students question a male victim’s masculinity in that he

I believe that a stigma still exists in regards to reporting a sexual assault... As a society we tend to look at the victim and initially question what that person did wrong to find themselves in a position to be sexually assaulted.

-Capt. Lisa Lerma

‘allowed’ himself to be assaulted.”

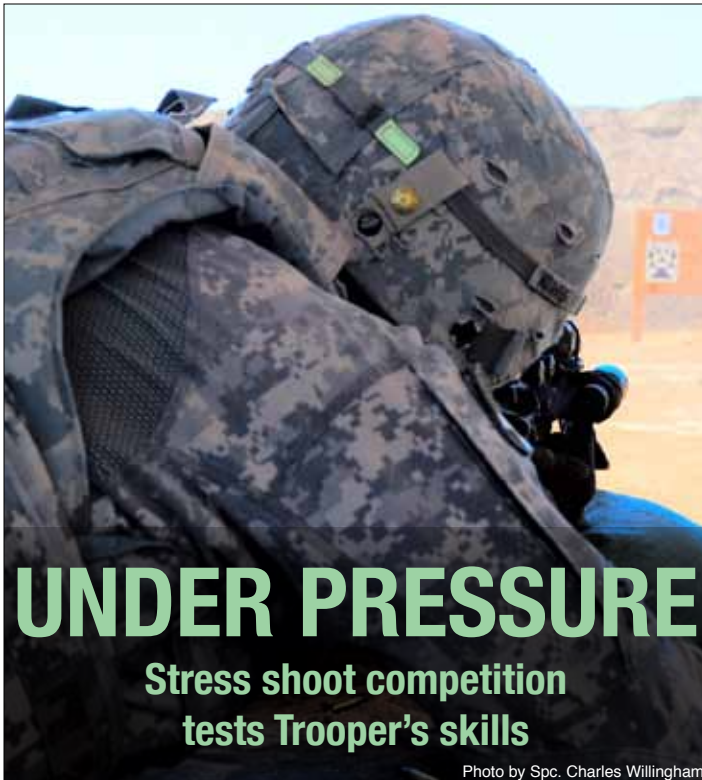
Another commonly held belief is that women are more likely to be sexually assaulted by a stranger. In fact, according to the Rape, Abuse and Incest National Network, 38 percent of the victims of sexual assault knew the perpetrator as either a friend or an acquaintance.

According to additional national statistics compiled and released by RAINN, someone in the U.S. is sexually assaulted every 2 minutes and there was an estimated 248,300 victims of sexual assault in 2007 with 80 percent of the victims being under the age of 30 and 44 percent of the victims being under the age of 18.

National Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month was declared March 31 by Presidential proclamation. It aims to raise the public’s awareness of all forms of sexual assault ranging from verbal harassment to sexual assault and rape and to bring people together to support the victims. It also seeks to renew the resolve to bring all perpetrators of all forms of sexual violence to justice.

On COB Basra, service members remain committed to combating the stigma surrounding the victims of sexual assault and to the prevention of all forms of sexual violence.

“Our goal through Awareness Training and Education,” explained Lerma, “is that we can get past (the stigma) and work at preventing the assault from ever occurring in the first place.” ♥



By 1st Lt. Daniel M. McKeegan
3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment

BABIL PROVINCE, Iraq – Since the 1st Squadron, 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment arrived in Iraq in September, the unit has continually trained to keep its combat edge. The squadron held the first in a series of competitions March 18, all of which are designed to find out who is the best shooter in the unit.

The competition used a timed course where the participants ran approximately three-quarters of a mile while wearing full

body armor, navigating a wire obstacle, and finally completing a standard qualification with their M4 carbines. More than 100 Soldiers volunteered to test themselves on the challenging course.

Ten heats, each with 10 competitors, contended for top honors. Soldiers were awarded points for elapsed time and accuracy. Each participant was ranked in the order they finished, from the start of the heat, until they successfully cleared their weapon after shooting. Additionally, the Soldiers earned points for their proficiency in basic rifle marksmanship, based upon a judge's score of how many rounds hit targets on the target lane.

The training tested the Soldiers capability to complete basic combat functions under stress.

"All of the Soldiers performed admirably in the execution of the Stress Shoot Competition," said 1st Lt. Alexander Cole, the officer in charge of the event. "It is important to exercise the ability to engage and destroy the enemy in a realistic training environment."

Additionally, the troops, companies, and battery that make up 1st Squadron also competed against each other, with the top three soldiers' points from each division combining to show which unit was best in the Squadron.

The competition ended with the 43rd Combat Engineer Company, "Spartans," winning first place, with second and third going to Bandit Troop and Roughrider Troop.

First place among individual participants went to Cpl. David Rawls from Roughrider Troop in the optical sights division and Pfc. Michael Collins from Sapper Company for the iron sight division.

Second and third place went to Staff Sgt. Joseph Garcia of Dragon Troop and Spc. Eric Johnson of King Battery in the optical sights division and to Spc. Adam Gaskill of Sapper Company and Pfc. Salvatore Anania of Apache Troop in the iron sights division.

One of the day's champions described the event as fun, but challenging. "I am looking forward to the future competitions," said Rawls. 🇺🇸



Soldiers from 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment run in full gear at the start of the best shooter competition held on Forward Operating Base Kalsu in Babil Iraq on March 18. The best shooter competition consists of a 1/2 mile run, a barbed wire obstacle that they will low crawl under and firing their weapons at a paper target that is 25 meters away. The 3rd ACR is in Iraq in support of Operation New Dawn.

Photo by Spc. Charles Willingham

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

Anonymous Tip Hotline on NIPR

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

Capt.
Lisa Ann Lerma





Photo of the Week



Photo by 2nd Lt. Christopher Malaro

March 19, Task Force 2nd Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery Regiment commander Lt. Col. Robert Wright and the battalion's intelligence officer Capt. Javier Aguilera met with local Iraqi Police commander staff Maj. Gen. Sabbah at the Dhi Qar Provincial Chief of Police headquarters in Nasiriyah to share recent reports of potential missile smuggling.

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