

T-PATCH

United States Division-South Weekly Newsletter

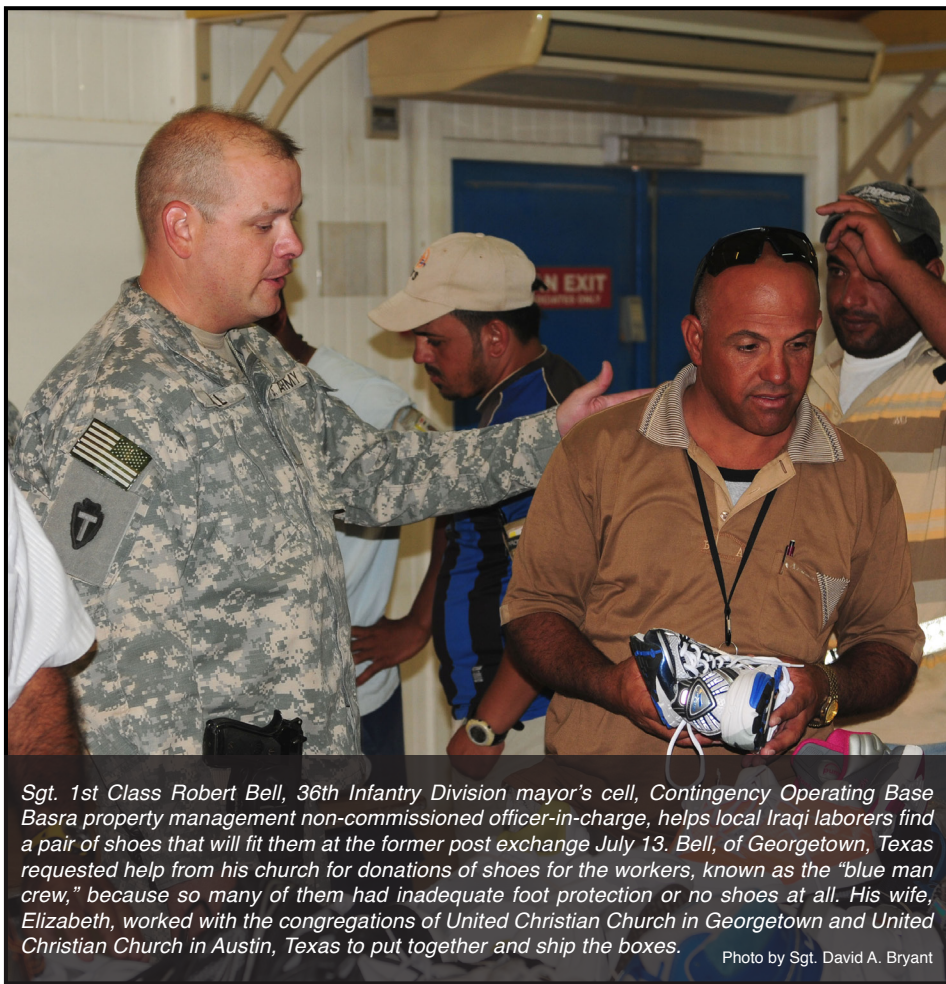


Volume 3, Issue 27

Contingency Operating Base Basra, Iraq

July 18, 2011

Lay off of my **blue man shoes**



Sgt. 1st Class Robert Bell, 36th Infantry Division mayor's cell, Contingency Operating Base Basra property management non-commissioned officer-in-charge, helps local Iraqi laborers find a pair of shoes that will fit them at the former post exchange July 13. Bell, of Georgetown, Texas requested help from his church for donations of shoes for the workers, known as the "blue man crew," because so many of them had inadequate foot protection or no shoes at all. His wife, Elizabeth, worked with the congregations of United Christian Church in Georgetown and United Christian Church in Austin, Texas to put together and ship the boxes.

Photo by Sgt. David A. Bryant

By Sgt. David A. Bryant
36th Inf. Div., USD-S Public Affairs

BASRAH, Iraq – The Soldiers of the 36th Infantry Division's mayor cell, with a little help from some churches in Texas, gave out boxes full of new and nearly-new pairs of shoes July 13 to the local Iraqi workers known as the "blue man crew" at the former post exchange here.

Many of the workers had inadequate footwear for the work they do and some had no shoes at all, according to Sgt. 1st

Class Robert Bell, Contingency Operating Base Basra property management non-commissioned officer-in-charge. As the temperatures began to rise, assistance getting new shoes was the only thing the laborers requested.

"The things they wear were awful," said Bell, of Georgetown, Texas. "So we all gave them our extra pairs of boots."

Bell realized more would be needed, so he sent an e-mail to the pastors at the United Christian Church in Georgetown

and the United Christian Church in Austin, Texas. His wife, Elizabeth, spoke to the congregation at both churches about the local Iraqis need and enlisted the help of a non-profit organization called Shoes for Souls. Six boxes filled with pairs of shoes and the money to ship them were donated by the church congregations and the non-profit organization.

"My wife has done an amazing job with all of this," said Bell. "She set up a Facebook page and has done all the footwork to make this happen. She pretty much took the ball and ran with it."

One of the employees, who goes by W.S. to retain his privacy, has been working on the military base for four years and said through a translator that the help he and his fellow employees get from the Texans is greatly appreciated and really helps them with their work.

"I'm so happy – not about the amount of shoes, or just getting the shoes," said W.S., a native of Basrah. "It's (the Americans) showing appreciation for us that makes me so happy."

The Texas Soldiers expect to receive more shipments of shoes throughout the month of July and hope to get enough to outfit each of the workers with two pairs of shoes, Bell said.

"They don't make a lot of money, so we do what we can for them," said Bell. "Many of them have been working here for up to five years now, starting when the British were here, and none of the units before us have done anything like this for them."

"They'd just get worked hard and sent home at the end of the day," he added. "These guys are doing all the hard work none of us want to do; filling sand bags, picking up the trash – basically hard labor for the equivalent of minimum wages. This is just the right thing to do." ♥

AAFES facilities pick up stakes

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

BASRAH, Iraq – Soldiers of the 36th Infantry Division, Texas Army National Guard, coordinated and supervised the move of Army and Air Force Exchange Service facilities on Contingency Operating Base Basra, June 28.

The move was part of a plan to consolidate services to facilitate the base handover and included transporting entire buildings by flatbed truck.

The facilities, including the barbershop, salon and fast food vendors, moved to the Oasis Bazaar. The garrison command, or mayor cell, orchestrated the move with help from local Iraqi contractors.

Staff Sgt. James Bradley, 36th Inf. Div. Garrison Command, oversaw the move of the structures to the bazaar. The buildings, said Bradley, are put into a safe location to best serve troops.

“As soon as they get electricity, plumbing and get inspected, they will reopen,” said Bradley.

Master Sgt. Joe Mancias, 36th Inf. Div. Garrison Command

non-commissioned officer-in-charge, is responsible for closing base facilities to support the hand-off to the Iraqi government.

Mancias said that the mayor cell has torn down or cleared away facilities occupying space reserved for the new U.S. State Department consulate.

The relocation of services started June 28 and continues with the planned move of the Post Exchange to a partitioned area of the Arrowhead dining facility in July.

“We needed to do it in pieces,” said Mancias. “The first piece was dealing with the AAFES services.”

The operation was smooth and Mancias indicated he sees no future delays in the project.

“I gave the determination that it would take two days,” said Mancias. “Everything worked out in one day.”

“We’re on track for everything the 36th Infantry Division is doing; I don’t see any issues at this point,” Mancias added.

Mancias said that Soldiers would feel little impact of what is going on and that future changes will hardly be noticed. ♥



Master Sgt. Joe Mancias, 36th Infantry Division Garrison Command non-commissioned officer-in-charge, directs local Iraqi contractors at Contingency Operating Base Basra, June 29. The contractors, referred to as “The Blue Man Crew”, loaded up debris left over from the move of Army and Air Force Exchange Service facilities.

Photo by Pvt. Andrew Slovensky



The T-PATCH Staff

Public Affairs Officer Lt. Col. Eric N. Atkisson ♦ **Command Information OIC** Capt. Donald M. Larsen ♦ **Editors** 1st Lt. Adam J. Musil, Sgt. 1st Class Merrion LaSonde ♦ **Print NCOIC** Staff Sgt. Deane Barnhardt ♦ **Layout & Design** Sgt. David A. Bryant ♦ **Writers and Photographers** Sgt. Kellena H. Leech, Sgt. Jeremy Spires, Spc. Brittany Gardner, Spc. Anthony Zane, Pvt. Andrew Slovensky

The T-PATCH is a weekly newsletter distributed in electronic and print formats. It is authorized for publication by the 36th Infantry Division Public Affairs Office. The contents of The T-PATCH are unofficial and are not to be considered official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, including the Department of Defense. The T-PATCH is a command information publication in accordance with Army Regulation 360-1. The Public Affairs Office address is: 36th Infantry Division Public Affairs Office, APO AE 09374. Contact Sgt. 1st Class Merrion LaSonde via e-mail at merrion.lasonde@iraq.centcom.mil.



Soldiers from Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 3rd Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Advise and Assist Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, explain how to use a 120mm mortar system to mortarmen from the 38th Brigade, 10th Iraqi Army Division July 4 at Contingency Operating Station Garry Owen.

Photo by 1st Lt. Richard Vogt

Mortar training **lights** up southern Iraq

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

AMARAH, Iraq – Mortarmen from the 38th Brigade, 10th Iraqi Army Division met with Soldiers from Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 3rd Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Advise and Assist Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division for joint training on a 120mm mortar system, to include a four-round live-fire mission on July 4 at Contingency Operating Station Garry Owen.

“I’m stoked,” said 1st Lt. Lon McBride of Copper Center, Alaska, platoon leader for the mortars section. “The guys have been working hard, training to get qualified on the guns, and FDC (fire direction center) has been working for two weeks to ensure success. They’re happy for the opportunity to do their (military occupation specialty). They are more than excited – they’re ready to roll.”

As the link-up time drew near, the U.S. Soldiers quickly assembled a 120mm mortar tube on the ground and the instructor got right into the lesson, showing the Iraqi mortarmen how to fire rounds safely. The end state of the training was to get the Iraqis the experience they need to effectively use equipment that they have in their inventory.

Though they’ve received training on mortars previously, getting involved in a live-fire exercise is a rare treat. The Iraqis were visibly excited. One officer apologized for asking so many questions, but the U.S. Soldiers just shrugged – they were enjoying themselves while sharing their passion for their craft.

McBride held a plotting board and explained its use to a fascinated audience, while another group dangled a round from an extractor. They were having fun and the show hadn’t even started.

Three Iraqi officers from the 38th Brigade showed up for the training: Maj. Hussain, Capt. Asfour, and 2nd Lt. Achmed observed as Iraqi Soldiers listened to U.S. Soldiers talk about the uses for proximity and delay fuses.

After about an hour, the group moved to a vehicle-mounted system. The Iraqis took turns hanging rounds for the live fire, sending four 120mm illumination rounds into the night sky. As the last round floated to the earth and its glare dimmed, the mortar men retained their glow with the excitement from the mission.

Brig. Gen. Abdul Amir, commander of the 10th IA Division, was so pleased with the operation that he said he would take over mortar capability in the future, and requested a training plan that builds Iraqi Army mortar skills to the point where the Iraqis conduct all fire missions and U.S. Forces only provide overwatch. ♥

Two-Steppin' Toward Home



Country group Stealing Angels, performs for U.S. Division-South Soldiers July 14 at the old Post Exchange on Contingency Operating Base Basra during the last morale, welfare and recreation event.

Photo by Spc. Brittany H. Gardner

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

BASRAH, Iraq – In another sign that 36th Infantry Division Soldiers will return home soon, the morale, welfare and recreation team conducted the last MWR concert here July 14. The concert featured the country group Stealing Angels and rock group Toy.

First Lieutenant Joshua Mixon, U.S. Div.-South programs manager officer-in-charge, plans and coordinates the MWR events and concerts for COB Basra. He and his team have planned and executed more than 50 events since he arrived here with the 36th Inf. Div. in December 2010. Mixon said executing the last MWR tour is another sign the Soldiers here are preparing to return home.

“It’s the last tour,” said Mixon, “which sounds like a bad thing, but it’s certainly not because it means that (our mission) in Iraq is ending. It’s coming to a close.”

Members of Stealing Angels and Toy said they felt honored to have the opportunity to perform for the troops in Iraq and Kuwait.

“It’s cool,” said Tayla Lynn, singer for Stealing Angels. “I mean, everybody’s going home so it’s sort of neat to be one of the sending-off concerts. So we just feel blessed to be here and be a part of it.”

Soldiers were excited to see the bands perform, Lynn said. Before the concert began, Soldiers and civilians kept their cameras handy to get photos with the group members and capture each moment of the last concert held here.

“The Soldiers are so welcoming and their energy’s so fired up,” said Lynn. “We played a show last night and tonight where everybody’s just clapping and jumping up and down, and we feel like people are really grateful that we’re here. So, it’s been so much fun, and we feel so welcomed.”

Mixon said it’s sad to know he won’t plan anymore MWR tours on this deployment, but it lets him know he and the other Soldiers are one step closer to home.

“Soldiers are wrapping up in more ways than one,” said Mixon, “and this is just another way for Soldiers to have some closure on their tour here.” ♥

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

LTC MARVIN HARRIS

Fire Support Coordinator



Name: Harris, Marvin
Primary Military Specialty: Field Artillery
Secondary Military Specialty: None
Hometown: Jacksonville, AR

Grade: O-5

Harris is a 25-year veteran in the Army National Guard who loves basketball and enjoys working out every chance he gets. The proud father is eagerly awaiting the next college basketball season so he can watch his son play ball for West Point Military Academy.

Probably the most memorable time of Harris' career was taking command of 4th Bn., 133 Field Artillery Regiment. "Being a commander as an officer is what we strive for," Harris said. "It was a great experience and I had great people working for me."

SSG JASON WYMER

Division Personnel NCOIC



Name: Wymer, Jason
Primary Military Specialty: Administrative Clerk
Secondary Military Specialty: Information Systems Analyst
Hometown: Bastrop, TX

Grade: E-6

Wymer is a Warhammer and computer gaming enthusiast on the first deployment of his 12-year Army National Guard career. When not basking in the Iraqi sun, Wymer works as an administration specialist on AGR at Camp Mabry.

"My first drill weekend was before I went to basic in 1999," Wymer recalls. "I was in civilians out at Camp Swift and my unit was conducting weapons qualification. They put a Kevlar on my head and put me in an IBA so I could start getting familiarized with the weapon."

SGT FRANKLIN LOACH

USD-S Linguist Manager



Name: Loach, Franklin
Primary Military Specialty: Infantry
Secondary Military Specialty: Administrative Clerk
Hometown: Canton, MS

Grade: E-5

Franklin has been in the Army National Guard for 16 years and Operation New Dawn is his third deployment; his first in Bosnia, followed by a stint with the 56th Infantry Brigade at Al Asad, Iraq. He wound up in Texas when his brother, stationed at Fort Hood, told him to move to where he was near family in case he needed them.

"We were doing convoy security at Al Asad and we got in a whole bunch of stockings for Christmas," Loach recalled. "We filled up about thirty stockings and gave them to the kids when we were going through the local villages."

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. Genevie Plaza

Paralegal Specialist

858.4098 (VOIP)

768.0213 (S-VOIP)

genevie.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."

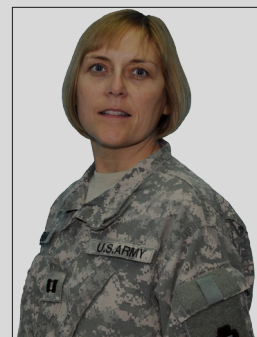
Capt.

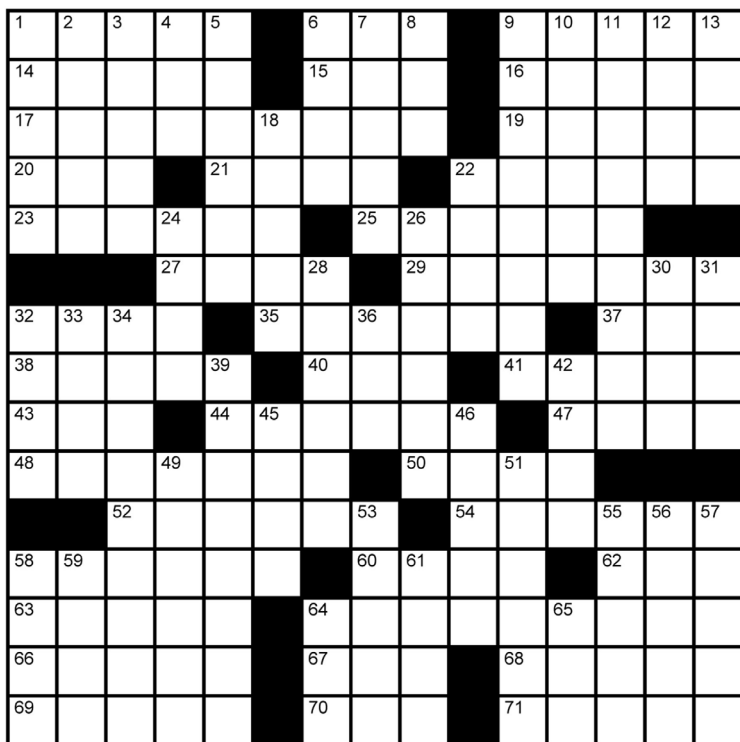
Lisa Ann Lerma

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>





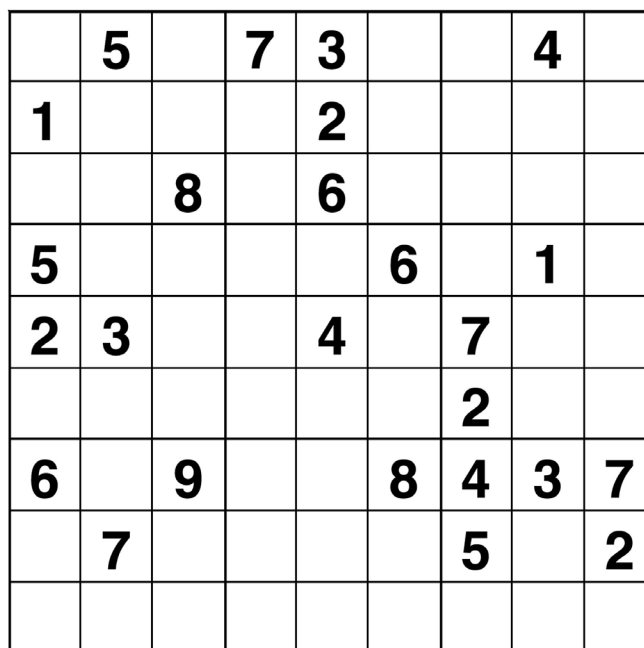
Across

1. Things leaving tracks
6. Ball girl
9. Rapid, in music
14. Noted 2001 bankruptcy
15. "Made in ____"
16. "Lost" network
17. With 22-, 23-, 29-, 32-, 44-, 54-, 58- and 64-Across, noted name from Hollywood
19. Author Zora ____ Hurston
20. Inventor's initials.
21. ____ Alto
22. See 17-Across
23. See 17-Across
25. Mete (out)
27. Sci. class
29. See 17-Across
32. See 17-Across
35. "Gil Blas" novelist
37. Many a fine artwork
38. "You ____ Beautiful" (Joe Cocker hit)
40. "Egad!"
41. One who laughs a lot
43. Give one star, say
44. See 17-Across
47. How the duped feel
48. Need a tissue
50. Tissue's target
52. Most free-and-easy
54. See 17-Across
58. See 17-Across
60. Betty of cartoon fame
62. Ambient music pioneer
63. Mother of Donald Trump Jr.
64. See 17-Across
66. Water bottle capacity
67. Photo order: Abbr.
68. Opponent of U. S. Grant
69. Medgar of the civil rights movement
70. End of a series
71. Persuades

Down

1. Things leaving marks
2. China's Zhou ____
3. Prospero's servant
4. "Frasier" role
5. Attach with a click
6. Matter of honor
7. Bar at the bar
8. Dickensian cry
9. Symbols of slavery
10. Minded
11. Common ingredient in Chinese dishes
12. Town nearly destroyed in 1944
13. Finito
18. Humdrum
22. Math class before calc
24. Tiny bits
26. Shake, say
28. Ribs
30. Late hours, commercially
31. Ziploc competitor
32. Late-hours tune
33. Mediterranean port of a million
34. Run down
36. Part of H.S.: Abbr.
39. 2005, 2007, etc., electionwise
42. Violinist Leopold
45. Robert of "The Sopranos"
46. Assembly line fixture
49. Strike-throwing pitcher
51. Apartment overseers
53. Hearty steak
55. Kind of coil
56. Pitch-perfect
57. "The Highwayman" poet
58. Sneaky trick
59. Tel ____
61. Heraldic border
64. Aladdin's topper
65. Word in four U.S. state names

Sudoku



JUMBLE® RIDDLES

JUMBLE BrainBusters

Unscramble the mixed up letters to reveal the punch lines as suggested by the jokes.

- #1 What is drawn by everyone without pen or pencil?

TRBEHA

- #2 What goes up and down but doesn't move?

TRASAISECA

- #3 What has four legs and a back but no body?

ACIAHR

- #4 What is the best day to go to the beach?

ANSUYD

- #5 What insect runs away from everything?

AFAEL

- #6 What kind of cup doesn't hold water?

AKCAUEPC

Want your family and friends to see just how awesome you look in full gear?

They can find you on the internet!



www.facebook.com/pages/36th-Infantry-Division



www.youtube.com/user/36IDArrowheadNetwork



pao36id.smugmug.com



Photo of the Week



Photo by Spc. Brittany H. Gardner

Sgt. 1st Class Equilla Coleman, 36th Infantry Division chaplain operations non-commissioned officer, presents a certificate of appreciation to entertainer Shaka Kahn during a Uniformed Service Organization performance at the old post exchange on Contingency Operating Base Basra July 12.

Answers to last week's Puzzles

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

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

Jumbles!

Madman
Ironie
Attach
Hearth
Pagoda
Demise
***A High Standard**