

# ANACONDA TIMES

Vol. 1, Issue 18

Proudly serving Logistics Support Area Anaconda

June 6, 2004

## Post commander pins on first star

By Sgt. Ann Venturato  
Assistant editor

The commanding general of the post, Brig. Gen. James E. Chambers, received his first star Wednesday afternoon during a ceremony at the 13th COSCOM headquarters.

Lt. Gen. Thomas Metz, commanding general, Multinational Corps, Iraq, had the honor of pinning on the first star.

"It took about 13 months since his announcement of selection, to be commanding general of the 13th COSCOM to Senate confirmation," said Command Sgt. Maj. Daniel Elder, the command sergeant major for the 13th COSCOM.

Chambers is a Soldier's Soldier who fully understands all aspects of echelons above division in combat service support with an eye toward supporting the Army's divisions, Elder said.

"Just by getting selected for command of the COSCOM and for selection for promotion to brigadier general, the Army has recognized his leadership and potential. As such he has been given the prestigious assignment of one of the three COSCOMs in the active duty Army," Elder said.



Photo by Pfc. Abel Trevino

see STAR, page 4 Brig. Gen. James E. Chambers thanks his family for their support after his promotion in a ceremony Wednesday.

## Pass program offers break from war, taste of home

By Spc. James J. Truitt  
Contributing writer

Need a break from the war? How about the opportunity to get off post to go shopping at a real mall?

Well, whether it is a tan by the beach or the beer at one of the post's cantinas, Camp As Sayliyah in Qatar is the theater's best kept little secret.

Located west of Saudi Arabia and bordered by the Persian Gulf on three sides, Qatar is only a three-hour flight from LSA Anaconda. Camp As Sayliyah is run by the U.S. Army Central Command and is the hottest destination in this hemisphere to take a few days of rest and relaxation.

According to Capt. Steven Morris, the 13th Corps Support Command's Deputy G-1, the trip is made possible by the Coalition Forces Land Component Command.

"The Fighter Management Pass Program was started by CFLCC in order to give service members and DoD civilians a break from the combat

zone," said Morris. "Service members become eligible for the four-day pass after being deployed for 90 days."

And at Camp As Sayliyah, giving service members and DoD civilians a break from the combat zone is more than evident.

On post, you can spoil yourself at the health spa, where you can receive the works package that includes a 30-minute massage, a facial, a manicure and a pedicure at a reasonable price. You can hit the weights to attain that Adonis figure you desire or you can slurp down a cool smoothie from Orange Julius as you take a relaxing dip in either the pool or Jacuzzi.

You can enjoy the tastes of American culture at the Camp As Sayliyah Chili's restaurant or relish the cooking at Subway, Burger King or at the post's dining facility.

And as the sun goes down you can wet your whistle at one of the two on-post cantinas with a frothy cold beverage or you can watch a film at the post movie theater.

Visitors are also invited to participate in off

post excursions. Opportunities offered include a desert safari, water sports in the Persian Gulf and a shopping trip to a Qatari mall. At the mall, take a break from spending your hard earned cash to skate around the mall's ice rink or bowl a few frames at the bowling alley.

Other on-post amenities include a phone center, an internet café, a 24-hour coffee shop and The Video Hut, where you can check out movies to play in the movie room.

"The FMPP allots service members a four-day pass for R&R, but commanders should expect their service members to be gone for five days because of travel time," said Morris. "After a pass is granted to a service member, they become eligible again for a second pass after six months."

Morris further added that personnel who opt to take the pass are not barred from participating in the 15-day Rest and Recuperation Leave Program. Contact your S-1 for more information concerning the Fighter Management Pass Program.

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# Texans deploy home morale to installation

By Sgt. Ann Venturato  
Assistant editor

Spc. Brian Jones, a UH-60 Blackhawk mechanic with the 158th Aviation Regiment, and his brother Spc. Lloyd Jones, a unit supply specialist with the 126th Finance Battalion hail from Midlothian, Texas and are stationed together here at LSA Anaconda.

Their father, Bruce Jones, a business-marketing manager with Dallas Fort Worth International Airport started a campaign called "Hats for Heroes."

The campaign started when the elder Jones sent two hats from the company at which he works, added Lloyd.

"The goal is to get the whole battalion wearing the hats," Lloyd said. "Our father is waiting to get 45 hats before he sends us more and so far he has 20 hats."

The hats are dark blue with the Dallas Fort Worth International Airport logo.

"Our father was on the 5 p.m. news in Dallas talking about the Hats for Heroes campaign," Lloyd said.

Lloyd arrived on LSA Anaconda in January and Brian got here in March.

Twenty-year-old Brian is in the Army Reserve in Texas and he was pursuing of a degree in computer sciences at Cedar Valley College before being activated.

Lloyd is the older of the two brothers and was stationed at Fort Bragg, N.C.

"It eases our parents' worries because were deployed to the same location in Iraq," he said.

He keeps in contact with the family by e-mail and telephone calls.



Specialists Brian and Lloyd Jones don caps sent from the Dallas Fort Worth International Airport "Hats for Heroes" campaign. Their father, Bruce Jones, started the campaign to support the troops overseas and he is a business-marketing manager with the Dallas Fort Worth International Airport in Texas.

Brian works long shifts repairing helicopters, so he has found it a little harder than his brother to find time to make calls home.

"I would like to thank all the people for their support," Brian said. "A lot of people are support-

ing us troops here."

Waiting back home for the boys is their father, mother, younger sister and the many relatives from around the world.

Photo by Sgt. Ann Venturato

## Task Force Tacoma patrols wire, nabs shelling suspects

By Maj. Stephan Richey  
and Spc. Amanda Labrum  
81st BCT PAO

While patrolling outside the LSA Anaconda perimeter April 20, Soldiers of Task Force Tacoma received a report of enemy rockets launched.

The team discovered the suspected point of origin was not far from their location and a dismounted patrol reported people riding a motorcycle

away from the suspected area. Led by Sgt. 1st Class Norman Valdez of Company A, 579th Engineer Battalion, the patrol maneuvered into position to intercept the two Iraqis.

Valdez stood on top of his Humvee and gestured for the two Iraqis to halt. One of the Iraqis provided his identification card for the Iraqi Civil Defense Corps as he told the Soldiers he was "ICDC." The other man had no identification.

TF Tacoma headquarters ordered

Valdez and his crew to detain the men. One man appeared to be extremely nervous, smoking excessively while the other one remained calm and appeared to be smiling.

Staff Sgt. Dennis Sarla, Co. A, 579th EN Bn., and his team took the Iraqis into custody and escorted them through the gate. They then escorted the men to Spc. Heather Gardiner for residue testing.

Gardiner is trained to test for residue indicating contact with any

sort of explosive device. These two tested positive, one for TNT and the other for both TNT and an explosive, Hexahydro-Trinitro-Triazine known as RDX.

The results from this test could be used in court to convict suspects.

TF Tacoma is comprised of Soldiers from Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 81st Brigade Combat Team, Company B of the 185th Armored Battalion, Soldiers from the 898th Engineer Battalion and Co. A of the 579th EN Bn.

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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.

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Commentary

# Dressing for success starts on camp

By Sgt. Ann Venturato  
Assitant editor

Success in any field starts with dressing for success. You only get one time to make a first impression. So being in the proper uniform is important.

If you look great you will hopefully feel great as well, which will contribute to doing a great job at completing your missions.

There is no feeling greater than having a job well done. Take pride in what you do and how you dress.

There is some truth in that if you dress like a dirt bag, you can also get a reputation as being a dirt bag Soldier.

Just because you are deployed to the dusty environment of Iraq is no reason to start being a dirt bag Soldier.

Success in Iraq means wearing the DCU properly with the shirtsleeves properly fastened at the wrists and trousers bloused properly.

Uniforms are meant to be clean, serviceable and fit properly. So if your uniforms are feeling a little snug, you might need to cut down on the fried foods, work out in the new gym or talk to your

*It is an absolute must to wear the Kevlar while operating a Humvee or any military vehicle.*

supply sergeant about getting a larger sized uniform.

In addition to proper fit, it is important to stay in the proper uniform and not mix and match uniforms.

DCUs are the only daily uniforms authorized, as posted by Brig. Gen. James E. Chambers, 13th COSCOM commander for LSA Anaconda. The physical fitness uniform may be worn after duty hours to the theater and the post exchange as well as Morale and Welfare Recreational facilities. On Sundays, PTs may be worn all day even in the dining facilities.

Brown t-shirts and PT shorts do not go together and Kevlars are meant to protect the top of the head with the chin strap buckled.

Speaking of Kevlars, it is an absolute must to wear the Kevlar while operating a Humvee or any

military vehicle.

T-shirts are meant to be tucked in and not hanging out like you're hanging out back on the block.

DCU shirts are meant to be worn to protect the Soldier from the sun and are not meant to be forgotten when outside. If you have been driving around in your brown t-shirt, you are wrong.

It is also important to have a proper haircut so your hair is not hanging down past your collar or falling into your eyes.

Your weapon is also part of your uniform. You should know where it is at all times and maintain it in good working order. Your weapon is an important accessory to being in the proper uniform.

The only thing that separates us from the animals is the ability to accessorize. So don't leave your weapon unattended or unguarded while getting food in the dining facilities.

Don't be afraid to square your buddy away if he is looking a little ragged around the edges.

The uniform police are out there watching and waiting to catch the next uniform infraction. So don't be caught looking like a dirt bag.

The key to this deployment is to survive it and go home again to put on those BDUs and black combat boots.

## ANACONDA TIMES

If you've got a story idea, an event of post-wide interest or news the community might find useful, please contact the

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via e-mail at

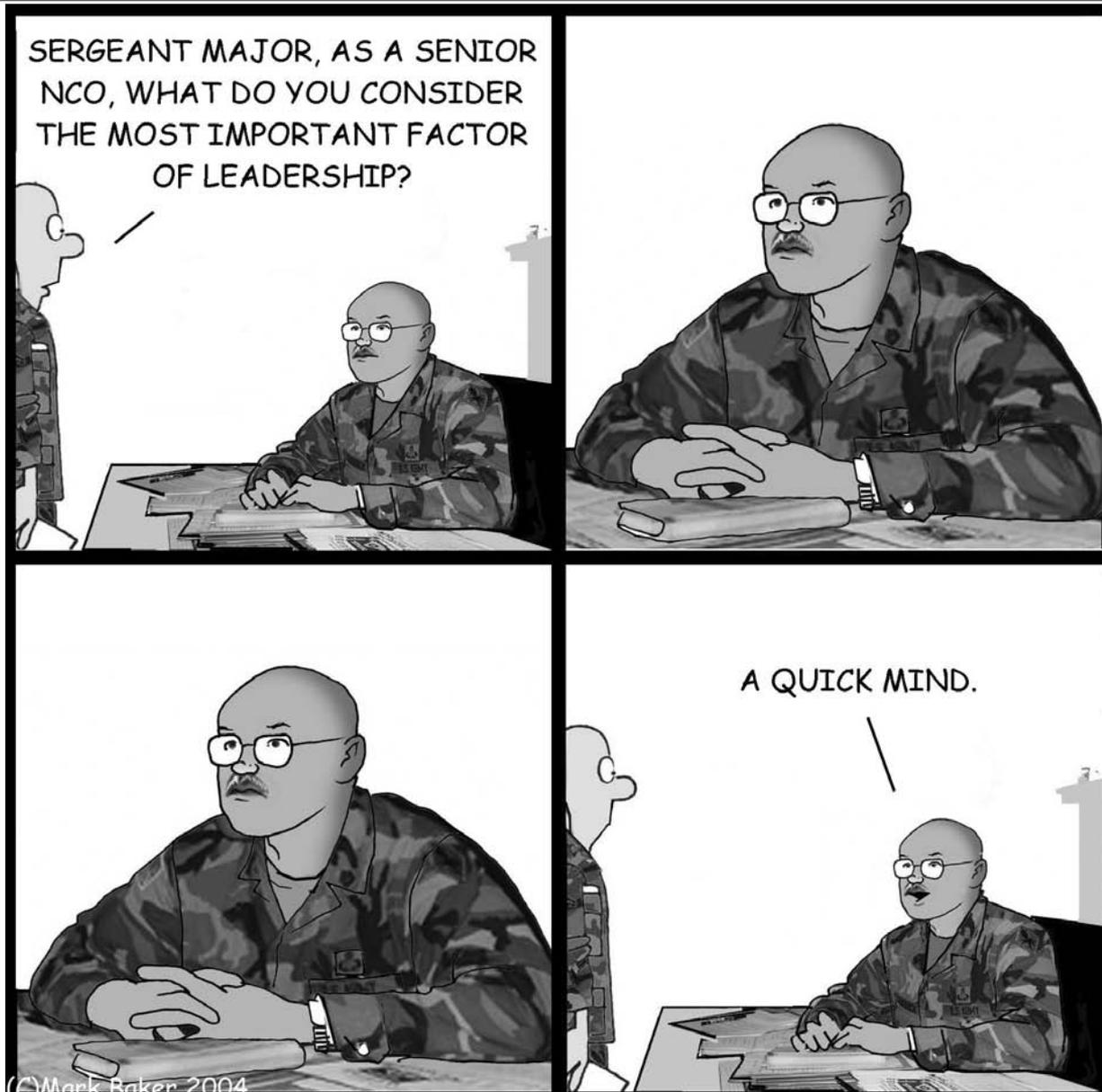
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All ideas, stories and photographs will be considered for publication. Photographs should be 3MB or higher in \*.tiff or \*.jpg format – raw images preferred.

When in doubt, if you have questions or comments call

**DVNT 537-3028**

### Pvt. Murphy's Law



(C)Mark Baker 2004



## Left Shoulder Diary

# 77th Regional Readiness Command

Compiled from  
Unit History

A blue truncated pyramid characterizes the 77th Regional Readiness Command shoulder sleeve insignia, two and three-fourths inches in height, two inches in width at the base and one inch in width at the top. A yellow Statue of Liberty, without masonry base, in New York Harbor is set in the center.

The 77th Division, National Army, was organized at Camp Upton, Yaphank, N.Y. Aug. 25, 1917. It called itself the "Metropolitan Division" because its personnel came almost entirely from New York City. A unit of 23,000, it included Manhattan taxi drivers, Bronx tailors, Brooklyn factory hands, Wall Street executives and first generation emigrants wearing the icon of freedom.

On Apr. 30, 1918 the 77th Div. went ashore in France – they were first Army division to reach France. The 77th Div. attained its greatest fame in the Meuse-Argonne Offensive.

The 77th Div. was deactivated in May 1919 and reactivated for W.W.II in the spring of 1942. Assembled in less than 40 days, the 77th Div. trained for more than a year before being deployed to liberate the islands of the South Pacific.

They made their initial landing on the island of Guam, the first populated island captured by the Japanese. The 77th Div. spent May and June of 1945 on the front lines in Okinawa, often fighting hand-to-hand.

On the island of Ie Shima, three miles west of Okinawa, the 77th Div. saw some of its worst fighting. The capture of Ie Shima was crucial to the Pacific war effort. Among the 239 people who died was one civilian, famed war corre-

spondent Ernie Pyle. Soldiers of the Liberty Division erected a crude wooden monument to the beloved Pulitzer Prize winner who was slain by a Japanese sniper.

After the Japanese surrender in August 1945, the division was assigned to the occupation of Hakodate, Hokkaido. On Mar. 15, 1946, the Liberty Division was deactivated in Japan.

During the postwar period, from 1947 to 1965, the 77th Infantry Division was one of the six combat divisions in the Army Reserve.

The 77th Army Reserve Command was formed in December 1967 as a part of the reorganization of the command structure of the Army Reserve.

Six units of the 77th ARCOM were called to active duty as a result of the Pueblo Crisis in 1968. Five of these units served in Vietnam and many unit members received decorations and awards for outstanding service.

The 77th ARCOM faced another challenge in August 1990 when the Iraqi Army invaded Kuwait. Some 3,500 soldiers from 28 ARCOM units – about one-quarter of the ARCOM's strength – were mobilized. Citizen-soldiers supplemented their active component counterparts not only in the Persian Gulf, but also in Germany and in the United States.

During Desert Shield and Desert Storm, Liberty Patchers controlled the loading of thousands of tons of shipboard cargo. The 77th's engineering units constructed buildings, roads and water pipelines in support of the allied effort. They ran enemy prisoner of war camps; air evacuated patients and provided expert medical care.

## Civilian of the Week

Patrick J. Kirkland, a general manager with the Army and Air Force Exchange Service, has spent four of the last six years deployed.

A 21-year AAFES employee, Kirkland has been at LSA Anaconda since February. Prior to coming here, he worked in Baghdad for six months and he has been deployed twice to Bosnia and once to Kosovo.

"The most enjoyable part of my job is really seeing the Soldiers get better [post exchange] facilities," he said.

He found the most challenging aspect of his job was getting merchandise in and out of Iraq, he said.

"AAFES is a deployed unit over here and all of us along with the Soldiers are working very hard and doing a great job," Kirkland said.

He said that he manages to stay in touch with his family and friends in those rare moments of free time.

"My immediate family doesn't like me being here. They're supportive of it but they want me home," he said.

He recently returned from rest and relaxation leave in his hometown of Marble Falls, Texas, where he barbecued everyday and basked in his ability to take long, hot baths.

It's easy to appreciate the little things while in a combat zone, Kirkland said.



Photo by Pfc. Leah R. Burton

**Patrick J. Kirkland oversees William Banister, an AAFES electrician repairing a faulty circuit breaker.**

### STAR, from page 1

"It is interesting to note that the MTOE (Modifiend Table of Organization and Equipment) calls for a two-star general to serve as a COSCOM commander and the Army has chosen to fill those positions with brigadier generals. So the level of maturity and experience expected for a COSCOM commander is very high," said Elder.

While Soldiers here in Iraq watched the frocking ceremony in person, Chambers' family and friends were able to see by video television conference.

"My dad is probably the most excited about my promotion," Chambers said.

Chambers' wife Elaine was also excited about the promotion.

"I am so proud of Jim. He is the most honorable, fair person I know and the only man that, no matter what his rank, is the same every day. As his biggest fan, I believe there is no one more deserving than Jim and as he has always done, he will continue to do great things for the Transportation Corps and the U.S. Army," said Elaine Chambers.

His family, friends and neighbors back in Oklahoma are also proud of Chambers accomplishments.

Chambers' accomplishments are reflected in his pride for being in the military.

"Just as long as you enjoy what you are doing, just keep doing it. I enjoy being around Soldiers," said

Chambers. "This has been a great experience. Our Soldiers have done extremely well."

Chambers has a long history of selfless service which began when he graduated in 1975 from Southeastern Oklahoma State University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Education and taught school in Oklahoma until he entered the U.S. Army in July 1978.

Chambers received his commission through Officers Candidate School as an Air Defense Artillery officer in 1979 at Fort Benning, Ga.

After he transferred to the Transportation Corps., Chambers was assigned to Panama and subsequently commanded the 475th Light-Medium Truck Company.

He was then assigned as a Combat Development officer at the U.S. Army Space Institute, Fort Leavenworth, Kan.

He deployed during Desert Shield and Desert Storm.

After completing the Army War College in Carlisle, Pa., he later commanded the 7th Corps Support Group, III COSCOM from 2000-2002, and is currently the commanding general for the 13th COSCOM.

His decorations include the Bronze Star Medal, Legion of Merit, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal, and the Army Commendation Medal.

He has been married 29 years and has two children.

# Keeper of North Gate secures post

By Spc. Kathryn Spurrell  
81st BCT PAO

On a sweltering desert day on the last checkpoint at the North Gate, Spc. Mirtha Peralta, a soldier from Company B of the 181st Support Battalion scrutinizes the identification cards of local nationals who must be searched and screened by both Iraqi Civil Defense Corps personnel and U.S. Soldiers before being allowed entry into LSA Anaconda.

Peralta, from El Centro, Calif., worked with the California Counter-Drug Taskforce before she deployed. She said that her civilian job gave her skills in dealing with people trying to cross borders – experience that makes her more effective at the final checkpoint here.

Many of the people Peralta checks are permanent workers, almost exclusively male, who enter LSA Anaconda daily. Some men are professional employees, like plumbers or electricians, while others operate the post exchange and dining facilities. Each category of worker wears a colored badge that indicates his status and expedites the screening process. Soldiers or personnel from Anaconda's contracting companies escort the

workers through the checkpoints.

However, many of the local nationals who attempt to pass through Peralta's checkpoint are men who have neither badge nor escort. They are unaffiliated with LSA Anaconda contracting companies but are looking for temporary employment doing painting or construction jobs on post.

The workers wait in a holding area behind a line drawn on the ground as Peralta verifies ID cards. She is adamant about ensuring that her line is respected. One man tests Peralta, he inches across the line, and watches her reaction.

"No, no, get back," she says firmly.

He smirked for a moment but then stepped back behind the line.

Time goes by fast for Peralta, who screens between 1,200 and 1,500 entrants each day. As the single-file line of workers move through her checkpoint, Peralta validates each and every ID card. If there is any question or doubt about someone's documents, Peralta does not allow the individual entry.

"Peralta makes people take off their hats and hold the IDs next to their faces so she can make sure their [images are similar]," said Pfc. Daniel Simmons.

Peralta said that when she first arrived here, she didn't know what to expect. She coped with the unknown by putting up a strong front and not allowing herself to seem vulnerable.

"It was kind of hard the first day or two but they all know that she's in charge," said Lt. Col. George Abbott, 181st Sup. Bn. commander.

Her biggest challenge on duty is her gender. According to Peralta, many of the entrants are unwilling to listen to her because she's female.

"I understand that their culture is different but I expect them to understand that this is an American installation," Peralta said.

She is unwavering in her strong stance.

During her first month at the gate, Peralta confiscated a large bag full of fake IDs. Some of the men tried to fake official seals by drawing them on with ink pens, she said. Others replaced their adult photos with baby photos.

"If I can't recognize someone from the picture or if something else is wrong, he's not getting in," said Peralta.

Workers sometimes try to gain access to the post with damaged ID cards. If Peralta recognizes them, she may let them in but first cuts a slash

in their ID cards and instructs them to get a new one. If they try to enter post a second time with the same damaged ID cards, Peralta turns them away.

According to Peralta, the most unpleasant part of her job is maintaining a strong front.

"I can't trust anyone; I can't ever let my guard down," Peralta said. "I can never relax or let them see my weak side."

She later proved her point as a boy in his early teens attempted to enter with an ID card that had obviously been altered.

"No, no, you have to go back," she said firmly, ignoring the protests of the boy and the older Iraqi man who had accompanied him.

When the boy did not move, she took his arm and steered him resolutely back toward another guarded holding area.

"Get a new ID," she ordered the boy before she turned back to her post. The waiting men grumbled among themselves but seemed to respect her authority.

Peralta said at times she felt bad about refusing to let people enter.

"I can tell that some of them really need work but I can't let them in if their IDs aren't good," she said. "They know the procedure."

"Maybe they've been using that same ID all their lives and I'm just the first one to stop them. It's not fun but sometimes I have to practice what's called 'the power of the pistol,'" Peralta said.

She might wield firearms but she treats the entering workers with respect. According to Peralta, she and her fellow gate guards succeed at their posts because they are able to be both strong and humane.

"We're strict and we don't soften up but we still treat them like people," she said.

The language barrier has not posed much of a problem for Peralta.

"I've tried to learn key phrases like good, sit down, and stay back," said Peralta. "I really don't know [enough], though."

Her interaction with the people suggests that she has learned much more than a few key phrases. She scatters Arabic words freely throughout her conversations with the local nationals and gives all commands in English and Arabic.

As Peralta screened the local national PX workers, manager and escort Shirley Schuldt watched approvingly.

"Peralta does such a good job," said Schuldt. "We are grateful."



Photo by Spc. Kathryn Spurrell

Spc. Mirtha Peralta scrutinized the identification cards of local nationals while on duty at the North Gate of LSA Anaconda, Iraq.

## Around the Services

### Army teams with singer for campaign

With the assistance of recording artist Mark Schultz, the Army is launching its campaign dubbed "Be Safe - Make It Home."

Schultz and the Army are producing a music video, training video and public service announcements, all featuring Schultz's song, "Letters From War," that will be used to educate soldiers and the general public of the Army's high rate of accidental fatalities.

"Letters From War," from Schultz's current album "Stories & Songs," deals with a Soldier returning home safely from war. While the song was inspired by the diaries his great-grandmother kept when three of her sons fought in World War II, the song's message is as relevant today as it would have been 60 years ago.

"Statistically, this has been a rough year for Army accident casualties," said Brig. Gen. Joseph Smith, director of Army Safety. "In an attempt to reverse this trend, the Secretary of the Army initiated the "Be Safe" campaign to educate soldiers, with the end result of keeping them alive and well."

Since the beginning of the year, the Army has experienced 168 accident-related fatalities, 65 percent of which occurred in military or privately owned vehicles. The remaining 35 percent of fatalities consist of fire, personal injury and aviation accidents.

"Letters from War" is featured in the training video. Schultz recast the final lines of the song to fit the Army's safety campaign, and will be making public and media appearances, along with Army officials, in support of the campaign. A June 7 kick-off event is currently being planned.

*Army News Service*

### Marines describe survival in the blast zone

Lance Cpl. Christian A. Holloway knows what it's like to survive the blast of an improvised explosive device.

"The boom hits and everything becomes silent," said Holloway, an infantryman from Round Rock, Texas. "Your body is in motion, but you can't hear a thing. It's like that scene from 'Saving Private Ryan.'"

Holloway, assigned to Company L, 3rd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, along with 15 other Marines, was on a convoy several days ago when his vehicle was struck by an IED. The roadside bomb was made of 155 mm artillery rounds buried in the dirt. The blast tore through a seven-ton truck, wounding nine Marines.

One wounded was evacuated to an Army hospital in Baghdad. The other eight Marines were treated and released. All received fragmentation wounds from the explosion, but eye protection saved the sight of eight of the nine Marines.

The explosion left the Marines dazed, bleeding and wondering how they survived to speak about it.

Lance Cpl. Joseph D. Brooks, an infantryman from Palm Bay, Fla., said the effects of the blast were sobering. He's seen the effects of combat last year during the invasion of Iraq. But that was the enemy. This time, he was battling to keep his fellow Marines alive.

"He had a piece of shrapnel..." Brooks explained of seeing his wounded friend. "During

### Sixty years after nomination, veteran gets Silver Star at WWII memorial

As a lieutenant with the French Resistance, Michel Thomas battled tyranny alongside American troops as an attached member of the 45th Infantry Division in World War II.

Thomas was nominated for the Silver Star in 1944. Now 90, he finally has it.

Former Sen. Robert Dole and Sen. John Warner, both WWII veterans, presented Thomas with the Army's third-highest award for combat valor at the National World War II Memorial May 25.

"It's taken 60 years," Dole said of the medal and official recognition of Thomas' contributions to the allied victory. "I'm honored to be in his presence."

The private ceremony also included Thomas' adult children, Micheline and Gurion; WWII comrades Theodore Kraus and Bedford Groves; and French Ambassador Jean-David Levitte.

Thomas, whose family was killed by Nazis at Auschwitz, survived two years of slave labor and deportation camps in Vichy, France, before joining the French Forces of the Interior, Marquis Commando Group. He fought with them for two years before being attached to the Army's 1st Battalion, 180th Infantry Regiment of the 45th ID.

From August to September 1944, Thomas led reconnaissance patrols into enemy territory - sometimes three a day and sometimes alone, without regard for his own safety - to get information to help allied forces, according to the citation.

"Lt. Thomas was instrumental in capturing many enemy prisoners whom he personally interrogated and obtained much vital information," said Dole.

Thomas expressed gratitude in return, not just to



Photo by Spc. Lorie Jewell

**Michel Thomas takes a few moments to himself after receiving the Silver Star at the National World War II Memorial. Thomas was nominated for the medal 60 years ago for his service with the Army's 45th Infantry Division in World War II.**

Levitte, but also to the senators, his comrades and others whose work led to the medal presentation, such as Alex Kline, a San Francisco private investigator, and Robert Wolfe, a retired senior archivist with the U.S. National Archives. Sen. John McCain, who couldn't attend because of scheduling conflicts, and U.S. Rep. Carolyn Maloney acted on Thomas' behalf by asking the Army to revisit the award recommendation in September 2003.

"It is with great pride that I stand here with you today, and with our fellow comrades in that worthy battle to defend both freedom and the sanctity of human life," Thomas said, reading his prepared remarks. "I am deeply moved and humbled by this gesture from each of you, and immensely honored to receive this recognition from the United States of America. Thank you."

*Army News Service*



Photo by Lance Cpl. Macario P. Mora Jr.

**Lance Cpls. Christian A. Holloway, of Round Rock, Texas and Joshua C. Pearce, of Dallas, both infantrymen with 3rd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, show off pieces of shrapnel from an improvised explosive device. The two were on a convoy that was h-it by two 155 mm rounds while on a routine patrol. Pearce is holding a piece which went into his leg.**

our first time here it was different seeing the bodies of our enemies. But, when it's your friend, your buddy you're giving first aid to, it makes you sick."

The convoy quickly set up a perimeter in search of the enemy. Nothing was there. No movement could be seen. There weren't any wires to trace the bomb. It was triggered by a remote detonator.

"Everything was like second nature," said Pvt. Jesus Rivera, an infantryman from Phoenix. "We weren't even thinking. We just did what we were supposed to.

Rivera added that even one of the worst wounded Marines was barking orders.

It wasn't until after the incident was over that any of them were able to grasp what happened.

"While it was happening we were all just so angry," Holloway explained. "We just wanted to get them back."

"At first I was just angry," added Lance Cpl. Joshua C. Pearce, an infantryman from Dallas. "Then I started thinking about all the other Marines. A lot of these guys have fiancés and wives."

Pearce said one Marine has a son yet to be born.

The Marines in the convoy weren't surprised by what had happened. Rather, many expected it. They trained for it, how to react and briefed it before they left on the mission. Still, none knew exactly what it would be like.

"I was scared at first," said Lance Cpl. Eric S. Freeman, an infantryman from Thousand Oaks, Calif. "It was like, 'Wow, it finally happened.' It didn't feel real for a while. We all knew it would happen, we just didn't know when."

Several days later, the Marines still wondered how they weren't killed or severely injured.

"There were large holes everywhere," Holloway said. "We are amazed nothing too bad happened to us. Someone was looking out for us."

And it didn't slow them down.

In less than a day, the Marines were out patrolling the same street where it happened. Some still wore the same blood-stained uniforms.

"This is what we do. It's all muscle memory," Rivera said. "They can't stop us."

*Marine News Service*

## Around the Services

### Nemechek's car to salute TIME's choice of person of year - American Soldier

Nemechek's No. 01 U.S. Army Chevrolet paid a fitting tribute to the American men and women in uniform for the Memorial Day weekend's NASCAR NEXTEL Cup race at Lowe's Motor Speedway.

The hood on Nemechek's Army car for the Coca-Cola 600 carried a replica of the Dec. 29, 2003 TIME magazine cover that honored the American Soldier as the Person of the Year.



Nemechek's No. 01 U.S. Army Chevrolet

"Every time I get into the U.S. Army Chevy I feel a special pride to drive a car that represents our troops who are sacrificing their lives for freedom," said Nemechek. "We are extremely proud to carry the paint scheme of the TIME magazine cover that rightfully honored the American Soldier."

Traditionally, TIME selects a single notable person for its annual Person of the Year feature. However, for their valor and fearless defense of freedom during a tumultuous time, the American G.I. was

selected for the honor.

"This recognition of the American Soldier cannot be understated," said Lt. Gen. Dennis D. Cavin. "The tribute reinforces that every soldier makes a difference for themselves, their families and for the nation. It is an honor to salute all of our men and women in uniform who fearlessly serve their country each and every day."

Action Performance will produce die-cast replicas of the 01 Army and American Soldier car in a variety of collector scales. Both TIME and the U.S. Army have agreed to donate their royalty proceeds to the Army Emergency Relief fund.

The AER is a private nonprofit organization with the sole mission of helping soldiers and their dependents in times of valid need. Since 1942, AER has helped nearly three million Army personnel and their families with more than \$837 million in financial assistance.

"With so many American soldiers serving all over the world, it felt right to create a paint scheme that would show our pride and spotlight their dedication to service during the Memorial Day holiday weekend," noted Fred Wagenhals, Action Performance's chairman, president and CEO. "The Coca-Cola 600 is an impressive showcase for the No. 01 Army/American Soldier Tribute Chevrolet Monte Carlo race car. We know that NASCAR NEXTEL Cup Series fans will be extremely receptive of the car and that Joe Nemechek and the No. 01 Army Racing team will do their best to honor America's soldiers with a victory."

*Army News Service*

### USS John F. Kennedy Welcomes NFL

Capping off a two-day owners' meeting in the Jacksonville, Fla. area, 30 NFL team owners and Commissioner Paul Tagliabue gathered aboard *USS John F. Kennedy* (CV 67) May 25.

"I want to take our collective hats off to you for what you're doing to protect our freedoms," said Tagliabue to 400 guests and crew members. "The JFK and the NFL have a lot in common - a spirit of teamwork and competitiveness. The ultimate example of teamwork is right here on the *Kennedy* and a culture of competitiveness in the best sense of the term."

Wearing their favorite NFL teams' ball caps, *Kennedy* Sailors escorted team owners for tours of the carrier.

"This was absolutely wonderful," said Senior Chief Machinist's Mate (SW/AW) Victor Bryan. Bryan escorted San Francisco 49ers' owner John York. "For all the owners and the commissioner to come out here and visit us means the world to me."

For many of the owners, this visit marked their first time aboard an aircraft carrier.

"Speaking for all the owners,

I'm honored to be here," said Baltimore Ravens owner Steve Bisciotti. "This is overwhelming. I'm awed by the crew's commitment to excellence."

Rear Adm. Donald Bullard, commander of the John F. Kennedy Strike Group, told all the owners that football is especially important to Sailors on deployment.

"During deployment, you can find televisions on all across this ship tuned in to either a Sunday, Monday or Thursday night game," said Bullard.

*Kennedy* Sailors proudly showed the ship and explained what they do to contribute to the ship's combat readiness.

"It really made me proud to see how they respect what we do here," said Aviation Support Equipment Technician 1st Class (AW/SW) Curtis Wilson.

Tagliabue told the *Kennedy* crew that they could count on the NFL to continue to support the military, especially during the global war on terrorism.

"Without you, we could not do what we do," he said. "With you, we can do what no nation on earth has ever done. As long as you're on the front lines, we'll do what we can to keep you in our hearts and minds."

*Navy News Service*

### Father and son share same recruiter

It's not unusual for a father to be so extensively involved in his son's decision-making process that will send his precious offspring down one of life's most arduous journeys, like Marine Corps recruit training. What is unusual, however, is for that parent to follow their child on that journey.

C.J. D'Alesandro recently joined the Delayed Entry Program early this year after many conversations with Sgt. Brandon Jamison, canvassing recruiter for Recruiting Substation Columbia, S.C. C.J. was named for a close relative nicknamed C.J., but his given name is actually C.J.

Four months after C.J. made the decision to join, his father, Terence, 36, made the same commitment, also after talking with Jamison.

For Terence, the decision was easier than it may seem. He had already served more than six years in the Marine Corps, from 1990 through 1996.

Leaving the Corps in 1996 was a tougher decision. Terence was thrust into a situation where he had to decide between taking orders that would land him overseas, or leaving the Corps and drudging through a long, pain-staking process of obtaining full custody of his teenage son.

The decision to leave the Marine Corps had been tearing at him for the better part of eight years.

"C.J.'s mother asked if I can take him for a while when he was close to about 13 years old," said Terence. "I was getting ready to get orders overseas and knew taking over custody and having to leave him with someone while I went overseas would be wrong."

After leaving the Corps, Terence took a civilian



Photo by Sgt. Eric Lucero

**C.J. D'Alesandro and his father Terence take time out for photos with the Marines of RSS Columbia, S.C. May 20 after C.J.'s high school graduation.**

job, finished his degree in sociology from South Carolina State University and most importantly, began to build a relationship with his son.

"Going from being single to living with a 13-year-old young man was a bit of a transition for me," Terence said smiling. "It was something I was clueless about."

C.J.'s approach to the matter didn't exactly help.

"I was a little hardheaded," C.J. said grinning. "I was 13 and thought I knew everything."

Three-and-a-half years of high school later, the two had forged a strong bond of which many other fathers would be envious.

"We talked about everything," said Terence. "He even told me all about wanting to join the Army."

Terence's support for his son's decision was immediate and unconditional.

"I told him that if he wanted to be part of something fraternal like a brotherhood, he should join the Marines," he said. "After that, I told him I would back any decision he came to."

After much soul searching and talking with Army recruiters, C.J. ultimately made the decision to join the Marines.

Days later, C.J. was in the Delayed Entry Program and Terence was left with a familiar taste in his mouth.

"Being around the recruiters made me miss the Corps," he said. "The conversations we had made me miss the guys back in the Fleet. You don't make friends out in the civilian world the way you do while in the Corps."

The longing to belong again put Terence in the same chair his son sat in just three months earlier. After putting in a package to enlist once more in mid-April, he was accepted.

The chance to share many things is common among fathers and sons. Sharing the same Marine Corps recruiter, however, is not. After all, it's not every day a son gets credit for referring his father to a recruiter.

Terence is awaiting orders to report to the School of Infantry while his son is assigned to Company E, 2nd Recruit Training Battalion, Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island, S.C.

C.J. is scheduled to graduate from basic Sept. 10, a date that Terence will hopefully not miss for the world.

"It'll be a great day for me," Terence said. "It's not like I'll be losing my son to the Corps, I'll be gaining a brother."

*Marine News Service*

# Driving big rigs on front line

By Pfc. Abel Trevino  
Staff writer

The front line of the war used to consist of chasing Anti-Coalition forces through cities. The front line has since moved to the highways and supply routes and the Soldiers fighting the front line are no longer exclusively infantryman, but also truck drivers.

Soldiers from third platoon of the 660th Transportation Company drive this front line daily as they leave the semi-protected wire of LSA Anaconda and take supply routes to deliver necessary materials, primarily fuel, to various posts throughout Iraq.

"After we got here," Staff Sgt. Joshua Lucas said, "we knew we were the front line."

"If we don't go, a post will shut down," said Spc. Albert Sturgeon. "I remember when we went to [Baghdad International Airport] and [our commander] said that we had to go. The roads were black and there was a 100-percent chance we would get hit."

So vital are their missions, they face conditions like no other units. The cost for running in these conditions is high. On May 15, Sgt. James W. Harlan was killed on a combat logistic patrol.

There have been numerous attacks, equipment has been damaged and the Soldiers look weary. Yet the Soldiers still have the spirit to drive on.

"It's not a job," said Staff Sgt. Adam Cason, "it's an adventure."

One of those adventures happened to Sgt. Joshua Plumbar, who was hit by an improvised explosive device while driving a freightliner on a trip from Baghdad to LSA Anaconda.

"We were going up this bridge and there's a point in the road where it's blocked and you can tell an IED has already been there," Plumbar said. "I switch lanes, because I'm not driving near that, and right as I switch lanes

KADOOSH. There's this boom and it throws me in the other seat and my [vehicle commander] against the door.

"I look in the rearview mirror, I'm dazed and confused, and we're doing about 55 or 60 and I just say 'Did we just get hit?' He looked at me and goes 'Yeah!' So I'm patting myself down and I'm like 'And I'm alright.' I was laughing just a little bit," he said.

"We're driving along and the whole time I'm thinking 'We got hit.' Then we get back to Anaconda and we stop. The tanker in front of me has a huge hole in the back of the tanker, my tanker has a hole in it, the tractor behind me was hit and my tractor wasn't touched at all. It hit right beside me, I don't know how that happened," Plumbar said.

It has been nonstop adventure for third platoon since their arrival here. Sturgeon commented that he has spent as many as 35 consecutive days on the road.

"We spend more time on the road than we do here," said Sgt. Jesse Starr, driver. "In the past two or three months, we've gotten maybe 15 days at Anaconda."

Due to their time traveling supply routes, down time has been hard to come by.

"Most of our down time is when we get our fuel downloaded at our destinations. That's our time to run to the PX. That's our chance to use the phones and things like that," said Lucas.

Mission essential responsibilities always have to be completed before they get their personal time.

"We don't have a whole lot of down time. We have to clean weapons and perform [Preventative Maintenance Checks and Services] on the vehicles. By the time all that is done, we're worn out," Cason said.

Worn out and weather-beaten, they usually find themselves sleeping beneath the stars.

"We usually sleep under our trucks," Cason said. "That's our bed."

With so much time on the road, driving has become routine until the recent death of Harlan.

The shock of losing one of their own on the road shakes the relaxed attitude right out of them. Just leaving the gate has become an adrenaline rush.

"I felt like we were getting complacent, but all that has changed. That alertness is back," Lucas said. "I'm always waiting for something to happen."

Other Soldiers share his sentiments and mentally prepare for potential scenarios.

"Sometimes when we cross bridges, I think 'If this bridge goes out under us, how are you going to land? What are the chances of surviving? How deep is this? If I

jump down, will I live,'" Sturgeon said.

"Every situation you could possibly get in, you just think about," added Plumbar.

The potential scenarios have kept the soldiers anticipating the worst when they're on the road.

Mentally determined, the drivers commit themselves to preventing casualties.

"I think about the road because I've got two good gunners back there I don't want to injure," Lucas said.

They notice differences in the roads from day to day, said Spc. Steven Sharp.

The knowledge of a route's history gives the platoon an idea of what could be expected.

"We run these routes so often that we know where the hot zones are," Pfc. Lucas Burns, gunner, said.

Through their experience on the road, they have learned some of the tell-tale signs that something is about to occur.

"If you see traffic stopped both ways, it's an IED," said Spc. John Beck, lead vehicle driver.

The platoon notices the local people's behavior and take these as warning signs.

"A majority of the time if there are no kids around, something is going to happen," added Spc. Jesse Henderson, gunner.

Daily dangers and hardships bring the company closer together. Out on the open road the Soldiers only have each other.

"We're a big family more or less," Starr said. "You don't want to go but you don't want your buddies out there without you. When you're out there on the road, it's just you and your convoy. That's all you can rely on."

*(Editor's note: This story is one part of a continuing series on the life of military truckers.)*



Steel-jawed, Sgt. Terry Blankenship, 724th Trans. Co., gazes onward from the driver's seat of his vehicle.



Photos by Pfc. Abel Trevino

Sgt. Terry Blankenship, driver and gunner for the 724th Transportation Company enters his 915 freightliner ready to run convoys. His unit frequently comes under attack from Anti-Coalition Forces.



Truck drivers perform last minute checks and maintenance before they roll out.



Sgt. Terry Blankenship, 724th Trans. Co., prepares to pull onto the road on another convoy.

## Movie Schedule

# Sustainer Reel Time Theater

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

## June 6

3 p.m. The Whole Ten Yards  
6 p.m. The Alamo  
9 p.m. Secret Window

## June 7

3 p.m. Shrek 2  
6 p.m. Home On The Range  
9 p.m. The Whole Ten Yards

## June 8

3 p.m. The Whole Ten Yards  
6 p.m. Shrek 2  
9 p.m. Home On The Range

## June 9

3 p.m. Shrek 2  
6 p.m. Dirty Dancing: Havana Nights  
9 p.m. The Alamo

## June 10

3 p.m. The Alamo  
6 p.m. The Whole Ten Yards  
9 p.m. Shrek 2

## June 11

3 p.m. The Girl Next Door  
6 p.m. Day After Tomorrow  
9 p.m. Day After Tomorrow

## June 12

3 p.m. Day After Tomorrow  
6 p.m. Walking Tall  
9 p.m. Hellboy



Shrek 2

## Weekly Religious Schedule

### Anaconda Chapel

(One block west of Mosque at Hawk St. and New Jersey Ave. in Small Chapel Tent)

#### Friday

1:30 p.m. Islamic Prayer  
5 p.m. Jewish Torah Study  
6 p.m. Jewish Prayer

#### Saturday

1 p.m. Choir Practice  
(General Protestant)  
8:30 p.m. Choir Practice (Gospel)

#### Sunday

8:30 a.m. Lutheran  
10 a.m. Latter Day Saints  
7 p.m. Roman Catholic Mass

### Sustainer Indoor Theater

#### Sunday

9 a.m. Protestant (General)  
10 a.m. Roman Catholic Mass  
11:30 a.m. Protestant (Gospel)

### 31st Combat Support Hospital Church

(One block north of Turner indoor swimming pool)

#### Sunday

9:30 a.m. Protestant  
Noon Roman Catholic Mass

### Air Force Chapel

(Air Force Chapel across from PAX and Redeployment tents)

#### Sunday

8:45 a.m. Sunday School  
10:30 a.m. Contemporary Worship  
Noon Roman Catholic Mass  
5:30 p.m. Protestant  
7 p.m. Latter Day Saints

### 82nd Airborne Chapel

(Building 4148 south of AAFES Exchange)

#### Wednesday

7 p.m. Protestant

#### Saturday

9:30 a.m. Christian Orthodox  
7 p.m. Roman Catholic Mass

#### Sunday

11 a.m. Protestant  
7 p.m. Protestant

### 185th Aviation Group Chapel

(Across from DFAC #4 on Texas Street)

#### Sunday

8:30 a.m. Roman Catholic Mass  
9:30 a.m. Christian Praise  
11 a.m. Protestant  
2 p.m. Lutheran

### Movie Synopsis for June 6-12

#### Secret Window

PG-13, Thriller, 106 min  
(Johnny Depp, John Turturro, Maria Bello)

From writer/director David Koepp (Stir of Echoes) comes this filmed adaptation of Stephen King's novella Secret Window, Secret Garden, one of four stories in the collection Four Past Midnight. Johnny Depp stars as Mort Rainey, a recently divorced author who decides to take some time off at his cottage. Unfortunately for Rainey, John Shooter (John Turturro), an unbalanced wannabe writer, tracks him down, claiming that Rainey plagiarized his work. Secret Window is the second story from Four Past Midnight to be adapted as a film, the first being 1995's made-for-television The Langoliers.

#### Shrek 2

PG, Fantasy, 93 min  
(Mike Myers, Eddie Murphy, Cameron Diaz)

Mike Myers, Cameron Diaz, and Eddie Murphy all return to lend their voices to this sequel to the 2001 mega hit Shrek. Picking up where the first film left off, Shrek 2 finds Shrek and Fiona dealing with the disappointment of Fiona's parents upon learning that she's married an ogre. The couple also finds opposition in the form of Prince Charming (Rupert Everett). John Cleese and Julie Andrews provide the voices of Fiona's parents, and Antonio Banderas joins the cast as Puss-in-Boots.

#### The Whole Ten Yards

PG-13, Comedy, 99 min  
(Bruce Willis, Matthew Perry, Amanda Peet)

Stepping in for Jonathan Lynn, director Howard Deutch helmed this sequel to the 2000 surprise hit The Whole Nine Yards. All of the principal cast members are back as Oz (Matthew Perry) finds himself in need of help from hitman Jimmy "The Tulip" (Bruce Willis) when Oz's wife (and Jimmy's

ex-wife), Cynthia (Natasha Henstridge), is kidnapped by the brother of the Hungarian gangster from the first film. However, now settled down into a more quiet life, Jimmy takes some coaxing to get back into the crime game. Amanda Peet also returns as Jill.

#### The Alamo

PG-13, Action, 137 min  
(Dennis Quaid, Jason Patric, Billy Bob Thornton)

Re-teaming Dennis Quaid with John Lee Hancock, the director of 2002's 'The Rookie,' 'The Alamo' retells the story of the historic 1836 battle in the Texan War of Independence. Facing 4,000 Mexican troops, 155 Texan soldiers, including Sam Houston (Quaid), Davy Crockett (Billy Bob Thornton), and Jim Bowie (Jason Patric), retreat within the walls of the Alamo, a Franciscan mission that was converted into a military fort. Once inside, the men prepare themselves for what will be a bloody battle to the death. Emilio Echevarria, Jordi Molla, and Patrick Wilson co-star.

#### Dirty Dancing: Havana Nights

PG-13, Romance, 1hr 26min  
(Diego Luna, Romola Garai, Sela Ward)

Not a sequel, not really a prequel, sort of a remake, more of a re-imagining, Dirty Dancing: Havana Nights follows the blossoming love affair of young couple Katey (Romola Garai) and Javier (Diego Luna) against the backdrop of the Cuban Revolution in 1958. Katey is an American girl living in Cuba with her parents who meets Javier, a local. Javier takes Katey to a nightclub where he teaches her how to dance dirty Cuban-style. The two grow closer and closer, but when Castro takes over, Katey's parents decide to flee for the U.S., leaving Katey to make the ultimate decision. Tying the film together with the classic 1987 original is Patrick Swayze who reprises the role of Johnny Castle in a cameo.

# Fighter wing takes up air mission over Iraq



An F-16 Viper of the 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing lands on the airstrip of LSA Anaconda.

By Capt. Morshe Araujo  
332nd AEW PAO

The 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing expanded its air mission over the skies of Iraq when U.S. Air Force F-16 Vipers from the Colorado Air National Guard's 140th Fighter Wing, the New Mexico Air National Guard's 150th Fighter Wing and the Montana Air National Guard's 120th Fighter Wing, landed at Balad May 27.



An airman guides an F-16 Viper on the airstrip at LSA Anaconda.

According to Lt. Col. Curtis Hughes, 332nd Expeditionary Fighter Squadron commander, the base's new flying squadron will work in concert with the Army's Joint Tactical Center in providing support to patrols and convoys.

"Our mission will be to provide coalition ground forces combat airpower support," said Hughes.

About 250 strong, the 332nd EFS aviation package consists of the aircraft and all the people needed, from maintainers to intelligence personnel to pilots, to conduct the unit's mission.

"The fighter squadron is a rainbow of assets from the Colorado, New Mexico and Montana Air National Guard units," explained Hughes, who also said the unit deployed once last year in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The F-16C has tremendous capabilities ranging from its advanced targeting pod to the laser and GPS-guided weapons that it carries, Hughes said.

"Also, all of our pilots are trained and qualified in the use of night vision goggles and everyone is experienced in CAS missions," said Hughes. "That's the one thing we feel the Air

National Guard brings to the total force ... experience."

Hughes said the welcome reception he and his unit received since arriving to Balad has been wonderful.

"The air expeditionary wing and the expeditionary operations group has done a tremendous job in preparing the base for our arrival," he said. "We couldn't have asked for any better support."

Keeping in line with the 332nd AEW's rich Tuskegee Airmen heritage, the 332nd EFS has adopted the name the "Red Tails." The tail of the aircraft even has a red stripe painted on its surface.

"This is to show our commitment to the Tuskegee Airman tradition," said Hughes.

A strategic hub, Balad Air Base helps feed essential supplies to the troops in the field through airlift support.

The F-16s provide added protection to replenishing the military's war fighting capabilities.

"We're extremely proud to have the F-16 mission here," said Brig. Gen. F.C. Williams, commander of the 332nd AEW. "Their presence will help continue to the global fight on terrorism."



Among an array of aircraft sit a few of the 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing's F-16 Vipers, assets from the Colorado, New Mexico and Montana Air National Guard units here to defend the skies over LSA Anaconda May 27.

Photos by Tech. Sgt. Keith Brown

## Legal Assistance

# Legal office helps troops help themselves

By Capt. Marc D. Defreyne  
*Consolidated Legal Center*

Legal Assistance is a free service for service members who need help with bona fide legal issues, including civilian legal issues such as divorce, child custody, landlord and tenant disputes, arrest warrants, taxes, citizenship and wills.

Legal Assistance can also help you exercise your legal rights and protections as a deployed service member, including protections under the Servicemembers' Civil Relief Act – formerly known as the Soldiers' and Sailors Civil Relief Act – which most commonly include protecting you from default judgments, foreclosures or helping you continue (delay) a legal proceeding in which you are being sued until you return home and are able to properly defend yourself.

We can also assist with certain military administrative actions, such as Line of Duty investigations, rebuttals for Reports of Survey, Army Regulation 15-6 investigations as well as NCOER and OERs. Legal Assistance can also prepare powers-of-attorney and notarize documents for you.

Legal Assistance attorneys will consult with service members and provide guidance on how to best resolve legal issues. We provide legal services to any requesting Soldier, sailor, airmen and Marine on LSA Anaconda and outlying forward operating bases. To ensure each client has an equal opportunity to seek our assistance, service members are seen on an appointment-only basis and we block one hour per appointment for each client.

When dealing with a legal matter, you are your own best advocate; you know the facts of your situation better than any attorney ever will. To that end, it is best that before you visit Legal Assistance

you are fully prepared to discuss the matter to make the appointment as productive as possible.

You should bring any documentation you have regarding the issue at hand and you should bring any contact information you have on other key players, especially e-mail addresses – our inability to make regular phone calls back to the states and the obvious time difference makes e-mail the most productive form of communication between parties. And, you should also be prepared to discuss and explain the “who,” “what,” “where,” “when,” and “why” of your case.

Taking notes before you see an attorney is a great way to focus on the issue. Your notes should include a time-line of events, key players, relevant documentation and a history of what led to the current situation so that the attorney fully understands and can offer you legal advice best tailored to suit your legal matter.

You should also be prepared to discuss what steps you have previously taken to resolve the issue prior to seeking legal assistance. As you know, in legal matters there are two sides to every story – expect the attorney to want to communicate with the other party to ascertain all the facts.

Seeing an attorney at the last possible minute does a disservice to yourself and minimizes the chance we can help you find an acceptable outcome. A Legal Assistance attorney is there to help you, but you must take primary responsibility for a successful outcome.

Most legal matters do not happen overnight or in a vacuum; the issues tend to start small and escalate when ignored. It is best to see an attorney at the inception of the problem rather than allowing the matter to go unattended for months or years then hope for a quick solution from an attorney. The law simply does not move at high speeds.

It is also helpful to understand what a Legal Assistance attorney cannot do for you. We cannot appear in court for you, file briefs or appeals on your behalf, assist you with private business activities, assist you in litigation against the United States, provide military defense for those facing Uniform Code of Military Justice punishment or administrative action such as an Article 15 – but there are defense attorneys on LSA Anaconda for that.

We can assist you in employment litigation – except for assisting you in exercising your legal rights under the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act.

Unfortunately, we also cannot send facsimile documents back to the states. Though we can scan documents and send them to an e-mail address.

A Legal Assistance attorney is equally unable to assist you in some matters that may be best addressed by finance, personnel, the Inspector General or even your commander; not all situations can be addressed through law, though some can be solved by simply communicating with the right individuals. For a greater understanding of what a Legal Assistance attorney can and cannot do for you, consult Army Regulation 27-3, available in our office or online at [www.usapa.army.mil](http://www.usapa.army.mil).

It's necessary to call ahead and make an appointment – the average “waiting time” for an appointment is less than 48 hours and we make legal assistance appointments Monday through Saturday, 10 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.; powers-of-attorney are done on Tuesdays and Saturdays from 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. on a walk-in basis.

Call DNV 529-7453 for more information or visit building 4113 on Pennsylvania Avenue, across from the Anaconda Chapel. We look forward to assisting you with your legal needs.

# No ‘get out jail free’ just because you’re deployed

By Pfc. Abel Trevino  
*Staff writer*

Even in the midst of a combat zone, Soldiers are held accountable 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Despite some rumors to the contrary, troops are still subject to the Uniform Code of Military Justice here in Iraq. Failure to meet the standards is punishable through various means, such as Article 15, reprimands and even courts-martial.

“In this theater we are aggressively prosecuting all types of crimes. There's no free pass just because someone is in theater. I would hate for Soldiers to have the impression that because we are deployed the government is not interested in prosecuting crimes,” said Capt. Gregory Scott Weiss, chief of Military Justice here at LSA Anaconda.

In fact, since Weiss arrived here two months ago, his office has court-

martialed officers and enlisted personnel.

Recent courts-martial here have been prosecuted for theft and destruction of military property. These included an officer and two non-commissioned officers. The officer was punished with a dismissal and six months confinement, while the senior NCO was reduced in rank to private first class and three months confinement and the sergeant was reduced to a private, E-1.

Weiss dismissed the belief that the military court-martial system was unfair.

“I think there's a big misconception that you get fewer rights than a [civilian court]. No, you get more rights, Weiss said. “Every Soldier is entitled to military counsel and that is unlike the civilian system where you are only entitled to a free public defender if you qualify based on your income. I think [the Army] provides greater rights than the average civil-

ian would have going through the same process.”

Before a general court-martial can begin, there has to be an Article 32 investigation, an investigation for probable cause, and if probable cause is found it can be referred to a general court martial. After charges are initiated, they can be referred to one of three types of courts-martial.

“If it's a minor crime, the charges can be disposed of by a battalion commander in a summary court-martial,” said Weiss. “A summary court-martial can only impose up to 30 days confinement for someone who is E-4 and below, forfeiture of two-thirds pay, and reduction to the lowest pay grade. It's the lowest level court-martial. And it's not held in front of a judge, it's held in front of a field grade officer or a JAG officer.”

If the charges dictate harsher punishment, a court-martial can be recommended above a summary level.

“If the battalion commander

decides that this is more serious than what we should adjudicate at a summary court-martial, the battalion commander can then recommend either a special court-martial, which normally we would use a [bad conduct discharge] special – a court-martial that can adjudicate without the count of discharge – or a general court-martial. So, the battalion commander can recommend one of those two options,” Weiss said.

The difference between all three types of courts-martial lies in the punishments.

A BCD Special can punish offenders with up to a year of confinement and a bad conduct discharge and two-thirds forfeiture for 12 months, but it can not give officers a dismissal or enlisted personnel a dishonorable discharge, Weiss said.

If the battalion commander feels that the case should still be considered

# Dual mission: serving God, serving Army

By Sgt. Ann Venturato  
Assistant editor

Not only a leader of Soldiers but a denominational leader as well, Command Sgt. Maj. Jimmy Rutherford, the battalion command sergeant major for the 4th Corps Materiel Management Center, 13th COSCOM, is also a lay leader while deployed here.

"It's not really a change in hat because the same way I am in church is the same way I am in my battalion. This is my job, but serving God is my mission," said Rutherford.

For the last four years, Rutherford has been preaching at the New Birth International Ministry Church in Killeen, Texas.

"I think it enhances my job as a sergeant major because of the counseling skills I possess," said Rutherford, who has been a licensed pastor since 1998.

Rutherford, along with other lay leaders in the Protestant Gospel Service, is assisting unit ministers with the Soldiers spiritual needs.

"The difference between lay leaders and the Unit Ministry chaplains is that the Unit Ministry chaplains have met all requirements for the Department of the Army as well as the requirements for their particular denomination," said Lt. Col. Al Lowe, the 13th COSCOM chaplain.

"Whereas lay leaders only have to be licensed by their denomination and have their certification reviewed by myself before they are able to preach."

The lay leaders fall under the guidance of 1st Lt. Daniel Langston, a chaplain from the 172nd Corps Support Group. His role in the group is that of worship leader.

"[We] are all professional Soldiers who are in key leadership positions from various organizations across the installation, who have volunteered their time and energy to be spiritual assistants to their fellow Soldiers," said Maj. Randle Jackson, the

4th CMMC executive officer and a lay leader. "As Lay leaders from their various denominational organizations, [we] supplement the Installation Unit Ministry Teams in providing authentic style of worship service that gives the Soldiers a piece of home, even in Iraq," said Jackson.

Only those lay leaders whose credentials are on file with the installation chaplain preach on Sundays. The other lay leaders are involved by leading the Bible study groups that are offered, according to Rutherford.

"On occasion I do services, but I also play the piano and help as musical director for the services," said Rutherford. "I preached at the first service at the mayor's cell."

"We've had [up to] 300 to 330 Soldiers at Sunday services. I know in times of trouble folks begin to turn spiritual. So I want to make sure we give them a good spiritual base," he said.

Rutherford does not mix religion and state. Business is business and religion is not for everyone, he explained.

"He's very open-minded and it is easy to talk to him," said Sgt. Gloria Payne, of the 4th CMMC. "He helps me make it from one week to the next."

Supporting and mentoring Soldiers is the role of a command sergeant major, Rutherford said and he still has time for spiritual inspiration.

"He is the type of person that he will stop work to talk to a Soldier and help that Soldier out with a problem the Soldier might be having," said Spc. Tyeir Pritchard Davis, an administrative specialist with the 4th CMMC.

"He is helping Soldiers come closer to Christ,"



Photo by Sgt. Ann Venturato

Command Sgt. Maj. Jimmy Rutherford of the 4th Corps Materiel Management Center, takes a break between advising troops while on LSA Anaconda.

said Spc. Andrew Payne, a chaplain assistant assigned to HHC, 13th COSCOM and a lay leader in the Protestant Gospel Service.

Rutherford is scheduled to depart LSA Anaconda enroute to the National Training Center, Fort Irwin, Calif.

"I tell the Soldier that if it's not what I provide, I can get you to the right folks," Rutherford said.

## QUESTION OF THE WEEK

### Does this deployment meet your expectations?



Capt. Antoinette Pulley  
593rd CSG

"I've only been deployed once. It's just like I thought it would be."



Master Sgt. Michael A. Gregory  
852nd RAOC

"Being that this base camp is in its early stages of development, I'm satisfied with the conditions."



Spc. Lawrence Jones  
4th Corps MMC

"It's a lot better than I thought it would be. Although we are in a field environment, we have a dining facility, movie theater and everything."



Spc. Jeremy Griggs  
593rd CSG

"This is my second deployment. I think the expectations are higher here because we're here for a reason. People don't see that, but I do."



Staff Sgt. Michael Shaw  
332nd ECS

"It's my third deployment. It's been the toughest one I've experienced. We do our work everyday and we do it well. This deployment has a mission and a purpose."

# New fitness center opens for Anaconda

By Pfc. Leah R. Burton  
Staff writer

The staff of the new LSA Anaconda Morale, Welfare and Recreation Fitness Center held a ribbon cutting ceremony to open the facility May 30.

The fitness center is accessible to everyone with a valid government-issued identification card but service members have priority.

"Today is a great day for the LSA because thanks to the hard work of our civilian partners at [Kellogg, Brown and Root], we are able to open a top-notch fitness center that provides more space and more equipment to our growing community," said Col. (P) James E. Chambers, 13th Corps Support Command commander.

Making the facility operational required help from KBR employees and military personnel as far as moving and assembling equipment, said Quincy T. Richardson, MWR sports and fitness supervisor.

"It's a stress relief. We've been building up to this day. Many times I've been asked, 'When? When? When?' Now that 'when' is behind us."

People can work out on any of the five tread-

mills, six cross-trainers and six recumbent bicycles.

The facility is equipped with a weight room with new Hammer Strength machines and free weights. There is an aerobics room with a sound system, a racquetball court, a six-goal basketball court and indoor plumbing.

The fitness center staff will also begin conducting aerobics classes starting at 7:30 a.m. June 1.

Richardson is also in the process of organizing Judo, Karate and Tae-Bo classes led by volunteer instructors.

The new facility will be the only fitness center on this side of post until a larger staff is available to operate both the old and new facilities. The staff is not issuing any of the old equipment to any units, Richardson said.

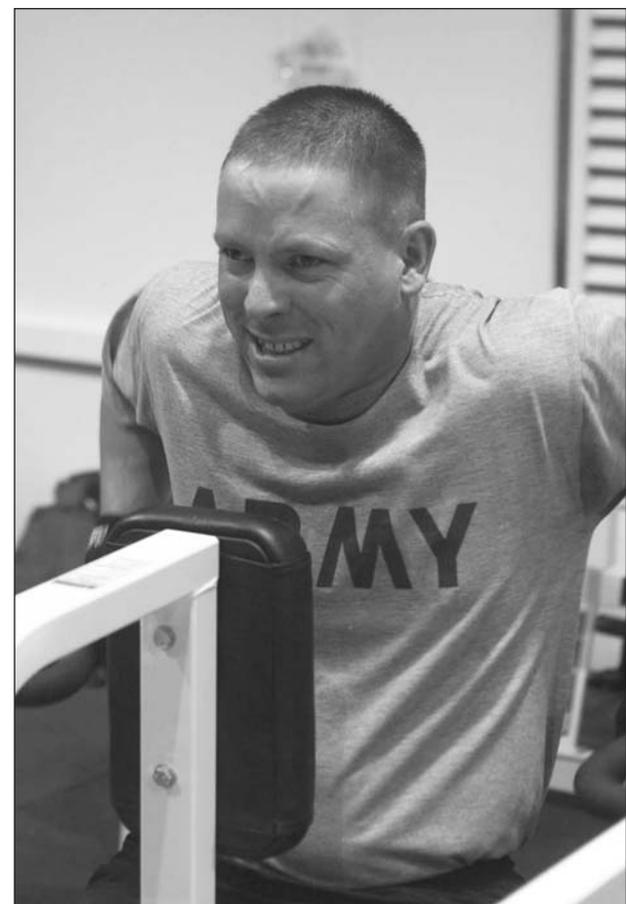
The larger, more comfortable facility will benefit both service members and civilians.

"It will build morale. The competitive sports will also build camaraderie. It will allow [service members and civilians] to relieve some stress and get their minds off the issues of the world," Richardson said.

"When asked to list what they want most for quality of life, service members and civilians nearly

always say good food, phone access, Internet terminals and a gym where they can work out on high quality equipment in a clean, comfortable environment. This facility meets that requirement and much more," Chambers said.

There are some rules to be observed in the new facility. Everyone must sign in and without an identification card individuals will not be allowed to use the fitness center. Tobacco products and food are not allowed in the fitness center. Dur-



Staff Sgt. Arndt Bryan, 4th Corps Materiel Management Center, works out on a seated dip machine at the LSA Anaconda Fitness Center.



Photos by Pfc. Leah R. Burton

Gerald Warner, the KBR project manager, and Col. (P) James E. Chambers, 13th COSCOM commander cut the ribbon to open the new facility as (from left) Quincy Richardson, MWR sports and fitness supervisor, James Kalinowski, KBR site manager, Maj. Gen. (Select) F.C. Williams, 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing commander, and Brig. Gen. Oscar B. Hilman, 81st Brigade Combat Team commander, watch May 30.

## SJA, from page 12

for a more severe punishment, he can recommend it to a general court-martial.

A general court-martial is the most severe of the three.

"The one that you are probably most familiar with is a general court-martial, which would be the same thing as your [television show] type of trial. You have full blown due-process, full right to a jury trial, all the things you think of when you think of a criminal trial," said Weiss. "A general court-martial can adjudicate lifetime confinement or the death penalty — if a case is so preferred — a dismissal for an officer or a dishonorable discharge for an enlisted Soldier, forfeiture and fines."

A Soldier who has his case referred to a summary court-martial has the right to turn down the summary court-martial and request a regular court-martial with full due process. This is beneficial to Soldiers who feel they were wrongfully charged because they would receive the full due-process that's afforded in a court-martial — legally trained judge as opposed to a field grade officer

and full right to legal representation.

Soldiers are able to seek counsel at no charge through the Trial Defense Service.

"One of the most important things is the Trial Defense Service, which is an independent organization from the command, [and] is available throughout the theater. Any Soldier who believes they are going to be charged with a crime, or is in fact charged with a crime, should consult with TDS. Here at Anaconda we have three TDS counsel, they are all highly qualified and very professional attorneys, and they are always available to assist Soldiers," said Weiss.

Although Soldiers at LSA Anaconda are fortunate to have three TDS attorneys, not all posts in theater have TDS. Logistically there is challenge to provide the service to everyone.

"If a Soldier is at a [forward operating base] where there's no TDS attorney, we've got to get the Soldier to TDS someplace so they can have counsel. If there's no courthouse there, no prosecutor, we've got to get them down to where there's a courthouse, and then when the judge gets there ... so

ing a red alert, patrons must follow standard operating procedures.

The only authorized attire for service members is the standard issue physical fitness uniform. Civilians must wear clean workout attire. All running shoes should have non-marking soles and boots are only allowed in the weight room area.

The LSA Anaconda Fitness Center is adjacent to the outdoor stadium. It is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Those interested in volunteering at the fitness center can e-mail Richardson at [quincy.richardson@halliburton.com](mailto:quincy.richardson@halliburton.com).

(Editor's note: On May 30, Brig. Gen. James E. Chambers had not yet been promoted.)

there's a little more coordination involved," Weiss said.

Other differences that arise between stateside courts-martial and in-theater courts-martial are the extended laws that apply to Soldiers in combat environments.

"One big difference is General Order #1, in the states we don't have a General Order #1: no alcohol, no pornography, no pets or mascots, no war trophies. Those are crimes that we don't see back in the states ... but here it's a very big crime. It's a very serious crime. Another consideration is the rules of engagement or law of war violations back in CONUS — here it's a very important thing to consider. The law of war is a consideration here, which is normally not as much of a consideration CONUS," he said.

Despite the differences in applicable laws, Weiss said the overall process was generally the same. Even when thousands of miles from home, Soldier's are still required to live by the UCMJ 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

# Hoop match begins with devastating loss

By Pfc. Abel Trevino  
Staff writer

When the crowd gave LaShaun Craig a standing ovation, it wasn't because of a record being broken. It wasn't a buzzer-beating game winning shot. It wasn't even at the end of the game.

There were still 3 minutes and 51 seconds left in the first half of the game, and Craig scored the first two points for 424th Quartermaster Company, acting as a rally cry to his team.

Despite his best effort to call his team, the 424th Quartermaster Company (Lady Liberty), to the points board, they still lost to the 84th Engineer Combat Battalion (Heavy) 57 to 32 during the inaugural game for the LSA Anaconda Morale Welfare and Recreation Fitness Center.

Going into the game, the 84th's coach and center forward Roderick Whatley did not expect to dominate the game from start to finish while maintaining a lead that would never fall below 20 points.

He attributed his team's outstanding win to quickly moving around the court and playing hard.

"We have a good group of guys," Whatley said. "We all work hard together and we all play hard together."

Other members of his team were just happy to play indoors.

"Playing here, it just makes you feel like you're in a more normal environment," Jose Jimenez, point guard, said.

Lady Liberty's coach Edward Nelson, whose team of only six players was outnumbered and outsized, said the only factor that attributed to his loss was the amount of players.

"I didn't think they had the skills to beat us as bad as they did," the basketball coach of 12 years said. "When you have your personnel you can play the game right."

Whatley had the right personnel. Players like Kenneth Stanley, who was the game's high scorer, helped maintain the games domination with his 17 points, 11 of them before Lady Liberty was on the board.

Other players who scored double-digits for the 84th team include Larry Thomas and Lars Toboga.

Over 45 points were scored between these four players, but Whatley modestly stated that his team still needed to improve their shooting.

"The game was good, it helped us see our own potential. We still have a couple of things to work on," said Whatley.

Where one coach saw the opportunity to improve, the other reflected on where his team's heart laid.

"If everyone played like [Erika] Bennett, we'd have won the game. She played with heart and that's what it takes to win games," Nelson said.



Photo by Pfc. Abel Trevino

Jamal Hicks aligns a free throw shot. Hicks scored 9 of his team's 32 points in the second half of the game against the 84th Engineer Combat Battalion basketball team.

## NASCAR Racing Results

### Nextel Cup Series top 10

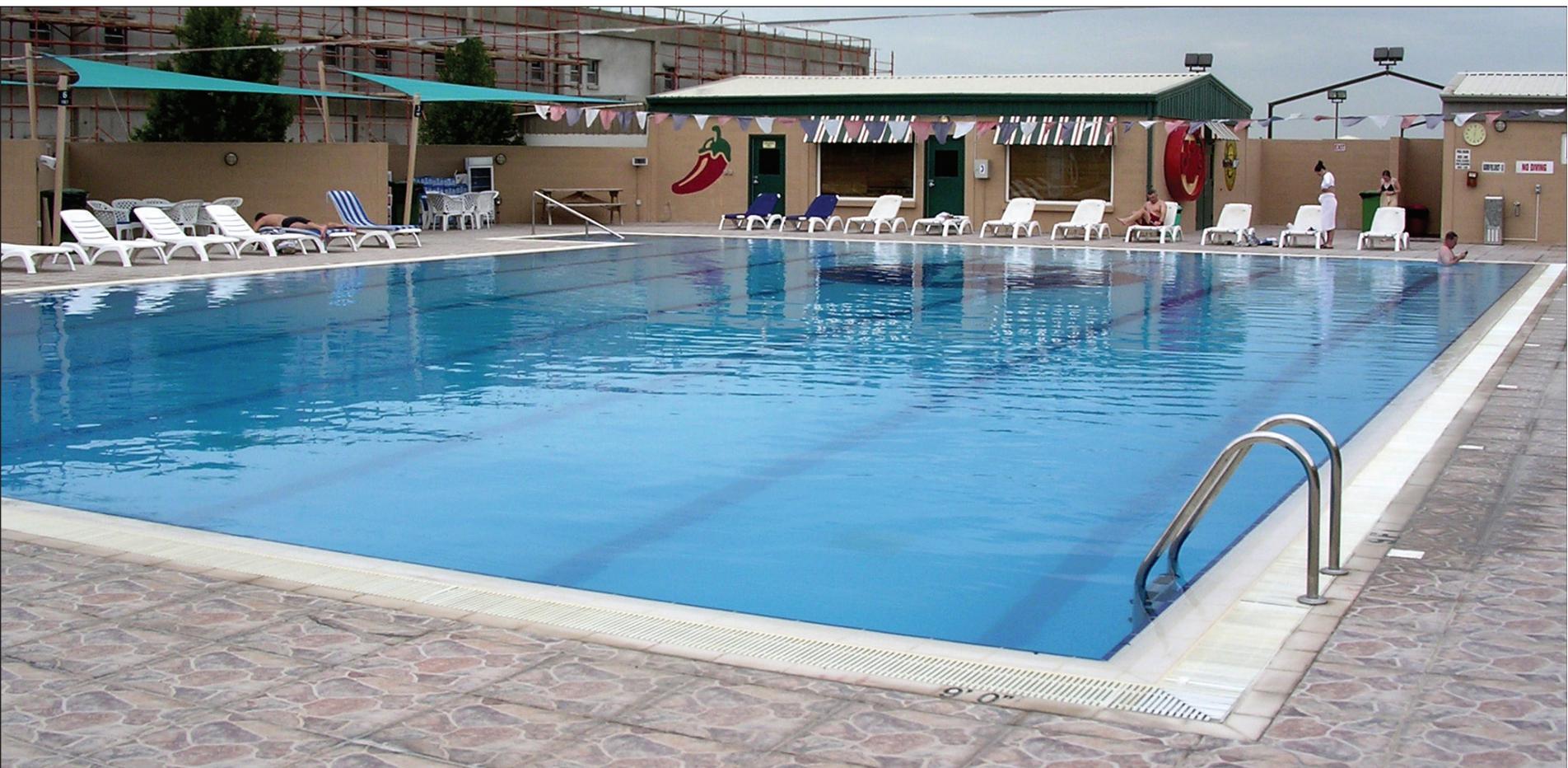
### Busch Series top 10

### Craftsman Truck Series top 10

Name	Points	Behind
1. Dale Earnhardt Jr.	1798	Leader
2. Jimmie Johnson	1793	-5
3. Matt Kenseth	1687	-111
4. Jeff Gordon	1654	-144
5. Tony Stewart	1587	-211
6. Bobby Labonte	1554	-244
7. Eric Sadler	1537	-261
8. Kurt Busch	1521	-277
9. Ryan Newman	1500	-298
10. Kevin Harvick	1498	-300

Name	Points	Behind
1. Kyle Busch	1962	Leader
2. Martin Truex Jr.	1924	-38
3. Michael Waltrip	1804	-158
4. David Green	1795	-167
5. Bobby Hamilton Jr.	1724	-238
6. Jason Keller	1712	-250
7. Ron Hornaday	1667	-295
8. Greg Biffle	1615	-347
9. Jason Leffler	1589	-373
10. Kenny Wallace	1504	-458

Name	Points	Behind
1. Dennis Setzer	815	Leader
2. Carl Edwards	778	-37
3. Rick Crawford	698	-117
4. Bobby Hamilton	694	-121
5. Matt Crafton	679	-136
6. Mike Skinner	677	-138
7. Travis Kvapil	673	-142
8. Terry Cook	657	-158
9. Jon Wood	642	-173
10. David Reutimann	631	-184



Photos by Spc. James J. Truitt

Camp As Sayliyah in Qatar is an oasis providing military members and DoD civilians a break from the combat zone and a chance to pamper themselves in the swimming pool, health spa or Jacuzzi.



Recipients of the pass program relax at Chili's, one of the food establishments at Camp As Sayliyah.



Orange Julius is adjacent to the weights where guests may indulge in a refreshing drink between sets.



U.S. Army Central Command Qatar

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