

T-PATCH

United States Division-South Weekly Newsletter



Volume 3, Issue 25

Contingency Operating Base Basra, Iraq

July 4, 2011



Sgt. Maj. of the Army Raymond F. Chandler III presents coins to Soldiers during a town hall meeting June 25 at the base chapel. Chandler let each Soldier explain why he or she was chosen to receive a coin.

Photo by Spc. Brittany H. Gardner

Sgt. Maj. of the Army Visits COB Basra

By Spc. Brittany H. Gardner
362nd MPAD, USD-S Public Affairs

BASRAH, Iraq – Sgt. Maj. of the Army Raymond F. Chandler III was welcomed to Contingency Operating Base Basra by Command Sgt. Maj. Wilson L. Early, 36th Infantry Division, June 25.

“The Sergeant Major of the Army came to Iraq because he calls himself a scout for the Chief of Staff of the Army,” said Early. “He visited to find out what’s on Soldiers’ minds, what Soldiers care about, and what they think.”

Chandler visited COB Basra and other bases around Iraq to discuss upcoming changes to uniforms, active-duty retention, and other topics. He also gave Soldiers an opportunity to ask him questions.

A large part of Chandler’s discussion included an explanation of how the active component will draw down by approximately 50,000 Soldiers over the next few years.

There will be gradually fewer Soldiers recruited into the active component each year, Chandler explained. Also, fewer Soldiers will be retained and some will be selected for early retirement. These decisions will be based on job performance, said Chandler.

“We’ve got to have some mechanism to separate the wheat from the chaff,” said Chandler. “The privilege to serve is going to become more difficult.”

Another important topic discussed during Chandler’s visit was sexual assault. While speaking about this topic, he directed his attention toward noncommissioned officers.

“If you’re an NCO, I personally hold you accountable to lead your Soldiers,” said Chandler. “If you see it and don’t report it, you’ve given the green light. There is absolutely no excuse for sexual assault. Intervention means you get involved. This problem is going to be solved by our noncommissioned officers taking charge.”

Chandler also spoke to Soldiers about not

being ashamed to seek help for behavioral health issues. He admitted to seeing a counselor for the issues he was having after his deployment.

“If you need help, get some,” said Chandler.

Early said he believes this was one of the most important parts of Chandler’s discussion. It helped Soldiers understand that there really isn’t a stigma associated with seeking counseling for behavioral health issues, and it will not hinder Soldiers’ careers.

Early said Chandler’s selection for Sgt. Maj. of the Army was based on his work ethic, and being treated by a counselor didn’t interfere with his selection by his supervisors and peers.

The Sergeant Major of the Army’s visit went extremely well, overall said Early.

“I think he left here knowing that U.S. Division-South was in good hands,” said Early. “He left here appreciating the Soldiers and the hard work they’re doing.” ♥

Havoc Troop assists Soldiers while deployed

By Staff Sgt. Mark Albright
3rd ACR Public Affairs

DIWANIYAH, Iraq – The Soldiers at Contingency Operating Site Echo have many missions that require them to train their Iraqi counterparts and protect the base of the 3rd Squadron, 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment. These Soldiers require support in order to complete those missions.

The 3rd Squadron Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, also known as Havoc Troop, has the broad responsibility of providing services and protection for COS Echo. The unit works with the civilian dining facility workers and civilian guards and is in charge of the security for the base.

“We are the beans and bullets for the squadron,” said Capt. Larry Steward, commander of Havoc Troop, 3rd Squadron, 3rd ACR. “We are the ones who keep the squadron sustained with logistics, administration and force protection.”

The troop also operates the Base Defense Operations Center, which controls and maintains base security. Additionally, they work with the security companies on base to ensure that everyone is safe from threats while deployed. The Soldiers in Havoc Troop have been a major part of the squadron’s deployment successes.

“We make sure the right people get on the base and that the wrong people don’t and the convoys come through seamlessly,” said Staff Sgt. Andrew Schimek, BDOC senior enlisted Soldier and a native of Buffalo, N.Y.

The base is a mix of military and civilians.

“This base is unique because it is like a small village and everybody intertwines. We interact with the civilian companies here like they are part of the family. We talk to each other and work together as a team,” said 1st. Sgt. Robert Perrow, Havoc Troop’s senior enlisted advisor.

Havoc Troop conducts their missions and continues to support the administrative needs of the Soldiers assigned to the squadron headquarters. This task involves a lot of oversight and organization by the troop’s training room Soldiers, since it is the largest troop in the squadron.

“We keep track of all of our Soldiers’ training records, promotions, weapons cards and anything that the troop needs us to complete,” said Spc. John Mason, training room clerk for Havoc and a native of Edinburgh, Ind. “We also conduct all of the training for the troop.”

The training room not only takes care of its own Soldiers but assists the other troops in the squadron when needed.

“The biggest job was completing over 300 leave packets for



Spc. Chance Frysak, a Base Defense Operations Center radio operator, communicates with a Contingency Operating Site Echo security team member. Frysak is currently deployed with 3rd Squadron, 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment in support of Operation New Dawn.

Photo by Staff Sgt. Mark Albright

the troop and other units,” said Staff Sgt. Levi Panting, Havoc training room senior enlisted Soldier. “We completed that and successfully got everyone on leave.”

The Soldiers of Havoc Troop work together as a team and contribute to the fight in invaluable ways. These Soldiers have assisted every Soldier on COS Echo in some way or another and have been successful in their mission.

“I think they have excelled. Our Soldiers are the reason for our success,” said Steward. ♥



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10th Iraqi Army Commandos prepare for training at Contingency Operating Station Garry Owen, Iraq, June 25. The select group of Iraqi Soldiers conducted a joint training exercise with Soldiers from 3rd Advise and Assist Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division.

Photo by Sgt. Omar Estrada

Cav troops and IA Commandos conduct joint training exercise

By 1st Lt. Richard Vogt
3rd AAB, 1st Cav. Div.

AMARAH, Iraq – Soldiers from Chaos Company, 3rd Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Advise and Assist Brigade, 1st Cav. Division, have been busy training and working with a special group of Iraqi Security Forces: the Commando Battalion, which consists of a select group of Iraqi Soldiers spread throughout the 10th Iraqi Army Division.

The Soldiers recently trained for urban operations and helicopter insertions. That training is nothing new to the elite IA soldiers, but gave ISF commanders the flexibility to carry out a larger mission set, validate capabilities, and give the ISF and United States Forces-Iraq an opportunity to train and work more efficiently together.

“One (objective) is to confirm to me and my guys that they know what they’re doing,” said 1st Lt. Sean Jopling, a platoon leader from 3rd Platoon. “And everybody needs refreshers.”

Every unit has its own unique way of doing even routine tasks. Rehearsals allow leaders to understand each unit’s

tactics, techniques and procedures.

“It gives them an idea of how we do it, compared to other units they used to work with,” Jopling said. “It’s kind of a fun thing for the guys, and then when we’re out on a mission, they know how to communicate with the Iraqis.”

The rehearsals also let leaders see how U.S. and Iraqi Soldiers react to enemy contact. Jopling said any unit can improve by practicing their basic battle drills.

Training kicked off at Camp Sparrowhawk, near the city of Amarah. U.S. Soldiers briefed the IA on cordon-and-search operations and how to enter and clear a room. Both exercises are essential to effective urban operations. After the briefing, leaders moved to a sand-table exercise. ISF squad leaders led the final phase of the training, demonstrating that the unit was fully prepared.

Days later, the U.S. and IA Soldiers moved to the helicopter pad late at night when the summer heat was less intense. Crew chiefs instructed the Soldiers on how to approach the aircraft and board safely, as well as the proper procedures for

exiting the aircraft.

“This is the best way (to travel),” said 1st Lt. Rahman Taweh. “Because it’s very fast, and that allows you to control the enemy.” Taweh is a platoon leader with the 10th IA Commandos.

Jopling was impressed with his IA counterpart.

“He’s really good. He’s really hard on his guys and keeps them in line.”

Jopling remarked that he was pleased with the quality and motivation of the Commandos. “They have better gear, better training ... more motivation.” Jopling said that his unit has a great working relationship with the Commandos and regularly asks them to accompany his unit during patrols.

Taweh said he likes working with U.S. Forces and maintains relationships with units he’s worked with in the past. “We still do missions together in Amarah and Nasiriyah,” he said. When asked what he’s learned from U.S. Forces, Taweh replied that he’s learned much more than he could have imagined prior to the training. ♥

Dark Knight LTAT continues to train Iraqi Security Forces

By 1st Lt. Michael Escalera and 1st Lt. Benjamin Hardy
3rd AAB, 1st Cav. Div.

BASRAH, Iraq – While debate continues on the future of Iraq and the potential re-posturing of United States Forces-Iraq, Alpha Distribution Company, 215th Brigade Support Battalion, 3rd Advise and Assist Brigade, 1st Cav. Division, Logistical Training and Advisory Team, remains focused on their mission.

Led by 1st Lt. Jose Julia, a Cayey, Puerto Rico native, and Staff Sgt. James Hardeman, an Oklahoma City native, the purpose of the LTAT is to help train and assist the Iraqi Security Forces to become better equipped to deal with challenges in the Basrah Province.

After working with the Iraqi Army's 14th Provision Transportation Command for four months, the LTAT has transformed the training focus from U.S.-led training to an Iraqi "train the trainer" mindset to ensure Iraqi leaders can sustain this training without USF.

Training began with the basic lessons of preventive maintenance checks and services, to more advanced training on electrical systems for different types of civilian and military-made vehicles. The focus has gradually shifted from training on the humvee to the civilian-made international 5-ton trucks. This transition has allowed the PTC to become more self sufficient and combat effective.

"This is a very important step in the transition of the new and independent Iraqi Army. LTATs have been working with the IA for over seven years and it is time for them to take the reins on training and educating their Soldiers," said Hardeman. "Although the Iraqi Army leaders are grateful for all of the support in building the new Iraqi Army, it is time for them to lead and train their Soldiers. They are the future and must accept this great responsibility," he added.

In order to ensure that training is consistent throughout the 10th Iraqi Army Division, various LTAT of different echelons have combined forces to conduct effective training.



Staff Sgt. James Hardeman (left), Alpha Distribution Company, 215th Brigade Support Battalion, 3rd Advise and Assist Brigade, 1st Cav. Division, Logistical Training and Advisory Team (LTAT) and Lt. Col. Bernie Spoerri (right), the stability transition team advisor to the 10th Iraqi Army Division, discuss plans to conduct maintenance training for the 10th Iraqi Army Division June 20, 2011.

Photo by 1st Lt. Michael Escalera

Lt. Col. Bernie Spoerri, the stability transition team advisor to the 10th IA Division, works with the LTAT to maximize resources while providing the IA with high quality training and advice.

"Working with the division LTAT has allowed us to reduce the number of missions on the road while effectively maintaining communications and high trust levels with the Iraqi Army," said Julia. "By pooling together our resources, we can ensure that all levels of leadership are on the same page and are held accountable to ensure mission accomplishment." ♥



Staff Sgt. James Hardeman, Alpha Distribution Company, 215th Brigade Support Battalion and an Oklahoma City native, instructs an Iraqi Soldier on the preventative maintenance checks and service process for an Iraqi 5-ton vehicle.

Photo by 1st Lt. Michael Escalera

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

LTC CLAYTON ABE

Normandy MTF OIC



Name: Abe, Clayton

Primary Military Specialty: Anesthesiologist

Secondary Military Specialty: Internal Medicine Physician

Hometown: Georgetown, TX

Grade: O-5

Abe is on the third deployment of his 22-year Army National Guard career. He is an emergency room physician at the VA hospital in Temple, Texas who finds working around the yard and "fixing things" relaxing. According to his troops, he's a walking encyclopedia on ammunition who has a passion for reloading all types of spent casings.

"The best thing I've done in my career is to take care of Soldiers; we've found many severe illnesses before they became bad, so I've been able to give great care to Soldiers," he said. "I want families to know their Soldiers are getting the best care they can get anywhere."

SSG JAMES BRADLEY

Garrison Command NCO



Name: Bradley, James

Primary Military Specialty: Military Policeman

Secondary Military Specialty: Corrections Specialist

Hometown: Hondo, TX

Grade: E-6

Bradley is a cattle rancher who runs his father's 200-acre hunting lease when not in college getting his degree in Homeland Security. Wanting the "Army Experience," he served 11 years on active duty, one in the reserves, and has eight years in the Army National Guard.

"I would say my most memorable time was working at the Joint Command Center at Camp Fallujah during my first deployment," Bradley said. "The Marines there promoted me to staff sergeant."

SPC BRADLEY JENKINS

Normandy MTF Medic



Name: Jenkins, Bradley

Primary Military Specialty: Medic

Secondary Military Specialty: None

Hometown: Austin, TX

Grade: E-4

Jenkins is a former Navy Corpsman whose fondest memories of his 8-year Naval career are of his time at Camp Pendleton, CA serving as a Fleet Marine Force corpsman with the 1st Marine Division. He is in his fourth year as an Army National Guardsman and his fourth overseas deployment; three of them while in the Navy.

"I'll never forget my first deployment here in Iraq in 2003," Jenkins said. "It was my first time leaving home, first time in a combat zone, and the first time actually doing my job as a medic. I love being a medic; every day you get to help people."

CHOW

Midnight • 0000 - 0130

Breakfast • 0530 - 0830

Lunch • 1130 - 1400

Dinner • 1700 - 2000

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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

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COB Basra, Iraq

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command!"*



Spc. Genevie Plaza

Paralegal Specialist

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768.0213 (S-VOIP)

genevie.plaza@iraq.centcom.mil

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Click "Effects" on the drop-down
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Asset Request button! Follow the
directions and submit your request.

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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."

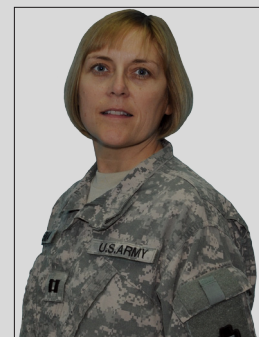
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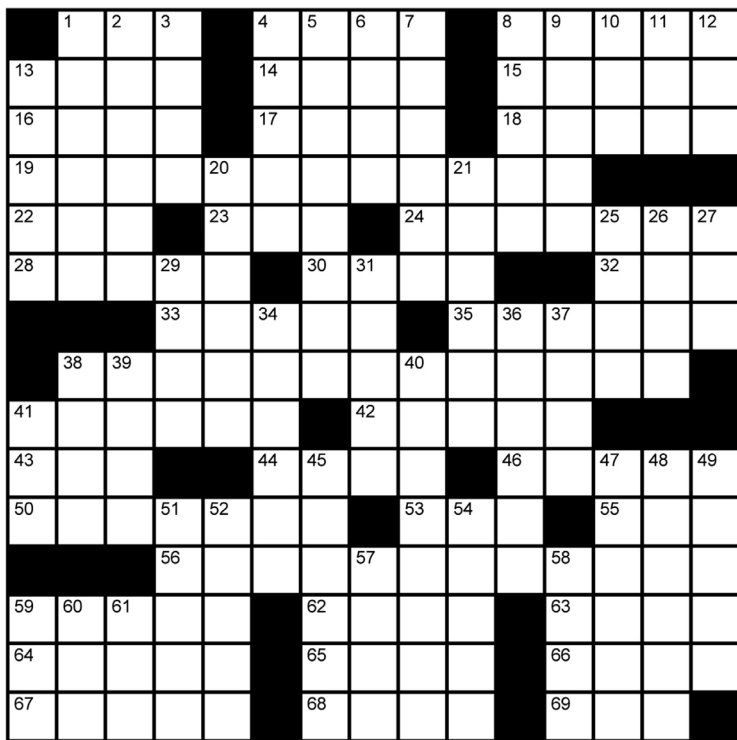
Lisa Ann Lerma

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>





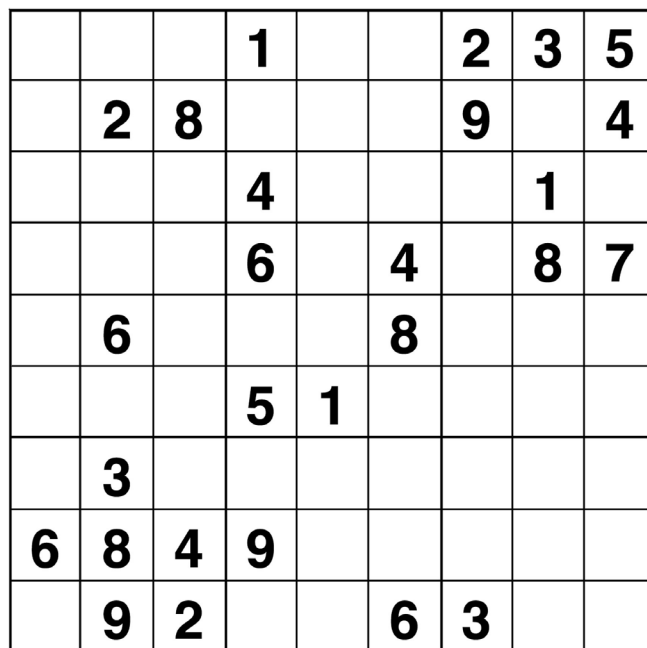
Across

1. Lowlife snitch
4. Woman of distinction
8. With 67-Across, author of "Ulysses"
13. Catherine, the last wife of Henry VIII
14. Sacked out
15. The chosen, socially
16. Tinted windows locale
17. Tax-exempt bond, briefly
18. Wife of 56-Across, said 69-Across
19. Setting for "Ulysses"
22. Aussie outlaw Kelly
23. Industrial pollutant
24. Ancestry
28. Journalist/author Rick
30. Egyptian sun god
32. Roman sun god
33. Resort island near Venezuela
35. Nice, as clothes
38. 1904 date in "Ulysses"
41. Cord that you hope doesn't break
42. Bert who hosted "Tattletales"
43. "___ Over but the Shoutin'" (book by 28-Across)
44. Go south, as a market
46. Stand for a portrait
50. Not stick to the path
53. Part of r.p.m.
55. Some germ cells
56. Hero in "Ulysses"
59. Three-toed animal
62. Others, to Cicero
63. Aleutian island
64. Dwight's two-time challenger
65. In the mail
66. Dear, in a billet-doux
67. See 8-Across
68. Outfits
69. Last word of "Ulysses"

Down

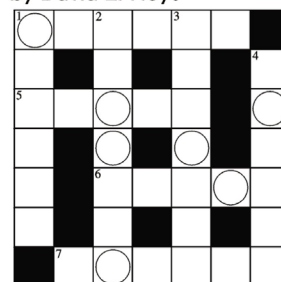
1. Oakland athlete
2. Force mounted by Philip II
3. Setting for a Homeric epic
4. Curses
5. Gulf emirate
6. Carte du jour
7. Fit for the dinner table
8. Pack tightly
9. Single-handedly
10. Measure of thickness
11. Night school course: Abbr.
12. Oink pad?
13. Secondary strategy
20. "Same here"
21. Flowering shade tree
25. Kind of prof.
26. "Oh my ___!"
27. English cathedral city
29. Tattoo identification, maybe
31. Mexican silver mining center
34. Comfortable with
36. Reflected sound effect
37. "Orinoco Flow" singer
38. Composer Styne
39. The Runnin' Rebels of coll. sports
40. Overthrowing
41. Lousy
45. What's for dinner
47. Alleviate
48. Brings to mind
49. Politico Alexander from Tenn.
51. ___ artery
52. Hawk's home
54. Prunes, say
57. Food item sold in bars
58. Like some lingerie
59. ___ Mahal
60. Furor
61. Thickness

Sudoku



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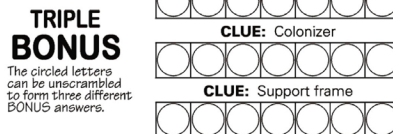
by David L. Hoyt



- | CLUE | ACROSS | ANSWER |
|----------------------|--------|--------|
| 1. Conundrum | | AMEIGN |
| 5. Repeatedly | | FNEOT |
| 6. Facade | | USEIG |
| 7. Home to Nivernais | | NAREFC |

- | CLUE | DOWN | ANSWER |
|-------------------|------|---------|
| 1. Unfold, mature | | LEOVEV |
| 2. Type of number | | EGIRTN |
| 3. Say | | MENOTIN |
| 4. Long-___ | | ELEVES |

How to play - Complete the crossword puzzle by looking at the clues and unscrambling the answers. When the puzzle is complete, unscramble the circled letters to solve the BONUS.



TRIPLE BONUS
The circled letters can be unscrambled to form three different BONUS answers.

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www.youtube.com/user/36IDArrowheadNetwork



pao36id.smugmug.com



Photo of the Week

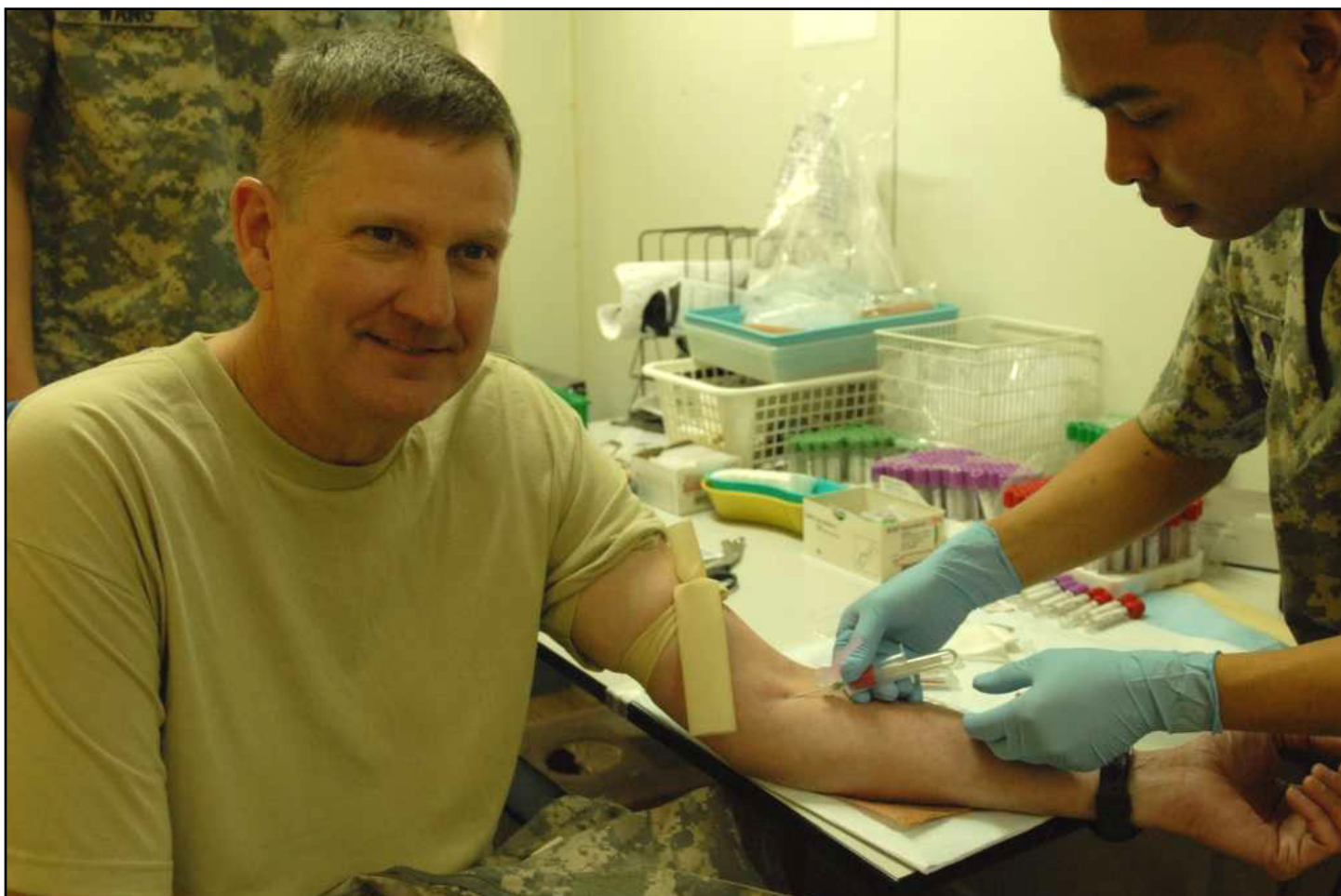


Photo by Spc. Anthony T. Zane

Maj. Gen. Eddy M. Spurgin, U.S. Division South and 36th Infantry Division commander, has blood drawn at the Troop Medical Center, June 23. All Soldiers are subject to quarterly blood screenings as part of their health readiness while in theater.

Answers to last week's Puzzles

I	R	A	N		S	I	S	Q	O		S	A	W
R	O	P	E	D		C	R	O	U	P		C	R
I	S	T	H	E	R	E	A	B	E	E		H	E
S	I	L	I	C	O	N	E				N	A	I
H	E	Y		I	L	E		S	H	E	L	L	
			I	D	L	I	K	E	A	N	E	L	L
G	E	S	T	E		R	E	N	D			I	O
R	U	N	E		S	T	A	N	D		C	N	B
O	R	O		O	L	A	F			N	A	G	E
H	O	W	A	B	O	U	T	A	J	A	Y		
		T	I	L	T	S		R	E	S		E	L
H	E	I	D	I		P	A	T	S	A	J	A	K
O	A	R		G	I	V	E	M	E	A	N	E	Y
P	R	E		E	C	O	L	I		U	N	C	L
E	S	S		D	E	L	T	S		S	T	A	T

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

Jumbles!

- #1 Twins
- #2 Aladdin
- #3 Traffic
- #4 Platoon
- #5 Memento
- #6 Superman
- * Star Wars