

T-PATCH

United States Division-South Weekly Newsletter



Volume 3, Issue 22

Contingency Operating Base Basra, Iraq

June 15, 2011

Happy Birthday U.S. Army, now lets run!

Story and photo by Sgt. Jeremy Spires

36th Inf. Div., USD-S Public Affairs

BASRAH, Iraq – In the pre-dawn hours of June 14, hundreds of service members deployed in support of Operation New Dawn gathered to celebrate the Army's 236th birthday with a 3-mile run around Contingency Operating Base Basra.

"As you all, know the Army turns 236 years old today," said Command Sgt. Maj. Wilson Early, the senior non-commissioned officer for the division. "Over that time many things have changed in our Army, but the dedication and commitment of our Nation's Soldiers have not. Without the commitment of individuals such as yourselves, the Army would not be as strong as it was 236 years ago."

Last deployed to a combat environment in World War II, the 36th Inf. Div. headquarters mobilized in September 2010. It's more than 700 Texas National Guard Soldiers focus on the drawdown of the U.S. forces in southern Iraq and advise, train and assist the Iraqi Security Forces.

"This morning was a great morning to do this run," said Private 1st Class Cody Steffen, a civil affairs specialist attached to the division. "It was a great way to show Army spirit and pride in what we are doing here."

"As you are running today, I don't want you to think of this as a reason to get up and conduct (physical training), nor is this mandatory fun," said Early, to the hundreds gathered for the start of the celebration. "This is a run to celebrate all the brave men and women like you that have contributed to the Army's success. Now, let's run!" ♡





Spc. Regina Batiste, a welder, assists in repairing a gate. Support Platoon spearheaded a project to strengthen the security of the entry control point.

Photo by 2nd Lt. Ryan Towson

“No Task too Tough”

By 1st Lt. Chris Prange

HHC, 3rd BSTB, 1st Cav. Div.

BASRAH, Iraq – 3rd Brigade, Special Troops Battalion, 3rd Advise and Assist Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division underwent changes upon return from Mosul in 2009.

With the addition of an engineer company to their ranks, they no longer just support enablers or stationary assets that support the brigade’s communications and intelligence infrastructure; they now support combat patrols as well.

While it was not a radical shift in their mission, it did present new challenges, especially for the battalion’s support platoon.

Most of the challenges had to do with manpower, equipment and training, but the Ghost Platoon took it all in stride, finding idea after idea to get the mission accomplished.

The platoon conducted logistical support for unstabilized gunnery for three weeks, with only one non-commissioned officer and a pair of Soldiers. A two-week field training exercise tested their ability to conduct 24-hour operations around mission schedules and a National Training Center rotation tested their ability to handle stress.

At the time, the platoon included a logistician, fuelers, a truck

driver and a welder.

“I expected to be conducting logistic patrols or dealing with supply issues for the battalion,” said the platoon leader, 2nd Lt. Ryan Towson. “I didn’t expect to be the only logistical officer in the entire battalion. It was a little intimidating at first.”

In the end, their training was successful. They had the personnel to accomplish a diverse mission set and they were trained on the proper method to accomplish tasks. Now they were prepared to handle any task thrown at them.

“All of Towson’s Soldiers continued to impress me with their ability to think outside the box. They were very good at adapting to any situation. Support Platoon is always one element we can count on,” said Capt. Matthew Cyr, the company commander.

With the BSTB serving as the command-and-control element for Contingency Operating Base Adder’s base defense, the platoon has come to serve as the utility infielders. Anti-Terrorism / Force Protection is their official job title. The “Project Guys” is the nickname they have acquired from other Soldiers.

No matter what you call them, if they have learned one thing in the month since the transfer of authority, they know each day is going to bring new surprises.

“At first it seemed a daunting task,” Towson said. “I didn’t even know what AFTP (Anti-Terrorism / Force Protection) meant. I was just told I would be doing it.”

When asked about his mission and how his Soldiers are handling it, Towson shrugged.

“It’s interesting because there are so many different projects. One day it’s one thing at the (entry control point) and the next day it’s a completely different thing on the perimeter or on the (guard) towers. It’s a lot of projects or jobs that present different circumstances or problems. It’s not anything that’s branch specific, but it’s the grey matter in between what we all do.”

At the end of their day, they return to their containerized housing units like the rest of us knowing they may be called out on a moment’s notice because of a generator breaking down.

When talking about his Support Platoon, Cyr has no problem telling anyone just how hard his Soldiers work.

“There is not a task given that they will not find a way to get it accomplished. When I ask for the most (difficult) tasks, Towson and his Soldiers always seem to figure it out. Before I can ask for an update, nine times out of ten, the report is already in my hand and complete,” said Cyr. ▼



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3rd ACR troopers awarded Purple Heart

By 1st Lt. Andrius S. Mazeika
3rd ACR Public Affairs

BABIL, Iraq – Two Soldiers of 1st Squadron, 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment, were awarded the Purple Heart medal in a ceremony on Contingency Operating Site Kalsu, Memorial Day, for injuries they sustained during recent convoy operations.

The two Soldiers, Staff Sgt. Jesse Urena and Spc. Timothy Shabbot of Battery K, received their medals from Brig. Gen. William L. Smith, the 36th Infantry Division deputy commander for maneuver.

"I was really glad to be standing there on my own two feet and receive this award from General Smith," said Urena, a native

of Imperial Beach, Calif. "It's not very often that recipients of this award are able to receive it under these conditions."

Urena went on to say that he was also very grateful that no one was seriously injured from this attack and that everyone was able to "walk away."

1st Lt. Daniel Boyd, platoon leader and commander of the convoy that day, from Stafford, Va., reflected on the attack, saying that the roll-over drills that the unit has trained on are what really saved their lives.

During the attack, as the vehicle began to flip over, the men kept shouting, "Roll over! Roll over!" Boyd said. Spc. Zachary Roth, the driver of the vehicle at the

time, remembered to pull Shabbott from his gunners turret, also a critical part of controlling a roll-over situation.

Boyd said Shabbott may have been more seriously injured as his harness buckle holding him in his gunner position broke when the turret separated during the roll.

"Looking back on the event, everyone was safe, and this turned out to be a valuable learning experience," said Boyd.

Four Soldiers were injured in the enemy engagement. Spc. Kevin Gallagher, who was not present at the ceremony, had already received his award prior to the event. Roth will receive his award in a future ceremony.



BABIL, Iraq – Spc. Timothy Shabbot, a field artillery automated tactical data systems specialist with Battery K, 1st Squadron, 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment receives a Purple Heart medal from Brig. Gen. William L. Smith in a ceremony held on Contingency Operating Site Kalsu, Memorial Day. Shabbot, serving as a machine gunner on his vehicle, received his medal for injuries sustained when his convoy came under attack outside Baghdad.

Photo by Spc. Adam Hefner



BASRAH, Iraq — Command Sgt. Maj. Wilson Early address the Soldiers of the 36th Inf. Div. and supporting units during a formation before a 3-mile run in celebration of the Army's 236th birthday on June 14. (Photos by Sgt. 1st Class Merrion LaSonde, 36th Inf. Div., USD-S Public Affairs)

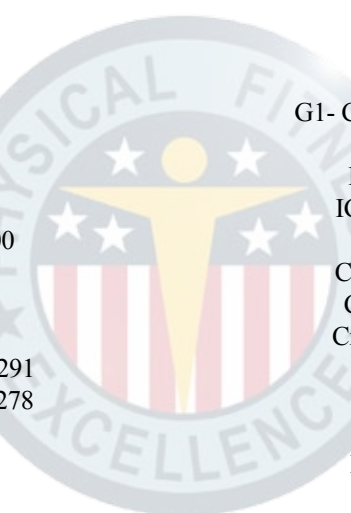


See more photos from the run on our SmugMug page. The link is posted at the end of the T-Patch.



The following Soldiers of Bravo Company “Ghost Riders” earned the Physical Fitness Badge:

G8- Sgt. 1st Class Luis Alfaro 300
 G8- Capt. Aimie Tibbetts 300
 G4- Capt. Horace Allen 286
 G4- Capt. Kimberly Baird 297
 G4- Sgt. Maj. Kenneth Henry 296
 G4- Spc. Melissa Quickel 291
 G4- Lt. Col. Alba Villanueva 300
 G3- Staff Sgt. Luis Barronzamora 300
 G3- 1st Lt. Monique Culver 300
 G3- Staff Sgt. Edward Munoz 300
 G3- 1st Lt. Feather Wright 300
 G2- Sgt. 1st Class Elizabeth Blaschke 291
 G2- Sgt. 1st Class Thomas Hawarden 278
 G2- Capt. Shawn Kotoske 294
 G2- Staff Sgt. Erika Lamping 289
 G2- Spc. Shawna Lunsford 288
 G2- Staff Sgt. Christina Pagan 300



G2- Staff Sgt. Kathryn Smith 298
 G2- Spc. Jesse Sosa 285
 G2- Sgt. Shawntae Villegas 293
 G1- Chief Warrant Officer Katherine Brown 300
 LNO Balad- Maj. Steven Brackin 286
 IG Adder- Staff Sgt. Rebecca Diaz 300
 IG Basra- Master Sgt. Tina Marberry 279
 Cmd Grp- Capt. Samantha Garcia 298
 Cmd Grp- Sgt. Kimberley Rodriguez 300
 Cmd Grp- Spc. Synder Rosenbaum 290
 Cmd Grp- Sgt. 1st Class Jin Simontin 285
 Cmd Grp- 1st Lt. George Strable 298
 Div Surg- Col. Gina Seiler 288
 Div Surg- Maj. Kristine Kidwell 288
 ISF- Sgt. 1st Class Joseph Lawton 293
 ORSA- 2nd Lt. Bau Phan 293

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

SPC Melissa Quickel

Logistical Administration



Name: Quickel, Melissa
Primary Military Specialty: Supply Specialist
Secondary Military Specialty: Fueler
Hometown: Clearfield, PA

Grade: E-4

The bright-eyed Quickel enlisted in the Army in hopes of breaking out of the monotony of small town life. During basic training she met a group of Texans who convinced her to move to the Lone Star State. A self-described "boring person", Quickel is nothing of the sort, and spends her free time searching for outdoor adventures such as camping, fishing and canoeing.

This is Quickel's first deployment. She has spent the past two years working ADOS at Camp Mabry and hopes to land an AGR position in the coming months. "My packet is almost ready and I am hoping I can get in," Quickel said. "I enjoy the structured life of the military and I feel I learned a lot on this deployment, and it will benefit me in my career."

W01 Robert Sheffield

Non-lethal Targeting



Name: Sheffield, Robert
Primary Military Specialty: Artillery Targeting Officer
Secondary Military Specialty: Military Police
Hometown: Lumberton, TX

Grade: W-1

Sheffield enlisted in the Army in 1990 and completed a two-year active-duty tour at Ft. Sill, OK. He was enlisted for 18 years before becoming a warrant officer, a choice he made in order to have more control over his career as a leader. When not targeting people, he targets deer and ducks for sport. He also enjoys fishing.

"As an enlisted Soldier at the battalion level, I would often question why we were doing certain missions. Here I have come to understand how those little missions fit into the bigger picture." For all his accomplishments the laid back Texan still has people he looks up to. "I want to be just like CW4 Jupiter when I grow up," Sheffield said with a twinkle in his eye.

MAJ Christopher Smith

Deputy Knowledge Manager



Name: Smith, Christopher
Primary Military Specialty: Signal Officer
Secondary Military Specialty: Multi-channel Communications Operator
Hometown: Arab, AL

Grade: O-4

Smith enlisted in the U.S. military in 1981 and served as an enlisted Soldier for eleven years, rising to the rank of E-6 before attending Officer Candidate School. In his spare time when he is not keeping the electronic data flowing, Smith likes to ride his Harley and pilot fixed-wing, single-engine aircraft.

This is Smith's second time in theatre, but he considers this his first deployment. Smith currently works on the joint staff as a planner at Camp Mabry in Austin, Texas and relishes in his role as a military officer. "I went to OCS because I wanted to make a difference in the military and lead by example," Smith said. "I felt that becoming an officer was the best way for me to do that."

CHOW

Midnight • 0000 - 0130

Breakfast • 0530 - 0830

Lunch • 1130 - 1400

Dinner • 1700 - 2000

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to save your battle
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"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

Rosary Prayer

Tuesday at 2000

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

0930 - Traditional Service

1100 - Contemporary 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

0800 - Catholic Service

LEGAL ASSISTANCE

Having family issues
and need to seek legal
advice? Need a will or a
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COB Basra, Iraq

*"A legal
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attorney; we
represent
YOU, not your
command!"*



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**Public
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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
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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

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

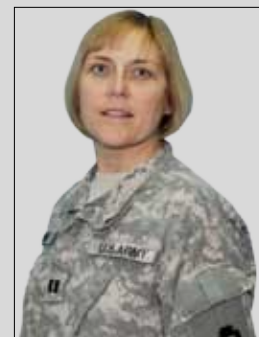
Capt.

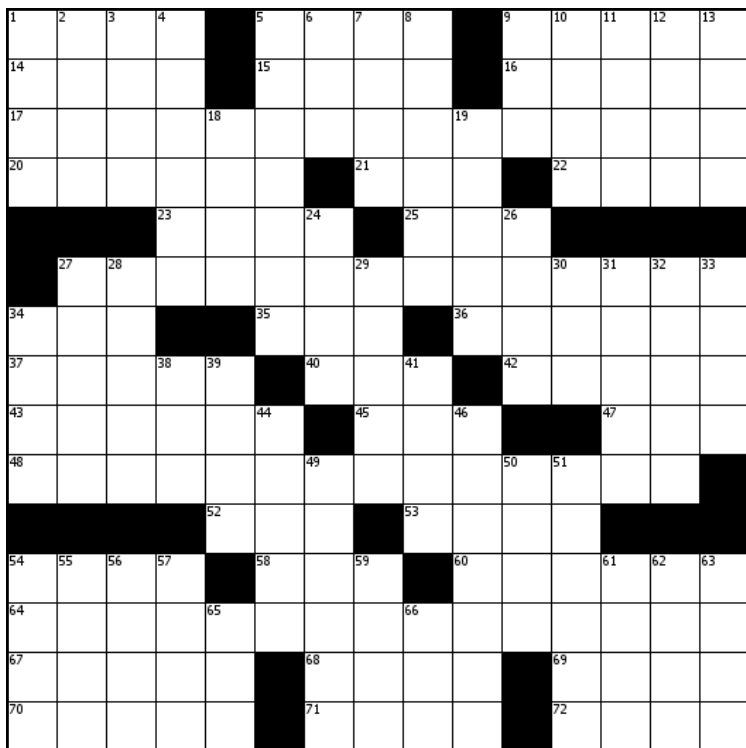
Lisa Ann Lerma

COB Basra
Resiliency Campus
858-4672

lisa.lerma@iraq.centcom.mil

Anonymous Tip Hotline on NIPR
<https://msc.forces.iraq.centcom.mil/usds/default.aspx>





Across

1. Henry's third Catherine
5. General helper
9. Might be smoke or feathers
14. Callas' specialty
15. It may be seminal
16. Type of poetry
17. Staunch digestive system
20. Brew vessels
21. Post-dubbing title
22. Nevada cattle hub
23. Eight in Ecuador
25. Teacher's org..
27. Four-flusher
34. ___ Luis Obispo
35. Pugilists' gp.
36. Yen
37. Corners
40. Command to a puli
42. First name in gift-giving
43. Not on the level
45. By way of
47. Moray, e.g.
48. Valuable securities
52. ENE, e.g.
53. Perry's creator
54. Locale in a Beatles song title
58. Nourished
60. Adjusts to fit
64. Intense look
67. Merits
68. Deliver a low blow
69. Tied
70. War horse
71. Visits
72. Indigence

Down

1. Campaign fund grps.
2. "I smell ___"
3. Stand
4. Apportionment
5. Blue Angels milieu
6. June phrase, often
7. Remote sites?
8. Letting up on
9. Mideastern political gp.
10. Tick-borne disease
11. Caspian Sea feeder
12. Jagger or Fleetwood
13. Audio feedback of a sort
18. Move stealthily
19. Tire feature
24. Planets, e.g.
26. Central Iowa city
27. Ankles
28. Completely
29. Gullible
30. The "Be prepared" org.
31. Like user-friendly paper
32. Certain Art Deco works
33. Genuine
34. Antlered beast
38. Ante destination
39. Floored it
41. Something to blame on the moon
44. Enlighten
46. Scrapes
49. Socrates and Plato, e.g.
50. Automotive pioneer
51. Tidy up
54. Puts to work
55. ASAP in an ER
56. Like the surface of Mars
57. Philosopher Descartes
59. Unit of force
61. Apply asphalt
62. Genealogist's graph
63. E-mailer's click
65. It was dropped in the '60s
66. For the broad of foot

Sudoku

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



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INSPECTOR GENERAL

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Photo of the Week



Photo by Sgt. David A. Bryant

Soldiers from the 36th Infantry Division Fusion Cell, deployed to southern Iraq for Operation New Dawn, proudly display hand-decorated and colored shoeboxes filled with sundry necessary items they received from the pre-kindergarten to third-grade students and staff of Pecan Valley Elementary School in San Antonio, Texas. Each box was personalized for the individual Soldiers and was intended to help boost the morale of deployed Texas Soldiers. From left: Spc. David Grounds, analyst, of Flower Mound, Texas; Spc. Paul Gatica, analyst, of San Antonio; and Spc. Mikael Lopez, analyst, San Antonio.

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!



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www.youtube.com/user/36IDArrowheadNetwork



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