

# ANACONDA TIMES

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Proudly serving Logistics Support Area Anaconda

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## Sacrificing a little to defend freedom

By Pfc. Leah R. Burton  
Staff writer

Soldiers often sit in social circles and vent their frustrations and negative attitudes, and sometimes violations to Army regulations and the Uniform Code of Military Justice filter out of people's mouths. Though the Army does not actively seek to prosecute soldiers for engaging in free speech, some comments may violate the UCMJ.

"Because we're Americans, we believe in a right to express ourselves and know that, as opposed to tyrannical societies, we have the First Amendment right to engage in political expression," said Capt. Gregory S. Weiss, 13th Corps Support Command's Chief of Military Justice.

Once Soldiers take the oath of enlistment and once officers are commissioned, they agree to bear true faith and allegiance to the Constitution of the United States. However, by becoming Soldiers, military members forfeit a certain degree of the freedoms Soldiers swear to defend.

"Though the UCMJ limits certain aspects of Soldiers' First Amendment rights, it's still important to ensure that Soldiers are guaranteed the very constitutional rights that they have taken an oath to defend," Weiss said.

Soldiers don't have the liberty of loose lips for a couple of reasons. Operational security is a major concern, especially on a deployment, and morale is affected when negative comments are made about the unit, the chain of command, the mission, the president or the Army.

One might assume that there is no harm in making such statements, oral or written, but the far reaching consequences are that the individual making the statements could very well be



Photo by 1st Sgt. Anthony Torres  
Spc. Leidy Vera re-enlists, fully accepting the limitations in her personal freedom of speech to perform her duties as a U.S. Soldier. 1st Lt. Biji John administers the oath of enlistment. Both Soldiers are with the 29th Signal Battalion.

providing unfavorable information to the enemy to use as intelligence or propaganda.

The UCMJ contains several punitive articles that curtail Soldiers' freedom of speech. These include Article 89, disrespect toward a superior commissioned officer; the maximum punishment is a bad conduct discharge, confinement for one year and forfeiture of all pay and allowances.

Article 88, contempt toward officials; the maximum punishment is a

bad conduct discharge, confinement for six months and forfeiture of all pay and allowances and only applies to commissioned officers.

Article 92, failure to obey an order or regulation; the maximum punishment is a dishonorable discharge, two years confinement and forfeiture of all pay and allowances.

Article 134, a general article that prohibits disloyal statements and "all disorders and neglects to the prejudice of good order and discipline in the

armed forces, all conduct of a nature to bring discredit upon the armed forces ..." the maximum punishment is dismissal, forfeiture of all pay and allowances and one year confinement.

In addition, Army Regulation 360-1 states, "Official speeches and writings must not contradict U.S. Government policy or law."

It's been said that everyone is entitled to his or her opinion; Soldiers are not always entitled to utter those opinions.

## Safety takes work, well worth efforts to do right

By Master Sgt. Lee D. Collier  
Facility Engineer Team-15

"Soldiers get them sandbags filled," has been echoed throughout the military since its beginning.

Sandbags have been saving Soldiers lives by absorbing blast fragmentations but if not placed prop-

erly sandbags do not achieve the full effectiveness that they were meant for.

Here at LSA Anaconda most living and working areas are in trailers that offer little protection from fragmentation, but with the proper sandbagging methods in place they will provide a safer working and living environment.

It takes about 2000 sand bags to cover a trailer

name-tape high, which means the sandbags should be up to the bottom of the window and cover the entire exposed area of the trailer with an opening for exit or entry.

Several ways to get your areas sandbagged are:

- Request empty sandbags through the Class 4 yard and fill out a DA form 2702

see SAFETY, page 4

## Change in prices

By Pfc. Abel Trevino  
Staff writer

The steamy delicacy of pepperoni, sausage or just plain cheese pizza has been a delight to those stationed at LSA Anaconda, but it just got lighter, for the Soldier's wallet that is.

"It's the same pizza. It's the same product, just cheaper," said Hector Ortiz, manager of the movie theater.

The price of pizzas was \$9 for pepperoni or sausage and \$8 for a cheese pizza, with Monday specials selling any pizza for \$6.

"The new price is \$7 for pepperoni and sausage pizzas and \$6 for a cheese pizza," Ortiz said. "On Monday, the new pizza special will be \$5 for any pizza."

Monday is the slowest day of the week, Ortiz explained, and the special is geared toward drawing more people to the movie theater.

The change in prices came about during early August, when the Army and Air Force Exchange Service officials toured the installation and found a way to create a better deal for Soldiers.

"During a recent visit, the AAFES European commander was looking through the facilities and met with (Brig.) Gen. Chambers. She wanted to bring a better value to the troops, so she met with [him] to discuss the price of the pizza," Ortiz said. "When she got back to her headquarters, she met with the [food resource managers] and they ran the numbers."

This move to create a less expensive, much desired, product for Soldiers comes at no expense to the customer.

Although no other movie munchies are scheduled for a price reduction, the theater does offer combination deals that can save between 20 and 25 percent on the cost of snacks, Ortiz said.

The quality of the products did not lower with the price.

"It's the same ingredients as Anthony's Pizza," Ortiz said. "The only difference is that in order to get it here, they have to freeze it."

With a lower price for the same product, the hot pizza is a deal Soldiers can bite into.



Photo by Staff Sgt. David E. Gillespie

**Moviegoers sit in the Sustainer Theater; movies seen here take two weeks to arrive as new releases and then are shipped to other camps in theater before coming back four to five weeks later.**

# Latest movies show free

By Pfc. Abel Trevino  
Staff writer

Before Soldiers can view first-run shows at the Sustainer Theater the process of getting movies here takes weeks of time and effort, initially beginning at the Army Air Force Exchange Service headquarters in Dallas.

"The films go through our distributorship in Dallas, Texas," said Hector Ortiz, manager of Sustainer Theater. "Then they are shipped here [overnight]."

Their commitment to getting movies here quickly comes at a price.

"The shipping is expensive. If we shipped [the movies] from Europe, it'd take about six weeks to get here after the stateside premier," Ortiz explained. "It's more expensive this way, through the states, but it gets here faster from the states."

Since movies are free to attendees at LSA Anaconda, payment for the films comes through an Army-AAFES process that revolves around the sign-in sheet

for the headcount of viewers.

"The distributors have agreed to take payment for only a small percentage of the attending audience," Ortiz said. "AAFES pays the [distributors] and the Army reimburses AAFES. That's why everybody signs in and [the sign-in sheet] goes to AAFES accounting offices. They create a bill and the Army pays per head."

The actual showing of a movie generates no profit and other costs, including the 21 person staff, are paid for by money earned through the concessions stand.

"The concessions pay for operating costs, personnel and shipping [of snacks and movies]," Ortiz said.

Despite the costs to AAFES for this turnaround, movies are free to all personnel on the post.

"Cost has never been an issue to us. The issue is to get the films here as soon as possible," Ortiz said.

Troop morale is behind the intent for films getting here quickly.

"This is all for the troops, for morale," Ortiz said. "They are

coming here and they forget for two or three hours that they are in Iraq."

Ortiz's goal has been to create an environment that facilitates that kind of relaxation.

"It's a piece of home, for the most part. We have everything they offer in the states: hot dogs, candy, cokes and nachos. As a plus, we have pizza," Ortiz said.

AAFES headquarters controls the movies that are shown here.

"Headquarters has a movie picture department, they have contacts with the different distributors and they work out which movies come here," Ortiz said. "For the most part, any movie released in the states we have access to."

Movies are sent to the Sustainer Theater in two forms.

"I get two releases, a first run release and a regular movie release and they tell me what day the movies will [arrive]," Ortiz said. "All first run films will come back four to five weeks later as regular releases."

Ortiz and his staff at the theater work to ensure moviegoers feel at home in Sustainer Theater.

## Correction

An error in fact was made on page 1 of the Aug. 22 edition. It should read Brigade Units of Action.

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# Helping military members vote

By Kathleen T. Rhem  
*American Forces Press Service*

WASHINGTON — Defense officials are committed to ensuring military members have the ability to vote from anywhere in the world, DoD's top personnel officer said Aug. 19.

"We're making a decided effort to make sure everyone gets the chance to vote," said David S. C. Chu, undersecretary for personnel and readiness, in an interview with American Forces Press Service and the Pentagon Channel.

Voting assistance officers are available on military installations and in units to assist servicemembers in finding information for their home states and districts. These officers can help them register to vote and request absentee ballots.

The U.S. Postal Service has committed to sending voting materials to and from military members overseas via express mail, Chu said. "This year the post office is going ... to expedite the movement of absentee ballots ... to help us be sure they get out there in time and to get back and get counted," he said.

DoD has designated two specific weeks to raise awareness of issues facing military voters specifically and, more generally, everyone who must vote by absentee ballot. The week-plus timeframe Sept. 3-11,

which includes Labor Day, has been designated Armed Forces Voters Week. Columbus Day week, Oct. 11-15, will be Absentee Voting Week.

A Defense Department spokesman explained voting assistance officers will redouble their efforts to get information to potential voters during these weeks. Commanders and supervisors will also highlight the importance of voting and options available to troops.

"We want to bring to light the availability of services provided to assist military members and their family members," the spokesman said.

Chu said a good source of information is the Web site of the Federal Voting Assistance Program. The site includes links to absentee voting rules for all states and jurisdictions.

From this site, potential voters can fill out and submit an on-line version of the Federal Post Card Application, which allows individuals to register to vote or request an absentee ballot from nearly all U.S. jurisdictions.

Finally, Chu said, people should be aware they can use a Federal Write-in Absentee Ballot to vote in congressional and presidential elections if they don't receive their absentee ballots in time. Information on using this form is also available on the FVAP Web site.

"You can (use this form) if you're a registered voter," Chu said. "And that is one of your last-ditch options."

The *Anaconda Times* has a dedicated Web site containing the current and past issues at

[www.mnf-iraq.com/coalition-news/publications/anaconda.htm](http://www.mnf-iraq.com/coalition-news/publications/anaconda.htm)



## Volunteers Needed

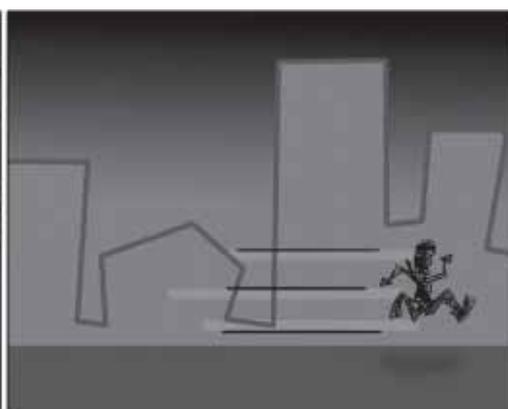
Pack school supplies into individual student bundles for almost 4,000 children in 12 schools.

Contact Staff Sgt. Margie Chadwick, G-5, at DNVT 529-8481 or walk into building 4135 on New Jersey Avenue next to the chapel Monday through Saturday between 8 and 11 a.m.

Give us any amount of time that you can spare, thanks.



by Aaron Thacker  
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## Left Shoulder Diary U.S. Army Alaska

Compiled from  
Unit History

The United States Army Alaska shoulder sleeve insignia is characterized by a blue disc, two and one-half inches in diameter. Centered on the disc is a great bear's face in white with black markings, black nose and red lips and tongue below a five pointed star, five-eighths of an inch in golden yellow.

The insignia represents the constellation Ursa Major (the Great Bear), which, according to ancient myth, is the guardian of the North Star (Polaris), depicted by the golden yellow star.

The insignia was originally authorized for the Alaskan Defense Command March 24, 1943. It was re-designated for the Alaskan Department Dec. 31, 1943. The insignia was re-designated for Headquarters, U.S. Army Alaska March 1, 1949. The insignia was amended to delete the word "Headquarters."

Upon inactivation of the 6th Infantry Division (Light) July 6, 1994, USARAK became the principal Army unit in the State of Alaska. USARAK is a subordinate element of the U.S. Army Pacific, headquartered at Fort Shafter, Hawaii.

USARAK is a result of a Department of the Army decision in March 1993 to downsize the 6th ID to a brigade task force, which included adopted the 172nd Infantry Brigade, formerly a 6th ID unit. The 172nd Inf. Bde. was reactivated in July 1998 and remains the main combat troop unit in USARAK.

USARAK emphasizes training under conditions as close to actual combat as possible and training as a team with emphasis on the basics at all levels. More importantly leaders are trained to prepare, conduct and evaluate multi-echelon training using the most efficient and effective methods. USARAK trains to the same standards as all other Army units, but the extreme conditions help produce tough Soldiers and exceptional leaders.

USARAK combat units routinely conduct rotations to both the Joint Readiness Training Center and the National Training Center. Unique training opportunities in the Pacific theater include deployments to Japan, Korea, Thailand and other locations.

The mission of USARAK is to train and equip forces to deploy rapidly in support of combat and other operations worldwide. It serves as the land force component command for joint operations and provides installation support for Alaska.

USARAK is a significant national asset and world-class power projection platform for military operations anywhere in the world.

USARAK Soldiers are currently providing support to operations in LSA Anaconda.

## Civilian of the Week

**E**ric E. Elbert from Denver, Colo. is a network engineer with Billy Azbell Electronics.

Elbert has been with Billy Azbell Electronics for almost a year. Prior to this deployment he worked at Fort Hood, Texas.

Elbert arrived on LSA Anaconda at the beginning of January. His mission here is to help keep people hooked up to the network.

"The most difficult part [of my job] is trying to keep up with all the changes that are being pushed down from upgrading the network to making sure all the security holes are patched and making sure all the customers stay connected and don't see any drop in service," Elbert said.

Although his job can be difficult at times, Elbert and the other members here from Billy Azbell Electronics work to get the electronics up and running so people can get the mission done.

"The most enjoyable part is knowing that we provide good service to the customer. They are pleased and they know we will do everything we can to help them to get the job done," Elbert said.

Being prior military, Elbert has done his duty numerous times. He welcomed the opportunity to take his civilian job to the next level of patriotism.

"I got a chance to go forth and do a live mission instead of just a training exercise," he said.

Elbert has family members who have been in the military so they know all about deployments overseas.

"They (my family members) are a bit concerned about it. A lot of my family is prior military and most of them have been overseas in a war zone. They are worried but they are glad I am doing what I am doing. They still support me in it," Elbert said.

A message Elbert would like to pass back to family and friends back home is that he really appreciates their support because it does make a difference to all that are deployed over here.



**Eric E. Elbert**



Photo by Master Sgt. Lee D. Collier

**Tents and trailers are sandbagged to protect against mortar shells.**

SAFETY, from page 1

- Contract a company that will deliver pre-filled sand bags sewn on each end
- Have sand or fill material delivered to unit areas and fill on site

The recommended type is the Olive Drab Treated Military Spec. Class A, that means they are treated for mildew and rot resistance. Also they will withstand the sun longer.

All trailers are required to be protected from a blast exposure on camp. This does not excuse the Soldiers from seeking their assigned bunker when the Red Alert sounds.

The sand bags should not be touching the trailer. Two feet away from the siding is the allotted distance.

Some Soldiers have the sand bags leaning on the the trailer sides which will make the sides structurally unsound (collapse in).

Call DNV 558-4811 for more information.

# Sometimes a man must wear a smile

By Pfc. Abel Trevino  
Staff writer

Patrick Okojie is the new manager at the LSA Anaconda movie theater, but he is no stranger to Iraq, in the last 11 months Okojie has managed several Army Air Force Exchange Services facilities incountry, and has come to this post with a purpose.

"They are working on bringing [restaurants] here," Okojie said, "so they need me here to help." But that's a different story.

Hector Ortiz, the current manager at Sustainer Theater, is leaving LSA Anaconda and returning to his home in Oklahoma.

"[I've been] the envy of every AAFES manager in Iraq," Ortiz said. "I've got the best job. I'm the manager of a movie theater."

After a six-month tour it's time to return to family and that comfortable life stateside.

"I'm going back to Tinker Air Force Base (Okla.), that's my home station," Ortiz explained. "I tell you, it's going to be hard to leave here. I've met a lot of good people."

And here is where Okojie comes into the picture. Since arriving in Iraq in September 2003, Okojie was the post exchange manager in Taji for 10 months and a food service manager at Victory North for three weeks. He too has a home station.

"I [was] a Burger King and Popeye's manager at Fort Stewart, Ga.," said Okojie.

Okojie has spent an abundance of time away from his family and volunteered to extend an additional six months in Iraq.

"I extended because I like to work with the Soldiers," he said with a proud smile. "The [United States] has given a lot to me and my family and the only way I can pay them back is being deployed [alongside the troops]."

Okojie presented himself as a man with a

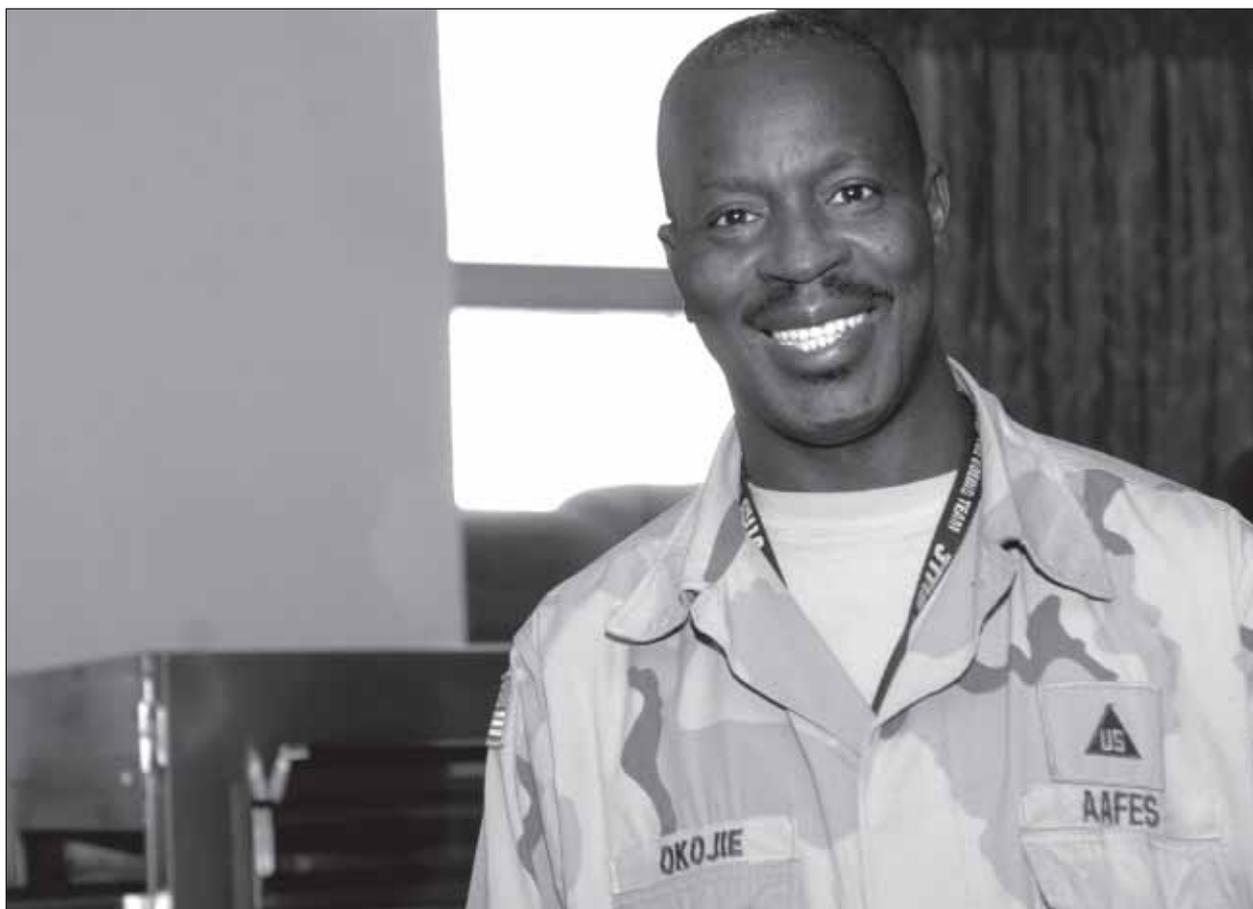


Photo by Pfc. Abel Trevino

**Patrick Okojie, manager of the Sustainer Theater on LSA Anaconda, is originally from Nigeria.**

mission, only his mission is different from the average deployed Soldier.

He has the kind of smile people don't often see in a combat zone, the kind of smile that belongs to a man who knows he's doing a great job and he's only going to get better.

He has a gregarious personality that shines through as he greets patrons of the Sustainer Theater on LSA Anaconda.

The people seem to be the key to his appetite. He goes where the Soldiers go, he goes where the action is. Okojie is no stranger to being deployed with Soldiers.

"I was deployed for one year in Kosovo, so this is my second deployment," he said.

Like most deployed personnel, Okojie misses

his family, but he knows they support his decision to face the opposition and endorse the troops abroad the best way he can.

"They understand I am doing this to take care of the Soldiers who have given a lot to our family," he said.

Originally from Nigeria, Okojie came to the United States in 1981 to study at Bishop College in Dallas, Texas, with a double major in business administration and political science. He holds dual citizenship in both countries.

Okojie said he views Soldiers with a high respect. He often thinks of the sacrifices they make and this is his way of giving back, by dedicating his time to ensuring when service members are away from home, they enjoy the comforts of home.



Photo by Staff Sgt. David E. Gillespie

**Pizza is a hot item at the concessions stand.**

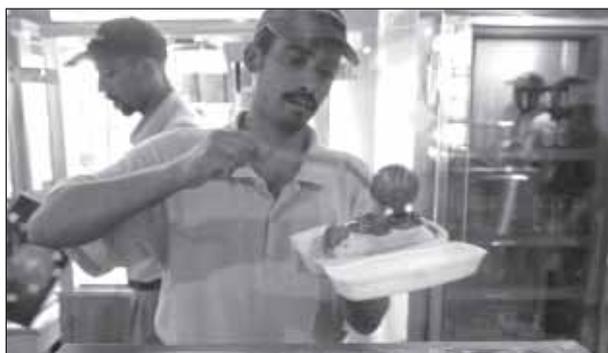


Photo by Staff Sgt. David E. Gillespie

**The chili dogs are fresh and made to order.**



Photo by Staff Sgt. David E. Gillespie

**Hot buttered popcorn goes well with a movie.**



Photo by Staff Sgt. David E. Gillespie

**The Sustainer Theater on LSA Anaconda offers Soldiers a place to relax and enjoy a few comforts of home.**

## Army enlists first Sailor through 'Operation Blue to Green' enlistment program

The U.S. Army's first "Operation Blue to Green" recruit took the oath of enlistment Aug. 12 at the New Orleans Recruiting Battalion headquarters.

Navy Intelligence Specialist 3 George D.L. Banks was sworn in by Lt. Col. Samuel Clear, New Orleans Recruiting Battalion commander, in front of Banks' wife, Veronica, and sons, George D.L. Jr. and George L.

Under Operation Blue to Green, officially approved in July, the Army is now offering the opportunity for service members from the Navy and Air Force to transfer into the Army and retain their rank.

The Navy is planning a force reduction of 8,000 in FY-05, and Air Force, more than 20,000, in the near future to better shape each services' manning structure for current and future operations, according to officials.

Airmen and sailors electing to transfer to the active Army may be afforded the opportunity to leave their current service early in order to meet Army training requirements.

Banks, a Naval intelligence specialist at Belle Chasse Naval Air Station, will maintain the equivalent of his Navy rank, entering the Army as a specialist with the military occupational specialty of imagery analyst.

Currently on terminal leave from the Navy, Banks will depart for the



Photo by Joe Burlas

**New Orleans Recruiting Battalion Commander Lt. Col. Samuel Clear stands with the first "Operation Blue to Green" recruit George D.L. Banks and his wife Veronica, and their two sons.**

Warrior Transition Course at Fort Knox, Ky., the day after his Navy enlistment expires Aug. 17.

WTC is a new four-week course in basic combat skills training.

Operation Blue to Green recruits will go through Air Force/Navy to Army Orientation (organization, rank, uniform wear, career progression), Army Values, Physical Training (to include confidence and obstacle courses and foot marches), drill and ceremony / manual of arms, basic map reading/land navigation course, combatives, rifle bayonet training, basic rifle marksmanship, a range of other weapons (M249, M203, AT4, M18 Claymore), hand grenades, indi-

vidual tactical training, urban operations and a 72-hour field training exercise.

Banks said he is excited to join the Army and was surprised at that the transition from Navy to the Army went so smoothly.

His Navy unit was very supportive and did everything to ensure Banks would have an easy transition, according to his recruiter, Sgt. Terry D. Casto. "The way everything happened has been a big help to me and my family," Banks said. "I get to keep my job that I basically had from the Navy and I'm receiving an enlistment bonus and additional college funding.

"But what I really think is great is that I won't miss a paycheck and my family will be able to remain in our base housing without having to move [while he attends the Warrior Transition Course]. All in all, it was a no brainer for me."

Clear called Banks' enlistment "history in the making," since he is the first Sailor to enlist through the Blue to Green program.

"This program provides great opportunities to airmen and sailors as both the Air Force and Navy are currently in engaged in force-shaping," Clear said.

The program was a win-win situation for everyone, according to Clear.

Once Banks completes the Warrior Training Course, he already has the credentials to go directly to his new unit without attending further Army job training, Clear said.

"It would take several years to train a Soldier to get to the level that Specialist Banks is currently at," he said. "This program provides an enormous cost savings in training dollars."

The Air Force currently has about 20,000 more airmen than its authorized endstrength.

The Navy, while not overstrength, is shaping a smaller workforce.

Both are primarily using voluntary separations and retirements from overmanned specialties to reduce their endstrengths.

It is important to note that those airmen and sailors who opt to enter the Blue to Green program must qualify for an honorable discharge, officials said.

"Recruiting quality people and retaining exceptional Soldiers is essential in having a well-balanced force," said Charles Tench, policy and systems integrator for Enlisted Accessions, G1. "This pool of talent Operation Blue to Green will provide will greatly enhance our efforts to sustain a campaign-capable joint and expeditionary Army."

*Army News Service*

## Marines pass out candy, kindness while doing their daily security patrols

Lance Cpl. Tom Haug didn't really think he'd be handing out candy and school supplies to Iraqi kids.

When the 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit learned in late April that it would be leaving Camp Lejeune, N.C., early and spending the duration of its deployment in Iraq, news reports of intense fighting and fallen Marines were still fresh.

Now, three weeks after the MEU arrived in Northern Babil province, Haug is wondering where all the insurgents have gone.

"I expected to be unloading magazines constantly," Haug said, a fire-team leader, sounding more puzzled than disappointed. "They told us [we would be] 'no better friend, no worse enemy,' but I didn't expect this."

To be sure, even in Northern Babil — a pocket of relative calm between the intemperate zones of Fallujah and Ramadi to the north and Najaf to the south — the Marines have sustained attacks and suffered casualties.

But by and large, the leathernecks of 2nd Platoon, Company B, 1st Battalion, 2nd Marines, have favored the gentler half of the approach that Marines promised would characterize their contributions to the stabilization of Iraq.

While they have been sniffing out troublemakers seeking to undermine the fledgling democracy, they have found the area they have patrolled daily surprisingly hospitable.

"The people here love us," said James Marron, a platoon corpsman, following a late-afternoon patrol Aug. 18 that flooded a nearby neighborhood with hundreds of exuberant kids and mostly friendly adults. "They don't fear us. The more they see us,

the more the bad [guys] go away."

Even so, Marron understands that the American presence poses risks to those Iraqis inclined to help.

Out on a patrol that day, the Marines navigated the streets, it was apparent that vigilance wasn't the only required virtue.

Before dismounting their Humvees, they had stuffed their pockets full of candy and had grabbed boxes of school supplies and bins of sunflower seeds.

The Marines hadn't advanced 30 yards before the roads were teeming with kids — hundreds of them — smiling, posing for cameras, and clamoring for the treats they quickly learned were at hand.

The Marines had been through this before, and each attempt to distribute equitably the sweet gestures of goodwill tested their patience.

The platoon's commander, 2nd Lt. Joseph Irwin said it's important to continue "working to build the relationship with the community and keep that fragile balance."

As the Marines inched forward through the scrums, Cpl. Hayden Kandel, his interpreter and the squad scribe stopped at several residences lining the road.

Kandel's purpose was to introduce himself, assess the neighborhood's attitude toward the Marines, and to gain any insight into insurgent activity in the area.

The Marines were received graciously, if not always warmly. Most of the residents answering the knock on their gate were mildly apprehensive, no more than an American might be were a group of armed strangers to show up unannounced.

After a few minutes, the initial awkward tension



Photo by Capt. David Nevers

**Lance Cpl. Duy Dang high-fives an Iraqi boy during a foot patrol Aug. 18 in the central Iraqi province of Northern Babil. Dang is a fire-team leader with 3rd Squad, 2nd Platoon, Company B, Battalion Landing Team 1st Battalion, 2nd Marines, 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit. Also pictured are Lance Cpl. Justin Juby (center), a rifleman in Dang's team and an interpreter (right).**

would ease, and by the end of the brief visit, the smiles and the farewell handshakes came easily.

When asked, most Iraqis said they were pleased with the American presence — and grateful that the Hussein regime had been toppled.

While they still struggle to find work to support their families, they acknowledge that a burden has been lifted.

Later, back on the thoroughfare, the Marines continued their patrol. Irwin and Staff Sgt. Dominick Stinson reminded them to maintain their dispersion, lest they present a fat target.

*Marine News Service*

## Military working dog gets evacuated to Germany after operation, hospitalization

Staff Sgt. Tim Cox and military working dog, Ronny, have been partners for more than two years, so when the canine cop fell ill on the job recently, Cox instantly recognized a problem.

"He just had a complete change of attitude. He got very lethargic and wasn't himself at all," he said.

Ronny's change in behavior was a red flag that he needed immediate medical attention, and he was taken to a veterinary facility in a city near a forward-deployed location.

The veterinarian discovered Ronny had a relatively common malady for large-breed dogs called pericardial effusion.

It is an unnatural collection of fluid around his heart that began interfering with the heart's functioning. He was immediately operated on.

"He was put into the equivalent of doggie ICU for three days," said Maj. David Blocker, 380th Expeditionary Medical Group's aerospace medicine chief.

Ronny's heartbeat was irregular for two days after the emergency procedure, which drained the excess fluid off his heart.

He was hooked up to a heart monitor, put on oxygen and closely observed until he was out of the danger zone.

Army Capt. (Dr.) Todd Bell, a veterinarian assigned to Navy Central Command headquarters, was summoned to assess Ronny's condition and assist in a medical evacuation if needed.

"This condition will often resurface six to eight weeks after the initial episode," Bell said.

The possibility of Ronny getting sick again cemented the decision to send him to Germany, where he could get a specialty evaluation and maybe a spe-

cial surgery to permanently fix the condition.

Blocker has arranged plenty of aeromedical evacuations for people, but said this was his first experience with moving a sick dog.

The aerovac system requires frequent stops and medical re-evaluation to guarantee that people will have the medical care they need available in flight and at every step along the way.

"People may often go home for medical reasons, but not all of them need medical care en route," he said.

Many can be sent home commercially or on a military rotator and will usually make it home anywhere from five to seven days sooner than if they are locked into the aerovac system.

Unlike people, medics have very few options with regard to moving sick dogs. Ronny needed the constant presence of health-care professionals and a trained eye to watch his condition, should it change; that made aerovac the ideal choice.

Military working dogs like Ronny are considered to be active-duty service members eligible for aerovac.

To get him safely to Germany for further triage, Ronny was escorted by Bell and Cox on a special aerovac flight Aug. 22. From there, they will decide whether to treat him in Germany, or to send him home to Texas to get treated.

Cox and Ronny are both deployed from Dyess Air Force Base, Texas, but the treatment facility for military working dogs is at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas.

They were assigned to the 380th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron at a forward deployed location, when Cox and Ronny worked at the vehicle



Photo by Staff Sgt. Lee Tucker

**Staff Sgt. Timothy Cox carries his military working dog, Ronny, to a C-130 Hercules on Aug. 22 for an aeromedical evacuation to Germany. Ronny was diagnosed with pericardial effusion, an unnatural collection of fluid around his heart that began interfering with the heart's functioning. Cox and Ronny are assigned to the 380th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron at a forward deployed location.**

search area checking incoming vehicles for explosives.

Military working dogs' training can run anywhere from \$20,000 to \$60,000 before they are ready to work. Training them to sniff out drugs or explosives, and teaching them to attack on command helps keep service members and assets safe from outside threats.

After Ronny's evaluation and possible surgery, he will have about 30 days to recover, and he will be back home and working at the job he has been trained to do.

*Air Force News Service*

## Defense Institute for Medical Operations strengthening medical ties worldwide

Defense Institute for Medical Operations officials recently sent out an eight-person team to head-up and teach an aeromedical evacuation and critical-care transport course in Ankara, Turkey.

The five-day course provided the advanced training necessary to care for critically ill or injured patients in a rigorous environment of flight.

"This course is designed to accommodate 24 students at a time," said Maj. (Dr.) Richard Conte, the team's co-chief.

"The Turkish military requested two back-to-back courses so that they could have 45 military members trained," Conte said.

"DIMO [officials] reconfigured this course to accommodate 45 students by adding two instructors and one extra day to the course," Conte said. "This initiative benefited both the Turkish military and DIMO by cutting the costs, instructors needed and (temporary duty) days in half."

The 45 Turkish medics taught, were physicians,



Courtesy photo

**Turkish medics practice newly acquired skills by loading an animal during a Defense Institute for Medical Operations aeromedical evacuation and critical-care transportation course given at the Gulhane Military Medical Academy here. Students included Turkish physicians, nurses and medical technicians.**

nurses and medical technicians at the Gulhane Military Medical Academy in Ankara, Turkey.

"Turkish medical personnel already have the capabilities to transport patients in peace time environments, but (because of) real-world terrorist threats, they needed training on how to evacuate pa-

tients in an austere environment," Conte said.

The first four days of curriculum included training, tabletop exercises and hands-on equipment stations. It ended with a simulated patient mission exercise.

During this exercise, the students were divided into teams and assigned a patient

scenario using live animals as simulated patients. These animals were constantly monitored ensuring they were treated humanely at all times.

Students received their patients from a holding facility, a simulated expeditionary medical support center, combat support hospital or mobile aeromedical staging facility where they prepared the patients for flight.

Each team loaded their patient into a field ambulance and drove them to a helicopter. The patients were loaded onto the helicopter where patient-care scenarios were added.

While the actual flight was simulated, the team performed a four-man litter carry from the helicopter to a C-160 cargo aircraft.

"Once all the patients have been loaded onto the C-160, the doors and ramp are closed, the lights are dimmed, and the (emergency power units) are fired up creating the stressors of flight as close to real world as we can get," Dr. Conte said. "In this environment, the

teams are given emergency scenarios to deal with. The exercise is terminated after the C-160's simulated landing."

Other Turkish aircraft used during the course included a CN-235, which is a Turkish dedicated medical transport aircraft, and an HH-60 medical evacuation helicopter.

"The Turkish people were real receptive and thankful for us teaching them," said Tech. Sgt. Scott Woodcox, team respiratory therapist from the 59th Medical Wing.

The course is only one of many courses offered by DIMO.

Other courses include HIV/AIDS planning/policy development, trauma and critical-care pararescue and health law and ethics to name a few.

"DIMO courses bring people of various countries together to help build a common base of understanding among dedicated health-care professionals," said Lt. Gen. (Dr.) George Peach Taylor Jr., Air Force surgeon general.

*Air Force News Service*

# Taking a bite out of crime



Sgt. Carlos Aviles, 95th MP Bn., and Sonya, who is trained to sniff out explosives, search a vehicle for possible contraband.



By Pfc. Abel Trevino  
Staff writer

"I love K-9. This is my calling," said Sgt. Carlos Aviles, a K-9 military policeman with the 95th Military Police Battalion. "There's nothing I'd rather do than work with dogs."

By placing themselves on the cusp of life and death situations, Aviles and the other K-9 handlers are securing LSA Anaconda from explosives and contraband, with the possibility of a car bomb detonating as they inspect it. Securing the post by finding explosives is the primary mission of the K-9 unit.

"[My dog and I] go find explosives when there is a bomb threat," he said. "The dogs can find C-4, TNT, dynamite and other explosives. That's just our job."

When explosives are found, Explosive Ordnance Disposal is contacted to handle the danger-

ous materials from that point.

Sonya is Aviles' explosive-sniffing dog. She is a purebred 9-year-old Belgian Malinois. The pair were stationed in Vicenza, Italy, for the last year and a half. Since arriving here at LSA Anaconda almost six months ago, he's lived and worked with Sonya.

"On our off time, we watch movies [together] and play rough," said Aviles. "A majority of our time is [dedicated to] training," Aviles said. "I train her to fight for herself, I try to train all dogs that way."

Commands range from simple control commands such as sit and heal to attack commands.

"She's friendly, but if I tell her to bite, she'll bite," Aviles said.

Sonya, like all military working

dogs, was trained with a system of incentives. When she reacts properly and finds explosives, she is rewarded, usually with her ball or another treat, Aviles said.

There are plenty of opportunities for Sonya to get rewarded.

"We try to go [to the gates] every day," Aviles said. "Or whenever they call us for suspicious vehicles."

If they're not working the gates, then they are training to work the gates.

Things were not always so close between Aviles and Sonya.

"Dogs have their own personalities and [for the first three months together] we didn't kick it off so well," said Aviles.

Despite their closeness, Aviles does not consider Sonya a best friend or pet since he will only be partnered with her while stationed at Vicenza.



Photos by Pfc. Abel Trevino

Sonya, a Belgian Malinois Military Police working dog with the 95th Military Police Battalion, latches onto a suspect. MP K-9's are viewed as partners by their MP service members and not seen as pets.



Sgt. Chris Collinsworth, 95th MP Bn., tosses a toy to Rex, a 3-year-old German Shepherd, after the canine successfully found C-4 during a training exercise.

## Movie Schedule

# Sustainer Reel Time Theater

Daily Shows: 3 p.m., 6 p.m., and 9 p.m.  
(schedule is subject to change)

**Aug. 29**

3 p.m. Spiderman 2  
6 p.m. Alien Versus Predator  
9 p.m. Sleepover

**Aug. 30**

3 p.m. Sleepover  
6 p.m. Spiderman 2  
9 p.m. White Chicks

**Aug. 31**

3 p.m. Alien Versus Predator  
6 p.m. Sleepover  
9 p.m. Spiderman 2

**Sept. 1**

3 p.m. Spiderman 2  
6 p.m. Alien Versus Predator  
9 p.m. Sleepover

**Sept. 2**

3 p.m. Sleepover  
6 p.m. Spiderman 2  
9 p.m. Alien Versus Predator

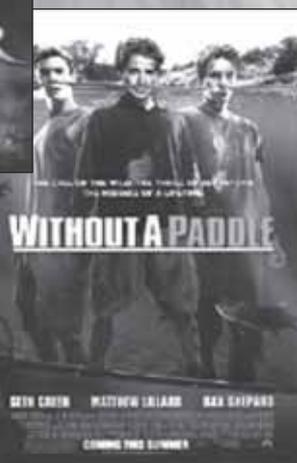
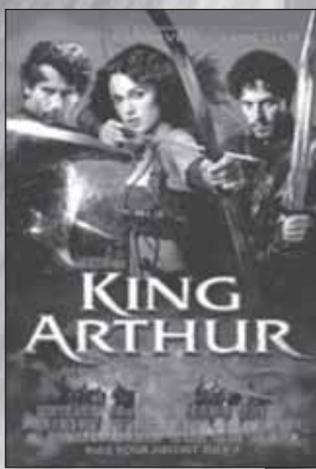
**Sept. 3**

3 p.m. King Arthur  
6 p.m. Without A Paddle  
9 p.m. Without A Paddle

**Sept. 4**

3 p.m. Anchorman  
6 p.m. Without A Paddle  
9 p.m. King Arthur

King Arthur



Without A Paddle

## Weekly Religious Schedule

**Protestant-Traditional**

Sunday 9 a.m. Eden Chapel (bldg. 4148)  
Sunday 9:30 a.m. 31st Combat Support Hospital  
Sunday 10:30 a.m. Sapper Chapel (bldg. 4091)  
Sunday 11 a.m. Eden Chapel (bldg. 4148)  
Sunday 11 a.m. 185th Aviation Group Chapel

**Protestant-Praise and Worship**

Sunday 9 a.m. Sustainer Indoor Theater  
Sunday 9:30 a.m. 185th Task Force Tent  
Sunday 11 a.m. Eden Chapel (bldg. 4148)

**Protestant-Gospel**

11:30 Sustainer Indoor Theater  
7 p.m. Eden Chapel (bldg. 4148)

**Protestant-Liturgical**

Saturday 7 p.m. Tuskegee Chapel

**Church of Christ**

Sunday 11 a.m. 1/142nd Chapel Tent

**Islamic Prayer**

Friday 1:30 p.m. Anaconda Chapel Tent

**Protestant-Contemporary**

Sunday 7 a.m. Sustainer Indoor Theater  
Sunday 9 a.m. Tuskegee Chapel  
Sunday 5:30 p.m. Tuskegee Chapel

**Roman Catholic Mass**

Sunday 8:30 a.m. 185th Task Force Tent  
Sunday 10 a.m. Sustainer Indoor Theater  
Sunday noon 31st Combat Support Hospital  
Monday 9 a.m. PPI Dining Facility  
Monday 7 p.m. PPI Dining Facility  
Saturday 7 p.m. Eden Chapel (bldg. 4148)

**Latter Day Saints**

Sunday 9:30 a.m. Anaconda Chapel Tent  
Sunday 7 p.m. Tuskegee Chapel

**Lutheran**

Sunday 8:30 a.m. Cherokee Chapel (bldg. 4002)  
Sunday 2 p.m. 185th Task Force Tent

**Jewish Prayer**

Saturday 6:30 p.m. Eden Chapel (bldg. 4148)

**Christian Orthodox**

Sunday 11 a.m. 185th Task Force Tent

## Movie Synopsis for Aug. 29-Sept. 4

**King Arthur**

PG-13, Adventure, 130 min  
Clive Owen, Stephen Dillane

Producer Jerry Bruckheimer presents this gritty retelling of the legend of King Arthur starring Clive Owen in the title role. Directed by Antoine Fuqua, the film is void of the magical realism of such Arthurian films as Excalibur, instead attempting to place the story into a historical context. Set in the fifth century, the story follows Arthur as he rises up to bring Britain out of anarchy after the fall of the Roman Empire. Creating the Round Table, King Arthur attempts to bring together the feuding knights of the region. Stephen Dillane, Keira Knightley, and Stellan Skarsgård also star.

**Without a Paddle**

PG-13, Comedy, 95 min  
Seth Green, Matthew Lillard

When childhood friends (Seth Green, Matthew Lillard, and Dax Shepard) reunite in Oregon at their friend Billy's funeral, their reunion kicks off more than a little nostalgia. While reminiscing in their childhood tree house, the trio discovers that Billy had been pursuing their boyhood dreams of finding legendary bank robber DB Cooper's \$200,000 stash. Soon they find themselves spiraling out of control up a very brown river in this raucous comedy. Heading out for a weekend canoe trip in search of the treasure, the trio contend with everything from raging rapids to backwoods mountain men in their effort to uncover the missing booty.

**Sleepover**

PG, Comedy, 90 min  
Alexa Vega, Brie Larson, Johnny Sneed

"Sleepover" revolves around a slumber party. In hopes of shedding their not-so-cool reputations during the summer before their freshman year, best friends Julie (Alexa Vega), Hannah (Mika Boorem), Yancy (Kalli Flynn Childress), and Farrah (Scout Taylor-Compton) decide to host the sleepover of their lives. This sleepover includes an intense scavenger hunt against the infamous "popular" clique. The girls manage to hijack a car, sneak into clubs, engage in a first kiss, and learn more than a little bit about themselves and their capabilities — all while evading the watchful eyes of Julie's mother

**White Chicks**

PG-13, Comedy, 105 min  
Marlon Wayans, Shawn Wayans

When brothers and fellow FBI agents Marcus (Marlon Wayans) and Kevin Copeland (Shawn Wayans) accidentally ruin a drug bust, they take on a case far beneath their usual standards when they agree to escort socialite sisters Brittany (Maitland Ward) and Tiffany Wilton (Anne Dudek). With the help of an FBI lab scientist, the very much African-American Kevin and Marcus will be transformed into two white women who could pass for Brittany and Tiffany. The agents must keep the charade up long enough to lure the kidnapper, but fooling everyone involved will, quite predictably, be the job of their lives.



Paumer inspects the external parts on the equipment.

# Air power when, where needed

*Teamwork does not begin in the air, it starts on the ground with one plan; one way of operating for the 332nd Expeditionary Air Control Squadron.*

By Tech. Sgt. Brian Jones  
332nd AEW Public Affairs

Coalition ground troops engage in a firefight with insurgents; the unit's tactical air controller calls for air support, and soon an F-16 screams overhead and enemy fighters turn tail in search of safer locations.

Scenarios similar to this play out nearly everyday in the desert of Iraq. Getting tactical aircraft where they need to be is a team effort centered at the 332nd Expeditionary Air Control Squadron here.

The air control squadron performs the same mission on the ground that Airborne Warning and Control System, or AWACS, provides from the air.

"We manage the execution of the daily air tasking order and bring reconnaissance information to decision makers and air power to troops in contact," said Lt. Col. Steven Robinson, 332nd EACS commander.

"We are the command and control hub," said Capt. Rebecca Coffman, 332nd EACS, senior director. "We pass information to the aircraft and the [Combined Air Operations Center] real time. Our radar system provides the big picture."

While the operations and maintenance focal point of the air control

squadron's mission are at Balad, the unit has detachments at Kirkuk and Tallil Air Bases that provide radio and radar feeds back to the operations crews on LSA Anaconda.

The squadron controls all tactical aircraft performing missions over Iraq, but diverting aircraft to support ground troops in need is when the unit really springs in to action.

"It really takes cohesive teamwork between us, [Radar Approach Control] and the [Air Support Operations Center]," said Robinson.

"Together we can focus air power where it's needed."

On average, the squadron oversees three or four troops in contact situations per day.

Troops in contact situations may call for the precision deliverance of munitions, but sometimes all that is needed is a show of force.

"A lot of times just the presence of an aircraft will defuse a situation," Robinson said.

"The biggest sense of accomplishment and the biggest source of pride for us is helping troops on the ground," said Coffman. "It's great to know when troops are facing enemies on the ground we can bring the sound of freedom over their heads."

One of the biggest challenges faced by the controllers is making sure all the tactical aircraft have the



Photos by Tech. Sgt. Brian Jones

**Airman 1st Class Jeremy Paumer, 332nd Air Control Squadron, inspects a panel board inside the aircraft Aug. 17.**

fuel necessary to accomplish their mission.

"Sometimes it's like a shell game, getting all the aircraft fuel," said Robinson.

"Tower controllers are working to keep the dots apart," Coffman explained. "When we're trying to get aircraft fuel our goal is to bring the dots together."

The EACS is a self-sufficient unit that brings together a wide range of Air Force specialties to include air battle managers, aerospace control and warning, intelligence, communications, radar and vehicle maintenance, aerospace ground equipment and even a medic. The unit depends heavily on all facets of the squadron to accomplish its mission.

"The 24, seven nature of the mission requires instantaneous support," Robinson said. "We need an immediate maintenance response to keep our equipment functioning."

"We can have the best controllers, but if we don't have working equipment we're dead in the water," said

Coffman. "It's a true team effort."

The harsh desert environment presents numerous obstacles for the squadron's maintainers. The maintenance workload has increased two-fold because of the dust and high temperatures here.

"Many of our components are pre-Vietnam era and not designed to work in extreme desert weather conditions," said Tech. Sgt. Gene Jameson, assistant NCOIC of ground radar maintenance.

Under normal operating conditions, maintainers are required to clean radar circuit cards every 168 days. Here, they clean more than 300 circuit cards contained in the unit's radar system once a week.

"This environment forces you to come up with ways to keep equipment cooler and keep them cleaner," Jameson said.

At home at Hill Air Force Base, Utah, the 332nd EACS is part of the 729th Air Control Squadron, one of five deployable, active-duty air control squadrons.

# Soldier leaves beach for sand box

By Pfc. Leah R. Burton  
Staff writer

In an Army that is a cross-section of the American population, it can be a challenge to hold on to one's cultural identity and to not lose oneself in an American melting pot.

Spc. Brenda Cintron, a finance clerk from 313th Adjutant General Company, attached to 175th Adjutant General Company (Postal), keeps her culture very close to her heart.

Born and raised in Ponce, Puerto Rico, she grew up enjoying the sunny skies, picturesque beaches and coconut trees with her mother and two sisters.

"In the states, when you're on the highway, you see nothing but the street. In Puerto Rico, when you're on the highway you see beaches and mountains all over the place," Cintron said.

She thinks people are more conservative there than in the states, and they keep a great deal of control over their daughters in Puerto Rico.

"In Puerto Rico, you ask, 'Mom, can I go to the party?' She's going to ask where it is, when you'll be home, who you're going with. If she doesn't like who you're going with, you're not going," Cintron said.

Cintron went to high school in Juana Diaz, Puerto Rico, and attended the University of Puerto Rico in Mayaguez, where she is working toward her bachelor's degree in Industrial Management.

She has yet to graduate, but completing her education is high on her list of priorities.

Because Puerto Rico is a U.S. territory, its people are U.S. citizens.



Photos by Pfc. Leah R. Burton  
**Spc. Brenda Cintron, a native of Puerto Rico and a finance clerk with the 313th Adjutant General Company, writes and organizes tags for the many bags of mail she processes daily at the LSA Anaconda Post Office.**

They are subject to military service and are governed internally by a governor elected by popular vote.

Growing up at home, her family only spoke Spanish, so when Cintron decided to join the Army, she had to learn English.

She attended English as a Second Language classes at Lackland Air Force Base prior to going through Basic Combat Training and Advanced Individual Training at Fort Jackson, S.C.

"[Going to basic] was my first time leaving Puerto Rico. It was so different," she said. "I could understand what people were saying, but sometimes I just didn't get it. Now I speak two languages, and I can with anybody and they understand me."

Cintron has found the Army experience rewarding and educational.

"I always like the idea of being in the Army. I thought it was a good experience. Now I know this is a great experience," she said.

She enjoys the Army so much, that she was in the process of joining the active Army when she was deployed.

"I like it because I get to meet different cultures. In this job, I learn how to deal with all types of people," Cintron said.

In her downtime, she researches the commonwealth on the Internet, reads Puerto Rican history, and speaks Spanish with other people who share her culture.

She was raised with the ideology that it takes a village to raise a child. She plans on instilling that same pride in her daughter.

"I'm Puerto Rican, and she's going to know that she's Puerto Rican, too," she said.



Cintron laughs with a customer as they exchange pleasantries while she weighs and processes packages.



Cintron weighs a package and affixes a customs label to it while a customer looks on.

# Task Force Chinook trains Iraqi National Guard

By Pvt. Chelsea Mack  
81st BCT Public Affairs

Task Force Chinook on LSA Anaconda has undertaken the task of training elements of the Iraqi National Guard.

The ultimate goal of TF Chinook is to prepare and train the ING for that point in the future when they will have to take care of their own country; when the multi-national forces pull out of Iraq.

With an abundance of eager and enthusiastic soldiers ready to fight for their freshly liberated country, the ING is definitely not undermanned but since its infrastructure is still developing, the Army is assisting them with guidance, equipment and training – that is TF Chinook's mission here.

TF Chinook is beginning with the 210th ING Battalion, training one platoon every six weeks.

"Today we are doing squad battle drills," Staff Sgt. Sean Clynych, a TF Chinook cadre member, explained. "This is the third of six weeks of training we will teach this platoon. This is the first platoon we have done this intensive training with. We hope this will be the model platoon for the remainder of the battalion."

TF Chinook is training the ING soldiers on light infantry skills. The ING will be conducting patrols and carrying out security missions, such as guard duty. Squad battle drills are a big focus of TF Chinook soldiers.

"The squad level battle drills that I am teaching right now include a squad attack, which is a traveling formation conducted in two teams: Alpha and Bravo," Clynych said. "We are also conducting React to Contact and React to Indirect Fire exercises."

The different squad battle drills will prepare the ING for what they will encounter when they begin to conduct their own patrols. The React to Contact exercise teaches the Iraqi soldiers what to do when they encounter the enemy: setting up a perimeter, when to return fire, communication



Photo by Pvt. Chelsea Mack

**An Iraqi National Guardsman directs the perimeter exercise under Staff Sgt. Robert Brite's supervision.**

between the soldiers, et cetera.

Actions on the Objective drills are meant to show them what to do once the contact is over; how to secure and search the enemy, supply medical aid to injured troops, and other actions.

Squad Tactics training demonstrated to the ING the proper way to move when they are in grouped elements. They learned different types of formations including how to maintain intervals, and how to control noise discipline.

TF Chinook built a training schedule using fundamentals developed from Army training manuals.

"We are using Army doctrine," Staff Sgt. Clynych said. "Our training schedule is based mainly on Common Task Training."

The language gap between the American and Iraqi Army is a huge barrier in the training process. In order to facilitate their training, local national translators were hired to translate the manuals into Arabic.

While TF Chinook is focusing mainly on tactical maneuvers, they are also giving the ING lectures with the help of local national interpreters on discipline, the rank structure and respect. In turn, the Iraqis show their gratitude through motivation

and dedication – only one Iraqi soldier has dropped out of the rigorous training rotation.

"This is something very beautiful," Lt. Adhil Mahmood Yassen, the platoon leader for the Training platoon, said, "A few months ago I saw my soldiers as being very lazy. Now they are ready to do anything."

Another ING soldier, Sgt. Sa'ad Gahnum Muhammed, the squad leader for the Training platoon, believes the relationship between the Iraqi and American Soldiers has been very beneficial for him.

"I have learned unity from the American soldiers, how to respect everyone, to be honest. I appreciate it. Now we [Americans and the ING] can work together and trust each other," Muhammed said.

The TF Chinook soldiers feel just as enthusiastic about this newfound unity as the Iraqi soldiers.

"At first I wasn't sure," Staff Sgt. Robert Brite said explaining his apprehension when he first learned of his new mission, "But these soldiers have shown me they love their country, and they have an immense national pride. That's enough for me."

TF Chinook will continue to train the ING. They will work with them, mentor them, and teach them the essential skills the ING will need to possess with the eventual withdrawal of the Multi-national forces.

"I believe the ING will be an effective fighting force, as long as we train them well and show them respect," Clynych says.

Until recently, the ING was known as the Iraqi Civil Defense Corps. According to Staff Sgt. James Corrigan, a member of TF Chinook, "once the Coalition Provincial Authority turned Iraq back to its own people, the Iraqi Minister of Defense changed the name from the ICDC to the ING."

The CPA was established to keep peace and order in Iraq until their new government could be elected.

"The ING are now controlled by their own government," Corrigan said.

## Question of the Week

### What makes you believe you are benefitting the Iraqi people?



**Maj. Michael Myslenski**  
118th Medical Battalion

"My unit helped to sponsor a medical clinic being built in Al Antwar."



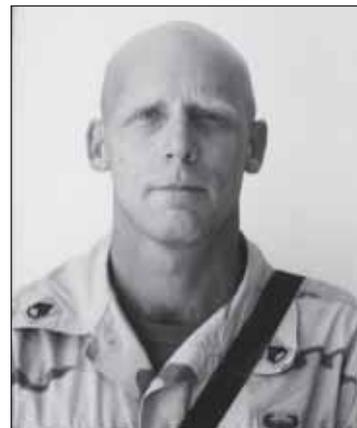
**Staff Sgt. Allen Young**  
252nd Armor

"We support their schools and help their children learn more."



**Airman 1st Class Kris Melo**  
732nd Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron

"We're giving them jobs inside LSA Anaconda."



**Staff Sgt. Lee Stewart**  
7th Transportation Battalion

"We use local nationals as vendors and give them a chance to bid on the items we need so they can make money."



**1st Lt. Benjamin Wynn**  
120th Infantry

"The number of projects we do in the community really does a lot to improve the Iraqi lifestyle."



Photo by Pfc. Leah R. Burton

Soldiers enjoy the 2004 Olympic Games on a large-screen television in the air-conditioned atmosphere of the LSA Anaconda Morale, Welfare and Recreation sports lounge tent Aug. 21. The games will be showing at the MWR tent until today.

## Soldiers view Olympics at camp sports lounge

By Pfc. Leah R. Burton  
Staff writer

Whether it is from the ancient plains of Olympia, from the comfort of one's living room, or from the Morale, Welfare and Recreation Sports Lounge on LSA Anaconda, since the inception of the Olympic games in 776 B.C., Soldiers have been watching displays of extraordinary achievement and noble competition.

Today is the last day that Soldiers, civilians and contractors can enjoy the spirit of rooting for their country in events ranging from archery to wrestling while relaxing in an air-conditioned MWR tent.

"We provide this service to support what's going on in the world, because everybody watches the Olympics. Not all Soldiers have access to TV where they live. That's why we're here," said Nerissa Hives, MWR coordinator.

Some people have watched the Olympics every four years since they were old enough to understand it.

Deployment doesn't have to be a reason to miss out on this tradition.

"I've watched the Olympics every year since I was a kid. I watch it here every chance I get," said Spc. Desmond Smith, 276th Engineer Battalion, who works as a track and field coach stateside. "I coach athletes who have a chance to end up going to the Olympics, so I have a personal interest in it, and this is the only way I can see it."

The MWR Sports Lounge has two large-screen televisions for the purpose of watching sports. The staff looks up the programming

schedule online every day and makes a conscious decision as to what they will show.

"We gear to sports first. If sports are not on or people don't want to watch sports, then we go to news, but sports is our priority," Hives said.

If the majority of people in the facility don't want to see what's showing, they need only ask an MWR coordinator to change the channel.

The facility is equipped with one receiver for both televisions, so they both show the same programming.

While patrons are enjoying the Olympics or whatever program is on, the MWR staff provides free water, soda and potato chips.

Patrons can also play cards, board games, pool, foosball and dominoes in the MWR recreation tent. The MWR staff coordinates tournaments in these games.

The recreation tent staff also shows three movies a day of random choosing.

Patrons can check e-mail or surf the World Wide Web in the MWR Internet Café tent next door.

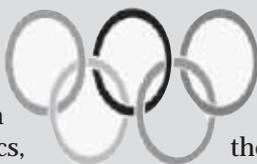
In addition, patrons can dance and unwind at the various themed music nights at the MWR sports lounge

"The facilities give Soldiers a place to relax and give them a sense of normalcy, being able to sit around with friends, play cards and relax," said Hives.

The facilities will be consolidated and expanded in coming weeks when the new accommodations are completed.

All the MWR tents are between New Jersey and New York Avenues behind the Post Exchange.

The facilities are open 24 hours a day, seven days a week.



## Wood loses first two Olympic Greco-Roman wrestling matches

By Tim Hipps  
Special to American Forces  
Press Service

ATHENS, Greece – Army Sgt. Oscar Wood lost his first two matches in pool competition for the 66-kilogram Greco-Roman wrestling division Aug. 24, ending his chance of advancing to the semifinals in the 2004 Summer Olympic Games.

Wood lost his opening match 9-3 to Greece's Konstantinos Arkoudeas. Wood tried to throw the Greek in the opening 22 seconds, but the move backfired, costing him a quick two-point deficit.

"I came out and tried a junior high (school) move, and it don't work at the Olympics," said Wood, 29, of Gresham, Ore.

Arkoudeas turned Wood for two points 22 seconds later, and the rout was on.

"He caught me while I was still dry, and he scored several points because of my attempt in the first seven seconds," Wood said. "That's one thing you never do in international wrestling, and I found a way to do it. I don't know what I was thinking."

By the end of the three-minute first period, the Greek led 7-0, much to the delight of the crowd at Ano Liossia Olympic Hall. Wood rallied for three points in the second period, but the damage was done.

In his second match, Wood lost 5-2 to Germany's Jannis Zamanduridis, who took a 2-0 lead 1 minute, 48 seconds into the fray. Wood pulled into a 2-2 tie 1:16 into the second period, but Zamanduridis posted three more points in the final two minutes.

"It was a loss, so I don't know what that matters if I was in it or not," Wood said. "I just got beat twice, so I really don't know what to say."

Wood, a member of the Army World Class Athlete Program at Fort Carson, Colo., wrestled Kazakhstan's Mkkhitar Manukyan in his final pool match but at press time the Anaconda Times did not have the results.

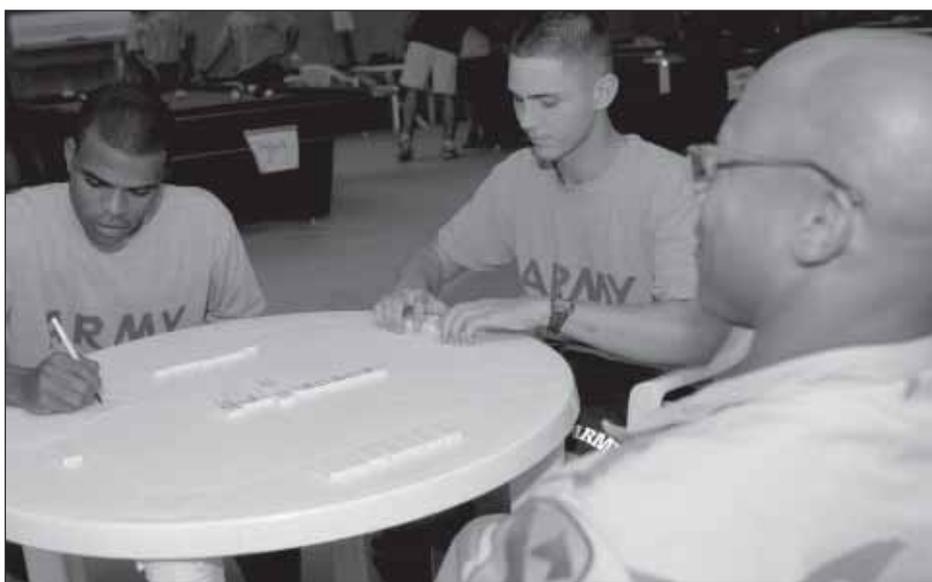
"I've still got one more match, so I'll just try to save face a little bit," he said. "He's already beat both the guys I just lost to, so I might be able to take something out of it."

(Tim Hipps is assigned to the Army Community and Family Support Center Public Affairs Office.)



Photo by Tim Hipps

Army Sgt. Oscar Wood, 29, of Fort Carson, Colo., competed in the 66-kilogram class of the Greco-Roman event. Wood was the 2004 Olympic trials champion and came in 2nd at the 2004 U.S. nationals.



Photos by Pfc. Abel Trevino

Joseph Chatman, Michael Tyo and Kirk Haywood sit around the table in the championship dominoes match. Chatman won by reaching 250 points before the other players. Haywood came in second with 250 points and Tyo third with 105 points.



Second place player Haywood carefully ponders his next play.



Dominoes champion Chatman slightly reveals his hand during early play of the championship game.

# Victory comes swiftly

By Pfc. Abel Trevino  
Staff writer

It only took 10 minutes for Joseph Chatman to win, that is, after the post went to red alert and came back to the table Aug. 20. Before that, it was a 30-minute fight for small gains in the dominoes tournament.

Before the alarm went off midway through the tournament game, the points were close and the players prevented each other from scoring easily. After the break, the game was one-sided.

"My strategy was to get and hold domino the whole game, and to keep the man beside me [Michael Tyo] from scoring," Chatman said.

For these two players, keeping domino – being the first to run out of dominoes – as a vital part of the strategy.

"[My goal] was to keep domino. I had domino a majority of the game," Tyo said.

Despite his loss, Tyo recognized a costly flaw in his play that changed the pace of the game.

"I played one domino backwards and gave [Chatman] a lot of points, 35 points. After that, we just couldn't catch up," Tyo said.

Joseph Chatman won the three-person dominoes tournament at the Morale, Welfare and Recreation tent after the match was halted earlier that night by an alarm.

"The alarm didn't have much of an effect on [my play], but the other players seemed to be affected by it," Chatman said.

Tyo looks forward to facing his competitors again.

"A rematch would be close," Tyo said. "All three of us will be here next month when they do it again. No one likes to walk away losing."

Chatman attributed his ability to play consistently to losing.

"I'd like to thank one person," he said, "Sgt. Tharpe for beating me a lot. That made me a better player, I learned a lot from him."

In the next month's tournament, the players hope to see more people turn out.

"We need more support," Tyo said. "We had like 20 people sign up and only three showed up."

Play action in dominoes varies and games turn around from being close matches to blowouts in a matter of 10 minutes. Maybe next month, the 10 minutes it takes a game to turn around will not be because of an indirect attack.

## Close counts when pitching horseshoes, grenade toss

By Pfc. Abel Trevino  
Staff writer

The 82nd Medical Company (Air Ambulance) held a horseshoe double-elimination tournament at their company area Aug. 22.

The preliminary matches for most of the day were close, until the slaying in the championship match when Robert Cadden, 111th Signal Battalion, beat crowd favorite Nathan Smith, also with the 111th Sig. Bn., 23-12.

Cadden went undefeated throughout the tournament, but attributed his ability to pitch horseshoes with accuracy to Smith.

"[Smith] really taught me," Cadden said. "We've been [horseshoe] partners for a long time."

Both players are from the South Carolina National Guard and have been pitching horseshoes together for 16 years, but not with any regularity.

"I pretty much just play when we go to [annual training] every year," Cadden said.

The tournament was the first time either of them has played horseshoes since arriving in Iraq.

"This is the first time I've played here, but I like to play at home a

good bit," Smith said.

Smith is a veteran horseshoe pitcher, having played for the better part of 30 years now. His experience with a shoe showed through the tournament.

"He had the lead the whole time," said Charles Hemming, a horseshoe pitcher with the 82nd Med. Co.

Smith demonstrated his skill by throwing back-to-back ringers, quickly racking up points and gaining the lead.

"I like to flip [the horseshoe] over one time," Smith said about his technique for pitching. "It's just the way you hold it and let it go out of your hands."

Smith lost the first game he participated in by one point, but quickly warmed up in the games leading up to the championship.

"I got cooled off that last game," Smith said. "I was the off the target a little bit, hitting to the left and right."

Cadden looks forward to the challenge of playing Smith again in the next tournament.

"Yeah, I'd like to play again," Cadden said.

Another horseshoe tournament is scheduled to start 5 p.m., Sept. 6 at the 82nd Med. Co. area near the North Gate.



Photo by Pfc. Abel Trevino

Nathan Smith tosses a horseshoe towards the ring while Robert Cadden watches late in the championship match between the two.



Photo by Capt. Catherine T. Wilkinson

The 29th Signal Battalion receive their combat patch in a ceremony Aug. 5.

### August wrap up

# Through the Lens



Photo by Staff Sgt. David E. Gillespie

The Ambassadors of Hollywood sign photographs and pose with LSA Anaconda community members Aug. 16.



Photo by Pfc. Leah R. Burton

Custom Made performs for the troops Aug. 10.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Cohen Young

Senior Master Sgt. Burhl Hartin, 332nd Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron, sprays insecticide at the base of a Tuskegee Town tent in August.