

# T-PATCH

United States Division-South Weekly Newsletter



Volume 3, Issue 26

Contingency Operating Base Basra, Iraq

July 11, 2011



Chief Warrant Officer 3 Rodney Hammack (left) and Chief Warrant Officer 2 Xlenske Sampson, 36th Infantry Division, slice a birthday cake at Contingency Operating Base Basra, July 9. The cake was part of the Army Warrant Officer Corps' 93rd birthday ceremonies on base.

Photo by Pvt. Andrew C. Slovensky

## Happy 93rd Birthday, Warrant Officers!

By Pvt. Andrew C. Slovensky  
362nd MPAD, USD-S Public Affairs

**BASRAH, Iraq** – The deployed warrant officers of the 36th Infantry Division didn't look a day over 92 on July 9 as they celebrated the 93rd birthday of the Army Warrant Officer Corps on Contingency Operating Base Basra.

The celebrations included a presentation to Maj. Gen. Eddy M. Spurgin, 36th Inf. Div. commander, and Command Sgt. Maj. Wilson L. Early that covered the history, purpose and definition of the warrant officer corps, and was followed by a cake-cutting ceremony and a cookout that evening.

The birthday ceremony honors a long tradition begun in 1918 with the birth of the warrant officer corps.

Many definitions have been used for warrant officers, but one phrase stands out: "technical experts."

Warrant officers, most of whom were non commissioned officers first, are considered a step above their peers with expertise in their jobs.

Each branch has specific training requirements for its would-be warrant officers, said Chief Warrant Officer Robert Rodriguez, Counter Improvised Explosive Device officer-in-charge for the 36th Inf. Div.

"It's what your branch needs for you to be considered an expert," said Rodriguez. "It's what sets you apart."

The first warrant officers were those of the Army Mine Planter Service and were originally considered civilians. Now, warrant

officers come from more than 73 military specialties in 17 branches and are considered subject matter experts in areas like aviation, human resources, communications, and criminal investigation.

Today, all warrant officers are considered commissioned officers and trained in the Warrant Officer Career College at Fort Rucker, Ala.

Chief Warrant Officer Katherine Brown, Personnel Accountability and Strength Reporting Chief for the 36th Inf. Div., said that warrant officers are given the opportunity to effect change and mentor non commissioned officers.

Brown, who has 21 years of service in the Army, said that being a warrant officer offers camaraderie and a small community within the Army. ♥

**IRAQ GROUND FORCES COMMAND  
14<sup>TH</sup> INFANTRY DIVISION  
HEADQUARTERS  
CAMP WESSAM  
BASRAH, IRAQ**

REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF:

Commander, 14<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division, Iraq

4 July 2011

To all Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines,

On this Independence Day, I want to take the time to thank everyone for their hard work and professional commitment in helping make Iraq a free and safe democracy.

Throughout the Basrah Province your support in providing direct assistance to disrupt and arrest violent extremist networks and the training you provide to the Iraq Security Forces have greatly enhanced our capability and are deeply and personally appreciated.

Your tactical accomplishments continue to set an example for the New Iraqi Army and are a proud reflection that the sacrifices you and your families have made, and continue to make, will not have been done in vain.

We will never forget one drop of blood that was spilled for our country, and the friendship you have with the Iraqi people forever. You have made the stability in Iraq better than all the countries in our neighborhood.

ShuKran



With all Gratitude and Respect,

  
**Aziz Noor Swadi**  
**MAJOR GENERAL**  
**Commander, 14<sup>th</sup> Div**  
**Basrah, Iraq**



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## Turkish barbers groom U.S. service members in Iraq

By Sgt. Kellena H. Leech  
362nd MPAD, USD-S Public Affairs

**BASRAH, Iraq** – Troops deployed to Contingency Operating Base Basra can get a little “hot headed” while visiting the Turkish barbers at the local Oasis Barber Shop.

“(Service members) come in and see others getting fire to (remove hair from) their ears and they are afraid, but when they get it they come back for it every time,” says Ugur Bengogullir, a local vendor from Adana, Turkey. “It’s the experience. Very few people don’t get it; only if they are afraid of the flames.”

In the traditional grooming process, a Turkish barber will take a pair of closed shears and wrap the tip with a stretched cotton ball. He’ll then dip the shears in rubbing alcohol and, almost immediately after the shears are lit, the barber splashes the fire gently and repeatedly over the customer’s ear, singeing any fine hairs that may be growing. Once both ears are “clean,” the barber rubs them to take away any debris.

In keeping with tradition, Oasis barbers Isa Ozkan and Erdal Kurt, both of Adana, treat customers to the Turkish shave with lather and a straight razor. To prevent razor bumps or ingrown hairs,

they dip the blade in alcohol and light it just like the shears.

The heat and alcohol sterilize the blade, creating a sharp, clean shave.

After the shave, lemon cologne is applied to the face to close the open pores, another tradition. The barber wipes the shaved area with a steamed or damp cloth and begins to focus on any other area of the face that needs to be groomed.

He completes the grooming process by giving another once-over and offers a mirror so the customer can do the same.

“If the customer is satisfied, it’s good. If not, (the barbers) fix it” says Bengogullir. “This is why Turkish barbers are the best. They are doing it because they love it,” he added.

According to grooming experts at Ted’s Grooming Room, London, the love of the art of fine grooming in Turkey dates back to days before the Ottoman Empire, when barbers groomed local citizens to promote relaxation. They measured their success based on the comfort of their customers.

The Turkish barbers of the Oasis Barber Shop at COB Basra are a part of a long lineage of traditional Middle Eastern shavers.

“I was born in a barber shop,” Ozkan

joked. “I cut hair all through elementary school.” Barbering takes years to learn and perfect, he said.

Experience doesn’t necessarily mean higher prices. The grooming session can take as little as ten minutes and cost less than ten dollars.

“You can’t beat it!” says Lt. Col. Keith Dunkle, 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment. “It’s more than a haircut. It’s a wash, massage, trim; I’ll be back!” he added.

Dunkle isn’t the only frequent customer. “It’s the attention to detail that keeps me coming back,” says Staff Sgt. John Marshall, 1-174th Avenger Battalion. Marshall says he’s had the hair-burning technique at least five times and will return at least once more before redeploying.

“I’d recommend it to Soldiers,” said Spc. Anthony Goines of 1st Cavalry Division, Fort Hood, Texas. “Especially since we’re leaving.” While we’re here though, we should take in the culture, he said.

Service members looking to redeploy in the coming months can expect to pay extra to get grooming services in the States. For now, the Oasis barbers plan to stay open, offering their service to those who serve. ♥



# Basra Warm Blood Program: For a time of great need

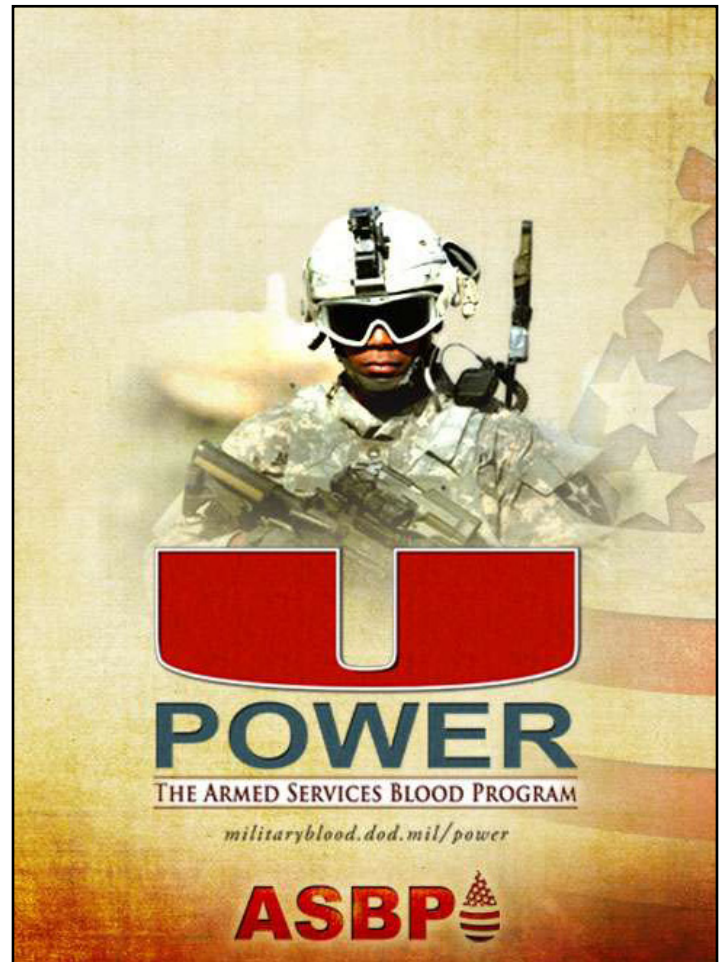
By 1st Lt. Michael C. Baker  
COB Basra MTF OIC

**BASRAH, Iraq** – Planning is critical to success in every facet of the military, regardless of branch and mission. In the military we plan for the worst and reach for the best; the medical arena is no different. The Basra warm blood program is just that, planning for the worst to ensure we can care for our Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines when the worst strikes. The warm blood program on Basra is designed to augment our blood supply, bolstering our ability to care for service members in need.

The program is simple: an individual makes the decision to take part in the program. Walk-in appointments at the COB Basra Medical Treatment Facility (MTF) are available during business hours. Individuals are screened with a simple questionnaire to determine eligibility; if eligible, several tubes of blood are drawn for testing. The testing further determines eligibility and blood type. Finally, the individual is placed on the warm blood donor roster. The questioning and blood-draw process take less than 30 minutes. An actual blood donation is not required until the program is activated during an emergency.

Warm blood programs greatly increase medical readiness and, when the worst strikes, will save lives in locations such as COB Basra. This is a simple sacrifice of nothing more than time that all service members can do to safe-guard their brothers and sisters and ensure the best medical care possible. To be effective, however, it is critical that a warm blood program be cultivated before the need. Contact the Basra MTF at 318-858-4907 to contribute to your COB's medical readiness today.

*For individual units, companies or platoon screenings contact the Basra MTF at 318-858-4907. ♥*



*Col. Gina Seiler, 36th Infantry Division surgeon, gets blood drawn during a quarterly blood screening. The screening is part of a Soldier's health readiness regimen while deployed overseas.*

Photo by Spc. Anthony T. Zane

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

## CPT JASON FAW

Military Justice Chief



Name: Faw, Jason  
Primary Military Specialty: Judge Advocate  
Secondary Military Specialty: None  
Hometown: Ashburn, VA

Grade: O-3

Faw served four years on active duty as an armor officer at Fort Hood before deciding to become a lawyer. He now has 10 years service in the Army National Guard and works as a prosecutor in northern VA. The VA Guardsman was scheduled to deploy with the 29th ID, but volunteered to deploy with the 36th when that fell through.

"I enjoy the people I work with; it would be a longer deployment if you weren't around people you enjoy spending time with," he said. "I do enjoy my (civilian) job - it's highly stressful, but at least you don't have rockets coming in at you at night!"

## SSG WILLIAM CULVER

Installation Chapel NCOIC



Name: Culver, William  
Primary Military Specialty: Chaplain's Assistant  
Secondary Military Specialty: None  
Hometown: San Antonio, TX

Grade: E-6

Culver is on his third deployment in the five years he's been in the Army National Guard. The health and fitness buff is deployed with his wife this time around and works hard at being a college student when not serving his country overseas.

One of Culver's most memorable moments occurred when he was stationed in Afghanistan and his wife received her commission to 2nd Lt. "I was her first salute - we set it up on Yahoo Messenger so I'd be able to watch and give her that first salute," he said. "I was just glad I was here this time to promote her to first lieutenant."

## SPC VERONICA ACOSTA

Awards and Finance Specialist



Name: Acosta, Veronica  
Primary Military Specialty: Mechanic  
Secondary Military Specialty: Generator Mechanic  
Hometown: Longview, TX

Grade: E-4

Acosta is on the first deployment of her six-year Army National Guard Career. The 24-year-old nurse has a 3-year-old daughter waiting for her at home and says her time in Iraq has really enhanced her knowledge of the Army as she continues learning an administrative job quite different from her normal MOS.

"How this deployment has gone and my most memorable time in the military kind of go together," Acosta said with a laugh. "I broke my wrist playing volleyball here and I had to wear a hot-pink cast for four months. It was awesome!"



## 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

### 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  
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

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

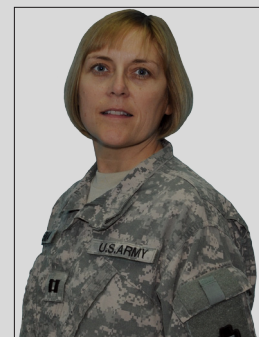
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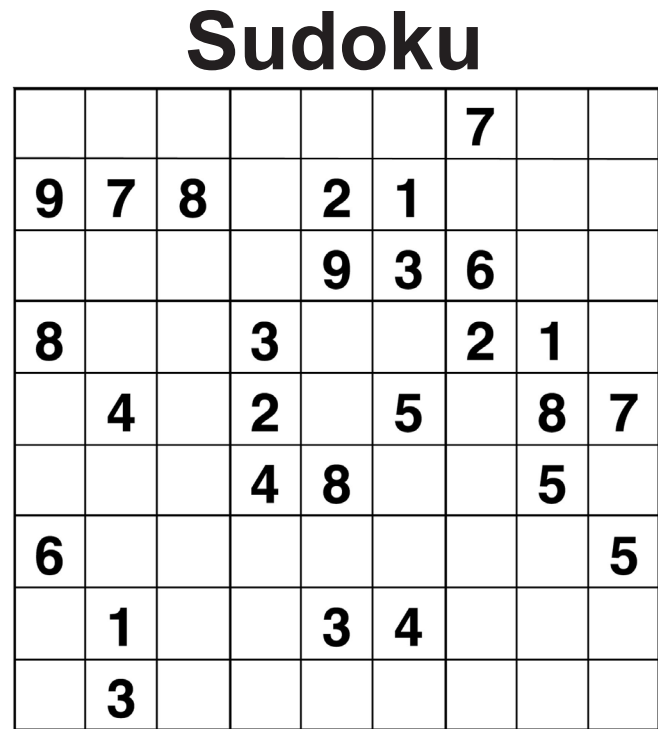
Lisa Ann Lerma

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>





1. Small-minded
2. Sap sucker
3. Landing places
4. Sleep preventer
5. Secret engagement
6. Martini's partner
7. Nice-to-Rome dir.
8. Storm part
9. Battlefield shout
10. Garlicky spread
11. Atlas enlargement
12. Distrustful
14. Figure out
18. \_\_\_ poisoning
21. Last non-A.D. year
24. Boorish
25. BMW competitor
26. Red shade
28. Police alert, for short
29. Miler Sebastian
30. "Morning Edition" aier
31. Tedium
32. "\_\_\_ Ramsey," 1970s TV western
33. Just slightly
34. Dr.'s orders
35. Frank's wife before Mia
36. Laotian money
38. Hit to short right, say
39. \_\_\_ of Sandwich
43. No. on a new-car sticker
44. "\_\_\_ directed"
45. Squirrel away
46. Home to more than a billion
47. Hold off
48. Comfortable
49. Like seven Nolan Ryan games
50. Nine: Prefix
51. Amber or umber
52. Belted sky formation
53. Canal cleaners?
56. Purple shade
58. One of the Bushes
59. Miner matter

pao36id.smugmug.com

# A 'fowl' way to spend the day



Navy Lt. Joseph Fitzgerald, a pilot with the 2515th Naval Air Ambulance Detachment, carries pizzas while wearing a chicken suit on Contingency Operating Base Basra. Pilots and crewmen with the 2515th NAAD wear the suit after they perform their first medical evacuation mission.

Photo by Pvt. Andrew C. Slovenskyro

By Pvt. Andrew C. Slovensky  
362nd MPAD, USD-S Public Affairs

**BASRAH, Iraq** – “When the crew tried to catch the chicken, it resisted,” said Navy Lt. Joseph Fitzgerald. “It wanted to stay in the bird.”

That was the scene in late 2005 when a chicken had escaped its coop and sought refuge inside of a Navy Knighthawk helicopter

during a medical evacuation mission in Iraq.

In honor of this fowl, the 2515th Naval Air Ambulance Detachment has a unique way to mark an important milestone for its pilots and crewmen. After they complete their first MEDEVAC mission, they don a fuzzy yellow chicken suit.

They try to prove that some chickens can fly; at least the ones that pilot helicopters.

The 2515th NAAD is currently deployed to Contingency Operating Base Basra with U.S. Division-South. In late 2005, the unit supported the U.S. Army medical mission from Kuwait.

The costume carries with it a tradition, and sweat stains, that date back to when the 2515th first flew missions over the border from Kuwait into Iraq.

Fitzgerald, a pilot with the 2515th, is no stranger to wearing the noticeable costume. On June 21, he had the honor to wear it around COB Basra with a sign attached that proudly read “1st MEDEVAC”.

“It was gratifying,” he said. “Wearing that suit means you’ve at least contributed something to the good fight, so there’s no embarrassment involved.”

Fitzgerald retold the story of the 2005 MEDEVAC mission that started it all.

He said that on this mission, two Knighthawk helicopters landed in a village in southern Iraq. Nearby there was a local man’s hut, and in his back yard was his chicken coop.

The dust and wind from the helicopters landing created enough chaos to disturb the chicken’s home. A single one got loose from the coop, ran underneath the helicopter’s rotors and boarded the aircraft, said Fitzgerald.

The fowl that sought refuge in the helicopter took up position in the rear with the medical equipment. The chicken had embraced its freedom. When the crew tried to catch and remove the chicken, it fought back.

Due to its relentless effort to stay free and hitch a ride to Kuwait, the chicken, which later died of natural causes, became the unofficial symbol for the 2515th.

Pilots wear patches that depict the poultry, a rubber chicken hangs in their office, and the chicken costume has gathered some use since it was acquired from an unknown source.

“It has six years of use under its belt and growing,” said Fitzgerald. “One size fits all.” ♥

## Answers to last week’s Puzzles

	R	A	T			D	A	M	E		J	A	M	E	S
P	A	R	R			A	B	E	D		A	L	I	S	T
L	I	M	O			M	U	N	I		M	O	L	L	Y
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N	E	D			A	S	H			L	I	N	E	A	G
B	R	A	G			A	T	E	N					S	O
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J	O	Y	C	E		T	O	G	S		Y	E	S		

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

## Jumbles!

- |           |            |
|-----------|------------|
| 1a Enigma | 1d Evolve  |
| 5a Often  | 2d Integer |
| 6a Guise  | 3d Mention |
| 7a France | 4d Sleeves |
| * Letters |            |
| * Settler |            |
| * Trestle |            |