

ANACONDA TIMES

Vol. 1, Issue 35

Proudly serving Logistics Support Area Anaconda

October 3, 2004

Things to do for NCO promotion

A Department of the Army sergeant first class selection board is scheduled for Nov. 2. The board will consider promotions to support requirements through April 2006. The next board will be in February 2006.

Staff sergeants — except with the military occupational specialties 14S, 14R and 42L — with a date of rank Feb. 1, 2003 or earlier and with a basic active service date between Nov. 2, 1983 and Feb. 1, 1999 meet the eligibility criteria.

Staff sergeants with the MOSs 14S, 14R and 42L must have a BASD between Nov. 2, 1985 and Feb. 1, 1999 for eligibility.

The primary zone for all staff sergeants' DOR is Oct. 1, 2001 and earlier.

All complete-the-record reports will contain the following entry for type of report in part I, block G, 04, CTR/FY05/MSG. The last month on the report will be August. Reports will not be signed before Sep. 1. Reports must be submitted to the commander, USAREREC, ATTN: AHRC-ERE, 8899 E. 56th Street, Indianapolis, IN 4624905301. It must be there by Oct. 15.

All NCOs eligible for the board must log on the Enlisted Record and Evaluations Center Web site at <https://www.hrc.army.mil>, click on HRC Indianapolis and then click on promotion file. Then, click on promotion ERB and follow the instructions. If any information is incorrect, the NCO should visit the S1 to have the correct data submitted to update at the Electronic Military Personnel Office. When online validation is complete, the promotion enlisted records brief is locked and no longer available from eMILPO.

If changes are needed after validation, E-mail bdspt@erec.army.mil or call DSN: 699-3641/3642/3691. The file can then be unlocked and updated. NCOs need to complete their online review of the promotion ERB by Oct. 15.

The Official Military Personnel File update material must be forwarded in accordance with Army regulation 600-8-104 and received at EREC by Oct. 15. Documents must contain the Soldiers full name and complete social security number. The SSN should be placed as closed to the name as possible if not part of the original document.

Call 527-4224 for more information.



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Robert Jensen

Magic time

Magician Ryan D. Schell, sponsored by AKA Productions and Morale, Welfare and Recreation performs for the LSA Anaconda community in the Air Force Town hall Sept. 22. At the age of 9, Schell got the magic bug by watching a mime perform a magic trick. His first major performance was at age 12 for University High School's Halloween staff party.

Finance funds at local facility

By Spc. Steven J. Schneider
Staff writer

The new Central Funding Facility run by the 50th Finance Battalion at LSA Anaconda was established Sept. 15 to more easily distribute funds to finance battalions throughout Iraq.

Twenty-nine Soldiers from New Jersey handle the central funding mission once done from Camp Arifjan, Kuwait. The facility's vault can hold up to \$400 million at one time.

"The main reason for bringing the mission here from Kuwait is, in Kuwait, it was burdensome," said Maj. Angelo Capolupo, battalion commander. "Here, it's more consistent. We're at a logistical hub."

Capolupo said the entire process of distributing money to the different finance battalions has been sped up by having the facility in a centralized location.

"Soldiers are delivering money and talking about how easy it is," he said speaking of the improvements.

The 50th Fin. Bn. either delivers the money to units by air, or the finance battalions come to LSA Anaconda to pick it up. Each team that delivers and guards the money is comprised of five Soldiers, a lieutenant, a sergeant first class, and three lower enlisted.

Locating them near the airfield here was an important factor in choosing a building, but the most important thing was finding a building that would meet security needs, said Command Sgt. Maj. Lawrence Kraemer.

Kraemer said the building had to be completely modi-

fied and a room had to be transformed into a state-of-the-art vault. After five months of work, and changing contractors a few times, the building was ready for use.

With the job of supplying all finance battalions in the Iraqi theater with funds, the troops can have up to \$800 million move through the vault each month.

Capolupo shares that responsibility with other Soldiers from the unit, especially Sgt. 1st Class Berto Diaz, vault NCOIC. Diaz said there is a great deal of accountability when it comes to handling millions of dollars but doesn't feel stressed by the job.

All that paper has to be accounted for when it moves to other battalions, and that's where Soldiers like Doriann Buzzetta, dispersing specialist, come in.

Buzzetta has gone on missions to hand over money, as well as doing the paper work to track the money. She said the work has been hard but it's worth it to see what's being accomplished.

Spc. Maria Rogers said the mission has been difficult, but things are starting to run more smoothly because they've started to settle in at the new location and are able to get money to other finance battalions much quicker now.

The hard work of Soldiers like Rogers and Buzzetta has really paid off, Kraemer said.

"The Soldiers have been enthused, not just dedicated. If you watch them, they work with a smile," he said. "It's nice to see the success from all the hard work."

As time goes by, the new location should make everybody's mission easier by allowing funds to be exchanged in a timelier manner, Capolupo said.

Bare basics of threat conditions

Special to Anaconda Times

The Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff-approved program standardizes the military services' identification of and recommended responses to terrorist threats against U.S. personnel and facilities. This program facilitates interservice coordination and support for antiterrorism activities and is called TFPCONs.

TFPCON Normal — This condition applies when a general threat of possible terrorist activity exists but warrants only a routine security posture.

TFPCON Alpha — This condition applies when there is a general threat of possible terrorist activity against personnel and facilities, the nature and extent of which are unpredictable, and circumstances do not justify full implementation of TFPCON Bravo measures. However, it may be necessary to implement certain measures from higher TFPCONs resulting from intelligence received as

a deterrent. The measures in this TFPCON must be capable of being maintained indefinitely.

TFPCON Bravo — This condition applies when an increased and more practical threat of terrorist activity exists. The measures in this TFPCON must be capable of being maintained for weeks without causing undue hardship, affecting operational capability and aggravating relations with local authorities.

TFPCON Charlie — This condition applies when an incident occurs or intelligence is received indicating some form of terrorist action against personnel and facilities is imminent. Implementation of measures in this TFPCON for more than a short period probably will create hardship and affect the peacetime activities of the unit and its personnel.

TFPCON Delta — This condition applies in the immediate area where a terrorist attack has occurred or when intelligence has been received that terrorist action against a specific location or person is likely. Normally, this

TFPCON is declared as a localized condition.

"We're at Delta, go report back to your unit leadership." Service members all over LSA Anaconda recently heard these words and many wondered just what that meant and what they were supposed to do.

Delta, or Threat Force Protection Condition Delta, is a heightened state of alert. TFPCON Delta is established when the leadership has information about specific threats to force protection.

When the camp is at Delta, service members and civilians should report to their leadership for further guidance. Expect that many Morale, Welfare and Recreation facilities will be closed, or that entrance into these buildings may be more difficult. As always, stop and ask questions if you see civilians or local nationals walking around without a badge or unescorted and report suspicious activity to your chain of command or to the military police.

TFPCON Delta is not business as usual, but knowing what to do is an essential part of life here.

Internet cafés offer more than computer services on camp

By Pfc. Leah R. Burton
Staff writer

The 319th Corps Support Battalion's Internet Café has relocated to a trailer behind building 4251 from its former location in the LSA Anaconda Education Center building.

The purpose of the facility is to provide a convenient and affordable means for clear communication between deployed service members and their families.

"It's important not only for [service members], but for families back home. It provides a good line of communication that's good for troop morale," said Sgt. Michael W. Vercruysse, 319th CSB Internet Café NCOIC.

The Combined Joint Task Force-7 purchased several of the Internet café systems. Some units, such as the 319th CSB, the 185th Aviation and the 81st Brigade Combat Team, signed for the equipment and opened up facilities in their areas.

"Some of the people responsible for running these cafés think it's for their little community. In fact, these cafés are for anyone," said Sgt. 1st Class Randy Hinds, 319th CSB S-4 NCO.

The 319th CSB Internet Café is equipped with 19 computers and six telephones.

The telephones are especially popular among patrons, because phone calls are 4.7

cents per minute.

"That's less than state-to-state long distance back home," Vercruysse said.

Patrons cannot use AT&T prepaid phone cards in the facility. Phone access at the Internet cafés work off of broadband instead of a satellite connection.

In order to take advantage of the more affordable telephone calls, Soldiers need to visit <http://www.cjtf7.mwr.net> and purchase prepaid minutes using a Visa, MasterCard or American Express credit card. After recording one's personal identification number, the individual should follow the instructions the Web site lists to place a call.

Use of the computers and phones begins with showing a government issued identification card and signing up on either the telephone log or the computer log.

There is a 20-minute time limit on telephone use and a 30-minute time limit on computer use, so the waiting time for the equipment is usually no longer than about 30 minutes.

It is open 22 hours a day, seven days a week. It is closed from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. for maintenance. There is a facility supervisor on duty to assist patrons and enforce the rules during the hours when the 319th CSB Internet Café is open. Call 529-8354 for more information on the 319th CSB Internet Café.

The 319th CSB Internet Café is at the cor-

ner of Sustainer Road and Victory Loop. In addition to the 319th CSB Internet Café, there are 16 others facilities on post. Soldiers should contact their unit S-6 for more details.

"I would like to add that none of the

cafés can turn a Soldier away, and if at any time a Soldier is turned away from a café, they need to report it with details," Hinds said.

Call DNVN 529-8482 to report an Internet café problem.

More LSA Anaconda Internet cafés

In addition to the MWR Internet café and the 319th Corps Support Battalion Internet café, there are numerous facilities sprinkled around post.

The 81st BCT Internet Café is at 4148 New Jersey Avenue and is almost always open, except from midnight to 6 a.m. on Thursdays when it closes for maintenance.

The 21st Replacement Company Internet Café is in tent B-1 in the Personnel Processing Center behind building 4002 on Pennsylvania Avenue. It is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

The 84th Engineer Battalion runs two Internet cafés. One is one block southwest of Dining Facility 2 in a white tent adjacent to building 4090. The other one is at 4166 Thunder Road, next to Dining Facility 3. They are both open 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

The 372nd Engineer Group Internet Café is at 4156 Thunder Road, across

from Dining Facility 3. It is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

The 630th Transportation Company Internet Café is adjacent to Dining Facility 1, in the unit's Morale, Welfare and Recreation tent. It is closed daily between 10 a.m. and noon for maintenance.

The 142nd Aviation Intermediate Maintenance Company Internet Café is in Double HAS 4839 on the west side of the airfield. It is open from 6 a.m. to midnight.

The 13th Corps Support Command's Internet Café is in building 4123. A Tactical Operations Center badge is required. It is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

185th Aviation Brigade has three Internet cafés. Two are in their housing area next to Dining Facility 4. One is next door to the 185th Aviation Brigade Headquarters. They are all open 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Anaconda Times is authorized for publication by the 13th COSCOM for the LSA Anaconda community. The contents of the Anaconda Times are unofficial and are not to be considered the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, including the Department of Defense or Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Anaconda Times is a command information newspaper in accordance with Army Regulation 360-1.

Anaconda Times is published weekly by the Stars and Stripes central office, with a circulation of 5,000 papers.



The Public Affairs Office is on New Jersey Ave. in building 4136, DVNT 537-3028. Anaconda Times, HHC 13th COSCOM, APO AE 09391. Web site at www.mnf-iraq.com/coalition-news/publications/anaconda.htm

Contact Sgt. Annette B. Andrews via e-mail at annette.andrews@us.army.mil

13th COSCOM Commanding General
Brig. Gen. James E. Chambers

13th COSCOM and LSA Anaconda Public Affairs Officer
Maj. Richard Spiegel

Deputy Public Affairs Officer
28th Public Affairs Detachment Commander
Capt. Catherine Wilkinson

Public Affairs NCOIC of 13th COSCOM & 28th PAD
Staff Sgt. David E. Gillespie

Editor
Sgt. Annette B. Andrews

Assistant Editor
Sgt. Ann Venturato

Staff Writers
Spc. Steven J. Schneider
Pfc. Leah R. Burton
Pfc. Abel Trevino

Idea of Iraqi elections 'breathtaking,' Rumsfeld says

By Jim Garmone
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — The idea that Iraq is discussing elections in January "is breathtaking," Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld said Sept. 24.

Rumsfeld spoke to the press following meetings with Iraqi Prime Minister Ayad Allawi in the Pentagon.

The secretary said the path to liberty in Iraq is not smooth. But, he reminded, 18 months ago Iraq was the only country on Earth that was routinely firing on American pilots in complete disregard to U.N. Security Council resolutions.

Now Iraq has a new government committed to defeating terrorism that is working to hold free elections in January 2005.

"Every Iraqi deserves the right to vote," Rumsfeld said. "We and the government of Iraq intend to see the elections are held, are held on time and to do everything possible to see that that happens."

Violence continues in Iraq, but notwithstanding the violence and threats of violence, tens of thousands of Iraqis are volunteering to serve the nation.

Rumsfeld said 722 Iraqi security force personnel have been killed.

"They are demonstrating courage, and that's impressive," he said.

A free and peaceful Iraq is a blow to extremists worldwide, and elections in Iraq would be a large step forward in the fight on terrorism, he said.

Rumsfeld did not minimize the barriers in the way of elections.

Terrorist attacks continue. Terrorists have kidnapped Western workers and recently beheaded two of them.

The security situation in Iraq is "uneven" across the country, the secretary said.

Allawi mentioned this Sept. 23 in his speech to Congress. He said that elections could happen tomorrow in 15 out of 18 provinces.

Security will be important for the elections. Rumsfeld said that if U.S. Central Command chief Army Gen. John Abizaid needs more troops, then he will get them.

There are 138,000 U.S. service members in Iraq now. There are also 100,000 fully trained and fully equipped Iraqi security forces in country now. That number is set to increase to 150,000 by January 2005.

Iraq is not going to be "perfect and peaceful," Rumsfeld said, noting that American cities aren't perfect and peaceful either.

"Any implication that that place needs to be peaceful and perfect before we can reduce coalition and U.S. forces would be unwise," Rumsfeld said.

"Our goal is to invest the time and money and effort to help them train up Iraqis to take over those responsibilities," Rumsfeld added.

Rumsfeld said it is important to look at

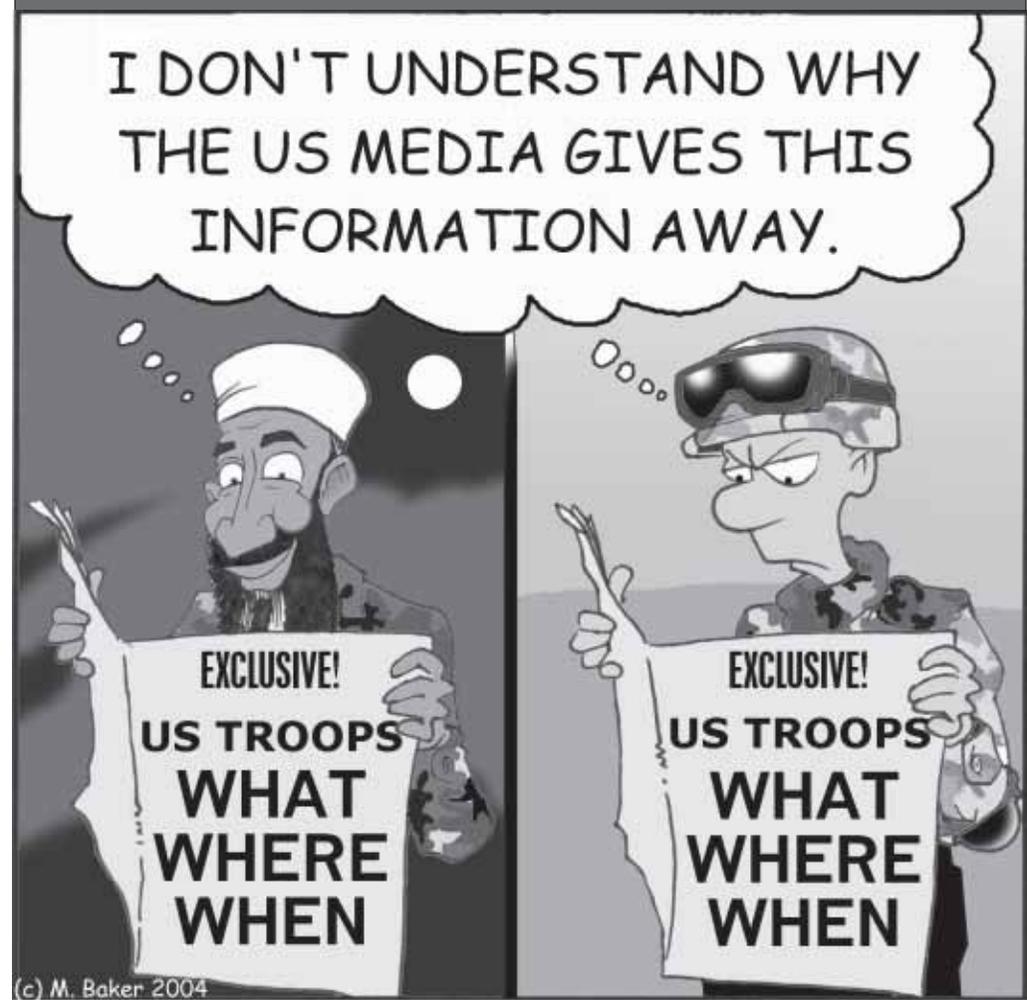
the full scope of activities worldwide. The United States is involved in a serious war against people who are trying to hijack a religion, kill and maim innocent people and desecrate bodies, he said.

"The type of world they want is a dark world. It is an ugly world, and no one with an ounce of sense would want to live in it," he said.

The *Anaconda Times* has a dedicated Web site containing the current and past issues at www.mnf-iraq.com/coalition-news/publications/anaconda.htm



Pvt. Murphy's Law



ARMY OF ME

by Aaron Thacker
send e-mail to:
aaron.thacker@armyofme.us





Left Shoulder Diary

336th Finance Command

Compiled from
Unit History

The shoulder sleeve insignia for the 336th Finance Command was approved on Jan. 23, 1995.

It consists of a silver disc with a border and a blue fleur-de-lis superimposed by a golden yellow horizontal voided lozenge.

The silver gray and golden yellow are the colors traditionally associated with finance units. The blue fleur-de-lis reflects the unit's heritage and area of operation while the lozenge recalls the Finance Corps insignia of branch.

The 336th FINCOM's stateside headquarters is at Lake Charles, La.

The 336th FINCOM supports Operation Brightstar every second year in Egypt. They provide all travel, military and vendor pay support for Soldiers in this joint operation.

The 336th FINCOM provides command and control for all Finance elements supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom. This support includes establishing finance policy, providing central funding, active and reserve component pay support, procurement and accounting support, and executing internal control procedures. More than \$800 million is logistically moved throughout the theater each month to ensure predictable fund support to Soldiers for check cashing operations and casual payments. Contracting support is greatly enhanced through this mission, with funding able to get to vendors quickly. Overall, central funding supports the strategic goals to reconstruct Iraq.

The FINCOM headquarters is located at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, with elements dispersed throughout the region, including LSA Anaconda.

The 336th Finance Command, along with the 50th Finance Battalion, operate the Central Funding Office located here, the only dedicated central funding facility in the Central Command Area of Operation.

The 50th Finance Bn. was established as a FINCOM forward element and was attached to the 13th Corps Support Command on April 7, 2004, for the primary mission of the Central Funding Office.

The 336th Finance Command has been involved in operations in Vietnam; Operation Just Cause in Panama, in 1990; Operation Desert Storm and Desert Shield, Operation Restore Hope in Somalia, in 1993; Operation Uphold Democracy in Haiti; Operation Joint Endeavor in Bosnia; Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan; and most recently, Operation Iraqi Freedom I and II.

Civilian of the Week

Robert Allan Bell, a native Virginian who calls Wisdom, Montana home, arrived here on Sept. 1 to assist in building and reconstructing the facilities.

Bell, a master carpenter for more than 35 years, works for Al-Morrell Development.

At 51, Bell is a self-proclaimed adventurer.

"I lived in Alaska for 10 years; that was an adventure unto itself," he said. "[I've worked] all over the states, from coast-to-coast, and I've worked in every province of Canada except Newfoundland. The last job I did out of the [United States] was in Japan."

Adventure was one of the things that led him to Iraq.

"I've actually been trying to get over here for a year," he said. "Part of the reason I came over here was adventure, it's something that I wanted [to do]."

Bell found that he was pleasantly surprised with the local environment.

"I'm enjoying myself. I think the facilities that they have here, as far as the military goes, are excellent. The company I work for has gone to great pains to make sure that we have nice facilities to live in," Bell said.

Although Bell is having a good time here, he does miss one thing back home.

"Mainly," he said, "I miss my tools. In order to do our job, we have to have good tools."

Tools are important to Bell because he learned to become a carpenter using hand tools and knows the difficulties of working and restoring buildings with improper tools.

While Bell collects tools, the foundation of his occupation, he also collects various other items.

"I'm a collector of a lot of things," he said. "I collect guns and knives, black powder paraphernalia, [Native American] artifacts and art, amongst other things."



Robert Allan Bell

As much as Bell misses his friends, he wishes them only the best and hopes they are safe back home, because over here he is in good health.

"I'm 51, single and looking," joked Bell.

Despite being single, Bell said that he's been a very fortunate individual.

"I've been able to achieve anything that I've wanted to [do]," he said.

Bell doesn't believe he's anywhere near the end of his travels.

"I'm still having adventures," he said smiling and laughing. "I've got a long time to go for making adventures."



Photo by Pfc. Leah R. Burton

Purple Heart presentation

Sgt. 1st Class Larry Boudreau, 369th Transportation Company, accepts congratulatory remarks from fellow Soldiers after receiving a Purple Heart for injuries he sustained in combat. Sixteen other 7th Transportation Battalion Soldiers were awarded with Purple Hearts in the ceremony held outside their headquarters on LSA Anaconda Sept. 22.

HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH CELEBRATES

Civil Affairs Soldier helping build friendships

By Pfc. Abel Trevino
Staff writer

Sgt. Stephen Blaklui Soliz is much more than an NCO for civil affairs. By looking at him, one can't tell that for three years he was a tank crewman, or that before his deployment to Iraq he was in college with the goal of becoming a policeman.

"Before I was activated [from the Army reserves], I was attending [Austin Community] College full-time trying to get a degree in criminal justice because I was planning, when we get back from this deployment, on applying at the Austin Police Department and making a career out of that," he said.

Soliz's Army career originated as an armor crewman with the Abrams tanks, a job he looks back on with fond memories.

"That was a fun [time] mainly because a lot of the guys I worked with, we work so much together, that we knew each other so well, they were like my right-hand men. I knew them on a personal level, and it wasn't one or two guys, it was the whole platoon and company," Soliz said. "It was a good unit, a lot of good guys there."

Soliz said that he tries to find the best in everything, and thoroughly enjoys his current job.

"I like my job, it gives me a chance to go out and see and learn the customs of this country," he said. "It really helps give us an opportunity to say that we've actually contributed to the locals here."

With his current unit, Soliz spends a lot of time on the security aspect of humanitarian missions in local villages.

"I help prepare for the convoys we go out on, security-wise," he said. "Myself and others pull security outside the gate while we're doing missions."

Being stationed in Iraq at LSA Anaconda, and able to interact with the local nationals has been the highlight of his Army career.

"This is my first out-of-country deployment," he said. "This gives us the opportunity to say that we're out helping another country, but the stuff that we see, it's so compelling to help out."

This is Soliz's second deployment, but his first



Photos by Pfc. Abel Trevino

Sgt. Stephen Soliz, 13th COSCOM, stands by a vehicle outside the civil affairs office.

deployment away from the United States.

"We were deployed back in 2001 [to help] with the forest fires in Montana. That was another humanitarian mission, so both of my [deployments] combined were humanitarian missions not only for foreign nationals, but for fellow (United States) citizens," he said.

Soliz knows his family worries about what could happen to him, especially when he leaves the safety of the post.

"They worry, but at the same time there's a lot of pride that goes along with it," he said. "I miss seeing them, but they shouldn't worry about me even though it's second nature to them. We'll be home soon."

Last time Soliz went home he felt that he made a positive influence on the lives of neighborhood teens.

"I went back to where my family lives and there were a lot of young Hispanic kids and they were all interested in the situation going on down here and I got to tell them how it is here, how it's not as bad as the media puts it out to be," he said. "It seemed like the interest and the respect was there, although I didn't ask for it."

Soliz will redeploy to the United States in late December or early January, but stresses to those currently stationed here to make the most of the experience.

"Stay positive, look at the good things going on here. Look how much better the base is since we first got here, and everything improves everyday," he said. "Make your job fun."



Soliz provides security for civil affairs missions as a gunner keeping an eye out for suspicious activity.



Soliz waits in the top of a Humvee with his Squad Automatic Weapon before a civil affairs mission leaves to a neighboring community. The main aspect of pulling security on missions outside of post involves remaining with the vehicles to ensure their safety and accessibility.

Think capabilities not numbers in Korea Army General says

People have to stop thinking of capabilities solely in terms of numbers, the commander of all U.S. forces in Korea said.

Army Gen. Leon J. Laporte, the commander of Combined Forces Command, told members of the Senate Armed Services Committee Sept. 23 that they need to look at the U.S. military posture in Korea in terms of capabilities rather than numbers.

"Historically, the metric of readiness has been the number of troops on the ground," Laporte said. "However, what is truly important is the complimentary deterrent and combat capabilities that each nation contributes to the security of the peninsula."

Laporte said the capabilities the United States brings to the alliance with South Korea will allow the U.S. military to drop the number of troops on the peninsula while maintaining security.

"These capabilities allow us to focus overwhelming combat power when and where we choose to defeat armed aggression," he said. "United States forces can now be sized to provide tailored capabilities that compliment those of the Republic of Korea ally, providing overwhelming strategic deterrence. Our regional and strategic reinforcement capabilities allow us to defeat any potential North Korean aggression."

Combined Forces Command has 690,000 active-duty service members and 3 million reservists from the Republic of Korea and 34,000 U.S. personnel. The South Korean military is well-trained, well-equipped and well-led, LaPorte said.

What's more, South Korea is now the 11th largest economy in the world, able to pay for defense. The country is more than able to shoulder more of the defense burden on the peninsula. U.S. and South Korean troops are interoperable, and that has also beefed up capabilities.

The United States will reduce the number of troops on the peninsula by 12,000. The U.S. troops left in the country are scheduled to move away from the demilitarized zone to two hub bases south of the Han River.

Combined forces modernization programs include more than 340 enhancements to strengthen deterrence. These include fielding the PAC-3 Patriot missile system, coupled with the stationing of a Patriot brigade headquarters and a second Patriot battalion with two more Patriot batteries. This guards against North Korea's missile threat.



Photo by Master James M. Bowman, USAF
Army Gen. Leon J. LaPorte appears before the Senate Armed Services Committee on Sept. 23 to testify on the global posture review of the U.S. military.

The United States has also upgraded Army AH-64 Apache Delta Longbow helicopters. Navy/Marine Corps FA-18E-F Super Hornets are available to provide precision-strike capabilities day or night and in all weather. The United States can also rush reinforcements to the country via high-speed vessels and Air Force C-17 airlifters, should the need exist.

Laporte said that consolidating U.S. forces in Korea into two hubs south of the Han River is the final component of transformation in the country.

"This effort consists first of consolidation of forces and then their eventual relocation to the south away from the Seoul metropolitan area, creating a less-intrusive footprint and increasing the operational mission flexibility of our on- peninsula-stationed forces," he said.

He said that close consultations between the United States and South Korea resulted in this plan.

Laporte stressed that the command is ready to fight and win on the peninsula. "We are posturing the combined ROK-U.S. capabilities to deter and, if necessary, defeat any potential North Korean aggression," he said. "Our plan is on course to enhance the United States and Republic of Korea capabilities, to shape combined roles and missions by leveraging each alliance member's unique strengths and while aligning the force for sustainable long-term United States military presence on the peninsula."

Armed Forces Press Service

Sailors assist recovery efforts

More than 140 Sailors from Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 1 have spent much of the last week leading the recovery efforts on Naval Air Station Pensacola, one of the areas hardest hit by Hurricane Ivan.

The storm, which made landfall Sept. 16 in Gulf Shores, Ala., with winds measuring more than 130 miles per hour, left a path of destruction throughout the base.

"It was like the Stone Age over there," said Chief Utilitiesman John Grant, NMCB 1's Seabee Engineer Reconnaissance Team assistant officer in charge. "They had a sewage plant that was out, so there was no sewage treatment; a tree ruptured a gas main - no gas. And of course, there was no power there at all."

It all added up to make a daunting task for the Seabees, who had 49 members depart for the storm-ravaged base in the early hours of Sept. 17. The following day, 96 additional NMCB 1 Seabees arrived.

Their mission seemed simple - debris cleanup, opening up roads congested with rubble and trying to get food and water delivered to the base's many occupants. But just getting to the base proved to be tough enough, according to Grant.

"We got to Pensacola at 4 a.m. and literally had to weave our way through the town," he said. "There were power lines in the road, roofs; we even had to move a Taco Bell sign just to get the convoy through."

Once on the base, the unit immediately got to the task of clearing the major installation roads.

"(Clearing roads) was the first thing we did," Builder 3rd Class Marco Attisano said. Attisano, a disaster recovery team member, was among the first Sailors to reach NAS. "The most important thing early on is to make the base mobile again."

After taking a day to clear off the base's major roads, the teams moved on to general debris cleanup, a major task in itself. "There was damage everywhere," Attisano said. "Pretty much every tree on base was uprooted, and every building on base sustained some damage. We were looking at a lot of work."

The sheer look of the base following the storm was overwhelming to some, according to Information Systems Technician 2nd Class Jason Turner, a member of NMCB 1's communication team. "I've never been in a hurricane before, but I figured I would find everything to be down, no power," Turner said. "It was actually worse than I expected. I had no idea how much power that thing was packing."

The storm's power could be seen in the damage done on the base, one of the Navy's aviation hubs. Initial estimates by base officials had the damage surpassing the \$100 million mark, as 90 percent of the base's buildings reported significant damage.

Among the worst hit were NAS Pensacola's public affairs center and photography lab. Both facilities were completely destroyed. The Naval Air Technical Training Center was completely underwater after the storm.

Despite the damage, Grant said there was a noticeable difference in conditions when the first group of Seabees returned to Gulfport Sept. 22.

"When I left, there was a world of difference from when we showed up," said Grant, who one of about 60 members to leave the area then. "I'd say about a third of the base was back on shore power. The IT guys were working on getting Internet access back in one building. So it's coming back together, but it's going to be a long process. You'll know a hurricane hit there for a long time."

The remaining NMCB 1 Seabees are expected to depart the Pensacola area Sept. 24.



Navy News Service

Explosive Ordnance Disposal adds high-tech tool to their arsenal

Detachment 20, Explosive Ordnance Disposal Mobile Unit 8 has been testing the capabilities of a versatile tool that has recently been added to their arsenal.

The Vanguard MK II, a two-foot tall remote operated robot, may not be the biggest weapon the EOD technicians have, but it's a potential lifesaver, said Petty Officer 1st Class Taylor Hatcher, EOD technician, Detachment 20, EOD Mobile Unit 8.

"We're able to send the robot down range instead of personnel," said Hatcher. "Before the robot we used the traditional method of sending a human body down range. The robot is totally designed to

keep a human body alive."

The small robot has two tracks, which enable it to turn 90 degrees without moving forward. Its mobility and size enables it to move easily in rough terrain and tight spaces, Hatcher said.

Although its ability to eliminate potential explosive devices or ordnance is limited, the robot's three cameras enable the operators to get a good view of a site beforehand.

"It's not always going to be the right tool, but it's good to give the initial go ahead," Hatcher said. "It can provide initial reconnaissance of a suspicious package."

Anything suspicious in-

cludes boxes, backpacks and vehicles, Hatcher said. The robot can be used to let technicians know what hazards they face before putting themselves at risk.

"We have already had to use it on a real call," Hatcher said. "We also do regular training with it to test its capabilities and identify any weaknesses."

Although Detachment 20, EOD Mobile Unit 8 is reaching the end of its deployment in the Horn of Africa, the robot will not be going back to Sigonella, Sicily.

"The robot stays here," Hatcher said. "The detachment after us will have it."

Combined Joint Task Force - Horn of Africa



Photo by Cpl. Jeff M. Nagan
The Vanguard MK II robot lifts a simulated pipe bomb during a quick test of its capabilities Sept. 23. The small robot enables explosive ordnance technicians to inspect suspicious objects, such as bags and pipes, without endangering the lives of any military personnel.

Airmen keep engines revving

Aircraft engine propulsion technicians at the 51st Maintenance Squadron here said working at the engine test cell facility at Osan Air Base, South Korea is the best and most exciting job in the Air Force.

"I love it here," said Staff Sgt. Daniel Guerra. "What I do gives me a sense of accomplishment."

The test cell Airmen ensure that F-16 engines are ready and in top condition because the aircraft can be called upon to fight at anytime.

"Our job is very important," said Tech. Sgt. Brian Jett, section chief. "It saves lives and money."

The three-person team tests, monitors and analyzes the health of an engine while it is mounted on a stand inside the hangar facility. The Airmen measure engine pressure, vibration, thrust, temperature, fuel and airflow problems. These "runs" provide them critical information on the durability and condition of the engines.

They said test durations vary; some are as short as 20 minutes, and others can last as long as two hours.

Before the inspection starts, the cylindrical engine is wired electronically. During operations, two Airmen check the readouts from gauges inside a cab while the other visually inspects the engine for cracks, leaks or unsecured cables and wirings. They communicate with each other using head phones.

Engine failure or an accident can happen if they overlook even minor discrepancies, Jett said. It can cost the Air Force millions of dollars, or the life of a pilot.

Every day, the Airmen check every nook and cranny in their building.

"Little objects can do a lot of damage if (they get) sucked inside the engine," said Staff Sgt. Douglas Hubbard.

Testing the engines is something new for many of the mechanics.

"Seeing the engine's full capability instead of just tearing it apart and building it again has been a great experience for me," Guerra said.

The Airmen said they are proud to be an integral part of the mission here every time they see the jets take off.

"There's no thrust without us," Guerra said.

Air Force News Service

ING squeak past Marine Corps Raiders 1-0 in soccer challenge

The 404th Battalion, 50th Iraqi National Guard Brigade, Desert Dogs, squeaked a victory past the Company A, Battalion Landing Team 1st Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable), Raiders 1-0 during a friendly soccer match at the ING compound on Forward Operating Base Echo on Sept. 22.

"We're trying to get the Iraqi Security Forces in a recreational activity to build camaraderie and team spirit," said Raiders' Robert B. Sotire.

A Desert Dogs' forward scored the only goal of the game in the first 10 minutes of the match when a shot from the left edge of the penalty box partially deflected off a Raider's defender, sending the goalie to the right and the ball to the left and in the net. After that goal, the Raiders' defense tightened up and frustrated the Desert Dogs' further attempts to score.

Mark Enrique, the Raiders' first half goalie made several dramatic saves during the first 45-minute half.

The uneven field, pitted with rocks and large dirt mounds, frustrated the Raiders' attempts to control the ball and pass accurately, especially during the first half of the game.

"We took the first half of the game to get acquainted with each other and to get used to the way we each play," said Ivan G. Krimker, right forward. "They had the first half of the game and we had the second."

On the other hand, the Desert Dogs' familiarization with the field, which they built, and their experience playing in a grassless environment allowed them to take control of the ball quite often.

"The ING had a lot of teamwork out there in the field," said Enrique. "They love competition and they fought for each and every ball they got as if it was their last."

Lance Cpl. Anthony Massa, the Raiders' second half goalie also made several spectacular saves and further



Photo by Gunnery Sgt. Chago Zapata

Daniel W. Fleming, sweeper, Company A, Battalion Landing Team 1st Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable), watches as an Iraqi National Guard forward heads the ball and Aaron J. Doerr, fullback, runs forward to assist during a friendly soccer match between the 404th ING Battalion and the Company A, Raiders at the ING compound in Forward Operating Base Echo, Iraq, Sept. 22.

denied the Desert Dogs' many attempts to score.

"Every possession of the ball was very important to them," said Krimker. "If they lost the ball they put forth 110 percent to get it back. They put a lot of effort into every play."

To the ING's dismay, the Raiders determined defense kept the score at 1-0 for the rest of the game, preventing them from increasing their lead.

"The Marines represented the Marine Corps and I think they did really well out there," Sotire said. "The game brought (the ING and Marines) closer together. There were Marines out there cheering for the ING and ING cheering for the Marines, all in all it was a good evolution."

Marine Corps News Service

Road Warrior III reinforces continuous training for nuclear resources defenders

Road Warrior III trained nearly 90 Airmen from air force bases in Wyoming, Montana and North Dakota in the strategy and tactics of defending the nation's Intercontinental Ballistic Missile resources during a three week course at Camp Guernsey, Wyo.

The training exercise involved more than 120 people from the National Nuclear Security Agency's office of secure transportation and Air Force Space Command. The exercise, which ran from Aug. 9 to Aug. 27, trained them in resource protection during convoy movements of intercontinental ballistic missiles.

"We train from a holistic perspective," said Capt. Vic Moncrieffe, Road Warrior III commander from Air Force Space Command headquarters at Peterson Air Force Base, Colo. "We take all of the disciplines from multiple Air Force specialties and train them to be a team (that) can work together if a situation develops. America expects our nuclear munitions to be protected at the highest level. This training gives the expertise needed to do just that."

Air Force participants included helicopter pilots, maintainers, security forces and other specialties. The instructors used a train-the-trainer mentality. The intent being so Security forces Airmen can bring this training back to their home units to train other Airmen.

The training was broken down into three phases, each lasting about one week.

Phase One was the preparatory phase where instruction, coordination and leadership elements were discussed between students and instructors. This academic environment was necessary to provide a review of expectations and make Phase Two and Phase Three go smoothly.

"Any training is good, but this opens up for outside views," said 2nd Lt. Timothy Brady of the 790th Missile Security Forces Squadron at F.E. Warren Air Force Base, Wyo. "This is better than just military training. Working with the (agency) has been great."

"It's challenging, but worth it," said 2nd Lt. James Hagemier, who is in charge of the 741st MSFS fire teams at Malmstrom

Air Force Base, Mont. "This is progressive learning for advanced convoy protection techniques. The (agency) does this day-in and day-out; we do this periodically. The focus of this training is to give us an education we can benefit from. Everybody brings their own tactics, and when we leave we will have more tools in our toolbox in which to draw from."

Phase Two was the advanced weapons training element where skills were improved for an operational and hostile environment. The focus was protection of land-based convoys.

"This training has been fantastic," Hagemier said. "We fired more rounds in a nonqualification environment than we fire in a whole year at home station. Off-hand firing, extreme-close and distance shooting, and transition firing with other weapon systems are excellent opportunities to improve. The biggest advantage was the distance shooting while performing combat maneuvers, which is physically impossible at Malmstrom Air Force Base."

Phase Three included the tactics, tech-

niques and procedures for defending a convoy. Elements in this phase focused on defending convoys, avoiding friendly fire incidents and other physical-security procedures.

"We are using actual tactics that we (would) use during an attack," said 1st Lt. Kevin Lombardo, 791st MSFS senior convoy commander at Minot Air Force Base, N.D. "We're getting more out of this training than we would at our home units."

"This training helps us work as a team," Brady said. "Rather than just doing academic training, this incorporates the practical exercises we don't have at our home station. We have a bigger (opposing force), which helps our guys react better."

Potential enemies need to know U.S. service members continue to be the most highly trained military professionals who are capable of performing their mission, officials said. If deterrence fails, then security forces and convoy Airmen will neutralize the threat and continue to keep America safe.

Air Force News Service

U.S. forces work together for common mission

By Master Sgt. Chuck Roberts
Airman Magazine

At LSA Anaconda, jointness isn't a concept explored by Pentagon planners. At this hotbed in the middle of Iraq, where mortar attacks have become almost commonplace, Airmen and Soldiers live and work alongside each other — and have discovered it's not only a better way of doing business, but they like it, too.

"Here at [LSA Anaconda], we are just a speck of blue in a sea of green," said Col. William Changoose shortly before his deployment ended in June as commander of the 332nd Expeditionary Operations Group. The installation is home to about 2,000 Airmen and more than 20,000 Soldiers, plus a small contingent of Marines.

The operations group combines Airmen, Soldiers and Marines who control a mix of aircraft — F-16 Fighting Falcons,

the MQ-1 Predator, Army and Air Force helicopters, Army C-23 Sherpa aircraft and the steady flow of cargo aircraft that feed this primary logistics hub for Iraq.

"None of us could do it by ourselves," the colonel said.

"You kind of leave the services at the door and bring the mission forward," said Staff Sgt. Chris Floyd, an air traffic controller with the 332nd Expeditionary Operations Support Squadron. "We're like two pieces to a puzzle that make up the whole and get the mission done."

Operating without the benefit of radar while having to contend with Army helicopters for the first time, Floyd said he was fortunate to work alongside Army counterparts such as Sgt. Terry Horner, an air traffic control specialist from the 3rd Battalion, 58th Aviation at Katterbach Army Airfield, Germany.

"There are so many complexities here," Floyd said of unexpected Army occurrences such as flares that can light up the sky during nighttime blackout conditions.

"My reaction was, 'My God!'

until Horner told me 'It's just the Army shooting flares so they can see.'"

And when the base is under

attack by mortars or rockets, Horner puts his Soldier skills to work to help Airmen in the tower identify whether they're incoming or outbound. Another benefit of the Army sergeant is that he'll be on duty for a year to provide invaluable continuity to Airmen rotating in and out on 90- and 120-day deployments.

For his part, Horner said he was impressed with the structured Air Force training that allows controllers to quickly acclimate to their jobs, and by the professionalism displayed by wholeheartedly embracing joint duty in the tower.

In addition to working together, Horner and about 20 other Soldiers live in the Air Force tent city where he said life is "nice and neat" and features a few more amenities than typically found on the Army side. Their presence has drawn a few double takes and salutes from younger Airmen, as well as the usual jokes such as, "Are you ready to step into the blue?"

Another "purple" operation, as joint endeavors are often referred to, can be found at the 332nd Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron. Its Airmen work alongside Soldiers and Marines, downloading cargo from arriving flights and trucking or flying it to other locations. Sometimes they arrive with an added surprise.

Soon after learning about a short-notice shipment of ammunition arriving for the Marines in April, a Marine Air Cargo Handling Team unexpectedly showed up on the doorstep of the Air Force aerial port flight, said Maj. Sue Harris, logistics readiness squadron commander. After a few days of unsuccessfully trying to work out procedures, such as who would handle aircraft offload, "we finally got in one room for two hours and hashed it out. We were singing kumbaya by the time we walked out the door," she said laughing.

But in the field, those situations are to be expected and Harris said she loves working with her sister services and being forced to "think outside the box."

"You've got to sometimes let go of doctrine and say, 'OK, let's get this done and agree on a way to do the job,'"

the major said.

That was the case with Tech. Sgt. Michael Russell, dayshift flight chief for the 332nd Expeditionary Security Forces Flight. After a mortar attack impact areas must be quickly located to determine the point of origin. Only Soldiers were crater analysis certified, but they weren't in a good position to respond as quickly as Airmen to incidents occurring on the runway. The solution — an impromptu Army crater analysis class for Air Force security forces.

The joint effort paid off. After one attack, an Airman responded to the impact site within a minute, determined the point of origin, and provided the information to Soldiers, who quickly apprehended a suspect. The man tested positive for traces of explosive compounds on his body.

Russell said he has developed a better understanding and appreciation for the Army way of doing business, where he sees a stricter adherence to the manual. But he sees the value of living and working with the Army and the sheer number of people and equipment it deploys with. And he's happy to be living with Soldiers who are "more

see FORCES, page 11

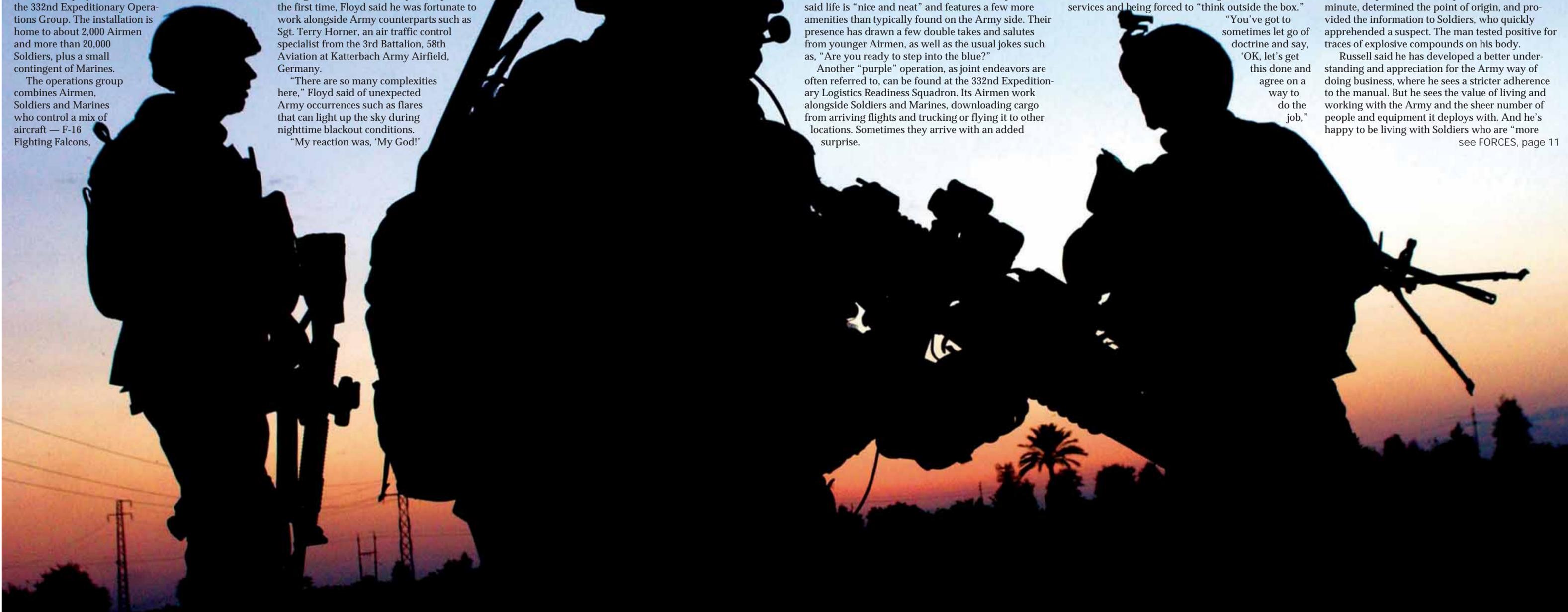


Photo by Staff Sgt. Aaron D. Allmon II

Airmen and Soldiers work side by side to ensure the safety of LSA Anaconda. It's a tough and dangerous job. Joint teams patrol areas near the base to clear them of "threats." Air Force tactical air control party members routinely go on patrol, and call in air strikes when needed.

Movie Schedule

Sustainer Reel Time Theater

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

Oct. 3

3 p.m. Sky Captain and the World
6 p.m. Mr. 3000
9 p.m. The Village

Oct. 4

3 p.m. Eurotrip
6 p.m. Envy
9 p.m. Van Helsing

Oct. 5

3 p.m. Mr. 3000
6 p.m. Sky Captain and the World
9 p.m. Eurotrip

Oct. 6

3 p.m. Sky Captain and the World
6 p.m. The Manchurian Candidate
9 p.m. The Village

Oct. 7

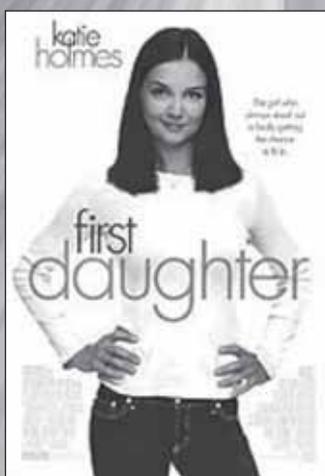
3 p.m. Van Helsing
6 p.m. Sky Captain and the World
9 p.m. Mr. 3000

Oct. 8

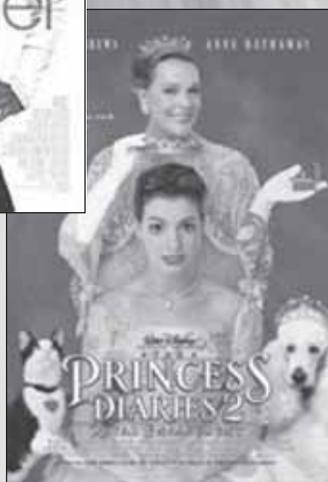
3 p.m. First Daughter
6 p.m. Princess Diaries 2
9 p.m. Collateral

Oct. 9

3 p.m. Yu-Gi-Oh! The Movie
6 p.m. First Daughter
9 p.m. Princess Diaries 2



First Daughter



Princess Diaries 2

Weekly Religious Schedule

Roman Catholic Mass

Sunday 8:30 a.m. 185th Task Force Tent
Sunday 10:30 a.m. Tuskegee Chapel
Sunday noon Anaconda Provider Chapel
Monday 6:30 p.m. Air Force Hospital Chapel
Monday 9 p.m. PPI Dining Facility
Tuesday 6:30 p.m. Air Force Hospital Chapel
Friday 6:30 p.m. Air Force Hospital Chapel
Sacrament of Reconciliation
Friday 6 p.m. Air Force Hospital Chapel

Church of Christ

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

Christian Orthodox

Saturday 7 p.m. 185th Task Force Tent
Sunday 11 a.m. 185th Task Force Tent

Protestant-Gospel

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

Lutheran

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

Protestant-Contemporary

Sunday 7 a.m. Sustainer Indoor Theater
Sunday 9 a.m. Tuskegee Chapel

Protestant-Traditional

Sunday 9 a.m. Eden Chapel (bldg. 4148)
Sunday 9:30 a.m. Anaconda Provider Chapel
Sunday 10:30 a.m. Air Force Hospital Chapel
Sunday 11 a.m. Eden Chapel (bldg. 4148)
Sunday 11 a.m. 185th Aviation Group Chapel

Protestant-Praise and Worship

Sunday 9:30 a.m. Sustainer Indoor Theater
Sunday 9:30 a.m. 185th Task Force Tent
Sunday 5:30 p.m. Tuskegee Chapel

Islamic Prayer

Friday 1:30 p.m. Anaconda Provider Chapel

Latter Day Saints

Sunday 1 p.m. Anaconda Provider Chapel
Sunday 7 p.m. Tuskegee Chapel

Jewish Prayer

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

Movie Synopsis for Oct. 3-9

First Daughter

PG, Comedy, 104 min
Katie Holmes, Marc Blucas, Amerie

A very special student deals with exams, first love, and national security issues in this teen-oriented romantic comedy-drama. Samantha MacKenzie (Katie Holmes) is a seemingly ordinary college freshman with one important exception — her father happens to be the President of the United States (Michael Keaton). Samantha, however, would prefer to be as inconspicuous as possible as she begins her studies at Redmond University, so she asks a favor of her father — remove the two Secret Service agents who follow her everywhere, and allow her to fend for herself at school. The president agrees, sends in a young undercover agent, James Lansome (Marc Blucas), who will pose as the Resident Advisor at her dorm to keep an eye on her. Samantha and James strike up a fast friendship that grows into a romance, but when Samantha discovers the truth about James, she wonders if his love for her is real or just part of his cover.

The Princess Diaries 2: Royal Engagement

G, Comedy, 113 min
Anne Hathaway, Julie Andrews, Hector Elizondo

Mia, now ready to assume her role as princess of Genovia, has moved into the Royal Palace with her beautiful, wise grandmother Queen Clarisse. However, she soon learns her days as a princess are numbered—Mia's got to lose the tiara and immediately take the crown herself. As if getting ready to rule wasn't enough, the stakes for Mia have never been higher—with Genovian law stating that princesses must be married before being crowned. Mia has 30 days to meet and fall in love one of her choices — all from a parade of suitors who'd all like to be her king.

Envy

PG-13, Comedy, 99 min
Ben Stiller, Jack Black, Rachel Weisz

Ben Stiller and Jack Black star as Tim Dingman and Nick Vandemark, two middle-class working stiffs and life-long pals. When Nick comes up with an invention that does away with pet droppings, he and his wife, Natalie (Amy Poehler), suddenly find themselves obscenely rich. However, Tim has a hard time getting used to his friend's good fortune and becomes jealous, putting an increasing amount of tension between the two. When the flames of jealousy are fanned by an oddball drifter (Walken) who imposes himself into the situation, Tim's life careens wildly out of control ... taking Nick's with it.

Also starring Rachel Weisz, Envy was written by first-time screenwriter Steve Adams from an idea concocted by Adams and Seinfeld creator Larry David.

Sky Captain and the World of Tomorrow

PG, Adventure, 107 min
Jude Law, Gwyneth Paltrow, Casey Affleck

In this throwback to old sci-fi cliffhanger comics and serials of yesteryear, it's 1930's Gotham and ace reporter Polly Perkins (Gwyneth Paltrow) has noted the sudden disappearances of many of the world's most famous scientists.

After the city falls under attack of giant flying robots, she decides to team up with officer Joseph 'Sky Captain' Sullivan (Jude Law) and fly around the world in search of Dr. Totenkopf, whose plan is to create a "World of Tomorrow" ...and destroy the one of today.

Aided by Franky Cook (Angelina Jolie), commander of an all-female amphibious squadron, and technical genius Dex (Giovanni Ribisi), Polly and Sky Captain may be our planet's only hope.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Ricky A. Bloom

Air traffic control is serious business at Balad. So it takes a dedicated "purple" team to manage all of it. On a busy day, (left to right) Tech. Sgt. Raymond Stone and Spc. Thierry Mukabi work the phones as Spc. Reihannon Hamiter uses binoculars to keep tabs on taxiing aircraft.

FORCES from page 9
acclimated to live in the dirt" where they've learned an abundance of survival skills they're ready to share.

"It's completely different from anything I've ever done," Russell said of camp jointness. "There are no clear lines with the Army here. After awhile you feel there is only one branch of service. We all become one."

The jointness is also hard to discern among firefighters, said Army Sgt. Andrew Clark, an Army reservist from Creston, Iowa. His only prior experience with the Air Force until arriving on LSA Anaconda was shopping at the base exchange at Offutt Air Force Base, Neb.

At his fire station — one of the three on camp — the air conditioning, Internet access and refrigerator are courtesy of the Army, and the entertainment system, telephones, computers and washer and dryer are courtesy of the Air Force. Clark was happy to see Airmen firefighters arrive with trucks designed primarily for large aircraft fires, compared with Army trucks more compatible for smaller aircraft and house fires.

They also share training and career experience. About 90 percent of Guard firefighters hold the same job full time as civilians.

"We do things for them, they do things for us," the

unofficial Army-Air Force liaison said of the amiable relationship that has developed and continues to improve.

"The more Air Force groups that come, the more we will mesh," said Clark.

But in addition to working together and living together, he would like to see functions such as finance combine to make life easier for future joint teams.

At the airfield management office, Master Sgt. Jerry Jones said he initially had some reservations about sharing duty with the Army. But after seeing them in action, he considers them "the tops. They can come and be an airfield manager for me anytime."

One Airman who wasn't surprised at the advantages of joint duty is Staff Sgt. Tommy Gwinn, a duty forecaster and observer from Pope Air Force Base, N.C. He routinely works with the Army back home and is doing the same at LSA Anaconda — enjoying doing so at both locations.

"You work hard, but you play hard," he said of living and working with Soldiers. "These guys definitely work their butts off and are definitely ready to support the mission. They do it differently, but if you combine with them, you can quite possibly come up with a better solution."

New chapel opens on New Jersey



Photo by Capt. Catherine Wilkinson

Brig. Gen. James E. Chambers speaks at the opening ceremony for the Provider Chapel Sep. 17.

By Capt.
Catherine Wilkinson
*Deputy Public
Affairs Officer*

Community members have a new place to worship as the Anaconda community celebrated the presentation of a new chapel here Sept. 17.

Provider Chapel opened providing a 350-seat venue that the community can use for worship and study.

The need for a new chapel became evident in February after strong winds collapsed the previous chapel tent on six separate occasions.

"We completely destroyed three tents, moved to the

mayor's cell building, then to the theater and now we finally have our own building for services," said Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Al Lowe, the 13th COSCOM Chaplain.

The Yuksel Company of Turkey constructed the new \$325,000 chapel in about seven weeks. The facility has two 25-seat rooms for classes and meetings as well as indoor bathroom facilities.

The chapel will provide a place of worship for service members of all religions and faiths here.

Construction on a second chapel facility located on the west side of post is expected to be completed in less than two months.

Storing Hazmat safely

By Master Sgt. Lee Collier
Facility Engineer Team-15

There are several reasons why proper storage of Hazardous Material and Hazardous Waste should be followed:

It supports the mission — the quality of the environment effects readiness, safety, military tactics and relations with the local community

It saves the United States money — prevention always cost less than clean up

It's an order — as stated in OPLANS, OPORDS and FRAGOS; you are under orders to protect the environment.

Facts: Up to 5 million gallons of water can be contaminated from one gallon of a spilled solvent.

While deployed the key is to plan ahead and be prepared to prevent and respond to Hazmat and waste accidents if they occur.

At LSA Anaconda the main Hazmat and waste is fuel, solvents, engine oils, anti-freeze, bleach or DS2, empty petroleum, oil and lubricants containers, used oil filters, transmission fluid, brake fluids, batteries, grease. Proper storage and disposal for these items is in the Hazmat yard not the burn pit.

Some tips to remember when setting up your unit Hazmat and waste storage-collection points:

- Set up near vehicle maintenance area
- Stay away from sleeping and eating areas
- Ideally try to have overhead cover
- Locate adjacent to service roads so large vehicles can access the area to remove Hazmat and waste
- Secondary containment should hold 10 percent of the total Hazmat and waste stored or 100 percent of the largest container
- Use sand bags and pallets to protect your plastic liner

Do not store incompatible materials in the same area: reactives from flammables, acids from bases, corrosives from flammables, oxidizers from everything.

Check the Material Safety Data Sheet for storing products safely.

MSDS sheets should be with each product and a manual maintained with all sheets located near the Hazmat and waste area. These sheets should accompany the waste when taken to the Hazmat yard along with the appropriate DD form 1348-1A or provided to emergency response personnel in case of an accident or spill.

After your Prevention and Response Program is in place you need to check the effectiveness of your program by appointing a Hazmat point of contact, who has ideally attended the Hazmat training program, to conduct inspections of your areas reinforce the goals and objectives of the program and correct deficiencies.

Upon redeploying your areas need to be inspected and all Hazmat and waste taken to the Hazmat yard on camp.

Do not leave Hazmat and waste for another unit to clean up. If a spill has occurred it is the responsibility of the unit to clean it up.

Addressing Hazmat is part of the process to clear LSA Anaconda.

Each unit should obtain the You Spill, You Dig: An Environmental Handbook For Deployment from the United States Central Command or stop by Facility Engineer Team-15 for assistance.

Soldiers train on demolitions, crew-served weapons

By Spc. Amanda Labrum
81st BCT Public Affairs

“Fire in the Hole!”

Seconds later there was an earth-shaking blast followed by a mushroom cloud of smoke.

It was all in a day's work when Company A, 579th Engineer Battalion Soldiers set up shape charges, C4 and detonation cord to practice demolition during combat training.

“You want to find where they are strongest and train above that so they excel without sacrificing the training,” said Staff Sgt. James Heaney, range NCOIC.

Co. A's mission on the range was to sustain proficiency using all the weapons

they employ on a daily basis.

The Soldiers trained on shoulder-mounted weapons systems. The powerful weapons pierced disabled vehicles, leaving large holes and a hollow frame.

When the sun set, Co. A Soldiers performed night fire drills, training on all the weapons systems using night vision optics.

Because it was a first time for many of the younger Soldiers to fire these weapons systems, some were a little nervous.

Spc. Robert Ratajczak of Oroville, California called firing a shoulder-mounted weapons system “a little scary.”

Heaney constantly challenged Soldiers and leaders alike. As each Soldier climbed into the gunner's hatch to fire the crew-served weapon, Heaney had

them talk him through their actions.

“I throw scenarios at them [leaders]. I'm yelling, ‘What are you going to do?’ You have to train the leaders too,” Heaney said.

While on the range, a new .50 caliber machine gun jammed. After some filing the armorer fixed the problem.

“Doing this [training] finds problems so you don't find them at a crucial time,” said Staff Sgt. Jon Simmons, from Chico, California, the company's armorer.

Four-man teams took turns attacking a building during Military Operations on Urban Terrain training.

Gunners on .50 cal weapons took out window targets during drive-by attacks and then the teams dismounted and eliminated machine guns with hand grenades.

“I think it went fantastic. It gives Soldiers a chance to employ how they would react in a combat situation,” said 2nd Lt. Jim Jack, a platoon leader. “On vehicles, it is paramount because of all the patrols we do.”

Soldiers became proficient and confident with the weapons training.

“They fired such a large amount of rounds because that's what it took to make them proficient,” said 1st Sgt. Kenneth Skolnik, for Co. A. first sergeant. “We'll continue to do range training to keep them proficient.”

Task Force Tacoma, located on LSA Anaconda, comprises Co. A 579th EN Bn and other 81st Brigade Combat Team elements. Their mission on LSA Anaconda is to provide base security, preventing further attacks here.



A Soldier prepares to fire an M136 AT4, anti-tank weapon while the range instructor observes.



Photos by Spc. Christopher Murphy

An 81st Brigade Combat Team Soldier looks downrange through the sites of an M60 7.62 mm machine gun as he zeroes during range training.

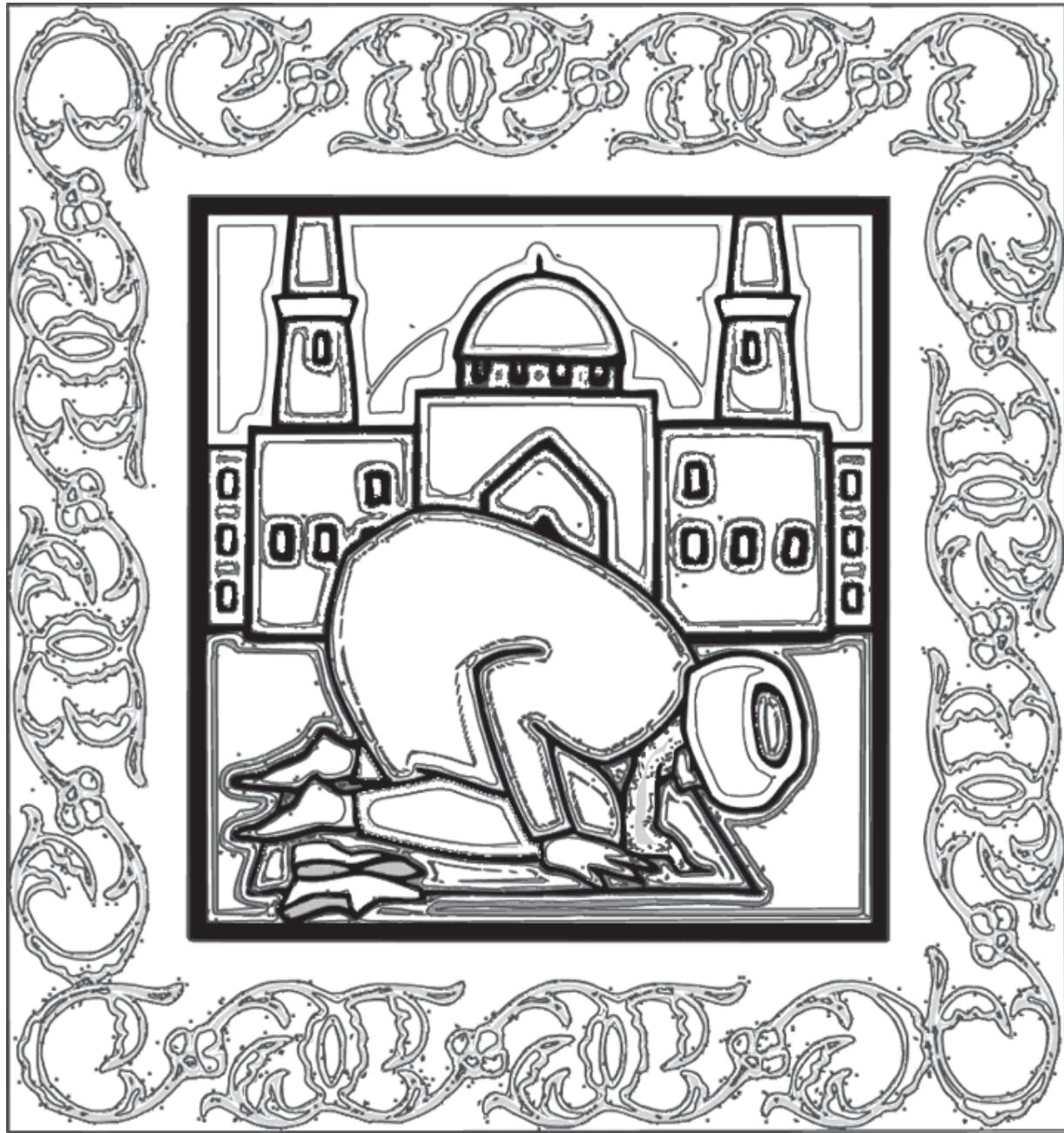


A Soldier fires an M2 .50 caliber machine gun mounted to a Humvee during range training.



A range instructor looks on as a Soldier attempts to zero on the M60 7.62 mm machine gun.

Ramadan: Holiday of prayer, fasting, charity



By Sgt. Ann Venturato
Assistant editor

Muslims here in Iraq and around the world will soon be celebrating the beginning of the month-long holiday of Ramadan Oct 15.

For them, it is a holiday marked by prayer, fasting and charity. Ramadan differs from other holidays because it focuses on self-sacrifice and devotion to Allah. Ramadan is observed on the ninth month of the Muslim calendar and precedes Christmas and Hanukkah this year. It is an important holiday for Muslims because it allows them to concentrate on their faith and spend less time on the concerns of their everyday lives.

Ramadan is also when Muslims believe the Holy Quran was sent down from heaven as a means of salvation for men. During the holiday, it is common for Muslims to spend several hours in prayer at the mosque. Besides the five daily prayers, Muslims also recite a special prayer called the Tareweeh prayer (Night Prayer).

The length of this prayer is usually two to three times as long as the daily prayers. Some Muslims spend the entire night in prayer.

Muslims observe the practice of fasting, which is one of the

five pillars (duties) of Islam. During the daylight hours for the entire month of Ramadan, all able Muslims from the time they are 12 years old observe the practice of abstaining from food, drink and sexual activity as part of spiritual reflection. Muslims get up before sunrise to eat a meal called suhoor and break their fast each night after the sun sets with a meal called iftar.

Fasting reminds Muslims of the suffering of the poor. The practice also provides an opportunity to practice self-control, cleanse the body and mind, experience peace that comes from spiritual devotion as well as finding kinship with fellow believers.

The month-long fasting ends on Nov. 14 with the Ramadan festival of Eid al-Fitr, which literally means the "Festival of Breaking the Fast". Eid al-Fitr is one of the two most important Islamic celebrations — the other occurs after the Hajj, or pilgrimage to Mecca. At Eid al-Fitr, people dress in their finest clothes, adorn their homes with lights and decorations, give treats to children, and enjoy visits with friends and family. The celebration resembles the Christian holiday of Christmas in its religious joyfulness and gift giving. It is a charitable time when Muslims feed the poor and make contributions to mosques.

Question of the Week

What is your good luck charm or something special you carry?



Pfc. Tanya Estrada
310th Military Intelligence Battalion

"Rosary beads. My mother's best friend gave it to me, they took it to Rome and got it blessed by the pope. I carry it everywhere I go."



Spc. Andrea Walsh
3625th Maintenance Company

"I have a necklace that was given to me from my girlfriends before I left for basic training. Also a picture of my kids in my Kevlar."



Sgt. Cody Desplanques
339th Military Police Company

"Saint Christopher medallion. It has been in World War II and served my grandfather well."



Spc. Rob Cone
197th Military Police Battalion

"I have a rock I got from Mount Jasper back home. It reminds me of home."



Spc. Shane Hairston
512th Maintenance Company

"A picture of my mom. My mom passed away, she's like my guardian angel."



Photos by Sgt. Ann Venturato

Sgt. Scott Burton, Company C, 299th Forward Support Battalion, demonstrates infant cardiopulmonary resuscitation during a combat lifesaver course Sept. 27.

Joint training helps lifesaver course

By Sgt. Ann Venturato
Assistant editor

A new phase of medical training begins today under a new plan; all medical units on post will assist in conducting training for the combat lifesaver course.

The benefits of the joint training are that all the medical units can share in the training and will be able to provide the necessary instruction to units here more often. Medical units will be able to share in the training load while still accomplishing daily missions.

"We all got together back in April and started talking with the different medical units," said Lt. Col. Robert Cody, 118th Area Support Medical Battalion commander.

Some units had already started to gather for classes but this collaboration will bring all medical units in line teaching Soldiers on LSA Anaconda, Cody said.

"It is an effort to centralize medical training on post," Cody said.

The CLS course is a four-day course to train non-medical Soldiers in basic lifesaving skills.

The key to training combat lifesavers is to teach those who are out on the roads, said Sgt. 1st. Class David Dennis, 82nd Medical Company (Air Ambulance).

The reason the leadership decided to pool their resources was to take advantage of all the units that are here and not put all the instruction on one unit,



Sgt. Mark Mark simulates abdominal thrusts to remove foreign body obstructions from the victim's airway.

Cody said. The idea is to spread the training throughout units on camp and have Soldiers come to the education center for tutelage, Cody added.

Another reason for the collaboration was because the 299th Forward Support Battalion, who was doing all the CLS training here needed to change their focus from teaching the CLS course to getting medical personnel certified in their field on 91W transition courses, such as the Prehospital Trauma Life Support course and trauma, advanced airway, intravenous therapy, medications and pharmacology and shock management course.

The Trauma-AIMS course is a validated course for combat medical

Soldiers who still require the training to transition to the 91W military occupational specialty.

PHTLS is a four-day course and Trauma AIMS is a 10-day course, said Capt. Victor Suarez, Company C, 299th FSB.

"The transition started sometime in late July after we got the approval to teach 91W transition courses," Suarez said.

The 299th FSB figured out a timetable for the classes and at what point they would need to shift their focus and pass the torch for CLS training to the rest of the community.

Before the collaboration, units did not schedule training consistently, according to Cody.

Now all the instructors for the courses will not all be from one unit, so Soldiers won't be dependent on just one source to get the training they need.

Additionally, experienced professionals, such as doctors and nurses will assist with the instruction and perform hands-on training.

The medical memorandum of understanding includes the eventual collaboration to assist in the education of the field sanitation course and the semi-annual combat medic skills-validation testing course.

Units involved in the joint operation are the 81st Brigade Combat Team, Task Force 185th Aviation Brigade, 226th Medical Logistics Battalion, 299th FSB, 926th Preventative Medicine Detachment, 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing and the 118th ASMB.

Ten-Miler preparation underway

By Spc. Steven J. Schneider
Staff writer

A committee has prepared since April to bring the troops of LSA Anaconda a little bit of home – in the form of a run.

On the same day as the annual Army Ten-Miler, Oct. 24, Soldiers here will have the opportunity to run their own 10-mile race.

"It brings the esprit de corps of the Soldier up, as well as bringing out the competitiveness of the Soldier," said Maj. Willie Rios, Anaconda Ten-Miler chairman.

Rios, of the 13th COSCOM Special Troops Battalion, leads the group of volunteers to discuss the race's issues.

The main point of discussion has been the race route, and the major concern was force protection, Rios said.

"We wanted to make sure there were enough buildings around for the runners in case something was to happen," Rios said. "We're looking for the safest route."

A lot of thought was also put into avoiding ongoing construction and keeping the amount of turns in the course to a minimum.

"We're trying to give the runners a better idea of where the start and end points are at," Rios said.

The course has also been set up so there will be water points every mile to help runners beat the heat. There will also be medical aid along the route and military police support to help control traffic. Post-race beverages and snacks will be available to help runners replace nutrients.

Each runner who finishes will receive a medal and a t-shirt as long as supplies last.

Trophies will go to the top three runners in male and female age groups 29 and younger, 30 to 39, and 40 and older. More trophies will be awarded to the top three predominant teams and top three four-person relay teams, as well as trophies for top the overall male and female runners.

Anyone interested in running in the race can sign up at Dining Facility 1 and Dining Facility 4 through the day of the race at 6:30 a.m.

The race is open to all service members and civilians who want to participate.

Call Rios or Staff Sgt. Jasmine Gabriel at 529-6351 for more information.



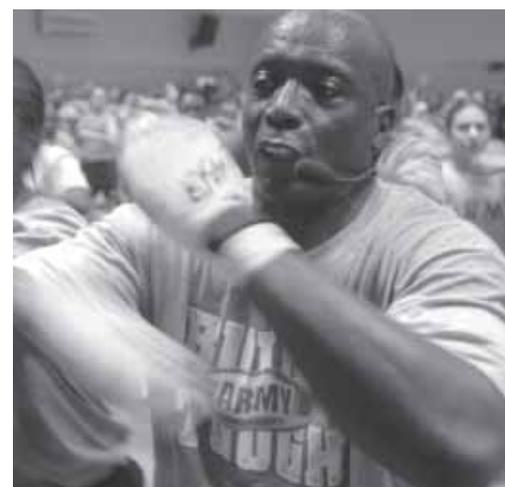


Shellie Blanks Cimarosti shows how to bring a heavier opponent down by flipping Tae Bo Instructor Billy Blanks Sept. 25 at LSA Anaconda. Blanks gave three classes on Tae Bo in two days at the Anaconda Fitness Center.

Photos by Spc. Steven J. Schneider



Blanks demonstrates with Cimarosti how Tae Bo can be used for self defense.



Blanks shows Soldiers how to properly perform a Tae Bo technique. Blanks said its important to do the exercises correctly.

LSA Anaconda goes Tae Bo

Billy Blanks trains with troops, teaches motivational tactics

By Spc. Steven J. Schneider
Staff writer

Troops from LSA Anaconda had a special kind of work out Sept. 25 and 26 in the form of kicks, knees and punches.

Billy Blanks, inventor of Tae Bo, visited here and instructed three classes in two days on how to perform his aerobic workout.

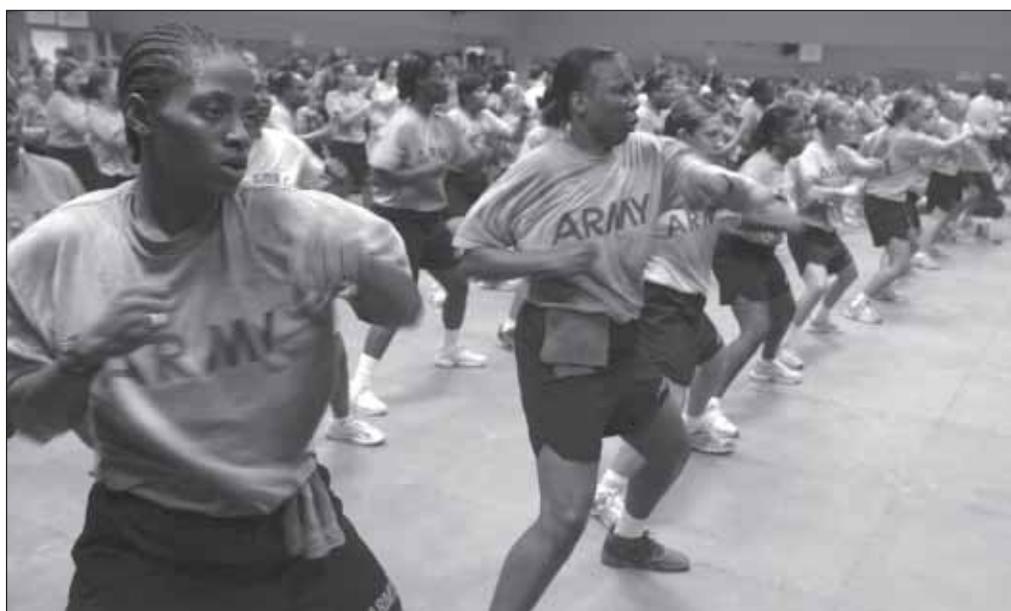
"When you're doing an aerobics class think of the floor as being hot," Blanks said during his first workout session.

Thinking of the floor as being hot keeps the feet moving and keeps muscles in action, he said. This is important to get the full effect.

The Blanks workout was good not only for the cardiovascular level but also for the muscular strength level, said Pfc. Aaron Parker, 1467th Transportation Company.

Parker said he plans to continue with the Tae Bo workout because it's the best workout he's ever had.

"It was extreme," he said. "It was definitely harder than anything I've ever done even in basic. I like it because it's different and it breaks the monotony of regular workouts."



1st Lt. Tonya Walker, Company A, 84th Engineer Battalion, throws a left-handed punch in sync with other Soldiers in Tae Bo class.

Those who participated were rewarded with almost nonstop action for nearly an hour as Blanks moved them from one exercise to the next.

"I worked out a lot of different muscles I don't normally work out," said Spc. Adelle Anclard, 1467th Transportation Company. "I don't normally tend to do a total body workout."

Many Soldiers had to take a break and grab some water during the session.

The key to being in shape is to overcome pain through willpower and determination, Blanks said while talking with the troops after a Tae Bo class.

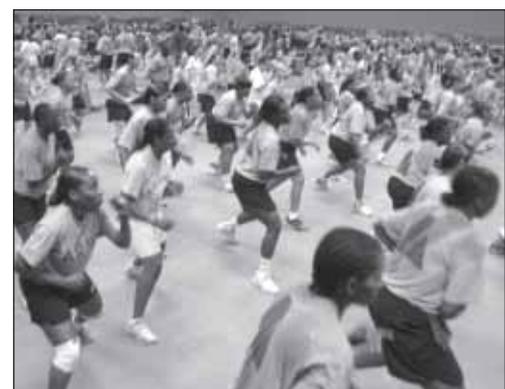
"Where I am today is where my mind put me, and where I am tomorrow is where my mind put me," Blanks said.

Maj. Kelly Hilland, 56th Personnel Support Battalion, demonstrated how spirit can overcome pain by staying in a crouched position for the class. Hilland said it was a painful experience, but she got through it mentally.

"I was a little bit excited because I'd never been called out in front of everybody like that before," she said.

Blanks said the key to all success lies in determination.

"If your mind can't take it, I know



Service members packed the Anaconda Fitness Center Aerobics Room Sept. 25 to have a chance to meet and train with Blanks, the inventor of Tae Bo.

your body can't take it," he said.

The Soldiers attending the class felt his words were good words to live by.

"What he said was very inspirational," Hilland said. "I'm going to take what he said and cherish and use it the rest of the time I am here."

Blanks was as impressed with the Soldiers as they were with him.

"To stand before you all is a privilege and an honor," Blanks said.

Blanks said he tells people, "The troops are heroes. They've got the guts to go over (in harms way) and do what they're doing."

The Soldiers of LSA Anaconda are just happy someone is taking notice of their work.

"It's always nice to see someone, who appreciates what we do, come out here," Anclard said.

Local nationals graduate

By Sgt. Ann Venturato
Assistant editor

About 100 Iraqi National Guard soldiers from Company A, 210th ING Battalion stood in formation, as the second group of ING soldiers graduated from the six-week advanced individual training course in advanced infantry tactics, during a ceremony at the ING training area here Sept. 23.

The ING soldiers learned how to set up a patrol base, perform searches for weapons, as well as patrol maneuvers, said Staff Sgt. Robert Brite, an ING instructor from

Company A, 339th Infantry Battalion.

Prior to the six-week training, the ING soldiers had a 10-day basic training course where they learned fundamental soldier skills such as marching and rifle marksmanship, Brite added.

Although the ING soldiers have finished this schooling, there is more for them to learn in real-life missions.

"The learning never stops. For those of you who are graduating today, you will go on to some new training. More specifically, training for your next mission," said Lt. Col. Ted Arnold, Task Force Chinook commander.

"You are Iraqi National Guard. You are going to go out and you are going to fight for the freedom of Iraq."



Photo by Sgt. Ann Venturato

Brig. Gen. Oscar Hilman, 81st Brigade Combat Team Commander, shakes hands with the ING soldiers at the graduation ceremony for Company A, 210th ING battalion, at the ING training area here Sept. 23.



Photo by Pfc. Leah R. Burton

The Iraqi National Guard conducts training on troop movements and securing a perimeter at LSA Anaconda Sept. 16. The Iraqi soldiers train daily in preparation to assume responsibility for the security of their country.



Photo by Pfc. Leah R. Burton

An ING soldier conducts training on securing a perimeter at LSA Anaconda Sept. 16.



Photo by Pfc. Leah R. Burton

An ING soldier scans his sector during common task training at the ING training area at LSA Anaconda Sept. 16.