

Paying tribute to a fallen comrade

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

BASRAH, Iraq – The Soldiers of 805th Military Police Company, 1st Battalion, 12th Cavalry Regiment joined together with fellow Soldiers from 3rd Advise and Assist Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division and U.S. Div.-South July 21 at Contingency Operating Base Basra chapel to honor the life of one of their own.

Spc. Daniel Lucas Elliott, a military policeman with 1st Platoon who was attached to Charlie Company, 1st Bn., 12th Cav., was killed when an improvised explosive device detonated against the vehicle he was in while on a routine patrol July 15. He is survived by his wife, Trisha Elliott, and his parents Ed and Martha Elliott, of Youngsville, N.C.

Elliott was born in Youngsville July 18, 1989 and joined the Army in January 2007. He deployed to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom in January 2009, where he served as a gunner at both COB Liberty in Baghdad, Iraq and COB Basra. He volunteered to return to COB Basra in support of Operation New Dawn, where he served as a combat MP.

“Elliott was a superb Soldier; he would take the time to help anyone, and you could see it on his face how much he enjoyed teaching someone something new,” said Elliott’s platoon commander, 1st Lt. Robert Wade of Charlotte, N.C. “He loved his family, his country, and he was proud to serve his country. He loved what he did, and we will always respect and honor that.”

Elliott’s awards include the Bronze Star Medal, the Purple Heart, the Army Commendation Medal and the Combat Action Badge. 🇺🇸



Soldiers from 1st Battalion, 12th Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Advise and Assist Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, pay their last respects to Spc. Daniel Lucas Elliott during a memorial service at the Contingency Operating Base Basra chapel July 21.

Photo by Sgt. David A. Bryant



Soldiers from Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 12th Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Advise and Assist Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division instruct Iraqi Army engineers on use of the interrogation arm used for route clearance July 12.

Photo by Spc. Jared Forsythe

Training to keep roadways safe

By Capt. James Breneman
3rd AAB, 1st Cav. Div.

BASRAH, Iraq – As the U.S. Forces-Iraq mission transitions, the Soldiers of 1st Battalion, 12th Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Advise and Assist Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division continue to focus on conducting force-protection missions. Part of those missions is ensuring the Iraqi Security Forces are able to take over as the re-posturing of USF-I continues.

These missions, such as route clearance, are joint missions with the ISF and USF-I working together whenever possible. Due to a lack of training and proper equipment, this mission had only been conducted by U.S. Soldiers before. Now, thanks to the arrival of new equipment and the efforts of the 3rd AAB's stability transition teams, the 'Charger' battalion's route clearance patrols will be conducted as joint efforts between ISF and USF-I.

Combat engineers attached to Headquarters and Headquarters Company, recently conducted joint training

and the first partnered route clearance patrol between USF-I and the Iraqi Army in Basrah province. The training consisted of a segment from Contingency Operating Base Basrah's explosive ordinance disposal unit on collection of evidence and types of ordinance, and from the engineers on how to use the interrogation arm on the IA's route clearance vehicle.

Following the training, the U.S. and IA engineers set out on a partnered route clearance patrol. For the Iraqis, the mission marked a milestone in the IA's ability to protect its own force and people. But, for U.S. Soldiers, the mission was a chance to conduct training while also performing a mission vital to the protection of USF-I operating in the Basrah province.

Route clearance is a vital mission performed by engineers which ensures mobility of military and civilian vehicles on the roads of Basrah. As the U.S. mission in Iraq changes; enabling the ISF to conduct route clearance on their own maintain security vital to freedom of movement on Iraqi highways. ♡



The T-PATCH Staff

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Col. Gina Seiler, 36th Infantry Division surgeon, and Master Sgt. Lotta Smagula, division surgeon cell non-commissioned officer-in-charge, pose in front of the T-walls they tagged with a Texas theme on Contingency Operating Base Basra.

Photo by Pvt. Andrew Slovensky

Lone Star Tag

By Spc. Lisa Soule
362nd MPAD, USD-S Public Affairs

BASRAH, Iraq – Symbols of Texas pride adorn the protective cement T-walls at Contingency Operating Base Basra.

Two Texas National Guard Soldiers have been painting Lone Star reminders as a way to unwind from their work at the 36th Infantry Division Surgeon's section since they arrived here in December.

"It became a way to just take your mind off the fact that you're in Iraq. It's a little stress relief," said Master Sgt. Lotta Smagula, surgeon cell non-commissioned officer-in-charge, as she brushed green paint on the iconic "Keep Austin Weird" symbol. "It brings a little bit of Texas here to us."

Col. Gina Seiler, the division surgeon, said Smagula is the mastermind behind the artwork, which include renditions of the Alamo and downtown Austin's famous South Congress Avenue Bridge.

"I'm not artistic," Seiler said, claiming to use a paint-by-number technique. "I'm pretty good at getting resources and taking care of Soldiers."

On a hot July night, they put the finishing touch on an armadillo throwing back a bottle of Lone Star beer – an ice-cold reminder they're not in Texas. But after a hard day's work, they can still crack open a paint can.

"This is just fun. It's entertainment. It's stress reduction," Seiler said. "We come out and do this after work. At night you can catch us with headlights on, painting in the dark."

Smagula and Seiler have added other Texas touches in the alley formed between their trailer-like Containerized Housing Units, and the tall cement barriers. A string of plastic cowboy boots and a blow-up cactus accentuate the Texas artwork that brings a Lone Star flair to this Middle East desert.

The T-wall tagging began after they painted one wall white to serve as a movie screen. Later, they added a rendition of their Division Surgeon symbol as part of a local hospitality contest.

"It just kind of kept going from there," Smagula said. "Most of our paintings are from Texas, Austin in particular since that's where we're from."

Back home, Smagula said she likes painting, but has been limited to painting the walls in her house. "I'm thinking I might have to put some artwork in my backyard when I get back. I might have to carry it over."

As the Texas National Guard winds down its tour in southern Iraq, most signs of Texas – from flags and rugs to desk ornaments – will return with Soldiers to their home state. But the permanent markings on the T-walls will remain as a reminder to all that the 36th Infantry Division was here. ♥



An Iraqi policeman trains with his police dog on explosives detection at a canine training facility in Basrah, Iraq.

Photo by Spc. Jared Forsythe

Sniffin' out the bad guys

K9 Police team trained for drug, explosive interdiction

By Maj. William Mott
3rd AAB, 1st Cav. Div.

BASRAH, Iraq - The police working dog program for the Iraqi police here in Basrah is expanding with assistance from Stability Transition Team Enforcer, 1st Battalion, 12th Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Advise and Assist Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division.

The police have started to maximize the use of these highly trained and skilled canines. They currently have seven dogs trained for detecting explosives and drugs, and plan to add five more to the team.

"These dogs are extremely exceptional," said Maj. Kevin Kreie, a military police officer with the STT who works with the canine team trainers.

Kreie, witnessed their capabilities during a recent visit for an assessment of the canines and their handlers. He further explained that the dogs are able to respond not only to explosive materials that are present, but can alert the handler of an odor indicating a residue of a cache that was moved.

This canine team is another weapon against terrorism and explosive smuggling through the 55 checkpoints in Basrah.

Lt. Col. Gregory Stokes, the STT commander said, "Programs like these show the true progress of law enforcement in Iraq."

Maintaining a canine team is an enterprising task. The logistics are extensive, requiring strict diets, frequent medical attention and rigorous training. Despite the extensive amount of resources needed for this program, there are plans to expand the facility to accommodate more working dogs, as their capabilities are critical to the war on terrorism.

The current kennel and training area, co-located with a local police station, are temporary and can only house the seven dogs. The team will eventually move to a permanent facility capable of holding 14 canines.

"Once this move happens, the Iraqi police will double the missions they currently provide, and further increase Basrah's security," said Stokes. ♥

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

CPT JOSE IBARRA

BDOC Battle Captain



Name: Ibarra, Jose
Primary Military Specialty: Engineer
Secondary Military Specialty: None
Hometown: San Antonio, TX

Grade: O-3

Ibarra has spent half of his 10-year career in the Army Reserves and the other half in the Texas Army National Guard. The 29-year-old Border Patrol agent is stationed in Laredo, TX, but also operates his own transportation and disaster relief company out of Louisiana with two business partners from the LAARNG.

Every day brings a new opportunity to learn from, and work with, Soldiers, said Ibarra. "I learn so much from my senior NCOs and it's great having the opportunity to mentor junior Soldiers. Every day is something new and different."

SFC RICHARD CRAIG

HSC Motor Sergeant



Name: Craig, Richard
Primary Military Specialty: Senior Maintenance NCO
Secondary Military Specialty: None
Hometown: Orrville, AL

Grade: E-7

Craig served in the active-duty Army for 14 years before getting out at Fort Hood, TX and serving another 13 years in the Texas Army National Guard. He has a wife and two kids back in Killeen, TX waiting for him to return from his third deployment.

"I'd say my most memorable time in the military was getting the opportunity to provide security for the summer Olympics in Korea back in 1988," Craig said.

SPC JOSE ALBUERNE

Adirondack Assistant Manager



Name: Albuerne, Jose
Primary Military Specialty: Truck Driver
Secondary Military Specialty: Infantry
Hometown: New York, NY

Grade: E-4

Albuerne couldn't make up his mind what branch of the Army he wanted to be in, so he tried all three in his 7-year career - two in the Reserves, three on active duty and now 2 in the Texas Army National Guard. The avid jam-skater is on his third deployment to Iraq and enjoys tearing up the dance floor on his roller skates.

"Our FOB got hit by a 120mm rocket about two weeks before going home when I deployed on active duty," Albuerne said. "A senior Air Force lady had been hit by shrapnel, so a captain and I ran to her aid. We applied tourniquets to stop the bleeding and she was able to keep her extremities. She's now a police officer in New Jersey."

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william.culver@iraq.centcom.mil

Rosary Prayer

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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

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

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Roman Catholic

Saturday

COB Basra Chapel

2000 - Rosary/Vigil Service

Sunday

COB Basra Chapel

0800 - Catholic Service

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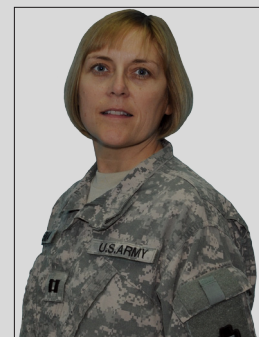
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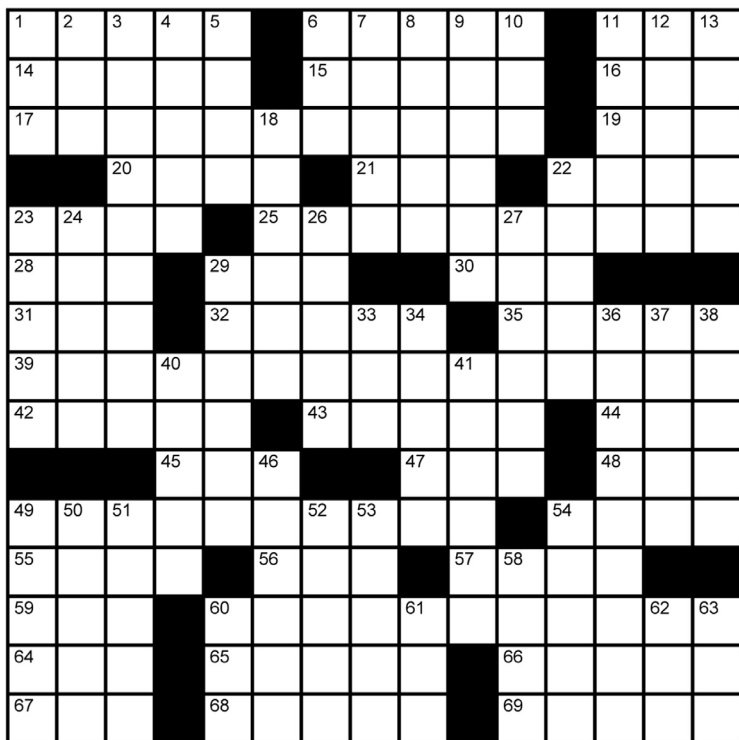
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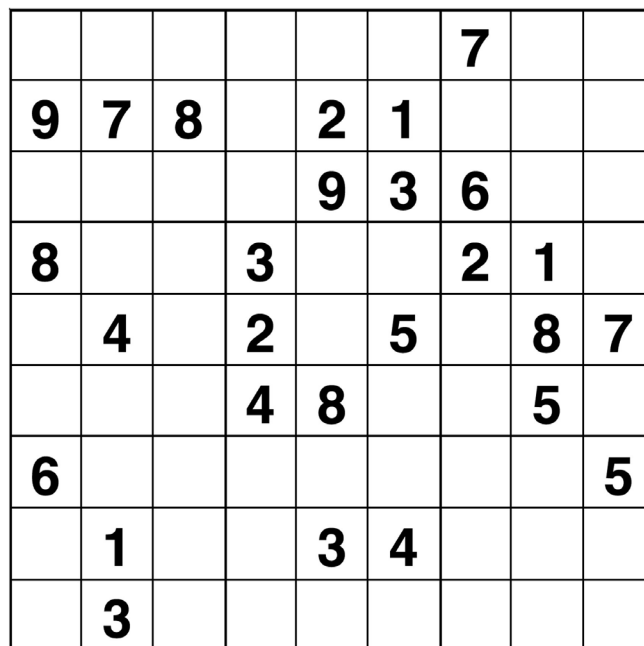
Across

1. Tunesmiths' grp.
6. Massenet work
11. Forbes listings: Abbr.
14. Pooh penner
15. Coin collecting, for some
16. View in northern Italy
17. Favorite
19. Teachers' org.
20. Smart-alecky
21. Narc's org.
22. Possible score just before winning
23. Great ____
25. Mechanical rooster
28. Masthead contents, briefly
29. Gangsta pioneer, for short
30. Lush
31. ____ Bega, with the 1999 hit "Mambo No. 5"
32. Elusive figures in the mountains
35. Part of a media planner's buy
39. Acquaintance
42. Prefix with fluoride
43. Nabisco wafer
44. Country rte.
45. Bon ____
47. Black gold
48. Study of the Scriptures: Abbr.
49. Prime corporate concern
54. Well-ventilated
55. Retro do
56. It may be made on a count of three
57. Hula Hoops, once
59. Hog haven
60. Reasons to begin a race over ... and a hint to 17-, 25-, 39- and 49- Across
64. Part of a school yr.
65. Take in, perhaps
66. 6-Across, e.g.
67. "____ moment"
68. Butter up?
69. Navajo reservation sights

Down

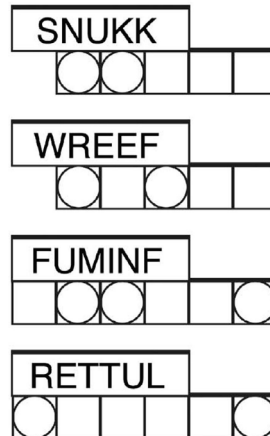
1. Bowling lane equipment inits.
2. Person touched on the shoulder?
3. Ensemble with clashing tie
4. Warbucks's ward
5. Strokes
6. Thanksgiving time: Abbr.
7. Passport or Accord
8. Daisy Mae's guy
9. Girders
10. Part of the Holy Land: Abbr.
11. Positive
12. Kind of acid
13. Punish corporally
18. Brought up
22. Central Asia's ____ Mountains
23. Dutch pottery city
24. Love to pieces
26. Give the game away
27. O.K. place
29. Go-getter
33. "____ were you ..."
34. Stylist's shop
36. Many moons?
37. Surmise
38. Strange to say
40. Odist's inspiration
41. Birds and planes
46. African antelope
49. Low singer
50. As a rule
51. "Go ahead, ask"
52. Springy songs
53. Hawaii, on a map, sometimes
54. Visibly shocked
58. Something smashable
60. Terrif
61. Before, to bards
62. Singer's syllable
63. Carrier to Oslo

Sudoku

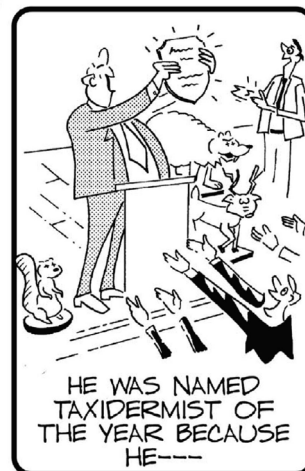


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By Mike Argirion and Jeff Knurek



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

_____ HIS " _____ "

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Photo by Sgt. David A. Bryant

Murals depicting the history and daily life of the Iraqi people adorn the protective T-walls lining the side of the Basrah Airport road leading to Contingency Operating Base Basra, headquarters of U.S. Division-South. The paintings were done by local Iraqi art students using funds from the Commanders Emergency Response Program to provide a distinctive Iraqi flavor to the areas directly outside the base.

Answers to last week's Puzzles

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

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

Jumbles!

Breath
A Staircase
A Chair
Sunday
A Flea
A Cupcake