

Anaconda Times

Proudly Serving the Soldiers of USA Anaconda

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February 16, 2004

Kicking up an Anaconda sandstorm

Redskins cheerleaders and classic rock band perform for servicemembers

Story by Spc. James Truitt and
Pfc. Blanka Stratford

13th COSCOM Public Affairs

Two wholly dissimilar groups of people – the Washington Redskins' Cheerleaders and the 101st Rock Division, a classic rock band formed in Chicago – joined forces to provide two nights of fun and entertainment for U.S. servicemembers at Camp Anaconda, Iraq, Feb. 13.

The 101st Rock Division initiated the show the night beforehand, playing songs such as Pink Floyd's "Comfortably Numb," Chuck Berry's "Johnny Be Good" and "Carry on, my Wayward Son" by Kansas.

"It was a great show," said Mike Slifka, manager and sound technician for the rock band. "Along with our music, we're also making a documentary about coming out to the Middle East. It's a sign of our total gratitude for what the troops are doing out here."

The band was formed after vocalist and band organizer Clifford Russell's brother, New York firefighter Stephen P. Russell, was killed in the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks on America. He was 40 years old.

"On September 13, [2001], I put my brother's uniform on and went into what remained of the World Trade Center," said Russell, recounting the tragic incident. "I recovered 23 firefighters from September 13th to the 21st."

Russell worked side by side with actor Steve Buscemi (*Mr. Deeds, Fargo*) to recover the bodies.

"Steve is my best friend in the world," said Russell, an HVAC mechanic by trade. "He's a good man, and also a firefighter for Engine 55, where my brother worked. I recovered my brother's body on Octo-



Photo by Spc. James Truitt

Washington Redskins Cheerleaders perform high-kicking stunts as part of their entertainment act for soldiers at Camp Anaconda, Iraq, Feb. 13.

ber 22nd. We had a funeral for him and buried him on November third."

Nine days following his brother's burial, in New York City, American Airlines Flight 587 crashed next to Russell's house, killing all 260 on-board the plane as well as many of Russell's neighbors. Once again, Russell donned his brother's uniform and aided in the body search.

"It's just a terrible story, all of it," he said. "At nine in the morning, you're putting sugar into your coffee and the next thing you know, you're jumping out of a 100-story window, splashing all over the ground. What I've seen, what I had to smell, what I had to deal with – it's bullshit."

That is why Russell and his band members find themselves lending support to the United States military. It was time to make a difference.

The cheerleaders felt no differently.

"We are very thankful for what the soldiers have been doing in the Middle East," said Katie Cornwall, a Washington Redskins Cheerleader who has visited Kuwait and Iraq several times. "September 11th was a tragedy, and I believe the United States military has gone a long way in making sure that this never happens again."

Cheerleader Erin Pauling said that cheering for the servicemembers is their way of expressing their gratitude and admiration. The cheerleaders, who also work for Armed Forces Entertainment (AFE), make year-round trips to military installations all over the world, visiting over 35 countries and many times using their vacation days to do so.

"We're here to entertain troops," said

**See Entertainment
continued on page 2**

NEWS

News Briefs

WRITERS AND STORY IDEAS WANTED

The 13th COSCOM Public Affairs Office is always looking for writers and story ideas to help tell the story of the soldiers of USA Anaconda. Story ideas can be dropped off at the Public Affairs Office located down from the PX or sent to ann.m.venturato@us.army.mil.

AEROBICS INSTRUCTOR WANTED

An aerobics instructor is needed to take over the aerobics classes at the MWR tent. The aerobics instructor who is instructing the aerobics classes now is leaving. If you are interested in becoming an instructor for the aerobics classes, stop by the MWR tent for further information.

GT STUDY PREP REGISTRATION

The next registration for GT study session will be Feb. 16 - 20. Contact the Education Center in the MWR internet cafe tent for more information on session openings.

Quote of the Week

"Love is composed of a single soul inhabiting two bodies"
- Aristotle

Did you know?

Hershey's Kisses are called that because the machine that makes them looks like it's kissing the conveyor belt.

It's impossible to sneeze with your eyes open.

Continued from Page 1

Kimberly Linberger, Redskins Cheerleaders' team captain. "We want to be able to take their minds off of the daily groove and bring a bit of home to them. This is our way of serving our country!"

The cheerleaders put on a two-hour variety show, to include singing, dancing and drawing out servicemembers as volunteers for several contests. Prizes went out to those who could take out the heat.

This is the Redskins Cheerleaders' fifth tour this season.

"I grew up around the military," said Donald Wells, director and choreographer for the cheerleaders. "Still, I had no idea what deployed troops were doing until I saw it with my own eyes. America would not be America without what [servicemembers] have accomplished."

Without a doubt, servicemembers appreciated the support they received.

"They put on a great show," said Pfc. Eric Rodriguez, 13th COSCOM water purification specialist. "It's good to know

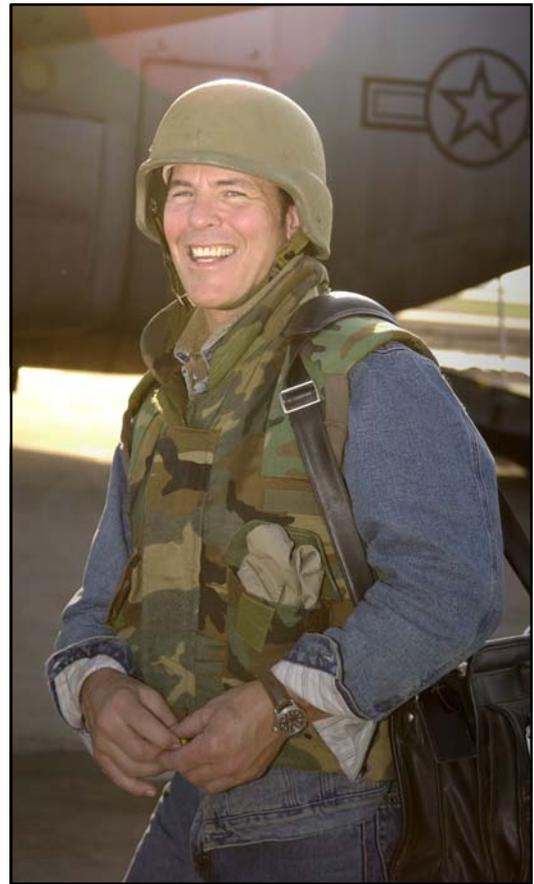


Photo by Pfc. Blanka Stratford

John Brant, bassist for the 101st Rock Division, a classic rock band from Chicago, entertained troops during two consecutive shows, Feb. 12 and 13.

that we have people supporting us."

News flash for all servicemembers

There will be mosquito/sandfly surveillance equipment placed in various locations around post. This equipment is for surveillance purposes only. It is not for insect control. Control efforts are based on what Preventive Medicine discovers via surveillance. Please don't disturb the devices unless you want a bigger mosquito/sand flea problem than we can deal with. Thank you.

1st Lt. Robert Moore, 926th Med. Det.

NEWS

Red Cross brings care, messages to deployed troops

Story By: Capt. Sarah Goodson
13th COSCOM Public Affairs

The Camp Anaconda Red Cross processes over 400-500 emergency messages for service members each week with a small staff of three full time Red Cross service members and two soldiers.

“Our primary purpose is getting the messages to our troops about emergencies at home as soon as possible,” said Lynne Hammonds, incoming Red Cross team leader.

“We receive messages for service members, contractors, DOD Civilians, anybody on military orders and then we deliver them to their units,” said Ms. Astor Black, the outgoing team chief who has just completed a six-month tour here.

The Anaconda Red Cross supports the 13th COSCOM, elements of 5th and 3rd Corps, and the Air Force Community. Its office receives an emergency message from a Red Cross Chapter in the United States or Germany for a service member and then provides the unit commander a verified message enabling them to quickly respond to the situation said Black.

“If a soldier member knows there is an emergency I would like them to initiate the message by contacting this office. said Hammonds. “We will know where the service member is and be able to contact his command a lot faster.”

She adds that it also allows her office to ensure all the necessary information is in the message for the Command the first time.

If the family member is initiating the emergency message they need to have the correct mailing address with the current APO, the service member’s full name, branch of service, and social security number, said Black.

“The most difficult thing I have faced here is the communications. It is very difficult to make phone calls and contact



Photo by Pfc. Blanka Stratford

Lynne Hammonds and Astor Black have both spent years working with the Red Cross

anyone,” said Black. “We need to know when the commands move within the theater and leave the theater and points of contact for each specific unit,” said Black.

She adds that they can be contacted over secure communications. The Red Cross locates the soldier’s command and either emails the message over secure communications or delivers the message telephonically. Each message is given a Red Cross Message number and a date time group that can be used on an emergency leave form and can be later referenced if necessary, said Hammond.

An emergency message often communicates the critical illness or death of a family member or an immediate family member of the spouse or a person who stood in “loco parentis” for the service member.

“An emergency message can be any message with a time sensitive crisis that requires the soldier member’s immediate response,” said Hammond. Hammond adds that they also send out good messages when babies are born and spouses go into labor, but that they also unfortu-

nately receive messages from parents who have not heard from their soldier for along time, and are looking for reassurance that they are all right.

Hammond, based in Iwa Kuni Japan, has over twenty-eight years of volunteer and full time service with the Red Cross, having served in Bosnia and Kosovo.

“We also have the best coffee on base. We are going to call it the ‘Seattle Coffee House,’ she said “We are trying to create a little bit of home.”

The Red Cross office is located on New Jersey Avenue two buildings east of the Finance building with the replacement company. They are also the building just off the road that goes between DFAC 1 and the PX. Their telephone number is DNV 558-1906/1904.

Black who is based in Anchorage Alaska and has over twenty-five years of volunteer and full time service with the Red Cross and has served in Bosnia and Uzbekistan concludes, “Visit your friendly Red Cross office, pick up some stationary, and while you are writing home enjoy the best coffee on LSA Anaconda.”

EDITORIAL

Command Sgt. Maj. Dan Elder's message



Command Sgt. Maj. Dan Elder
Provider 7
13th Corps Support Command
"Chevron Central"

Greetings to the Soldiers and Airmen of Life Support Area Anaconda and the 13th Corps Support Command.

Everyday I am impressed more and more by the high quality support you provide to Combined Joint Task Force 7 and the work you do to improve the conditions both here on our camp and for the people of Iraq.

However, I am also equally disappointed by the failure of a few noncommissioned officers who fail to instill the standards and discipline required to sustain the combat edge that we must maintain.

Serious failures such as ensuring soldiers remove magazines on camp, controlling excessive speed and wear of seatbelts while operating tactical and non-tactical vehicles, and keeping soldiers in the proper uniform on duty and off.

Army Regulation 600-20, Army Command Policy, empowers noncommissioned officers with the authority to apply "on-the-spot-corrections" to all soldiers, and I challenge each and every one of you to use that authority and help get

these acts of indiscipline under control.

Teaching our soldiers to comply with regulations, policies and laws are the cornerstones of the primary duty of the American noncommissioned officer, and what has made our Army the greatest force in the world.

With the risk of attacks both on and off the camp an ever present risk, it becomes imperative that our soldiers are fully briefed on standards and expectations and that our Corps enforce those standards.

As time goes by, our greatest risk is complacency and widespread acceptance of these low standards, which places our Soldiers at risk.

I also challenge each of you to fight the urge to take shortcuts in the name of combat and to shake off the sedentary nature of static camp duty that some may develop.

Check your fellow NCOs and offer them quick counsel on the Army's expectation that they enforce standards. The old saying goes that, "The Road to Hell is paved with good intentions..."

Do not let your actions, or inactions, add another layer to that well-worn street. "Serving With Honor"

NCO Quotes:

We must resist the temptation to selectively enforce orders or regulations because we don't necessarily agree with them. Avoiding this temptation is the mark of a good noncommissioned officer and leader, and of a true professional... Let us, the noncommissioned officers, be the means by which the Army can "bridge the gap" from today's Army to the Army of the future.

-CSM O. W. Troesch, "A Special Brand of Leadership." *Engineer*, Winter 1983-84, p. 7

TEN FIRE SAFETY TIPS FOR TENTS

1. No Smoking within 50 feet of all tents. Properly dispose of all smoking related material.
2. Tents should have 36 aisles down the middle with exits at each end.
3. Extension cords should not be joined together to make longer extension cords.
4. Do not exceed the amperage/voltage the extension cord is designed to handle.
5. Ensure that the power strips used have a circuit breaker or fuse installed.
6. Smoke detectors should be installed in all sleeping tents.
7. Tents need to have at least two, 10lb dry chemical fire extinguishers.
8. Follow the TM when using military heaters.
9. Extension Cords should be fully unwound and left in tight bundles for amperage to build up.
10. Know and post the LSA Anaconda telephone number for emergencies: DNV 550-0557.

Information provided by the SSG Steve Howe, Anaconda

Assistant Fire Chief

LIFESTYLES

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

If you could see yourself a year from now, what would you see?



- Spc. Scott Wilkes, Administrative Specialist, 13th COSCOM

"I'd see myself as being wiser – a lot of things have occurred in this past war that have made me see the world in a different light."



- Sgt 1st Class Gail Brennan, Maintenance Control Sergeant, 512th Maintenance Co., Mannheim, Germany

"I'd see myself a stronger, more patient and tolerable person, as well as a person with a greater appreciation for the smaller things in life."



- Staff Sgt. Daniel Wert, Maintenance Controller, 512th Maintenance Co., Mannheim, Germany

"I'd see myself as being a year older. I'm an easygoing person, so I wouldn't change much in personality or character."



- Sgt. Katt Acosta, Operations NCO, 13th COSCOM

"I'd see myself as being much more grateful for everything – running water, grass, my private living space, driving my own car. Most of all, I'd be so thankful that I'm with my children."



- Pfc. Maria Mercado, Supply Specialist, 13th COSCOM HHC

"I'd see myself with a smile on my face because I'm going home."



- 1st Lt. Dhramen Singh, Support Battalion OIC, 13th COSCOM

"I'd see myself as a happy and positive person, hopefully at home."



- Sgt. Maj. Michael Patterson, Support Battalion Sergeant Major, 13th COSCOM

"I'd see myself retired and fishing."

BREAKING LAUGHTER

The show "Comics in Duty II" will provide live and hilarious entertainment for LSA Anaconda, Iraq, at 1500 and 1900, Feb. 20. Come and enjoy the show!

LIFESTYLES

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February 16, 2004

A little lesson in history: Valentine's Day and the military way

Story by Pfc. Blanka Stratford
13th COSCOM PAO

Every year on February 14, flowers and sweets and meaningful treats are exchanged between loved ones all around the globe. This year at Camp Anaconda, Iraq, there is no exception to the rule.

"Valentine's Day is a wonderful holiday," said Staff Sgt. Derek Long, 13th COSCOM logistical operations non-commissioned officer-in-charge. "It's a day to show whomever you love just how much you love them. You should show them this every day, but this is the one time when you go above and beyond. It's special."

The history of Valentine's Day and its patron, Saint Valentine, is not only a story of love, passion and upholding one's beliefs, but also an account that – surprisingly enough - involves the military!

So what do these two seemingly opposite aspects have in common?

"Hmm... a love-hate relationship?"

asked Spc. Jeff Corrales, water treatment specialist for the 316th Quartermaster Co.

Nope.

In actuality, around the 3rd century A.D. (when Christianity was still a new religion in the Roman Empire), Emperor Claudius II – or "Claudius the Cruel" as he was sometimes called – ruled Rome with an iron fist. Claudius, whose utmost concern was maintaining the strength of his army as well as his own supremacy, issued an order outlawing marriage for all prospective soldiers. He believed that his soldiers would be more efficient as single men, without having wives and children to be concerned about.

Legend has it that during this same time there lived a priest named Valentine, who recognized the unfairness of the emperor's verdict and chose to resist Claudius. Valentine continued carrying out marriages for young lovers in secret until his actions were discovered and he was sentenced to death. While he was in prison awaiting his condemnation, Valen-

tine fell in love with a young girl. The girl, who may have been his jailor's daughter, visited him during his confinement and kept him support and comfort.

Before his death, it is alleged that Valentine wrote his love a final letter, which he signed 'From your Valentine,' an expression that is still in use today. And although the truth behind this legend is uncertain, the story nevertheless highlights the nature of a kindhearted, heroic, and, most notably, passionate Valentine.

"This year, I sent my wife flowers and a card," said Staff Sgt. Alberto Calvillo, 13th COSCOM logistical operations planner and self-asserted romantic. "On Valentine's Day, I'm calling her to express my unconditional love for her."

Calvillo is in Iraq. His wife is just halfway across the world, in Michigan.

Tough situation?

Perhaps. But it simply goes to show that, no matter how faraway the distance may be, love travels past all boundaries of space and time.

Black History Month takes pride in those who've served the country

Story by Spc. James Truitt
13th COSCOM Public Affairs

During Black History Month we take time to recognize the accomplishments of African Americans through out America's history. Originally established on February 12, 1926 as Black History Week by Carter G. Woodson, it was later expanded and renamed in 1976, as Black History Month.

"Once let the black man get upon his person the brass letters, U.S., let him get an eagle on his button, and a musket on his shoulder and bullets in his pockets, and there is no power on earth which can deny that he has earned the right to citizenship in the United States."

-Frederick Douglass

Benjamin O. Davis, Sr. enlisted as a

Private, 9th U.S. Cavalry of the Regular Army. During his service in the Philippines, he was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in 1901.

In October 1940, he became the first African American soldier to hold the rank of General in the Army. He retired from the Army in 1948 after 50 years of military service.

Benjamin O. Davis, Jr. West Point Graduate and Tuskegee Airman pilot. He was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for his leadership and bravery in during WW II. He became the first African American to earn a star in the US Air Force. He retired as a lieutenant general in 1970.

Daniel "Chappie" James, -Tuskegee airmen pilot. As a fighter pilot in Korea and Vietnam he flew over 160 combat missions. James returned from Vietnam and immediately became an effective

spokesman for the Air Force.

James spoke not only on America's military policies, but also its racial policies. Later, he became the first African American to attain the rank of Major General in the Air Force.

Roscoe Robinson, Jr., West Point Grad. He was promoted to Brigadier General in 1973. Two years later, he assumed command of the 82nd Airborne Division. In so doing, he became the first African-American to command that elite unit.

In 1985, after completing 34 years of commissioned service, General Roscoe Robinson, Jr. retired. He was awarded two Distinguished Service Medals and the Defense Distinguished Service Medal. He is the first African-American to achieve the rank of four-star general in the United States Army. Received the Distinguished Graduate Award at a cadet review in May 1993.

SPORTS

NBA Conference Standings

Eastern Conference		Western Conference	
Atlantic	Streak	Midwest	Streak
Nets	Won 10	Timberwolves	Won 2
Knicks	Lost 2	Spurs	Won 5
Celtics	Lost 2	Mavericks	Won 1
76ers	Won 1	Grizzlies	Won 1
Heat	Won 1	Rockets	Won 1
Wizards	Lost 1	Nuggets	Won 2
Magic	Lost 7	Jazz	Lost 1
Central	Streak	Pacific	Streak
Pacers	Won 3	Kings	Won 3
Pistons	Lost 5	Lakers	Lost 1
Hornets	Won 1	SuperSonics	Won 1
Bucks	Lost 1	Trail Blazers	Lost 2
Raptors	Lost 1	Warriors	Won 2
Cavaliers	Lost 1	Clippers	Lost 4
Hawks	Won 1	Suns	Lost 5
Bulls	Won 1		

NHL Conference Standings

Eastern Conference		Western Conference	
Atlantic	Last 10	Central	Last 10
Flyers	8-1-1-0	Red Wings	5-2-3-0
Devils	6-4-0-0	Blues	2-7-1-0
Islanders	5-1-3-1	Predators	5-5-0-0
Rangers	3-7-0-0	Blue Jackets	3-5-1-1
Penguins	0-9-0-1	Blackhawks	5-5-0-0
Northeast	Last 10	Northwest	Last 10
Maple Leafs	6-3-1-0	Avalanche	5-0-3-2
Senators	6-3-0-1	Canucks	5-4-0-1
Bruins	6-1-1-2	Flames	5-4-1-0
Canadiens	4-6-0-0	Wild	4-3-1-2
Sabres	8-2-0-0	Oilers	5-5-0-0
Southeast	Last 10	Pacific	Last 10
Lightning	8-1-1-0	Sharks	5-4-0-1
Panthers	5-4-1-0	Stars	6-2-2-0
Thrashers	1-8-1-0	Kings	4-2-3-1
Hurricanes	2-6-2-0	Coyotes	2-6-1-1
Capitals	3-6-1-0	Mighty Ducks	5-3-0-2

NBA Scoreboard

Rhode Island	59	Kentocky (8)	68
St. Joseph's (PA) (3)	73	Georgia	74
Providence (24)	61	Georgia Tech (15)	80
Boston College	52	Virginia	82
LSU	73	UCLA	83
Florida (22)	70	Arizona (16)	107
Southern Illinois (23)	59	Texas (11)	77
Southwest Missouri	58	Iowa St.	78
Baylor	58	Heat (22-32)	83
Oklahoma St. (10)	91	Magic (13-41)	107
Wizards (16-34)	88	Kings (37-13)	96
76ers (22-31)	113	Pistons (33-21)	94
Nets (31-20)	105	Knicks (25-29)	98
Cavaliers (20-33)	85	Hornets (28-24)	106
Clippers (22-29)	102	Lakers (31-19)	87
Grizzlies (30-22)	110	Rockets (30-22)	102

NHL Scoreboard

Hurricanes (17-27-11-2)	1	Rangers (21-26-7-4)	2
Devils (29-16-10-1)	4	Flyers (31-12-11-5)	6
Avalanche (32-11-10-4)	5	Bruins (28-14-11-6)	1
Red Wings (32-16-8-2)	2	Blackhawks(16-29-7-5)	2
Sabres (26-26-5-1)	6	Canadiens (28-23-6-2)	2
Maple Leafs (31-15-9-3)	4	Senators (31-15-7-4)	5
Sharks (27-15-11-5)	2	Panthers (20-24-11-3)	2
Blue Jackets (16-29-8-4)	1	Lightning (30-17-7-3)	3
Penguins (11-38-5-4)	2	Stars (27-21-10-0)	2
Blues (27-22-7-1)	3	Coyotes (19-21-14-3)	3
Mighty Ducks (19-24-8-7)	2		
Canucks (31-18-7-3)	1	***	

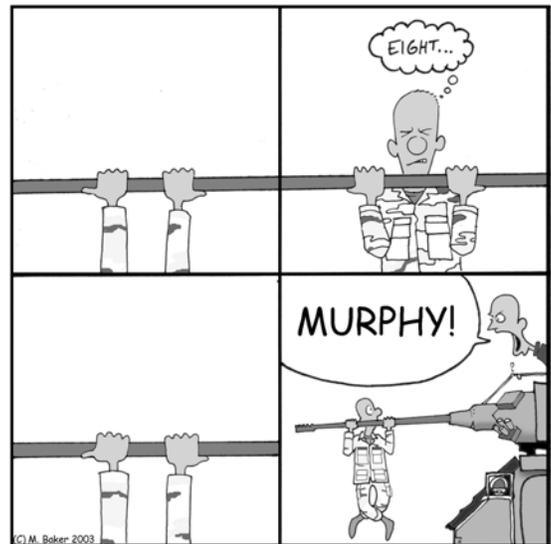
Notes: Colorado's [Rob Blake](#) missed his third game with a broken left leg. He is out indefinitely. The Red Wings hadn't lost since Jan. 24 at Phoenix.

PHOTOS



Photo by Pfc. Blanka Stratford

Small children from the town of Anwar, Iraq, run barefoot and naked in the roads. Anwar, less than a mile from LSA Camp Anaconda, is a representative system of post-war Iraq. Currently, the 13th COSCOM Civil Affairs, in conjunction with the Air Force Civil Affairs team, are distributing supplies to the town school in an effort to improve the education system.



by Sgt. 1st. Class Mark Baker



Photo by Spc. James Truitt

The 172nd CSG out of Broken Arrow, Oklahoma replaced the 7th CSG from Bamberg, Germany. The uncasing of the 172nd Corps Support Group's colors, during the Take Over of Authority, took place Feb. 14. This TOA comes in succession of 13th COSCOM's replacement of 3rd COSCOM, Jan. 31.



Photo by Spc. James Truitt

Soldiers and airmen alike come together on Valentine's Day to show their enduring spirit on a 5K run, Feb. 14.