

ANACONDA TIMES

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Photos by Staff Sgt. David E. Gillespie

Local children help by carrying bricks to the construction workers for a new medical clinic in their village.

Local villagers anxious for new clinic

By Capt. Catherine Wilkinson
13th COSCOM Deputy PAO

Soldiers and local village leaders joined together in a groundbreaking ceremony for a new medical clinic near LSA Anaconda June 14.

Leaders of the 118th Medical Battalion and the 13th Corps Support Command Civil Affairs Office joined the sheik and the mayor of Al-Anwar village in a ceremonial groundbreaking for the much-needed clinic.

The 13th COSCOM Civil Affairs staff is supervising the construction contract for the clinic and actually awarded the contract on June 11. The villagers were so excited about their new clinic that they immediately began work without waiting for the groundbreaking ceremony.

"I was very surprised to see the progress being made today," said Lt. Col. Robert Cody, the 118th Med. Bn. commander. "This was supposed to be the initial groundbreaking, but they already

have the first three or four layers of brick on there."

"They are very anxious to get this clinic built. The contractor said he was only supposed to hire 12 workers, but to get it done quicker and put more money into the community, he hired 27. All of them are from the village, and there are dozens more just pitching in," he added.

The village children even pitched in carrying bricks and water to the worksite.

The clinic will be stocked with donated supplies and equipment and will be used as a permanent facility for future Medical Civil Assistance Projects.

The 118th Med. Bn.'s role in the project is to sponsor the clinic and solicit donations for equipment and supplies. Their work has already paid off; a hospital in Washington recently donated a truckload of supplies.

"This clinic will be a tremendous help. A lot of these people need simple things like vitamins, shampoo and just items to treat skin irritations," said Sgt. Tanya Williams, a soldier from the



A 118th Medical Battalion Soldier sets a brick in the wall of the new clinic being built near LSA Anaconda June 14.

118th Med. Bn.

Since its arrival in January, the 13th COSCOM has spent more than \$1.5 million to rebuild the facilities and infrastructure of the villages surrounding LSA Anaconda.

Satellite unit serves Victory post Soldiers

By Pfc. Abel Trevino
Staff writer

Camp Victory North is home to the 1st Cavalry Division, but the backbone of its postal operations belongs to a satellite 13th Corps Support Command unit, the 151st Postal Company.

"We're based out of Fort Hood with the 13th COSCOM, we deployed underneath the 13th COSCOM, but when we got here, [Central Command] sent two platoons in different directions, one to support the COSCOM and one to support the Cav," said Sgt. Lonnie L. Larry, NCOIC of the 151st Postal Co.

Although their headquarters is based at LSA Anaconda, the postal company feels right at home.

"They've actually taken pretty good care of us," 2nd Lt. Jeanette Molina, 151st Postal Co., said.

She commented that their living conditions were great, and that the division was getting items such as refrigerators, microwaves and extra mattresses to make them more comfortable.

"Our morale has been pretty high, due to our living conditions being good. We have a brand new PX right across the street that just opened up so we get to go there, it's walking distance. We really can't complain about too much, aside from the heat," she said.

Most importantly, the division supplied them with a new post office, which they dedicated to one of their fallen soldiers June 1.

"We had brought up the idea to rename this post office after Spc. Frances Marie Vega," Molina said. "We wanted to do this for her. Especially since the 151st works with the post office, we wanted to do something for her to make sure that her memory lived on."

Vega is the only soldier from the 151st Postal Co. killed in action.

"Frances Vega, she was a great soldier, she was one of my soldiers to be exact. She was definitely a good soldier to have on your team. She always found a way to make things happen. It was sad when we lost her," Larry said.

The 151st Postal Co. handles mail for 10 to 12 thousand Soldiers.

"Mail comes in, mail goes out, we do anywhere between 10,000 and 30,000 lbs of outgoing and incoming mail daily," Larry said.

Molina is proud of her troops' hard work.

"Our soldiers are hidden heroes. They work hard everyday for the soldiers so they can get their mail. They come in every day of the week, they work 7 days a week, to make sure our soldiers get their mail and that the mail goes out to their family members in as quick a fashion as fast as possible. They care about what they do," she said.

Know what to do ... it could save your life

Tech. Sgt. Julie Fisher
332nd ECES

Everyone is probably already familiar with the standardized alarm signals, but here at LSA Anaconda there are some differences you should know.

First, two different tones for Alarm Red are used. If there is a direct, small arms attack, a wavering tone will be sounded. Voice notification through the public address system and over the land mobile radios will also be utilized during all alarm signals.

If the attack is indirect, meaning mortars or rockets, a steady tone will be used.

Both Alarm Red tones require the same actions. All personnel should take cover and get down as low as possible.

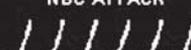
If you are not wearing your body armor, do not leave the safety of a hardtop shelter to run and get out. You are safer taking shelter than you are out in the open. Continue staying under cover in Alarm Red even if you see others walking around.

If you are in a vehicle, secure the vehicle, get out while staying low to the ground and seek shelter. Also, keep radio traffic to a minimum during Alarm Red.

Another difference here at LSA Anaconda is Alarm Yellow, where it is known as Alarm Amber. The meaning of the alarm signal and the required actions are the same regardless of whether the signal is called Alarm Yellow or Alarm Amber.

You should continue staying under cover unless the mission dictates that you go back to work. You should know in advance whether your job is considered mission-essential during Alarm Amber.

Since Alarm Amber occurs after an attack,

ALARM CONDITION	IF YOU HEAR	SIREN	THIS INDICATES	GENERAL ACTIONS
RED	CONTINUOUS RISING AND FALLING (WAVERING) SIREN TONE	 DIRECT ATTACK (SMALL ARMS FIRE)	ATTACK IS IMMINENT OR IN PROGRESS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GET DOWN • DON HELMET AND BODY ARMOR • INCREASE FPCON AS DIRECTED • REMAIN UNDER COVER • ESSENTIAL MOVEMENT ONLY • ECP ACCESS RESTRICTED
	STEADY TONE	 INDIRECT ATTACK (MORTARS, ROCKETS)	APPLIES TO ENTIRE INSTALLATION	
YELLOW OR AMBER	VOICE ANNOUNCEMENT BROADCAST OVER LMR NETS AND GIANT VOICE	VOICE ONLY	INCREASED STATE OF ALERT DUE TO SPECIFIC THREAT OR THREAT REMAINS HIGH FOLLOWING AN ATTACK UXO'S ARE SUSPECTED	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FPCON C+ OR AS DIRECTED • ESSENTIAL MOVEMENT ONLY • CONDUCT PAR AS DIRECTED • REPORT ACCOUNTABILITY STATUS TO UCC • MWR FACILITIES CLOSED UNTIL "ALL CLEAR" IS ISSUED
BLACK	REPEATED RISING SIREN TONE	 NBC ATTACK	NBC CONTAMINATION SUSPECTED OR DETECTED	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FPCON DELTA • MOPP 4 OR AS DIRECTED • REMAIN UNDER OVERHEAD COVER UNTIL DIRECTED • ESSENTIAL MOVEMENT ONLY
NORMAL	ALTERNATING LOW AND HIGH SIREN TONE	 ALL CLEAR	NO PENDING ATTACK COMPLY WITH UNIT SOP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FOLLOW FPCON C+ PROCEDURES • CONTINUE TO REPORT ACCOUNTABILITY STATUS TO UCC

Graphic provided by 332nd CES/Readiness

unexploded ordnances may be present, so you should exercise extreme caution.

Accountability procedures should also be initiated during Alarm Amber. Check with your supervisor to see what the proper procedure is for your duty section.

Alarm Black means that chemical or biological agents are suspected or confirmed and will be signaled by a repeated, increasing tone. During Alarm Black you should continue to take cover and don the

appropriate gear if instructed.

Once an attack is over and all areas have been deemed safe, "All Clear" will be signaled by an alternating low and high tone.

At this point, you can return to work. Also, be sure to continue with accountability procedures.

Understanding the meaning of the alarm signals, knowing the sound of the signals, and knowing in advance the appropriate actions you should take during an alarm may save your life.

Army general becomes new theater commander

From the United States
Department of Defense

Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld announced June 15 that the president has made the following nominations:

Army Gen. George W. Casey, Jr. for reappointment to the rank of general and assignment as commander, Multi-National Forces-Iraq, Baghdad, Iraq.

Casey is currently serving as the vice chief of staff, U.S. Army, Washington, D.C.

Reactions significant, wear proper uniform best defense

The guidelines for reacting to an attack and alarm are as follows:

- Don body armor and Kevlar helmet
- Immediately seek cover in the nearest hardtop building or shelter
- Do not move anything, equipment or personnel, closer to the ordnance
- If possible, evacuate all personnel from the area
- Do not touch the ordnance
- Do not use electronic devices near the area
- Wait until the all-clear alarm is sounded before leaving shelter
- Report to your unit immediately
- Do not approach an area that has been receiving incoming fire
- Do not photograph casualties, injuries or damage to structures attacked

Do not mention battle damage assessment to non-official sources (i.e. do not call home and report to friends, family or the media of specifics of the attack.)

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.

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Commentary

Free Iraq's future coming into view, Bush says

By John D. Banusiewicz
American Forces Press Service

With the transfer of sovereignty two weeks away, the future of a free Iraq is coming into view, President Bush told a worldwide military audience and service members assembled at MacDill Air Force Base, Fla., June 16.

U.S. Central Command and U.S. Special Operations Command have their headquarters at MacDill.

A satellite television hook-up enabled the president to make his remarks directly to service members assembled in hangars at Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan, and Baghdad International Airport, Iraq. The Pentagon Channel and American Forces Radio and Television Service carried his address to military people in other parts of Afghanistan and Iraq, at 20 bases in the United States, and around the globe to wherever U.S. military people serve.

"A turning point will come two weeks from

today," the president said. "On June 30, governing authority will be transferred to a fully sovereign interim government. The Coalition Provisional Authority will cease to exist. An American embassy will open in Baghdad."

In the meantime, Bush said, the Iraqi people are stepping up to bring democracy to their country.

"Iraq's new leaders are rising to their responsibilities. Together with our coalition and the United Nations, they are working to prepare the way for national elections by next January," the president said. "In July, Iraqis from every part of the country will gather for a national conference that will choose an interim national council to advise and support Prime Minister (Ayad) Allawi and his cabinet."

Noting that the U.N. Security Council voted unanimously to endorse the Iraqi interim government and the plan for Iraq's political transition, Bush cited the "steady progress" the Iraqi people have made and vowed not to let insurgents and foreign fighters derail the process. "We will not let thugs and killers stand in the way of a free and

democratic Iraq," the president promised.

With more than 200,000 Iraqis serving in or training for the country's new security forces, Bush said the United States is leading the international effort to train new forces for Iraq. Experience has shown, he said, that Iraqi soldiers naturally want to take their orders from Iraqi officers, and the coalition is working to build and strengthen the Iraqi chain of command. "So we're helping to prepare a new generation of Iraqi military commanders who will lead the security forces of a free and sovereign Iraq," the president said.

Iraqi forces captured a key lieutenant of fugitive terrorist Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, Bush said, repelled attacks on Mosul government buildings, and are being greeted warmly by their fellow citizens as they patrol in Najaf.

"See, these brave Iraqis are stepping up. They are setting an example for their fellow citizens. They are staying in the fight, taking the battle to the terrorists and Saddam holdouts," the president said. "They are securing a future of liberty and opportunity for their children and their grandchildren. And when the history of modern Iraq is written, the people of Iraq will know their freedom was finally secured by the courage and by the determination of Iraqi patriots."

More violence can be expected in Iraq, Bush acknowledged. "As the interim government assumes authority and Iraqi security forces defend their country, our coalition will play a supporting role," he said. "And this is an essential part of our strategy for success." The people responsible for the violence, he added, are friends of neither the coalition nor the Iraqi people.

"Terrorists who attack a self-governing Iraq are showing us and the Iraqis who they really are," Bush said. "They're not fighting foreign forces; they're fighting the Iraqi people. They're not just enemies of America; they are enemies of democracy and hope. They are enemies of a peaceful future in Iraq."

Iraq's prime minister, the president noted, said

see FUTURE, on Page 4

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

I agreed whole heartedly with your editorial comments on letting your guard down in last week's *Anaconda Times*, too bad it wasn't on the front page.

It is sad that individuals must be injured for everyone to perk up and take notice that we are still in harms way. With the relaxation of battle focus we make ourselves more vulnerable to the enemy. What we do not need to do is make the enemy ourselves by not maintaining military standards and readiness.

I recall not too long ago an article referring to the uniform police. It was a good read, but there are more violations than ever, just go to your local dining facility around dinnertime. It

seems that there are two standards or no standards at all. I suggest the standard be posted in the dining facilities along with what uniform everyone should be wearing.

Let it never be said that we have become complacent and in doing so cause harm to others or ourselves.

I wish only that every Soldier, sailor, airmen, or Marine be mindful of their job and the importance it has in the lives of other individuals.

Some of us have it better than others, but we should never forget the Soldier that has it the worst.

I appreciate the job you do in keeping us informed and spreading the news.

Sgt. 1st Class Michael A. Carter
TAP Forward NCOIC

Dear Reader,

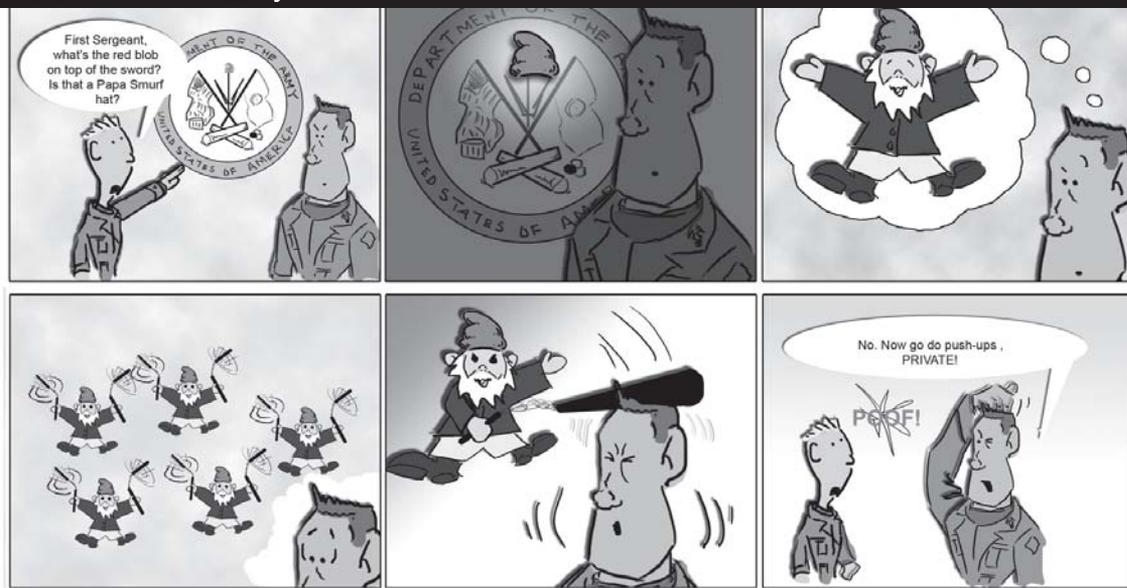
Thank you for your suggestions, which were forwarded to the command sergeant major.

Anaconda Times editor

(Editor's note: We reserve the right to edit letters for content, clarity, brevity and propriety. Letters should be of importance to the community. All letters must include the writer's unit or employer, a valid e-mail address and telephone number. Only serious letters will be considered.

Send your letters to:
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@us.army.mil)

ARMY OF ME by Aaron Thacker



Pvt. Murphy's Law





Left Shoulder Diary

34th Infantry Division

Compiled from
Unit History

The red bull insignia of the 34th Infantry Division is composed of a red steer skull imposed on the shape of a black Mexican water jar, called an "olla."

During World War II German soldiers in Italy referred to the American Soldiers who wore the familiar patch as "Red Devils" or "Red Bulls". The latter name stuck, and the division soon adopted it officially.

The 34th Inf. Div. was created from National Guard troops from Minnesota, Iowa, the Dakotas and Nebraska in the late summer of 1917. During World War II, President Franklin D. Roosevelt ordered the 34th Inf. Div., among others, to active duty for a period of 12 consecutive months unless sooner relieved. Consequently, Feb. 10, 1941 had been set for the official muster. Few men in the 34th Inf. Div. believed that they would return to civilian life after one year for the world's militaristic scenario offered little hope.

With the Japanese bombing of Pearl Harbor Dec. 7, 1941 and declaration of war, the division was spread through the South, guarding sensitive installations. But Jan. 1, 1942 found them enroute to Fort Dix, N.J. for subsequent shipment overseas.

The division participated in six major Army campaigns in North Africa, Sicily, and Italy. The division is credited with amassing 517 days of continuous front line combat, more than any other division in the European theater. One or more 34th Inf. Div. units were engaged in actual combat with the enemy 611 days. The 34th Inf. Div. suffered 3,737 killed in action, 14,165 wounded in action, and 3,460 missing in action, for a total of 21, 362 battle casualties. The division's men were awarded 10 Medals of Honor, 98 Distinguished Service Crosses, one Distinguished Service Medal, 1,052 Silver Stars, 116 Legion of Merit medals, one Distinguished Flying Cross, 1,713 Bronze Stars, 51 Soldier Medals, 34 Air Medals, with duplicate awards of 52 oak leaf clusters, and 15,000 purple hearts.

More than 1,100 Minnesota Army National Guard's 34th Inf. Div. Soldiers officially started their largest deployment since World War II Sept. 30, 2003 in a Transfer of Authority at Peacekeepers Hall on Eagle Base in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

As of 2004 the 34th Inf. Div.'s nearly 11,000 soldiers were located across five states — Minnesota, Iowa, North Dakota, Colorado and Michigan. Minnesota is home to the division headquarters, located in Rosemount, a southern suburb of the Twin Cities. The 1st Armored Brigade and its associated combat team elements are all in Minnesota. The Air Assault Brigade is headquartered in Iowa.

Civilian of the Week

Erlinda Boyssa Nunez, a native of Davao in the Philippines, works for Nasa Unlimited as an Army and Air Force Exchange Services cosmetologist at the beauty salon here.

Manicures and pedicures are her specialty, and she is proud to tend to the hands and feet of the Soldiers on LSA Anaconda.

Since she arrived May 8, she has kept busy by helping to put the new salon into operation.

"Even in combat, it's important to feel good about yourself, and I'm happy to be a part of that," Nunez said.

The 30-year-old cosmetologist came to Iraq in the hopes of earning money to help support her family and to have an exciting experience abroad.

The major differences Nunez noticed between Iraq and her home in the Philippines were the heat, the insects bites and the fact that this place is a war zone.

She is getting used to the sound of mortar and rocket attacks and the red alert alarm, slowly but surely.

"I don't panic at all. I just get a little nervous," Nunez said.

Even with the differences, Nunez loves her job. The thing she loves most about her job are the good customers.

"We're happy to serve all American Soldiers," Nunez said.

As with most people here, Nunez misses home, especially the food and her parents.

She keeps herself motivated with prayer and spending time with her co-workers, who have all become fast friends.

"We're OK here in Balad. We're happy and secure," Nunez said.



Erlinda Boyssa Nunez

FUTURE, from Page 3

last week that anyone involved in these attacks is a traitor to the cause of Iraq's freedom and the freedom of its people.

"The prime minister and I share the same resolve. The traitors will be defeated," Bush said. "Their greatest fear is an Iraqi government of, by and for the Iraqi people. And no matter what the terrorists plan — no matter what they attempt — a democratic, free Iraq is on the way."

The United States also is helping Iraqis rebuild their country's infrastructure, the president said, pointing to the successful rebuilding of Germany from the rubble of World War II despite many difficulties.

"We overcame many obstacles because we knew that the only hope for a secure America was a peaceful and democratic Europe," he said. "And because we persevered, because we had faith in our values, because we were strong in the face of adversity, Germany became the stable, successful, great nation that it is today."

Bush listed a litany of successes in Iraq, and again vowed that terrorists would not derail continued progress.

"The terrorists will fail. They will fail because the Iraqi people will not accept a return to tyranny. The terrorists will fail because the resolve of America and our allies will not be shaken. And the terrorists will fail because courageous men and women like you are standing in their way," Bush told his worldwide military audience.

The president cited the difficulty of the mission and the work that lies ahead, and expressed gratitude to service members and their families for their sacrifices.

"Many of you have faced long deployments, sometimes longer than you expected. You miss your families; your families miss you. Some of you have lost comrades, good men and women you will never forget, and America will never forget them either," Bush said.

"You're sacrificing greatly for our country, and our country has needed that sacrifice," he continued. "By standing for the cause of freedom, you are making the world more peaceful. By fighting terrorists abroad, you are making the American people more secure here at home. And by acting in the best traditions of duty and honor, you are making our country and your commander in chief incredibly proud."



Photo by Journalist 1st Class Philip Achten

A Seabee, serving in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom II, videotapes a story to mail home to his family under the United Thru Reading program.

Reading program helps Seabees reach out to home

By Journalist 1st Class Philip Achten
Naval Mobile Construction Battalion THREE

Overseas deployments are rarely easy, especially for parents with young children at home. Thanks to an innovative program, "United Thru Reading," Navy Seabees deployed throughout Iraq have a unique opportunity to reach out to their loved ones at home.

Founded by the Family Literacy Foundation, UTR helps parents and children stay connected while parents are deployed. The program allows sailors to read books while being videotaped and then send the tapes home to their children. UTR has already proven to be popular throughout the blue-water Navy. Successful ventures aboard ships such as the USS *Theodore Roosevelt* (CVN 71) and the USS *Nimitz* (CVN 68), have motivated more and more commands to establish UTR. Now, the Seabees of Naval Mobile Construction Battalion THREE, deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom II are taking the program from the sea to the sand.

Lt. Ken Amador, Chaplain of NMCB THREE and Religious Program Specialist 1st Class Enrico Antonio enthusiastically embraced the program from the beginning. Antonio thinks the extra baggage — video equipment, monitor and hundreds of VHS tapes — was well worth the effort to pack it to the desert.

"The reading program is one of the best programs of its kind in the Navy. You can talk through the phone for hours to your family but

they can't see your expression. There's more of a connection when children can see their parent's face," said Antonio.

Utilities Constructionman Esteban Echevarria was one of the first Seabees to sit for the camera. He said the program is money well spent.

"This program really benefits the family. With it we're less likely to neglect our family members who are alone and missing us. It is a great way to stay connected," Echevarria said.

Lt. Tom Risse agreed it's great way of dealing with the stress and confusion children feel when their parents are away for an extended time.

"I like this program and I believe it will really help my kids," said Risse, who has already mailed videotapes home to Iowa, and plans on sending one each month for as long as he is deployed.

Helping children adjust to the absence of a parent is a big part of what the program is about. Some Seabees even request favorite books from home to read so their children can follow along with a familiar story.

But not everyone reads a story to his or her children. Seabees are allowed to tape video messages to their families as well. Builder 3rd Class Michelle Gaul thinks it is a great idea.

"Now, my family and friends can see how I'm doing ... adjusting to a whole new area," Gaul said.

The process is surprisingly simple. The video camera and monitor are set facing a chair with an American flag providing the backdrop. Children's books such as "Kat Kong," "Raising Dragons" and "The Real Tooth Fairy" are available for those who choose to read a story. Taping takes place when

the Seabees can find a 30-minute break to read a book or deliver their message.

Everything except the postage is free. The Navy pays for the tapes and volunteer groups donate the books.

In the first two weeks of UTR, more than 30 Seabees embraced the opportunity to "stay connected" by making videotapes. Many of those plan on making additional tapes in the months ahead and names continue to fill the pages of the sign-up sheet.

If the measure of success of the UTR program can be gauged by anything, it might be by the reaction of the families at home.

Chief Builder Allen Pettitt said he'll be doing more tapes after hearing how his grandchildren reacted to his story telling video. When his wife, Jennifer played the video for the first time, 2-year-old Kailyn ran to the screen to try and kiss her grandfather. Jennifer, who watches three of Pettitt's six grandchildren, said they insist she play the tape at least three times a day.

"This program has made a big, big difference," said Pettitt. "My wife said I just need to remember to look into the camera and mention every grandchild's name."

Making a difference is what the UTR program is all about. Somehow, the distance to home seems a little less and the connection a little stronger when a Seabee is reading a story to a child or looking into the camera saying "I miss you," or "I'll be home soon."

Until the day of redeployment, the Seabees will continue to brush off the dust, straighten their sweat-stained uniforms and smile for the camera.

Army gets new uniform

The Army will be fielding a new combat uniform designed by NCOs and field tested by Stryker Brigade Soldiers in Iraq since October.

On the Army's 229th birthday, senior leadership introduced the Army Combat Uniform during a Pentagon cake-cutting ceremony. Soldiers were on display, suited-up in the wrinkle-free uniform with a digitized camouflage pattern.

Three different versions of the ACU have been developed, and more than 10,000 uniforms have been produced and dragged through the sand in Iraq and at Army training centers. Even more are on American production lines to be issued by April 2005 to Soldiers in deploying units. Fielding to the total Army should be complete by December 2007, said officials from the Program Executive Office, known as PEO Soldier.

There were 20 changes made to the uniform, to include removing the color black and adapting the digital print from the Marine Corps uniform to meet the needs of the Army, said Sgt. 1st Class Jeff Myhre, the Clothing and Individual Equipment NCOIC.

Black is no longer useful on the uniform because it is not a color commonly found in nature. The drawback to black is that its color immediately catches the eye, he added.

"The color scheme in the ACU capitalizes on the environments that we operate in," Myhre said. "The current colors on the ACU are green-woodland, grey-urban environments and sand brown-desert. The pattern is not a 100-percent solution in every environment, but a good solution across the board."

"This isn't about a cosmetic redesign of the uniform," said Col. John Norwood, the project manager for Clothing and Individual Equipment. "It's a functionality change of the uniform that will improve the ability of Soldiers to execute their combat mission."

Every change was made for a reason. The bottom pockets on the jacket were removed and placed on the shoulder sleeves so Soldiers can have access to them while wearing body armor. The pockets were



Photo by PEO Soldier

also tilted forward so that they are easily accessible. Buttons were replaced with zippers that open from the top and bottom to provide comfort while wearing armor.

Patches and tabs are affixed to the uniform with

Velcro to give the wearer more flexibility and to save the Soldier money, Myhre said. Soldiers can take the name-tapes and patches off their uniforms before laundering, which will add to the lifecycle of the patches.

The ACU will consist of a jacket, trousers, moisture wicking t-shirt and the brown combat boots. It will replace both versions of the BDU and the desert camouflage uniform. The black beret will be the normal headgear for the ACU, but there is a matching patrol cap to be worn at the commander's discretion.

At \$88 per uniform, about \$30 more than the BDU, Soldiers will eventually reap gains in money and time by not having to take uniforms to the cleaners or shine boots.

The life of the ACU began in January 2003 when PEO Soldier teamed with Myhre, Master Sgt. Alex Samoba and Staff Sgt. Matt Goodine - from the first Stryker Brigade, Fort Lewis, Wash.

The team looked at a number of uniforms and took the best part of each uniform and combined it into one.

They built their first prototype and delivered 25 uniforms to Stryker squads at the National Training Center. After listening to their comments, the team went back to the lab and created prototype two.

"We watched them as they entered and cleared rooms, as they carried their rucksacks and all of the things they had to be able to do in the uniform, and then we came up with prototype three," Myhre said.

Two issues of the third version were given to the Stryker Soldiers deploying to Iraq.

Three months ago, Myhre was among a team who visited Iraq to get more feedback from Soldiers.

"We would talk to Soldiers right after they had completed a mission while the benefits of the uniform were still fresh in their minds. We wanted to know how did the uniform help the mission."

Sgt. Maj. of the Army Kenneth Preston is one of the ACU's biggest supporters. Major command sergeants major had a chance to see the uniform and give advice toward the final version.

Army News Service

Redeploying Marines, sailors bid Haiti farewell leaving behind lasting impressions

A plane carrying Marines and sailors from Combat Service Support Detachment-20 departed Port-au-Prince International Airport on June 20 bound for Camp Lejeune.

While deployed there, the Marines and sailors of CSSD-20 provided a supply and logistical life-line for the operations of Marine Air Ground Task Force-8 and the Multinational Interim Force-Haiti.

"CSSD-20 was a pick-up team from the FSSG (2nd Force Service Support Group out of Camp Lejeune, N.C.). They had never worked together before, but based on their performance you would have thought they had been working together for years," said Col. Mark Gurganus, MAGTF-8 commander.

"They kept our operations up and running," he added.

Combat Service Support Detachment-20 has been actively supporting MAGTF-8 and the other multinational forces deployed in support of Operation Secure Tomorrow with food, water, equipment and logistical needs

since their arrival in early March.

"We couldn't have done everything we did without them," Gurganus said. "They were our life support system for our operations day in and day out."

The detachment also supported civil military operations geared toward a better quality of life for the Haitian people as well as ordering and providing repair parts for numerous military vehicles and communication equipment.

"The Marines helped support everyone deployed in one way or the other," said Maj. Vincent H. Williams, executive officer, CSSD-20. "They've delivered humanitarian aid, helped clean-up the streets of Port-au-Prince and at the same time supplied the MAGTF-8 and the other multinational forces with



Photo by Sgt. Ryan S. Scranton

Marines with Combat Service Support Detachment-20 file into a North Carolina bound airplane at the Port-au-Prince International Airport.

MREs (Meals, Ready-to-eat) water, uniforms and boots."

Since their deployment, the Marines with CSSD-20 found themselves in a wide variety of operations. They provided about 230,000 gallons of bottled water and processed more than 235,000 gallons of water for distribution to MIF- Haiti personnel and the Haitian people.

In addition to supplying water, the

detachment provided more than 185,000 gallons of diesel fuel and gasoline, as well as more than 1,200 repair parts to keep the force moving.

"These Marines have supplied water and fuel to nearly everyone here," Williams said.

The detachment did more than provide the fuel and parts to keep the force going, they also cleared paths through the city for the convoys and presence patrols providing security to the city.

They did this by assisting in the removal of more than 600 dump truck loads of refuse and debris from the streets of Port-au-Prince, as well as removing about 80 burned-out and abandoned car hulls.

"The clearing of the trash and car hulls from the streets allowed for the free movement of our patrols," Gurganus explained. "The street sweep operations, which removed trash and debris which were essentially road blocks, allowed us to get wherever we needed to go to bring security to this city."

Marine Corps News

Marines restock Ar Ramadi hospital with medical supplies

The Ar Ramadi General Hospital has X-ray machines but no film.

That's just one of the many problems plaguing the doctors working in Iraq.

To better equip the city's primary medical facility, 2nd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment recently donated nearly \$50,000 worth of basic medical supplies to the hospital.

"During Saddam Hussein's time, the hospital was ignored," said Iraqi Dr. Qussai Najem Abdulla. "We never received any money for medicine or equipment."

Since the fall of Hussein's regimen, Abdulla has been working overtime trying to stock his hospital with modern medical equipment and more medicines. He said he's worked through every channel he could find.

"This is one of the biggest hospitals in Iraq. Right now, we don't have enough stuff to help all the people of Ramadi," he explained.

Abdulla has been working with representatives from 2nd Bn., 4th Marine Regt.'s medical and Civil Affairs sections for the past three months.

Navy Lt. Kenneth Y. Son, battalion surgeon, discussed the needs of the hospital with Abdulla.

"At first, they were surprised to see the American military," explained Son of his first visit to the hospital. "They were pretty skeptical of us."

Through constant visits, Son and Abdulla came up with a list of items most needed at the hospital. Then Son found a vendor in the Baghdad area who could accommodate the request in a timely and cost-effective manner.

"These are just the basic medical supplies a hospital needs to function," added Son, from Los Angeles. "The doctors here have had to finagle to get supplies on their own. They've even had to bypass the Iraqi Ministry of Health because it takes forever to get any help from them."

The doctors at the hospital see more than 16,000 people per month. Ramadi is home to 400,000 citizens.

"The hospital just doesn't have enough supplies and medicines to treat all the people who come in," Abdulla explained. "Sometimes they come in and we have to send them away without the proper treatment."

According to Son, the hospital's lack of gear has sparked an illegal and dangerous business.

"Wannabe doctors" in the city set up "modameds," which claim to provide patients with a wide range of medical care.

"They're usually just in someone's garage," Son said. "People go there and get all sorts of stuff done. These people get surgeries and medicines that they probably don't need."

Modamed owners steal their equipment and medicines from manufacturers or vendors, which hurts the legitimate medical facilities throughout Iraq.

"Ramadi's hospital usually only receives about 10 percent of the medicines that it's supposed to get," Son said. "People steal the supplies and sell them on the black market."

That's why this donation meant so much to Abdulla and the other doctors at the hospital.

"This is very important to us," he said. "I have to thank the Marines for their help because it's going to help me take care of my people."

But the hospital wasn't the only place that benefited from the donation.

Several boxes of books and various training aids were given to the Al Anbar Medical College here.

Many of the items came straight from Son's personal collection.

"The medical college has very few books. The ones they do have are very outdated from the seventies and eighties," Son said.

"The instructors have to photocopy pages to give to students just so they can complete the required readings."

The dean of the college, Dr. Salah Al Anii, was on hand to receive the gear.

"We're not really sure what to do with everything



Photo by Cpl. Paula M. Fitzgerald

Navy Lt. Kenneth Y. Son, 2nd Battalion, 14th Marine Regiment surgeon, shows Iraqi Dr. Qussai Najem Abdulla medical supplies donated by the battalion.

right now," he said while going through the boxes. "Everything is very useful. We definitely need stuff like this."

Son said he was glad to help.

"Every time we come out in town, we risk our lives," Son explained. "But I think helping others gives the Marines and sailors of the battalion motivation to go. We'll do everything to help the Iraqis help themselves because then we've completed half of our mission here."

Marine Corps News

San Diego sailors, Marines deploy in support of operations in Global War on Terrorism

Almost 700 sailors aboard USS *Preble* (DDG 88) and USS *Mobile Bay* (CG 53) deployed June 17 to the Western Pacific and Central Command area of responsibility in support of the global war on terrorism.

The ships left Naval Station San Diego to join up with the USS *Belleau Wood* (LHA 3) Expeditionary Strike Group that departed San Diego May 27.

In addition to the flagship *Belleau Wood*, other ships in the ESG are USS *Denver* (LPD 9), USS *Comstock* (LSD 45), USS *Hopper* (DDG 70) and fast-attack submarine USS *Charlotte* (SSN 766).

Marine Brig. Gen. Joseph V. Medina is in command of the deployed *Belleau Wood* ESG, which also includes the Marine assets of the special operations capable 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit, including Battalion 1/4, Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron (HMM) 166 and Marine Service Support Group 11.

Commander, U.S. 3rd Fleet has certified the ESG as ready for deployment. Special operations training group, 1st Marine Expeditionary Forces, has certified the embarked 11th MEU as special operations capable. The ESG is at a high state of readiness and fully capable of operations across the entire spectrum of conflict. This includes such missions as humanitarian assistance and non-combatant evacuation operations, as well as combat operations in support of joint force commanders throughout the Western Pacific and Central Command AOR.

The ESG staff provides the planning and staff functions, which enable them to respond to a range of possible missions as directed by the regional combatant commander.

Mobile Bay is assigned to Commander, Cruiser Destroyer Group 3, homeported in San Diego. The ship has a crew of about 360 sailors.

Navy News Service

Air Force gets new PTs, utility uniform

The Air Force's first physical training uniform will hit the street later this year, and a Web site for airmen to provide feedback on the proposed utility uniform will be online July 1.

Feedback on the proposed utility uniform has been excellent so far, but an Internet survey will give all airmen a chance to voice their opinion, said Senior Master Sgt. Jacqueline Dean of the Air Force Uniform Board.

Dean said people who have worn or actually seen the uniform have given high marks for its permanent press feature and how well it fits. The uniform's color scheme, initially met with skepticism, is more accepted now.

"Color continues to be a big concern of airmen," she said.

Dean said Air Force military clothing sales stores will begin displaying the utility uniforms in July, around the same date the new Internet survey goes online.

"We're encouraging people to not give us their feedback until they've had the opportunity to see the uniform," Dean said. "Go ahead and look at the pictures, but don't answer the survey until (you've) seen the uniform up close."

"If I could (preserve) one statement, it's 'Oh, it looks so much better in person,'" she said.

Airmen will notice the new uniform features an eight-point hat, no squadron or major command patches and no-shine suede boots.

If approved, the utility uniform will likely have a five-year phase-in period, Dean said. The new PT uniform, however, has already been approved by Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John P. Jumper and will soon be in active service.

"We did a wear and fit test from January through March," Dean said. "They've gone to manufacturers and should be in production by June."

Air Force Print News

Gunners & Shooters



Photo by Pfc. Abel Trevino

A gunner prepares to depart camp on a combat logistics patrol June 9.



Photo by Pfc. Abel Trevino

Gunners are perched above vehicles allowing for a better view of the road, but they must cover their faces to keep from suffocating on the desert dust.



Background photo by Spc. James Truitt

By Pfc. Abel Trevino
Staff writer

Squeezing the trigger is a last resort for those Soldiers assigned to protect and defend the combat logistic patrols, and when they do, it's with conviction.

"A lot of people have this misconception that gunners are trigger-happy people. I will be the first to tell you that we don't want to pull that trigger," said Spc. Chris Antoniou, gunner for third platoon, 660th Transportation Company.

Since arriving in February, Antoniou has been the gunner on roughly 30 trips throughout Iraq. His missions have included hauling fuel, escorting civilian truckers, foreign national students and military instructors. All the while, his eyes were peeled for signs of danger.

"Usually, what I look for as a gunner is anything out of the ordinary [improvised explosive devices], daisy chains. I look real close," he said.

Anti-Iraqi Forces sometimes tip off the gunners about oncoming dangers, said Spc. Nicholas Guinn, 1544th Transportation Company, stationed at Logistical Base Seitz.

Guinn said AIF mark IEDs with shoelaces, shoes on wires, shiny objects on the side of the road, [compact discs] and mirrors.

"The days we got ambushed, they tried partially blocking the road with guard rails, rocks and stones. There wasn't any traffic on the road either. So we tensed up a little bit, scanned our sectors, and waited for the first shots."

When the shooting starts, the gunner

only has instincts to rely on.

"A lot of times it's just instinct. You see the muzzle rounds go off, the [rocket propelled grenades] shoot at you, and it's just kind of point at your target and shoot. I didn't really think about it until we got done," said Guinn. "Hitting people and getting to you you're done. Not while it's happening because

you're trying to save your life and the lives of everyone in the convoy. It's crazy."

Soldiers attributed training to the honing of their instincts for survival.

"When the situation comes and you're there and you have a split second to think, it goes back to what you've been taught in the Army. You just go with your instincts. It's like a split-second reaction. It just happens and you have just your instincts to go by," said Spc. Daniel T. Murphy, a gunner for the 1544th Trans. Co. "You just function."

The gunners have assisted in preventing

firefights.

"It's an intimidation factor anyway you look at it. They know when they see us coming [in the gun trucks] to get out of the way," Antoniou said. "We try to give them as much leniency as possible till we can't anymore."

And sometimes intimidation is enough. On the way back to Baghdad International Airport, "There were two men

on an overpass. They started running around and I was in the front gun truck that day with the .50 [caliber weapon] and I noticed there was a gray car parked on the side of the road. I thought there was something suspicious about this. So finally, by the time we got close to them, they were taking off running to the car. As we passed, I spun around to look, and one of the guys had an automatic weapon with a bipod on it. I don't know if they were setting up waiting for us and we just got there too early and just scared them off," Murphy said.

The gunners are not there to shoot up the country, they are there to protect.

"We're not out to pull the trigger," Antoniou said. "We will give them every opportunity to get out of the way before we resort to extreme action."

(Editor's note: This is the final part in the truck drivers series.)

Movie Schedule

Sustainer Reel Time Theater

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

June 27

3 p.m. Ella Enchanted
6 p.m. Garfield
9 p.m. Envy

June 28

3 p.m. Kill Bill Vol: 2
6 p.m. Envy
9 p.m. Ella Enchanted

June 29

3 p.m. Garfield
6 p.m. Connie and Carla
9 p.m. Kill Bill Vol: 2

June 30

3 p.m. Kill Bill Vol: 2
6 p.m. Garfield
9 p.m. Envy

July 1

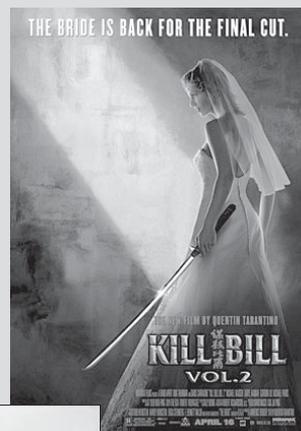
3 p.m. Ella Enchanted
6 p.m. Kill Bill Vol: 2
9 p.m. Garfield

July 2

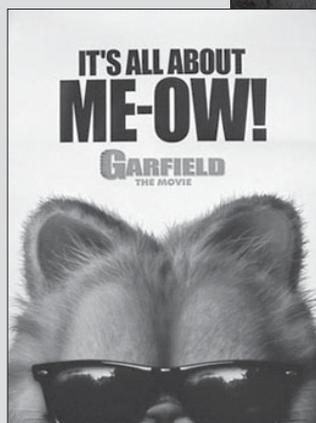
7 p.m. Baltimore Ravens Cheerleaders

July 3

7 p.m. Baltimore Ravens Cheerleaders



Kill Bill Vol: 2



Garfield

Weekly Religious Schedule

Christian Orthodox

Sunday 11 a.m. 185th Task Force Tent

Church of Christ

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

Islamic Prayer

Friday 1:30 p.m. Anaconda Chapel Tent

Latter Day Saints

Sunday 10 a.m. Anaconda Chapel Tent

Sunday 7 p.m. Tuskegee Temple

Lutheran

Sunday 8:30 a.m. Anaconda Chapel Tent

Sunday 2 p.m. 185th Task Force Tent

Protestant-Contemporary

Sunday 7 a.m. Sustainer Indoor Theater

Sunday 10:30 a.m. Tuskegee Temple

Protestant-Gospel

Sunday 11:30 a.m. Sustainer Indoor Theater

Sunday 7 p.m. Airborne Chapel (bldg. 4148)

Protestant-Praise and Worship

Sunday 9 a.m. Sustainer Indoor Theater

Sunday 9 a.m. Airborne Chapel (bldg. 4148)

Sunday 9:30 a.m. 185th Task Force Tent

Sunday 11 a.m. Airborne Chapel

Protestant-Traditional

Sunday 9:30 a.m. 31st Combat Support Hospital

Sunday 11 a.m. Airborne Chapel (bldg. 4148)

Sunday 11 a.m. 185th Task Force Tent

Sunday 5:30 p.m. Tuskegee Temple

Roman Catholic Mass

Saturday 7 p.m. Airborne Chapel (bldg. 4148)

Sunday 8:30 a.m. 185th Task Force Tent

Sunday 10 a.m. Sustainer Indoor Theater

Sunday noon Tuskegee Temple

Sunday noon 31st Combat Support Hospital

Monday 9 a.m. PPI Dining Facility

Monday 7 p.m. PPI Dining Facility

Jewish Prayer

Friday 6 p.m. Anaconda Chapel Tent

Movie Synopsis for June 27 - July 3

Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban

PG-13, Action Adventure, 139 min
Daniel Radcliffe, Emma Watson, Rupert Grint, Gary Oldman, David Thewlis

A dangerous mass murderer, Sirius Black, has escaped the Azkaban Fortress and there is only one thing he wants: Harry. While learning to cope with the dementors sent to protect Hogwarts, Harry learns the story of Sirius and yet more of his own story.

Ella Enchanted

PG, Fantasy, 95 min
Anne Hathaway, Hugh Dancy

Ella of Frell was born with the gift of absolute obedience given by her magical fairy godmother. But when her inability to disobey orders threatens to keep her away from her true love, Prince Charmont, she sets out on a journey to rid herself of the curse.

Kill Bill Vol: 2

PG-13, Action, 137 min
Uma Thurman, David Carradine

There were five on her list, now it's down to three. O-Ren Ishil and Vernita Green were the first to fall, now the bride is out to finish the job by killing the rest. If the final three aren't afraid now, the better start because she's coming for them. However, something has thrown off her plans a bit.

Envy

PG-13, Comedy, 99 min
Ben Stiller, Vince Vaughn, Christine Taylor, Jason Bateman, Rip Torn

When a hapless schmo becomes rich after selling an invention called Vapoorize, which causes dog waste to vanish instantly, his friend and neighbor is driven insane with envy and proceeds to wage war on him.

Garfield

PG-13, Action, 86 min
Breckin Meyer, Jennifer Love Hewitt

Life couldn't be sweeter for Garfield. Parked on a comfortable chair in front of the television, feasting on his favorite dish, lasagna, and hurling insults at his beleaguered owner Jon, Garfield is the master of his universe. When Jon takes Garfield to visit beautiful veterinarian, she gives Jon a pepped-up, tail-wagging, panting creature that represents everything that Garfield loathes. Garfield, meet Odie, a lovable, dim-witted dog. The clueless Odie chases his tail till he's dizzy, crashes into walls, and barks without cause, all to the unbridled delight of Jon who eagerly welcomes Odie into his home. Odie turns Garfield's perfect world upside down. Garfield's solution: OUT DOG. When the hapless hound disappears into the evil clutches of local celebrity, you would think Garfield would rejoice. But he feels responsible for the fate of Odie. Garfield pulls himself away from his lazy life and springs into action on the unlikeliest of impossible missions: to save Odie.

Motor Pool gets them rolling again

By Pfc. Leah R. Burton
Staff writer

Motor pool mechanics and automated logistics specialists do their part to keep vehicles on the road and out of the bay, seven days a week, come rain or shine.

"The motor pool is important because we make sure everybody gets from point A to point B," said Sgt. 1st Class Samuel Tatum, motor pool NCOIC.

"During convoys, our vehicles are our lifeline, so we need to keep them up and running. When things get hot outside the wire, we need to be able to count on that lifeline to carry us out of there in a hurry."

Soldiers depend on the mechanics to keep their vehicles running smoothly and to technical manual standards.

"I feel that the motor pool personnel do their job. I have no worries about my vehicle breaking down out there," said Spc. Jason Aragon, 13th COSCOM Civil Affairs, who drives in convoys three to four times a week.

The staff of 19 Soldiers is capable of repairing anything that pulls into the bay, including Humvees, five-ton trucks and generators.

"The most satisfying part of this job is making sure that when a vehicle rolls in here deadlined, we do what we have to to get it up and running in the same day," Tatum said.

The mechanics do not put vehicles back on the road unless they are certain the vehicles are safe.

Dry-rotted seals and Class III leaks are commonplace problems made worse by constant operation in the desert climate.

The mechanics take these problems seriously and spend countless hours replacing seals and tightening bolts to fix the problems.

"The environment out here puts a lot of wear and tear on the vehicles. The rough terrain wears out the tires. The up-armor adds a lot of weight that eats up the ball joints. The heat and the dust really take their toll on the vehicles," Tatum said.

"It's a lot hotter here than it is at Fort Hood, and many of these vehicles haven't ever been through this much operation in such a harsh environment."

They enjoy the challenges and go toe-to-toe with Class III leaks and worn out oil pan gaskets as they bob to the beat of the music that fuels their motivation in the bay.

"I like my job because it keeps me busy, and I like working with my

hands," said Spc. Antonio Simmons, a light-wheeled vehicle mechanic with the 13th COSCOM motor pool.

Crankcase oil under fingernails and coveralls smeared with vehicle fluids are part of the job for the mechanics. Most of the mechanics shudder at the thought of doing office work. Under a Humvee, light medium tactical vehicle or 5-ton is the place for them.

"The most satisfying part of my job here is not being stuck in an office," said Spc. Montrell Walker, a light-wheeled vehicle mechanic with the 13th COSCOM motor pool.

Challenges do come up, though, that aren't so cheerfully undertaken.

"The most challenging part of this job is seeing a vehicle come in here and knowing that we don't have the part or parts to fix it," Tatum said. "In that instance, we have to either go look for the part or order it. That really puts a strain on our goal of having vehicles in and out in the same day."

Most of the time, however, the mechanics do fulfill that goal, and people take notice.

"I'm very proud of my Soldiers, because of the hard work that they put in on a daily basis to keep our equipment up to [technical manual] standards," Tatum said. "All of the hard work that they do is a reflection on themselves and the 13th COSCOM."



Proper vehicle care with daily PMCS

By Pfc. Leah R. Burton
Staff writer

To keep Humvees in good working order, vehicles depend on thorough and accurate preventive maintenance checks and services, which starts with the operator and the technical manual appropriate to the vehicle.

To dispell any confusion as to what constitutes operator maintenance look in Section II of the technical manual. It includes identifying faults on the tires, windshield, undercarriage, instrument panel and much more.

It's the operator's responsibility to monitor the gauges while operating the vehicle to ensure they stay within proper operational ranges. The specific ranges are listed in the technical manual.

The checklist in the technical manual does not begin at item one. It begins pages before that with the introduction and cleaning instructions. These should not be overlooked.

A clean vehicle is imperative to conducting a proper PMCS.

Dirt tends to hide leaks and other problems.

Moisture on the mechanics of the vehicle characterizes a Class I leak.

Moisture that forms drops characterizes a Class II leak.

When the drops start dripping, the vehicle has a Class III leak, which renders the vehicle not fully mission capable.

Any brake fluid leak, missing, deflated or unserviceable tires, missing or broken seatbelts are just a few examples of faults that render a vehicle not fully mission capable.

A daily PMCS is the Army-wide standard.

Soldiers should keep the air system clean by either replacing the air filter or blowing the dirt out of it with an air compressor. Soldiers should seek the assistance of a certified Army mechanic for this task.

The vehicle should receive service when scheduled.

For the extended operation of the vehicles tires, avoiding potholes is also recommended.

If Soldiers notice anything unusual, they should notify maintenance personnel.



Spc. George Garza, a light-wheeled vehicle mechanic with the Special Troops Battalion, 13th Corps Support Command motor pool, drains the gear hubs on a Humvee June 18.

Photo by Pfc. Leah R. Burton

Civilian experience an asset on camp

By Spc. Amanda Labrum
81st BCT PAO

Coordinating healthcare resources, preventive planning for viral outbreaks, malaria and theater-specific briefings are all a part of this citizen Soldier's everyday life; 1st Lt. Penny Chencharick, the deputy brigade surgeon and environmental science officer for the 81st Brigade Combat Team optimizes her experiences on both sides of the coin.

Through her civilian job, Chencharick gained experiences with Public Health for Seattle and King County. Her military career, likewise, aided her civilian career by helping her to attain the position in Washington state.

"If it wasn't for the military, I may not have gotten my job at King County," Chencharick said.

She was enlisted for six years in the Navy before joining the National Guard, was commissioned May 2001 and has done the same type of job since. She works with soldiers, helping them with theater-specific preventive medicine and coordinating the environmental science specialists.

"I love what I do, it's never the same routine. It's the challenge of the unknown; preparing for something to happen that may never happen," Chencharick said. "If you take proper preventive measures, [disasters] should not happen unexpectedly. The National Guard helps the community during disasters."

After coming off active duty she thought, one weekend a month, two weeks a year, no problem. Chencharick explained how her desire to make a difference in society led her to continue serving



1st Lt. Penny Chencharick, deputy brigade surgeon and environmental science officer for the 81st Brigade Combat Team takes a reading of the wet bulb globe temperature.

Photo by Staff Sgt. Stephen Schmidt

her country in the National Guard.

Chencharick was the education and training coordinator in her civilian job. Management developed a plan and Chencharick taught the plan to and advised the staff on how to carry it out. She also coordinated the healthcare resources, which is much like her military position on LSA Anaconda.

Aided by knowledge and experience, Chencharick is helping to develop a plan for LSA Anaconda by collaborating with the Combat Support Hospital, Troop Medical Center, and other medics. This involves coordination with emergency response elements in preparation for emergencies that could affect the community. It was designed to prevent the camp's medical assets

from getting swamped with patients, and organize the treatment of certain levels of injuries.

Chencharick's plan will reduce chaos and improve efficiency in the event of an emergency, especially one impacting the entire community.

Another project she was involved with in civilian life was identifying alternate purified water sources in the event of an emergency where water and power sources could be compromised. Following Chencharick's advocacy of a water purification system for the greater Seattle and King County area, two out of four Reverse Osmosis Water Purification Units were repaired and updated.

Chencharick also planned for the possibility of terrorist activity.

"Seattle is the 10th largest city and the fifth most likely for a terrorist attack," she said. Chencharick coordinated with the emergency response ele-

ments and prepared a plan of action for different scenarios.

Part of coordinating healthcare resources meant preparing for the unexpected. The response not only included treatment of potential outbreaks of viruses, like SARS, but also its containment.

Her position in the 81st BCT as well as the Seattle and King County overlap with similarities.

"I have advocated for both King County and the National Guard on table-top exercises. [My goal] is to answer the question, how are we going to respond medically to keep people aware of their responsibilities and link medics with other emergency response assets?" Chencharick said. "It's the people who make things happen."

Chaplain's Column

Toils of living are unrestrained exercise of will

Job 14:1,2, "Man born of woman is of few days and full of trouble. He springs up like a flower and withers away; like a fleeting shadow, he does not endure."

By Chaplain (Lt. Col.)
R.J. Gore Jr.
172nd Corps Support Group

Lord Bertrand Russell, philosopher, philanderer, mathematician and atheist, author of the classic, *Why I am Not a Christian*, said it well: "In the part of this universe that we know there is great injustice, and often the good suffer, and often the

wicked prosper, and one hardly knows which of those is the more annoying." Theologians and philosophers speak of this as *the problem of pain or evil*. You are all witnesses that it is hard to spend much time in this uniform without confronting both evil and pain.

J.R.R. Tolkien addresses these problems in his classic, *The Fellowship of the Ring*. Frodo, speaking of the evil done by Gollum, said, "He deserves death."

To this Gandalf responded, "Deserves it, I daresay he does. Many that live deserve death. And some that die deserve life."

And so it is. But why is it that some 19-year-old kid from Indiana dies, while that wretched Saddam

Hussein or Osama bin Laden continues to draw breath? Where is the justice in that?

These are questions that have occupied the thoughts of some of the greatest minds throughout history. Many, like Russell, have looked at the human predicament, and despaired. But despair can only rule the heart which hope has abandoned.

In *The Problem of Pain*, by C.S. Lewis, "God whispers to us in our pleasures, speaks in our conscience, but shouts in our pains: it is His megaphone to rouse a deaf world."

Perhaps that is part of the answer. We are deaf, and our vision is distorted as well; we cannot hear or see clearly enough to understand the role of pain in the great dance.

Gandalf cautions Frodo that, "even the very wise cannot see all ends."

This is not to say that pain or evil is good; it is to warn us against concluding that they are ultimately arbitrary.

In the end, we don't really have an answer for the problem of pain. But we can, by faith, confess with Abraham that "the judge of all the earth will do right." Even when we cannot see how it all works.

G. K. Chesterton, author and Roman Catholic apologist reminds us, "The riddles of God are more satisfying than the solutions of man." After all, on the cross, "God, the Mighty Maker died, for man the creature's sin." And isn't THAT the greatest riddle of them all?

For better or for worse that's Army life

By 1st Sgt. Frank Casares
961st Quartermaster
Company

Like many newlyweds, two Soldiers from Texas knew they would have to make a lot of changes and adjustments in their first year of marriage as they got used to life together.

Unlike many newlyweds, Spc. Victor Coronado and Spc. Luz Mejorado Coronado did not realize that their first-year adjustments would include red alerts while deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom II.

Victor and Luz are from different towns in Texas and they met when they both joined the same Army Reserve unit, the 961st Quartermaster Company, a water storage and distribution unit in McAllen, Texas.

The couple first met in June 2003 and soon planned an October wedding.

"We thought all our plans were ruined when we found out we were being deployed. We didn't even get to go on a honeymoon," said Victor. "But once we got over the shock we knew it would be a great challenge for us. This was also our opportunity to do our part for our country and we are very proud of this."

Victor and Luz are among the few married Army couples who are fortunate enough to be serving in the same unit at the same location during OIFII.

"At first, we thought that we might be separated because we didn't know how things would work out over here," Luz said. "We feel great that we are able to see and talk with each other on a daily basis."



Photos by 1st Sgt. Frank Casares

Specialists Victor and Luz Coronado, both of the 961st Quartermaster Company, are one of many married couples who find themselves fortunate enough to be deployed to the same location allowing them to interact daily on LSA Anaconda.

Victor is assigned to the maintenance section as a mechanic. He also is in charge of refueling all the company's water pumps and generators.

Luz is a water distribution and storage specialist. Her responsibilities include installing, operating and maintaining water storage and distribution equipment and repairing leaks and tears on water bladders and hoses.

The couple is looking forward to the day when they can return home and pick up where they left off.

The first thing they plan to do when they redeploy is to go on a long awaited and much deserved honeymoon.

(Editor's note: If you are a married couple with a special story to tell, contact the 13th COSCOM Public Affairs Office, Anaconda Times Editor Sgt. Annette Andrews at annette.andrews@us.army.mil)



Spc. Victor Coronado refuels a truck.

Question of the Week

What do you think of the new Army uniforms?



Sgt. Barron Williams
77th Armor

"I think it's a good idea. Anything that breathes more is better."



Staff Sgt. Michael Sherman
7th Cavalry

"I think it will be better for the soldiers, and anything better for them is the way to go."



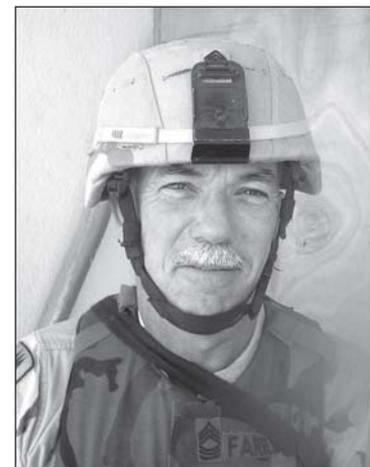
Spc. Brett Murdock
106th Finance Company

"I think they're pretty good. They look like a pretty descent uniform."



Capt. Mary Beth Pena
31st Combat Support Hospital

"They're gonna take some getting used to."



Master Sgt. Richard Farr
81st Brigade Combat Team

"They look like they will be a little more functional."

Soldiers soon to get side protection on body armor

By Joe Burlas
Army News Service

Deployed troops will soon start getting side protection for their Interceptor Body Armor, among other proposed changes, thanks to the efforts of Program Executive Office Soldier.

Several equipment modifications are in the works for Army personnel.

The IBA Deltoid Extension was one of dozens of pieces of equipment PEO Soldier officials showed off to the Pentagon press corps during a media briefing June 14.

In the two years since the organization stood up, it has researched and fielded or is in the process of researching more than 350 pieces of equipment – everything from boots to parachutes to new rifles – in order to save Soldiers' lives, improve their quality of life and increase their

effectiveness on the battlefield, said Brig. Gen. James Moran, PEO Soldier executive officer.

"Outfitting Soldiers is just as important as (acquiring) a major piece of equipment," Moran said.

At about 16 pounds, IBA is lighter than the 25-pound Vietnam-era flack jacket it replaced and it offers better protection, Moran said. The Deltoid Extension will add about another five pounds and protects the sides of the ribcage and shoulders.

However, the extension comes with a price for the Soldier. Moran explained that it can limit movement and block air from circulating under the body armor – decreasing the Soldier's ability to cool off in a hot environment.

"Everything we do is a balance," Moran said. "We want all Soldiers to come back without any injuries. At the same time, we want them to be combat effective. Nothing can be made to be indestructible."

Despite the weight of IBA, Moran said he has no doubt that the new body armor has saved lives. In the past 18 months, the Army has purchased about 300,000 full sets of IBA.

The current Army budget buys 50,000 Deltoid Extension sets this fiscal year, all of which will be shipped to selected troops by the end of September, according to Col. John Norwood, program manager for PEO Soldier – Equipment. The Army plans to request enough funding in next year's budget to equip all 132,000 Soldiers in the Central Command area of operations with the extension. "We have a clever enemy, an adaptable enemy, so we must be clever and adaptable," Moran said.

Another piece of equipment PEO Soldier showed off is the Microclimate Cooling System now in use by Army aviation flight crews. The system is a liquid-filled vest worn next to the skin that is connected by a flexible tube to a 12-pound box that circulates the coolant. A quick disconnect allows users to move around the aircraft as necessary and a rheostat allows users to control the coolant temperature.

PEO Soldier tests of the system have demonstrated that flight crews can increase flight times from one and one-half hours in a hot environment to about five hours, Moran said.

The third piece of equipment PEO Soldier demonstrated was the XM8 rifle. While the XM8 still faces four more formal tests before the decision is made whether to buy it, Moran said the Special Forces Soldiers and other troops who have tried it out all said they want it now.

There are three variants of the XM8: a light version with a collapsible stock and a 9.5-inch barrel, a standard version with a 12-inch barrel and a designated marksman version with a 20-inch barrel. While a longer barrel means greater weight, it also means greater accuracy over greater ranges and a higher rate of fire, Moran explained.

In addition to being lighter than the M16 and M4 rifles, the XM8 has the advantage of being easier to maintain with significantly lower problems with stoppages. The first XM8 tested fired 15,000 rounds without cleaning or lubrication without a first misfire, said Col. Michael Smith, program manager for PEO Soldier – Weapons. The last new type of rifle the Army had bought was the M16 in the 1960s, Moran said.

If the XM8 passes its remaining tests and the decision is made to buy it, the Army will likely purchase about 8,000 next fiscal year to equip two units of action, Moran said.



Army News Service photo

A Soldier demonstrates the XB8 rifle, further testing will be done before the weapons can be purchased.

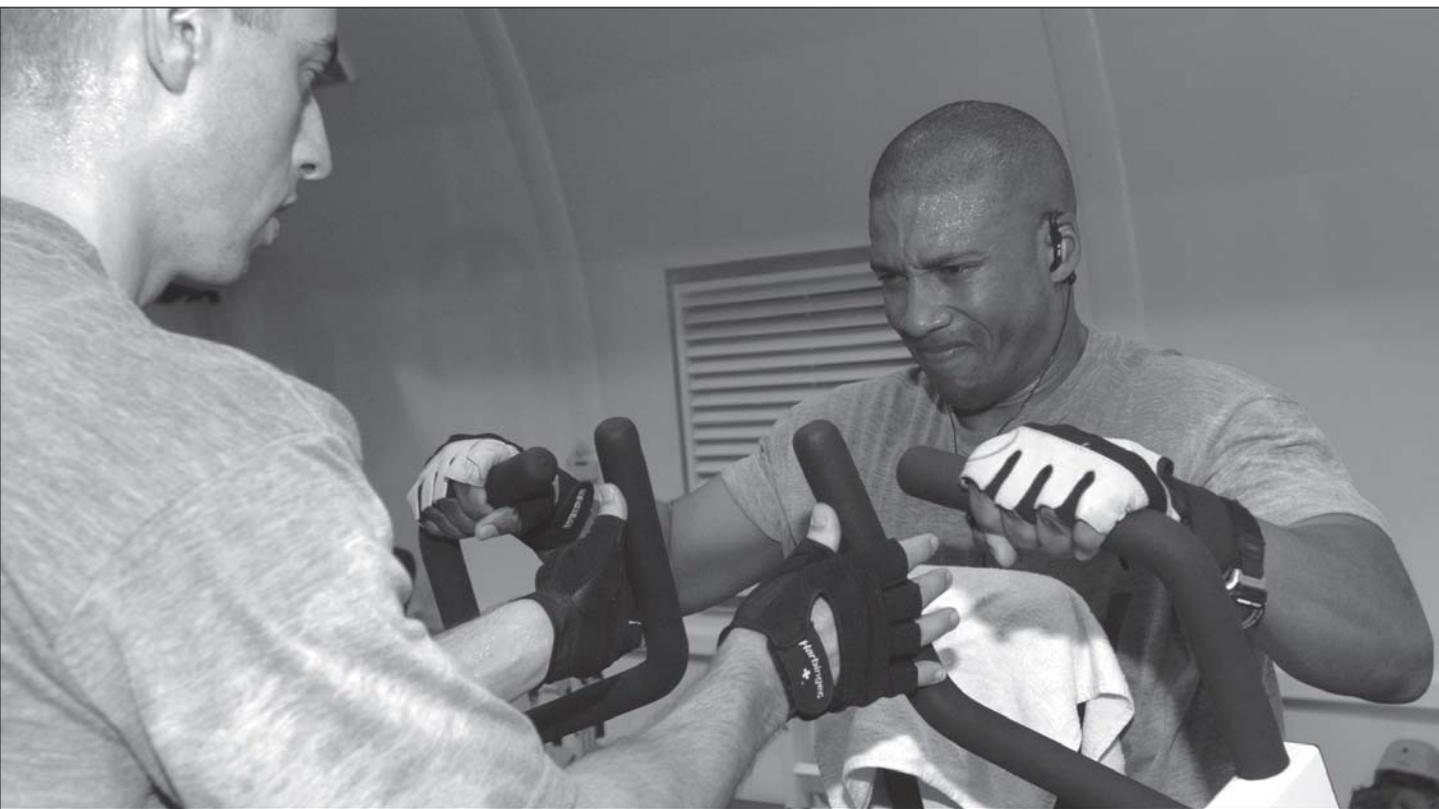
U.S. Citizenship Workshop

Open to all members of the Armed Forces who wish to become a United States citizen.

The workshop starts 9 a.m. at the Sustainer Indoor Theater.

- June 28
- Knowledge of your employment history
- Military Identification Card
- Knowledge of your former address
- Green Card, printed from your Personnel File on AKO, it is a minimum requirement to have your Alien Registration Number; best to have a copy of your Green Card.

Contact the LSA Anaconda Legal Assistance Office in building 4113 or call DNVT 529-7453



Capt. Robert Kent from the 31st Combat Support Hospital pumps out extra reps on the lateral row machine with help from 1st Lt. Stuart Godwin, his daily workout partner from the same the unit.



Sgt. Ryan McVann from the Minnesota National Guard's 151st Field Artillery warms up with 135 pounds as Spc. David Stolhanske, from the same unit, spots him for safety.

Staying fit a hit at gym



Spc. Gordon Onsager of the 2nd Infantry Division uses one of the gym's treadmills to keep up his cardio conditioning between missions.



Photos by Staff Sgt. David E. Gillespie
 Spc. Jonathon Wood from the 369th Transportation Company launches the winning shot in a friendly game of basketball. He and other members of his unit play ball five times a week at the new gym.



Photo by Pfc. Abel Trevino

Airmen become part of the logistics combat patrols as gunners and drivers out of LSA Anaconda.



Photo by Staff Sgt. David E. Gillespie

Children gather for the groundbreaking of a new medical clinic in their village.

June wrap up Through the Lens



Photo by Pfc. Abel Trevino

Performers from USA Express entertain troops with tunes at the Sustainer Indoor Theater June 21.



Photo by Pfc. Abel Trevino

With a UH-60 Blackhawk in the background, a gunner prepares to roll out on a convoy.



Photo by Pfc. Leah R. Burton

An Iraqi girl displays her gifts during a visit from the 13th Corps Support Command Civil Affairs.



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Keith Brown

An F-16 Viper, part of the F-16 Fighter Squadron, is directed into position on LSA Anaconda.