

T-PATCH

United States Division-South Weekly Newsletter



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HAVING A BALL

U.S. military and civilians steer for common goal with soccer ball-drive



Air Force 1st Lt. Trent Bolte, from North Adams, Mass., and a civil engineer officer with the 467th Expeditionary Prime BEEF Squadron Facility Engineer Team-Basrah, passes out soccer balls to Iraqi children in the Basrah Province.

Photo by Sgt. Deziree Lau

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

BASRAH, Iraq – Through the collective efforts of a deployed Air Force officer in Iraq, his mother, elementary students in the U.S., and Soldiers at Contingency Operating Base Basra, a group of Iraqi children had a chance to be children and play.

Air Force 1st Lt. Trent Bolte, a civil engineering officer with the 467th Expeditionary Prime BEEF (Base Engineer Emergency Force) Squadron, Facility Engineer Team-Basrah, in partnership with the 422nd Military Police Company from Bakersfield, Calif., delivered soccer balls to Iraqi children in Basrah Province, May 16.

Bolte, on his second tour to Iraq, began collecting the soccer balls early this year with the help of his mother, Lorie Bolte of North Adams, Mass., and Michelle Harper's third-grade class from Blue

Grass Elementary in Knoxville, Tennessee.

Nearly 400 soccer balls were collected by the communities of North Adams and Knoxville to be delivered on a hot Monday afternoon to the Iraqi children.

"The first one (village) was a little crazy," Bolte said with a laugh. "Five kids turned into a hundred really fast. We had a better system on the second (village). It was a lot of fun."

"Those kids were 10, 11-years-old," Bolte continued. "Their whole life pretty much has been at war, so I figured a way of taking their minds off that; letting kids be kids."

The 422nd MPs, nearing the end of their tour in Iraq, are no strangers to improvised explosive device attacks and can appreciate the value of good community relations.

Staff Sgt. Annette King, a native of Chicago, and a squad leader with 2nd Platoon said winning the hearts and minds of her unit's area of operation was augmented through Bolte's project.

Although Bolte received words of gratitude from the Soldiers for including them in the project, he said they're the ones who make a significant contribution to the U.S. efforts in Iraq by conducting their daily missions.

"I got a lot of thanks last night for helping them build rapport with the local community," Bolte said. "It's only one little thing I can do to help."

With less than a month left in Iraq, Bolte is making further arrangements with others, including the Iraqi Army, to deliver the remainder of the soccer balls.

Bolte hopes a better image of Americans will be formed by bringing joy into the lives of Iraqi children.

"They gave out candy in World War II," said Bolte. "This is similar. Find something they enjoy and they're not going to see you as the bad guy. You win the kids and you kind of win everybody else. And to see the (children) smile, that makes it all worthwhile." ▴

FIX IT

3rd ACR Soldiers maintain a closer relationship with IA soldiers through instruction in maintenance and medical skills.

By Staff Sgt. Mark Albright
3rd ACR Public Affairs

BABIL, Iraq – Soldiers of the 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment conducted medical and maintenance training with Iraqi Army Soldiers in Babil, Iraq. The training is part of the regiment's mission to train the IA to protect their nation.

The Soldiers taught their Iraqi counterparts basic medical treatment techniques, including how to treat for shock, how to properly use a tourniquet and proper wound care. The Soldiers teaching the class enjoyed sharing basic medical care practices with their IA partners.

"We conducted some good coalition medical training today. We were able to cross train with two of [the IA units] and touch on basic combat casualty care with them," said Cpl. Richard Guinan, a medic with Medical Troop, Regimental Support Squadron, 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment.

"We were able to teach them care under fire, tactical field care, evacuation of a casualty and rapid trauma assessment," said Guinan.

The Soldiers also conducted vehicle maintenance training with the IA, primarily focusing on the humvee. The group focused on the engine, air intake and air-conditioning.

"We thought it would be beneficial to show them how to conduct some regular services on their vehicles," said Maj. Fritz Keel, the Deputy Stability Transition Team chief for the 31st Iraqi Army Brigade and native of Lawrence, Kan. "This training today is a way to extend the life of these vehicles and make sure they are maintained properly."

"The training is going well. It's very important for the operator to know what condition their vehicles need to be in and what to check for," said Sgt. 1st Class Scott Overocker, maintenance control sergeant for Maintenance Troop, RSS, 3rd ACR, and a native of Muhammad, Ill.

The two groups of Soldiers worked together as the 3rd ACR maintainers led the hands-on training. The IA brought their own humvees to conduct the training, and the vehicles needed the maintenance due to heavy usage.

Maintenance is a required task for armies throughout the world. This training event offered an opportunity for two countries' armies to come together and share valuable skills that will help them in the future. ▼



Staff Sgt. Hector Martyr, Maintenance Troop, Regimental Support Squadron, shows Soldiers with the 31st Iraqi Army Brigade the correct way to check for damage on a belt on a Humvee.

Photo by Staff Sgt. Mark Albright



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. Chancelcherie DeMello • **Layout & Design** Sgt. Jason Kaneshiro • **Writers and Photographers** Sgt. James Kennedy Benjamin, Sgt. David A. Bryant, Sgt. Thomas Kappus, Sgt. Raymond T. Quintanilla, Sgt. Jeremy Spires, Spc. Eve Ililau

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ON GUARD



Vigilant Soldiers thwart enemy efforts

Photo illustration by Staff Sgt. Garrett Ralston

By Staff Sgt. Garrett Ralston
3rd ACR Public Affairs

DIWANIYAH, Iraq – A routine route security mission turned out to be a success for members of Company M, 3rd Squadron, 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment.

“Maddog” Company’s 3rd Platoon, “Blue Pits,” were traveling near Forward Operating Base Endeavor when the suspicious actions of a distant bystander were identified by one of the platoon’s Soldiers.

“This was supposed to be a regular route security patrol,” said 1st Lt. Riley Emter, 3rd Platoon leader, originally from Sheridan, Wyo.

During the mission the platoon stopped their vehicles to watch the activity of local people and traffic passing along the road. One of the platoon’s Soldiers, serving as a gunner on his armored vehicle that day, focused his attention on a small group of men standing near the road.

“There were three guys up ahead of us

just standing there staring at our vehicles and sort of looking around, too,” said Spc. Cesar Nunez, an armored vehicle crewman with 3rd Platoon, and a native of Los Angeles.

Nunez reported what he saw to the vehicle commander and was instructed to keep an eye on them.

One of the men among the group continually ran from one side of the street back to the other, pausing a few seconds on each side. Nunez said at this point his suspicion of the man grew stronger.

Shortly afterward, as the vehicles began to move forward along the route again, the man produced a small object from his pocket and held it up toward the passing trucks.

“The man raised the object just as the convoy was at about 90 degrees to him,” said Nunez. “That’s when I said to my vehicle commander, ‘Hey, I think we’re being videotaped.’”

Emter said when the information was reported to him, he immediately had the convoy swing around and encircle a small

area around the suspicious man.

When the Soldiers approached the man, he had stopped an old woman who was passing by and was acting as if he were merely standing there having a conversation with her.

“Some Iraqi Police officers came to the scene when they saw us pull over,” said Emter. “They helped us in questioning the man.”

From the result of some basic questioning, and the man’s nervous actions during that time, Emter said he decided to detain him. Soldiers further checked the man’s background.

The phone the man was using contained footage of the platoon’s vehicles. Other suspicious video footage was found in the phone’s memory and the man had five extra memory cards for the phone. Nunez said information gathered this way can be used to plan attacks on American forces.

“The whole platoon was pretty high spirited after the mission was over,” said Emter. “Sometimes it’s pretty frustrating. We get attacked, and we can’t always identify where it comes from. I think we felt a sense of accomplishment.”

The Iraqi Police, along with 3rd platoon, brought the man back to the Najaf Anti-Terror Unit, who took him into custody for further investigation.

“The success of this mission was based on the consistent training we get and the leadership we have here in Maddog,” said Nunez. “Every day we’re reminded to watch our sectors and never drop our guard. Our company is never complacent, and we won’t let anyone hurt us because we will find them first.” ▼



Spc. Cesar Nunez from Los Angeles, Sgt. Anthony Cudney from Vallejo, Calif., Spc. Nick Galindo from Apple Valley, Calif., and Spc. Lloyd Rogers from Tuscumbia, Ala., all armored vehicle crewman with Company M, 3rd Squadron, 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment.

Photo by Staff Sgt. Garrett Ralston



By Maj. Jason Billington
3rd ACR Public Affairs

BABIL, Iraq – Suffering from a toothache in southern Iraq may land you in the chair of either of two brothers with an interesting story of adversity, perseverance, and the unique bond of identical twins.

U.S. Army Captains Aleksandr and Dmitry Baron both serve in the 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment as dentists on two separate bases in southern Iraq. Both are augmenting the unit from their home base of Fort Stewart, Ga. Aleksandr deployed to Contingency Operating Site Kalsu at the end of October to work with the Regimental Support Squadron, and Dmitry joined the regiment's 3rd Squadron at Contingency Operating Site Echo in April.

Both men volunteered for the deployments, but Dmitry's recent arrival to the same unit in Iraq was mere coincidence, the kind of common occurrence that has kept these two twins together for most of their lives.

The tight bond between them was forged when their parents, Vitaly and Emma Baron, of Aberdeen, N.J., decided to take them from Russia to America when they were six years old.

"He just wanted a better life for his children," said Aleksandr, explaining why his father moved them from what is now the Ukraine to Brooklyn, N.Y.

"We did everything together. We got in trouble together. We'd be in the corner together. With a twin, that can be a lot of fun," said Dmitry.

The two recalled their assimilation to American culture as difficult, between learning a new language and being foreign kids in their New York City neighborhood.

"Being in a country that is as far as the United States is from Russia, to have him next to me was the best thing God could give me," said Aleksandr. "He was a best friend. Trying to get cultured to America is hard. With him by my side, we were partners all the way."

They were not welcomed by their school-age peers, and both brothers recalled being in numerous fights during that time. This kind of adversity brought them closer together.

"That's probably why we're so close and much closer than a lot of twins. We've been through a lot," said Aleksandr.

A brief recounting of the stories of these two brothers revealed that, whether through faith, fate, or circumstance, they have

followed the same paths in life. Both attended Rutgers University for their undergraduate degrees and pursued their dental degrees at New York University College of Dentistry. The two were both compelled to serve in the military through the Health Professions Scholarship Program, offered by the Department of Defense to medical and dental school students.

"We had a . . . just a drive for it," said the two, with Aleksandr finishing Dmitry's sentence in a way that seemed to be part of their normal exchange.

Even when Dmitry decided to take a separate path and become a pilot in the Air Force, he jokingly described how he took the test and "never heard back."

In their roles as combat dentists in Iraq, the two provide what is called "expeditionary care" to Soldiers, responding to emergencies, filling cavities, and even performing cleanings to ensure Soldiers remain healthy and mission ready in a combat theater. Both men recounted how their jobs seemed to spill into other, more unexpected roles, as Soldiers have come in with greater needs than their dental utensils can resolve.

"I have people come in here to see me just because they want to talk," said Aleksandr. "They sit in the chair, they talk to me about their divorce, about family issues back home, about finance problems. I want this place to be a place for people to get away and just feel comfortable."

"People are appreciative of us," said Dmitry, describing the fulfillment of his job as a dentist in this unique environment. "We're like combat stress. We're leaders. It's a pretty big balance."

Aleksandr has performed yet another role as a triage doctor, making decisions on priority of care based upon the severity of Soldiers' combat wounds.

"I never thought I would do something like that," said Aleksandr. "I thought, you send me to a deployed environment, I'll take care of Soldiers, I'll comfort them, listen to them, care for their teeth, but I did not think I would be doing triage."

A recent visit by Dmitry to see his brother at Kalsu brought these two dentists together, thousands of miles from their Georgia homes. The uniqueness of their situation and their near-identical appearance turned several heads as they walked side by side on the base. For these two brothers, it was a chance to catch up and be together again, as always.

"He's here. It's unbelievable," said Aleksandr. "I'm praying to God that he just keeps following me." ▼

"We are the Soldiers of the 36th..."

1LT BARRY ELLIOTT

Judge Advocate-Division Trial Counsel



Name: Elliott, Barry

Primary Military Specialty: Judge Advocate

Secondary Military Specialty: Cryptologic Linguist; Intelligence Analyst

Hometown: San Antonio, TX

Grade: O-2

Elliott enlisted in the Navy and yearned to be a lawyer. He joined the Texas National Guard in 2007 and received a direct commission in 2009. He earned his bachelor's from the University of Kentucky in Lexington and his law degree from Saint Mary's University School of Law in San Antonio.

Although Elliott has deployed to sea in the Navy, he considers his current deployment most memorable. "It's my first deployment in the Army, my first in a combat zone, my first in the Middle East. This is it," he said.

SFC CLIFFORD PUGH

Contracting NCOIC



Name: Pugh, Clifford

Primary Military Specialty: Logistics Analyst

Secondary Military Specialty: Prescribed Load List Clerk

Hometown: Thomasville, AL

Grade: E-7

Pugh served 13 lucky years on active duty beginning in 1983 before joining the Texas National Guard in 2004. Pugh took an eight-year break in active service to work in the semi-conductor industry during the boom years.

His first deployment here in Basrah, Iraq has been his most memorable time in the military: "Seeing a different culture and a different country firsthand and not reading about it." Pugh said he hopes to visit Baghdad and Talil before redeploying. He enjoys riding his Honda CBR 900 racing-replica motorcycle, but plans to ease off the throttle and cruise in a brand new Harley-Davidson Fat Boy after deployment.

SPC JULIO CRUZ

Operational Law Paralegal Specialist



Name: Cruz, Julio

Primary Military Specialty: Paralegal Specialist

Secondary Military Specialty: None

Hometown: Houston, TX

Grade: E-4

He enlisted in the National Guard his senior year in high school in December 2007. Although he says he does not have a true hobby yet, Cruz is open to try anything once. He has taken up drawing, jet skiing, volleyball, basketball, karaoke, and paintballing and plans to enroll as a full-time student after deployment.

Cruz, who considers himself a spontaneous individual, surprised his parents when they learned that the papers they had signed were the approval letter for their son's enlistment into the Army. "It wasn't really planned, but it seemed like a good opportunity. One weekend a month and getting school paid for, not a bad deal," said Cruz.

CHOW

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william.culver@iraq.centcom.mil

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COB Basra Chapel

arturo.rodriguez.jr@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

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0900 - Sacrament Service

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Saturday

COB Basra Chapel

2000 - Rosary/Vigil Service

Sunday

COB Basra Chapel

0800 - Catholic Service

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Spc. Genevieve Plaza

Paralegal Specialist

858.4098 (VOIP)

768.0213 (S-VOIP)

genevieve.plaza@iraq.centcom.mil

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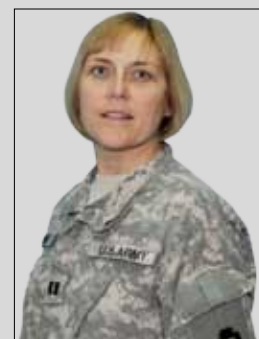
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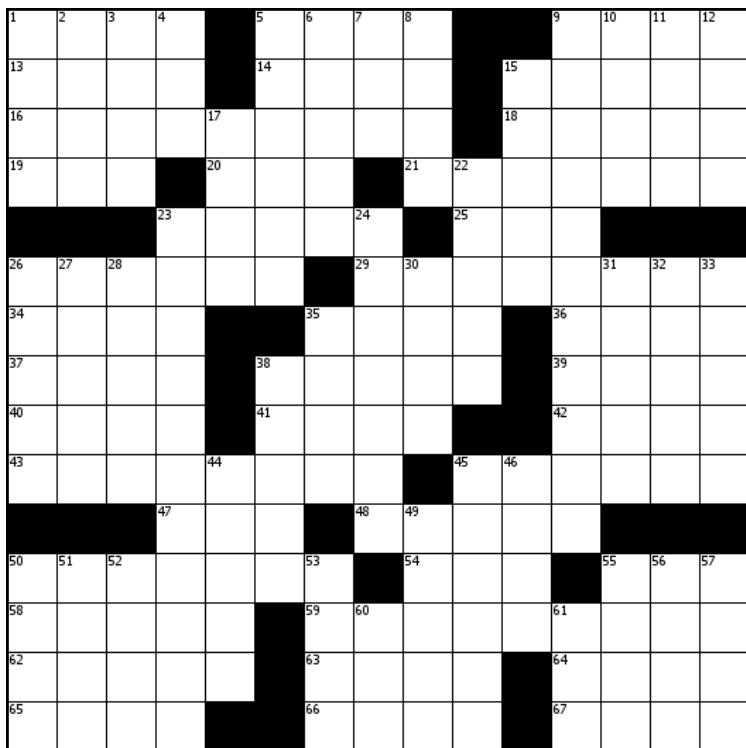
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Across


1. Style of gold chain
5. Growth period
9. Get one's teeth into
13. Gardner and namesakes
14. Goddess of the moon
15. Born yesterday
16. Where Alice toiled
18. It's sometimes final
19. Debate position
20. Ltd., in the U.S.
21. Painkiller choice
23. Yale, Brown, etc.
25. Head for Vegas?
26. Horseless carriage pioneer Elwood
29. Particles in suspension
34. Ever and ____
35. Spelling of "Beverly Hills, 90210"
36. "Peter Pan" character
37. Kettle covers
38. "... attired in ____ of white" (Shakespeare)
39. "____ Rock" (Simon & Garfunkel hit)
40. Toast spread
41. Butter units
42. Harrow rival
43. Identical
45. Certify
47. Mercury or Saturn, but not Mars
48. Make good on a loan
50. Jake of boxing
54. Printer resolution abbreviation
55. A real Stoooge
58. Endow, as with a quality
59. Automobile feature
62. Low dams
63. Hearts do it sometimes
64. Modern pentathlon event
65. She was Major Houlihan
66. They love sugar
67. Polanski film

Down

1. Water-skier's apparatus
2. Page-bottom direction
3. ____ Alto
4. Squiggly shape
5. Russian pancakes
6. Gold weight measure
7. Part of a countdown
8. Winepress residue
9. Nightclub regulars
10. '50s audiophile's purchase
11. With neither side ahead
12. No longer are
15. Knobby
17. Market plunge
22. Kukla's puppet pal
23. English legal societies
24. Kid's vehicle
26. Angelic circles
27. Old-womanish
28. Song of the Alps
30. Planetarium sights
31. Livid
32. Major-____ (chief stewards)
33. Hardly any
35. Sussex streetcar
38. Here and there?
44. Appeases hunger
45. Granny Smiths
46. Kite stabilizer
49. King's proclamation
50. Alcindor and Wallace
51. From the top
52. Year of Columbus's fourth voyage
53. Taj Mahal's site
55. Engage in self-pity
56. Rock group?
57. Just makes out
60. Published
61. Type of paint

Sudoku

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



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Photo of the Week



Photo courtesy Michelle Harper

Michelle Harper, a teacher at Blue Grass Elementary in Knoxville, Tenn., and her third-grade students “adopted” deployed service member Air Force 1st Lt. Trent Bolte, from North Adams, Mass., through a non-profit organization called Soldiers’ Angels. This years’ students participated in the soccer ball-drive, which collected half of the total soccer balls that were distributed to Iraqi children in Basrah province.

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:
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