



Service members, Iraqi scouts conduct final camporee

Story and photo by Spc. Paul Holston
USF-I Public Affairs

With a full day of activities, a huge bonfire and smiles on everyone's faces, service members from United States Forces – Iraq gathered together with Iraqi Boy Scouts and Girl Guides of Victory Base Council, who are children of Iraqi special forces soldiers, during the 2011 Kashafa Spring Camporee on Victory Base Complex May 6.

This was the last camporee hosted by USF-I service members, as the transition in Iraq with U.S. forces continues as part of Operation New Dawn.

Kashafa is a local scouting group that involves volunteers working directly with Iraqi children ranging from the ages of 5-17, teaching them various lessons such as teamwork and leadership skills.

A camporee is a unit or group gathering together and learning scouting skills, said Maj. David Little, an operational analyst for USF-I Strategy Plans and Assessment section, and camporee director. The event is just pitching tents, sitting around a fire, telling stories and having a good time, he said.

The camporee began with a troop formation and an opening flag raising ceremony by the Iraqi scout leaders and service members, followed by various



Iraqi Boy Scouts and Girl Guides of Victory Base Council, unveil their respective flags during an opening flag raising ceremony as part of the 2011 Kashafa Spring Camporee on Victory Base Complex May 6.

activities through which each of the Boy Scout and Girl Guide patrols would rotate throughout the day.

Activities included 'Totin Chip,' stressing the importance of tools such as pocket knives, axes and wood saws in scouting and 'Firem'n Chit,' a practical exercise in learning the concepts of fire safety, starting, maintaining, and extinguishing a fire. Scouts also learned cooking skills with proper food preparation.

See Camporee, Page 3

CID assists in training Iraqi Army forensics

Story and photo by
Spc. Charlene Apatang Mendiola
USF-I Public Affairs

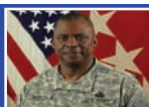
Since its establishment in 2006, the Joint Expeditionary Forensics Facility 3 on Camp Victory continues to execute its primary mission by providing rapid results to meet the needs of law enforcement, intelligence, security and stability within the criminal justice system in Iraq.

"Our mission here, within the lab, is to identify, collect and forensically exploit evidence that assists the U.S. and Iraqi security forces in targeting, detaining, prosecuting and convicting criminals in Iraqi courts," said Maj. Chris Heberer, Iraq forensics director and officer-in-charge of JEFF 3 with the 5th Military Police Battalion (CID), United States Forces – Iraq Provost Marshal Office.

With the use of highly-advanced technology, the JEFF 3 lab works to establish identity dominance by offering a wide range of forensic disciplines: deoxyribonucleic acid analysis, latent print processing, firearms and tool-mark examination, and forensic photography.

See Forensics, Page 4

INSIDE:



Asian Pacific
Proclamation
Page 2



Route
Clearance
Page 5



DADT Policy
Repeal
Page 9

Commanding General's Message

Asian-Pacific American Heritage Month Observance 2011



By Gen. Lloyd J. Austin III
USF-I Commanding General

To the Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines, Coast Guardsmen and Civilians of United States Forces – Iraq:

May is Asian-Pacific American Heritage Month. This gives us an excellent opportunity to recognize and thank our Asian and Pacific Islander men and women in uniform, both past and present, for their tremendous service to our Nation.

Asian Pacific Americans have a rich and honorable tradition of military service. Asian Americans helped defend New Orleans against the British in 1815 and the “Go for Broke” 442nd Regimental Combat Team, comprised of Japanese-Americans, fought valiantly in the Pacific Theater during World War II. The 442nd remains one of the military’s most highly decorated units and in all, 31 Asian-Pacific Americans have been awarded our Nation’s highest award for combat valor, the Medal of Honor.

SAPR Spotlight

To Report or Not to Report a sexual assault?

Oftentimes, taking the first step - reporting the incident - proves difficult. According to defense officials, of the 6.8 percent of women and 1.8 percent of men who indicated they experienced unwanted sexual contact, the majority - 79 percent of women and 78 percent of men - chose not to report it.



The most frequently cited reasons for not reporting the incident include:

- Felt uncomfortable making a report (58 percent of women and 51 percent of men);
- Thought they would be labeled a troublemaker (56 percent of women and 41 percent of men);
- Did not want anyone to know about the incident (56 percent of women and 47 percent of men);
- Did not think anything would be done (53 percent of women and 44 percent of men);
- Feared retaliation (50 percent of women and 38 percent of men);
- Not important enough to report (48 percent of women and 60 percent of men);
- Thought they would not be believed (41 percent of women and 35 percent of men);
- Thought reporting would take too much time and effort (36 percent of women and 46 percent of men); and
- Did not report because they did not know how (18 percent of women and 26 percent of men).

TAKE THE FIRST STEP- Report 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.



The Victory Times is an authorized publication for members of the Department of Defense. Contents of this publication are not necessarily the official views of or endorsed by the U.S. Government or the DOD. The editorial content of this publication is the responsibility of the Public Affairs Office of United States Forces-Iraq.

USF - I Commanding General: Gen. Lloyd J. Austin III
USF - I Senior Public Affairs Officer: Col. Kevin V. Arata
USF - I Senior PA Enlisted Advisor: Sgt. Maj. Sharon Opeka
Editor: Sgt. T.J. Moller
Print Staff: Staff Sgt. Edward Daileg, Sgt. A.M. LaVey
Sgt. Joseph Vine, Spc. Charlene Apatang Mendiola
Layout: Spc. Paul Holston

The Victory Times welcomes columns, commentaries, articles and letters from our readers. Please send submissions, story ideas or comments to the editorial staff at tanyajo.moller@iraq.centcom.mil. The editorial staff reserves the right to edit for security, accuracy, propriety, policy, clarity and space.



Camporee, From Page 1

Following the stations, the scouts and volunteers ate dinner and began a council fire, the focal point of the camp experience. It begins with a big campfire and as the evening festivities move along, the fire slowly dies down, as do the levels of activity.

Little, a scout unit commissioner, assistant scout master in Troop 746, and an associate advisor for a high adventure crew in Fayetteville, N.C., said about 50 volunteers assisted in the planning stage and about 20 helped set up and supported the event.

“There were a lot of people involved,” said Little. “We had to make sure we had all the necessities like food, water, lighting, transportation, security, medical and safety all played a crucial part in having a successful event.”

“I volunteered because I love kids and I wanted to make a difference in their lives,” said 2nd Lt. Delena Roper, executive officer of 485th Medical Detachment in the preventive medicine department and an assistant camporee director. “Volunteering is rewarding when you get to build a close bond with several of the children, or you find that one child that stands out to you and develop that soft spot for them.”

“I enjoyed working with the kids,” said Sgt. 1st Class John Hughes, an analysis and production section non-commissioned officer-in-charge with the USF-I intelligence section. “They seemed genuinely excited to see me when they arrived and I had a great time while at the event.”

For the service members, the camporee not only symbolized the involvement with the scouts, but also the continued cohesion building with their Iraqi counterparts.

“These events are important to build bonds by ensuring Iraqi children have new and fulfilling opportunities,” said Capt. Jason Crawford, officer-in-charge of Sather Air Base veterinary treatment facility with the 218th Medical Det. and a primary volunteer-in-charge of the logistics of the camporee. “Being a veterinarian, I have a background which involves animals and [the] outdoors, so I’m naturally

drawn to outdoor activities, adding to the overall humanitarian experience while being deployed.”

“The Iraqi special forces soldiers have mentioned on several occasions how they see us differently after watching our interaction with their children and seeing that we care about the kids,” said Hughes. “We get to meet Iraqis in a non-military environment and build interpersonal relationships.”

“Events like these are very important because we are helping to develop a different mindset with the younger generation, as well as renew with the older generations,” said Roper.

The next morning breakfast was served, a baseball game was played and a final senior-scout leader time was conducted. Concluding the camporee, inspections and final flags were carried out, ending the final camporee with U.S. forces on the camp grounds.

“You always need a final chapter, some type of closure,” said Little. “We’re going to have other small events, but this was the last big event. By giving some closure to the Iraqi scouts and U.S. volunteers, it’s something that they can always remember.”

With hundreds of hours of work to create this whole project, it certainly wasn’t as easy as it looks, but we enjoy what we do,” Little said. “This was a good opportunity for us to make a difference.”



Sgt. 1st Class John Hughes, an analysis and production section non-commissioned officer-in-charge, USF-I, assists Girl Guides from Victory Base Council on arts and crafts during the Spring Kashafa Jamboree May 6.

Forensics, From Page 1 —

“As part of Operation New Dawn, we are deeply involved with the mission,” Heberer said. “We are expanding forensics to the Iraqi culture through dedicated partnership with the Iraqi Criminal Evidence Directorate.”

The exclusivity of the JEFF 3 lab is its expedient response with evidence processing, which takes no more than a three-day turn around, he said.

The lab is currently operated by highly-qualified and certified civilians contracted by BAE Systems, Heberer said. Working alongside them are nine full-time Iraqi forensic analysts who train in the lab three to four days-a-week.

“I have been training with the U.S. for eight months now,” said Waleed Taha a DNA trainee with JEFF 3 Lab. “I not only train as a DNA analyst, but I also brief Iraqi judicial and law enforcement officials when they come in here.”

This program is intended to train the trainers in Iraqi law enforcement to develop the country’s nonmilitary capabilities within the criminal justice system.

“We train both US forces and ISF to include the judicial arms, police and investigators with securing and processing crime scenes correctly,” Heberer said.

“There is an ongoing training process which is part of the joint partnership with the USF-I Law and Order Task Force that allows Iraqi judges, prosecutors, investigating judges and judicial investigators to receive forensic science training to help enable Iraqi Rule of Law,” he said.

Training all entities within Iraqi law enforcement in the processes of the forensics lab as well as the proper procedures of evidence collection is a great challenge, he said.

“It is a challenge that is promising because we want to get the Iraqi legal

system to value the use of evidence in their judicial system,” he said.

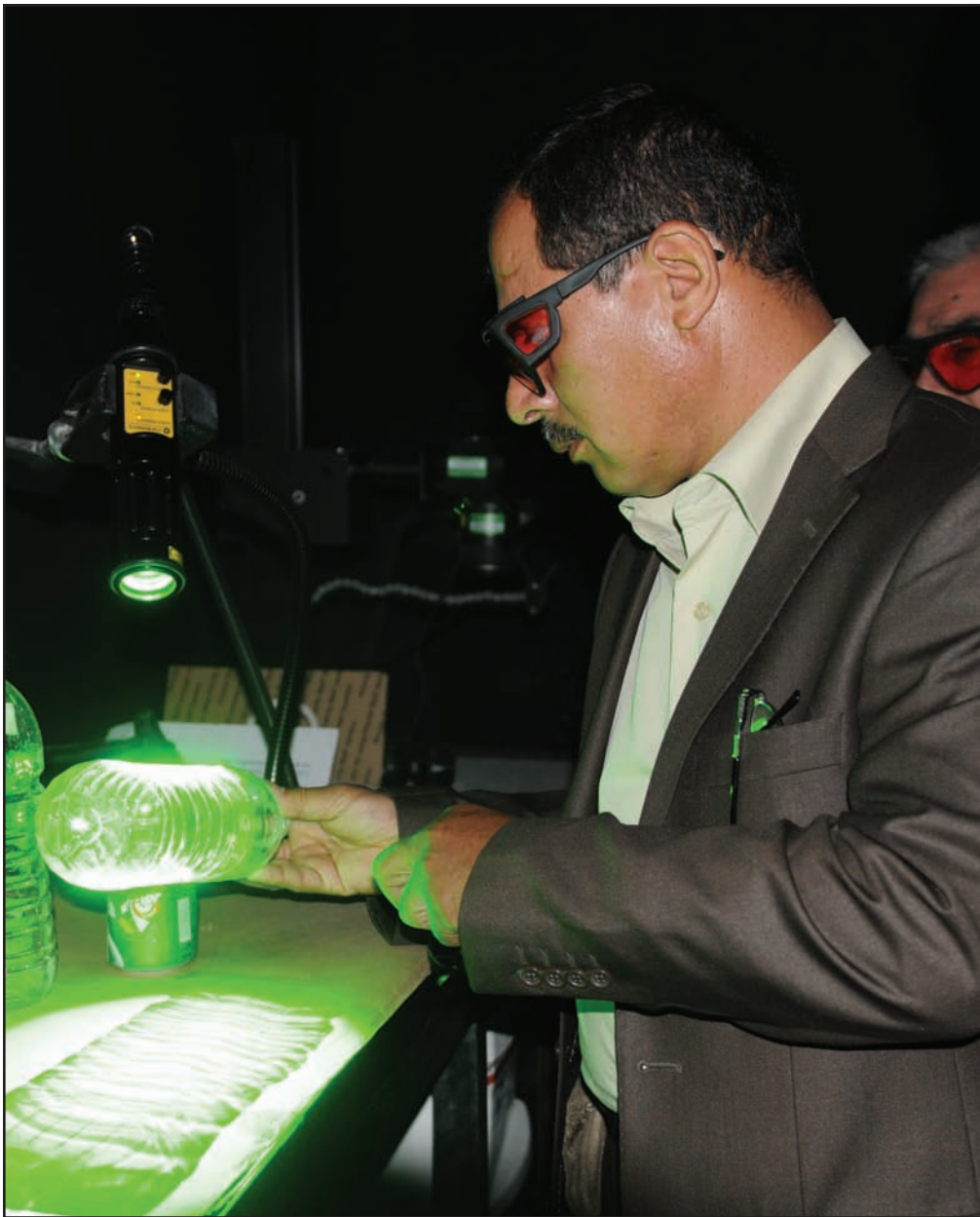
The Iraqi court system currently functions with the use of eye witness testimony for convictions. The Iraqis are not convinced with accepting forensic evidence to determine guilt or innocence. The U.S. is still in the process of helping forensic science evolve in Iraq.

“I am fortunate to work alongside Americans,” Taha said. “Iraqis are amazed by my knowledge in this field and I look forward to training them in the future.”

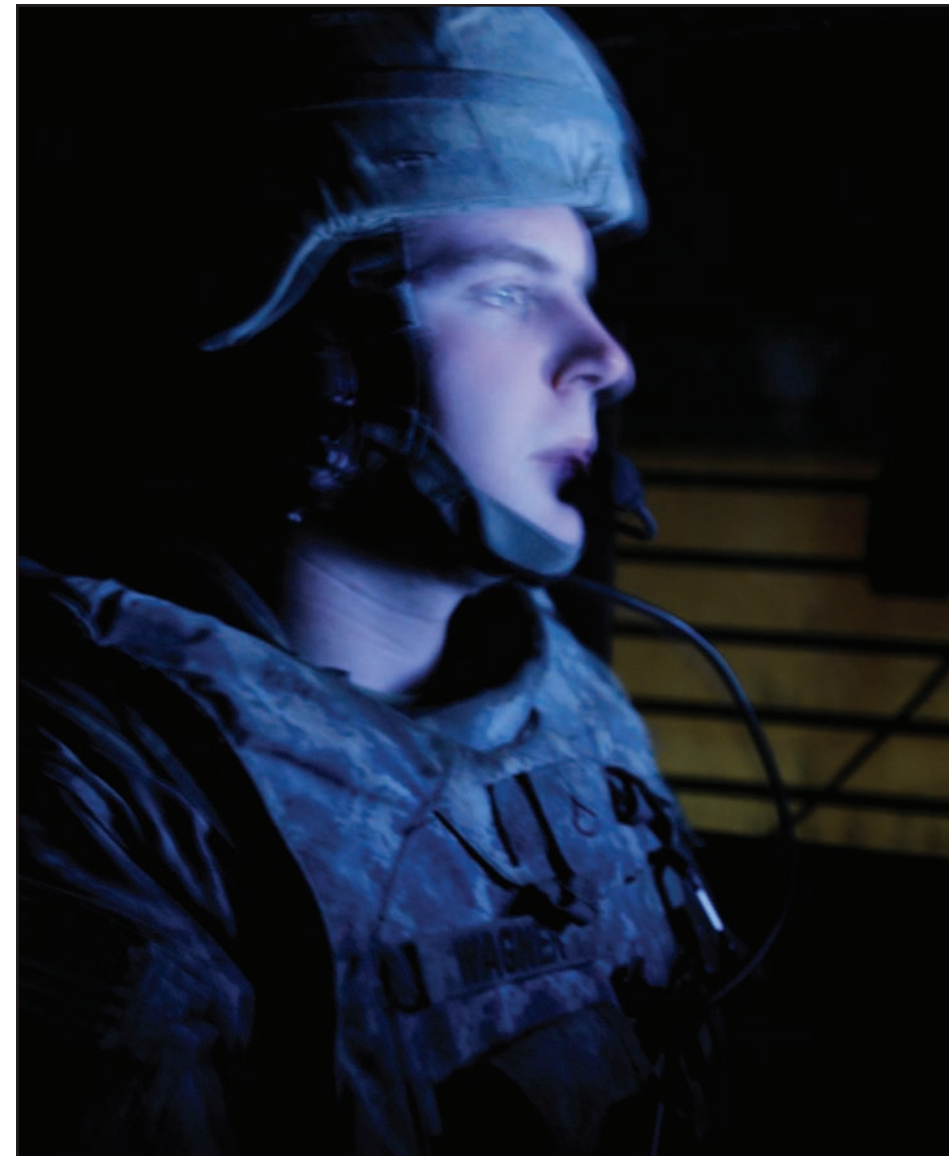
“I am satisfied with my mission here in Iraq,” said Michael Palermo, latent print

examiner with JEFF 3. “Of my 35 years of working in this trade, I have never been happier to pass on my expertise and knowledge to individuals who care and welcome it.”

“There is no doubt in my mind that the Iraqis have it in their capabilities to be successful,” Heberer said. “I have had the pleasure to work alongside some of the very best representatives of the Iraqi people within the Iraqi forensic community, all very committed to improving their country, which gives me great hope for the future of Iraq once we leave here.”



An Iraqi judicial investigator observes latent prints on a water bottle through laser excitation during a training session at the JEFF 3 lab on Camp Victory, May 7.



◀ *Pvt. 1st Class Jake Wagner, a combat engineer with 2nd Plt., 950th Engineer Co., looks at a monitor to control the main gun and turret during a route clearance patrol. Wagner is a member of a three-man team which uses a mine-resistant armor-protected vehicle to conduct night patrols.*

Soldiers who conduct route-clearance patrols to make the roads safe for everyone who travels them.

“We clear the roads of improvised explosive devices for United States convoys, local nationals and Iraqi security forces,” said Sgt. Eric Zimmerman, from Oshkosh, Wisc., and a combat engineer with 2nd Platoon, 950th Engineer Company, 724th Engineer Battalion, 36th Engineer Brigade.

The Soldiers in the platoon performed route-clearance missions about five times-a-week and had one of the more dangerous jobs of U.S. forces in Iraq.

“As a gunner, I have a better field of vision to be able to spot an IED,” said Wagner. “Once we locate one, we cordon off the area to keep everyone safe. Then, we look for secondary IEDs that might be in the area.”

After the area of a suspected IED was secured, Zimmerman’s team, which drove the Buffalo-variant MRAP, had many tools at its disposal to investigate

the IED.

“We have a large remote-control arm with a video camera mounted on it to dig through trash and push items off the road to verify IEDs,” he said. “We also have a remote-control tracked robot with four cameras and an arm built in to manipulate anything we think could be an IED.”

The Soldiers of the route-clearance teams also worked with the ISF and received assistance from unmanned aircraft and other aerial support to assist in keeping the roads safe for travel.

“After the area is cordoned off, we call out an explosive ordinance disposal team, and they normally blow the IED in place,” said Spc. Josh Lynch, from Oshkosh Wisc., a combat engineer with 2nd Platoon.

For the Soldiers of 2nd Platoon, finding an IED before it detonated was the best part of their job.

“It’s a really rewarding feeling when we find an IED,” said Lynch. “We more than likely saved someone’s life, whether it be a U.S. service member, a civilian or Iraqi security forces. It’s what we do.”

Route Clearance Patrols: Making roads safe, checking them twice

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

It’s 12:30 a.m. about 15 minutes into the patrol. The streets are quiet and the lights are off in the local area. Suddenly, a bright flash appears, and a shockwave that can be felt through body armor hits the Soldiers. A rush of adrenaline flowed through their bodies. The driver of the second vehicle speeds up to assess the damage, and medics rush in. Fortunately, the Soldiers are not injured.

A buried 155mm artillery round blew a large hole through the front tire of the mine-resistant armor-protected vehicle rendering it immobile.

This was the scene the Soldiers of 2nd Platoon, 950th Engineer Company faced during a route clearance mission earlier this year.

Patrolling the streets of Iraq can be a daunting task for the

UNSUNG HERO



Sgt. Devika Rouse is recognized as this week's Unsung Hero and received a certificate of achievement from Brig. Gen. Michael X. Garrett, deputy chief of staff, United States Forces - Iraq, at Al Faw Palace, May 20.

Rouse received the certificate for her outstanding performance as the United States Forces - Iraq J6 Command Site Support – non commissioned officer-in-charge.

VICTORY VOICES

Who is your Asian/Pacific islander hero, why?



"Our ancestors who paved a unique way for all of us. They taught us to live and learn from many important morals and values."

**Spc.
Orrenda Iyar**

IT Specialist
Signal Co., HHBN, 25th Inf.
Division



"My parents, because they continued to keep my culture and traditions alive while growing up."

**Sgt.
Mose Matautia, Jr.**

All Wheel Mechanic
HSC, HHBN, 25th Inf. Division



"My grandmother, because she taught me humility and hard work. As a survivor of World War II, she has inspired me to believe."

**Cpt.
Michael Gofigan Chen**

Brigade Aviation Plans
HHC, 2-1 Advise and Assist Brigade



"Frank Rabon, my cultural dance instructor, because he provided me the guidance to prosper and survive in life."

**PO2
David SanLuis**

Admin Executive Services
USF-I J8

Chaplain's Corner

Husbands, wives: staying connected while deployed

By Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Dave Tish
116th Garrison Command Chaplain

One of my many responsibilities is listening to and guiding our service members in their relationships. Being deployed adds mountains of stress to every relationship, but we don't have to fail.

Over the years I have read numerous articles and books about marriage and relationships. Some of my best stuff comes from Reader's Digest. In an article titled, "Husbands and Wives" by Melvyn Kinder and Connel Cowan, I found five truths I want to share.

If there's one prevailing wish that husbands and wives have for their marriage, it's to be close companions for life. Successful friendships between husbands and wives blend feelings of tenderness and companionship with sexuality and passion, a difficult task, especially when physically separated. In their work, Melvyn and Connel have isolated these five barriers to friendship in marriage.

1. Wrong assumptions. One reason husbands and wives are not more companionable is that they assume a mate is different from a friend. We call each other lover, or partner, or someone we adore, but too often we look for friendship outside marriage. Our spouse should be our best friend.

2. Lack of sharing. During the romantic phase of a relationship, feelings of excitement, bliss and ecstasy dominate.

It's the sharing of our fears and concerns that makes intimacy possible. Romance "talks" about love, friendship put it to the ultimate test. The scene of someone being there for you through good times and bad is essential for a friendship. Even long distance we share honest concerns.

3. Unequal exchange. Friendship occurs only when we approach our mate as an equal. We don't get married to find a substitute mother or father; we need an honest friend.

4. Failure of acceptance. As husbands and wives, we feel we can make demands on our mate to change this or that trait. Real friendship accepts and tolerates the differences of each other, then builds upon it.

5. Festering grudges. To attain friendship in marriage we must set aside old grudges. We may never resolve all of them, but we can let them go and move on with our lives.

Friendship and marriage both grow best when negative communications are changed to positive. This happens when we do something to encourage it, when we take a step toward our partner, when we place ourselves within the sphere of his or her interests and needs. We're all fundamentally alone in this life, but friendship enriches marriage by causing us to feel accepted, understood and loved. "Faith, hope, love abide, and the greatest of these is love," I Corinthians 13:13.

So, Skype, phone, or email your spouse and remind them, that they are your best friend.

Safety



m a t t e r s

Proper Ground Guide Techniques

Don't take ground guiding for granted. Ground guiding is an essential part of moving vehicles and heavy equipment. Most of the military's vehicles are considered heavy equipment and caution is always needed. Failure to execute the proper procedures can be deadly, so coordination between ground guide and driver is critical.

Everyone should be familiar with the basics of ground guiding. Below are a few simple steps you can use:

- * Operators must be briefed beforehand to avoid confusion.
- * Ground guides should position themselves 10 yards to the left front of the vehicle if moving forward and left rear if reversing, so they can see the driver at all times.
- * Never run or walk backwards while guiding.
- * Never get between the vehicle and another object when ground guiding.
- * Use two ground guides, front & rear, when visibility is limited by the vehicle or the conditions.
- * Take directions from the primary ground guide when more than one is used.
- * Use a flashlight at night to ensure they and their visual signals are seen.
- * Stop if ground guides signals are not understood or they lose sight of you.
- * Stop the vehicle if the ground guide is in a dangerous position and make an on-the-spot correction.

American Red Cross director visits Iraq

Story and photo by Spc. Paul Holston
USF-I Public Affairs

American Red Cross representatives, volunteers, and service members of United States Forces – Iraq gathered together for a luncheon on Camp Victory, Iraq, May 8.

Guests included Col. Strep Kuehl, directorate of human resources, United States Forces – Iraq, Col. Guy Thomas, garrison commander of Victory Base Complex, Felecia Chavez, station manager for the American Red Cross on Camp Liberty and Dee Swanier, senior director of service delivery for American Red Cross.

“This luncheon was definitely a highlight because our volunteers got a chance to interact with one another and see that we all have one thing in common,” said Chavez. “That is being able to volunteer in one capacity or another.”

Swanier traveled from D.C. to visit the personnel and to see how the facilities were operating in Iraq.

The American Red Cross is a worldwide operation, with facilities on military installations in Japan, Europe, deployed locations and the continental U.S. “The staff members of the Red Cross are primarily responsible for providing emergency communication for service members,” said Swanier. “There are volunteer programs, hospital programs and numerous services that they provide to enhance service members’ morale.”

Swanier also visited Balad, where she was looking for feedback from the staff of the strengths and weaknesses of the locations.

“My reason for this visit was for one, conduct a management visit with the staff to make sure everything is going well with them and that they’re getting the support that they need,” said Swanier. “The second was to assess the situation and see how we move forward with the draw down.”

Swanier said that typically in the

Red Cross, when you have them on an installation or in an environment such as Iraq, people will see Morale Welfare and Recreation, post exchanges, and other support facilities leave, while Red Cross is always the last to leave.

“Every trip I make I always hear about the great services the Red Cross provides and I knew I would probably get that,” said Swanier. She also said she wanted more information on how Red Cross merges with the military in the drawdown plan and how they should shift their focus from where they are now to where they will be in the future in Iraq.

With service members and civilians volunteering their time at the Red Cross on Camp Liberty, the visit symbolized the significance of being a volunteer.

“I think volunteering is very important because if you look at the number of hours that volunteers put in and you equate that to how much someone would get paid, you save the military a large amount of money,” said Swanier. “To have a volunteer to come in with

certain attributes, skills, and training replaces a position that a person would have to find.”

Chavez said Swanier’s visit was something all her staff were looking forward to.

“It was great having Mrs. Swanier come to the luncheon so she could see the faces of those who actually make Red Cross here so successful,” said Spc. Megan Ladesh a veterinary technician with the 218th Medical Detachment. “It’s a morale boost just being in company of people who genuinely care.”

With a cohesive team, everyone working together and lots of laughs during the luncheon, Swanier said the visit was outstanding.

“The command here is very supportive and that’s how we get our job accomplished,” she said. “Nothing but great things to say about the team, it’s been a wonderful visit.”

For more information on the Red Cross on Camp Liberty, contact Chavez at DSN# 485-7217 or 485-7206 or email redcross.baghdad@iraq.centcom.mil.



Dee Swanier, senior director of service delivery for American Red Cross, visits service members and AMR staff during a luncheon as part of a visit to Iraq May 8. Swanier traveled from D.C. to visit the personnel and see how the facilities were operating in Iraq.



◀ *Maj. Gen. Jeffrey Buchanan, director of strategic effects and communications, United States Forces - Iraq trains service members on the “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” Tier 3 training. Service members are required to participate in the training in order to learn how the repeal of the policy will affect their respective branches.*

‘Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell’ repeal training in progress

Story and photo by Spc. Paul Holston
USF-I Public Affairs

“We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness,” was written by Thomas Jefferson in the United States Declaration of Independence, ratified on July 4, 1776.

More than 200 years later, on Dec. 22, 2010, President Barack Obama signed the ‘Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell’ Repeal Act, setting the conditions of the repeal for the U.S. military’s DADT policy. Sixty days after the president, secretary of defense and the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff confirm to Congress the deciding law requirements, the ruling is planned to be repealed.

As a result, the military is taking a proactive approach and is requiring service members of all branches to participate in the Tier 3 “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” policy repeal training, in order to learn how the repeal of the policy will affect their respective branches.

“For the Army, it is required to use what we call ‘face-to-face’ training by our chain of command,” said Maj. Gen. Jeffrey Buchanan, director of strategic effects and communications, United States Forces - Iraq. “From my perspective, ‘face-to-face’ is the most valuable because it increases the understanding.”

The purpose of the training was to inform all military personnel about the repeal and its possible effects on the military, as well as reiterating the already set standards and professionalism throughout the services. “The training clarified all the questions service members had about the ‘Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell’ repeal,” said Spc. Clifton Starks, a visual information equipment operator-maintainer with the 206th Broadcast Operations Detachment. “Everyone will have a better understanding of what

changes have been made and what policies have remained.”

Upon repeal of the DADT policy, sexual orientation, will no longer be a bar to enlistment, retention, or discharge. “It remains the policy of the Department of Defense to evaluate all Soldiers on the basis of their individual merit, fitness and capability,” said Buchanan. “Service members are held to high standards of conduct, which are ultimately enforced through the Uniform Code of Military Justice.”

Buchanan said the UCMJ remains the legal foundation of good order and discipline in the Armed Forces. It is the vehicle for enforcement of standards of conduct and existing laws regarding harassment or violence against any service member, for any reason.

The military will not establish facilities, quarters, berthing or practices based on sexual orientation and commanders retain the authority to address concerns on a case-by-case basis. Compliance with professional standards of conduct will be essential to fostering respect among fellow Soldiers and resolving concerns with privacy, said Buchanan. Commanders should use existing tools to deal with misconduct to include counseling, non-judicial punishment and court-martialing, he said.

Also, medical policies are not slated to change due to the repeal of the DADT policy.

As stated in the current policies, there are no Department of Defense sponsored co-location assignments or extended benefits for same-sex dual-military couples. However, service members will be permitted to have their respective partners be able to provide their information as a beneficiary and an emergency contact.

It is the DoD’s expectation and our obligation to live by the standards of conduct and our Army core values, said Buchanan.

Although the DADT policy repeal has not been fully implemented in the military yet, service members should be prepared and trained on the changes that will soon come into effect.