

Anaconda Times

Proudly Serving the Soldiers of LSA Anaconda

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March 15, 2004

1485th Trans., trucking to success

Story by Spc. James Truitt
13th COSCOM Public Affairs

The 1485th Transportation Company, based out of Dover, Ohio, achieved a one hundred percent operational readiness rate for all of its equipment at LSA Anaconda, March 2.

"It means every task vehicle, every support vehicle, and every piece of equipment we've got is one hundred percent fully mission capable," said Capt. Jeremy Banta, Commander of the 1485th Trans Co. "I have never heard of this being done [in theater] before."

"In November we hit the ninety percent mark and then in January we got it up to ninety-eight percent. Once we got there, you didn't see anybody slack off," said Banta.

The maintenance shop is open from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. daily and is led by Sgt. First Class Kyle Kent. Kent credits

his soldiers and noncommissioned officers with the shop's high readiness rate and also says going above and beyond the standards is nothing new for the unit.

"Our goal has always been to achieve [a] one hundred percent [operational readiness rate]. During peace time achieving that goal was never a problem, but out here it has taken a lot of team work and effort," said Sgt. First-Class Kyle Kent, 1485th Trans Co., Motor Sergeant.

Elements of the 1485th Transportation Company unit arrived in theater in late April 2003 and are now preparing to conduct redeployment operations.

"Even though the guys are tired and worn out they maintain positive attitudes and are willing to go the extra mile to get the job done," said Staff Sgt. Kevin Quintin, 1485th Trans. Co., Senior Mechanic.

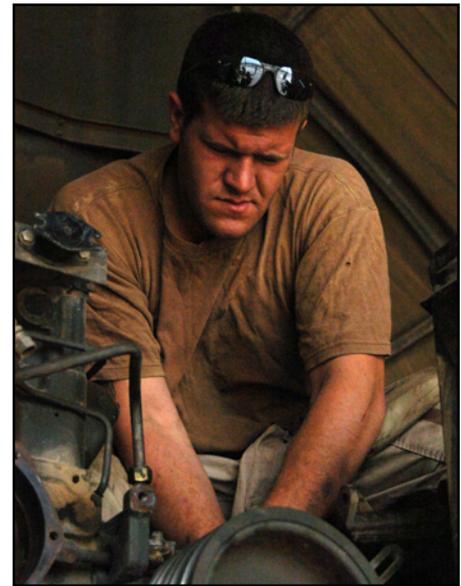


Photo by Spc. James Truitt

"I've been turning wrenches since I could pick one up," said Spc. Joseph Thomas, 1485th Trans. Co., heavy wheel mechanic, fixing an air compressor for a 918 truck.

Full service education center this summer

Story by Sgt. Ann Venturato
13th COSCOM Public Affairs

The Camp Anaconda Education Center, which is scheduled to be the first full service education center in Iraq this summer, hosted an open house for the command sergeant majors on the afternoon of March 14.

"The event was held to bid hail and farewell to instructors at the education center," said Maj. Kristi Hilton, the education center officer, "Hopefully by the end of May or the first week of June, we should be scheduled to open the new education center."

The new education center will be located in building 4136, which is next to the Distinguished Visitors Quarters.

The new education center will have two offices, a testing room, a study room and a computer lab, so the education center will meet the standards for the Department of the Army, said Hilton.

"The computer lab will start off with 22 computers which will be for education only. We won't be running any Internet stuff. If Soldiers need to come there for two or three hours and do their courses, then they can have unlimited time on the computers," said Hilton.

Current services offered by the education center are three-week classes so Soldiers can improve their GT score, and the center has two computers on which Soldiers can come and register for courses on line, said Hilton.

"It's good to see Soldiers come here and get excited about learning stuff," said Sgt. Joshua Jarrell, an instructor at the education center from the 282nd Quartermaster Company.

For now, any testing that needs to be done, such as for the GRE or the ACT; a Soldier has to go to Camp Doha, Kuwait to take the test, which means the Soldier will be gone for a minimum of three days, said Hilton.

"A team of counselors from Germany is scheduled to arrive sometime in June," said Hilton. "They will be able to provide us with testing services and some minimal counseling services."

Some Soldiers come to the education to improve their GT score, so they can reen-
See Education, continued on page 2

NEWS

Soldiers to make a clean sweep of post

Story by Sgt. Ann Venturato
13th COSCOM Public Affairs

Operation Clean Sweep”, a post clean-up day, will be conducted by the tenant units on Camp Anaconda, March 16.

“The concept is to take some of the focus from supporting others and to take the time to take care of our working areas and living quarters,” said Command Sgt. Maj. Daniel Elder, Command Sgt. Maj. for the 13th COSCOM.

The post has been divided into 16 different cleaning zones and units will be assigned areas to clean in their assigned zone on that day, said Elder.

“The Corps Distribution Center which we fall under has been assigned zone 4,” said 1st Sgt. Brenda Wiegert of HHC, 13th COSCOM, “Currently we are working at

cleaning up around our work areas and living quarters, and on cleaning day, we will also be assigned areas in that zone to clean up.”

“It will be nice to look at a place that is clean and not dusty,” said Spc. Tyrone Myers, a soldier with the HHC, 13th COSCOM.

“We will be focusing on high traffic areas and common areas and getting rid of the piles of trash strewn around post,” said Elder.

“By getting rid of the trash in the living and working areas, we will be able to cut down on crud-like symptoms as well as cutting down on birds, flies and rats,” said Elder.

The plan is to do this at least twice a year, said Elder. A day for fall clean up will be scheduled for some time after the tem-

peratures have cooled down some.

“We are getting rid of wood, metal, and concertina wire that are cluttering up are living and working areas,” said Wiegert.

“When we leave here, the place will look better than when we came here,” said Wiegert. “Like previous units have already done, we will be continuing to make living conditions better for incoming Soldiers here at LSA Anaconda.”

“We need to make this place better for everyone else,” Spc. Edwin Hernandez, a mechanic with HHC, 13th COSCOM. “You live here, you need to clean it up, and that’s the bottom line.”

“This is our house, our camp. It is a place where we will be living for most of the year. It’s a good representative of ourselves when our areas are clean and orderly,” said Elder.

Education, continued from page 1

list for a different job, added Hilton, while other Soldiers come to the education center to register for courses to continue with their college education while they deployed.

“Soldiers have goals they want to meet,” said Hilton.

The education center is here to support all who live here on LSA Anaconda to meet their educational goals, said Hilton.

The future goal of the education center is to offer college courses here for the Soldiers, said Hilton. Several soldiers who work for colleges and are talking to their colleges back in the states, because they want to teach college classes here, added Hilton.

“Since the start of the program here, we have had 150 to 200 students enroll in the GT improvement course and have had over 500 Soldiers take the Test Adult Basic Education,” said Sgt. Liberato Figueroa, an instructor at the

education center from the 316th Quartermaster Company.

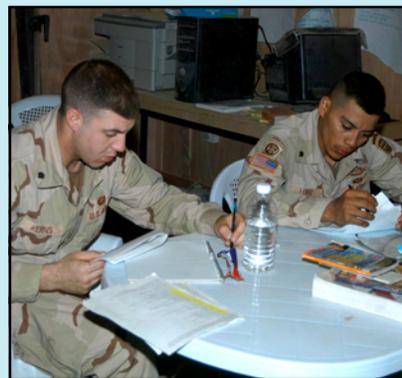


Photo by Sgt. Ann Venturato

Spc. George Kerns, a cook from HHC, 1st Brigade, and Spc. Jorge Lopez, a mortar specialist from A Company, 3/504th Parachute Infantry Regiment, work to solve math problems on a practice test at the education center in preparation for the actual test down in Doha. When the renovations for the education center are complete, Kerns and Lopez will be able to take tests here at LSA Anaconda.

LSA Anaconda Outdoor Movie Guide

Bldg. 4171

Movies begin at 1930

- March 15** - Anaconda
- March 16** - Old School
- March 17** - The Corruptor
- March 18** - The Temptations
- March 19** - Bad Boys
- March 20** - Bad Boys II
- March 21** - Gothica

(movies are subject to change)

Quote of the week

Remember even if you lose all, keep your good name; for if you loose that you are worthless.

—Irish Proverb

NEWS

'DOUGHNUT DOLLY' SERVING IN IRAQ

Vietnam War veteran aids servicemembers through Red Cross support

Story by Spc. Blanka Stratford
13th COSCOM Public Affairs

During the Vietnam War, the American Red Cross provided aide to U.S. servicemembers as well as Vietnamese refugees. At the height of its involvement in 1968, the Red Cross sent approximately 480 field directors, hospital personnel, and recreation assistants to support the growing number of servicemen at various bases and hospitals.

Virginia Wren, now serving in Operation Iraqi Freedom, was one of these people.

Wren was a 7th grade teacher in 1968 when she decided to take a leap of chance and go to an employment agency, asking for public service work and travel. They offered her Girl Scouts or the Red Cross.

"The Girl Scouts deal with children," said Wren. "Although I like kids, I wanted to receive training in other areas. Prior to teaching, I had been active in theater and part of the student union at North Georgia College."

At that time, the American Red Cross was engaging in efforts to sustain the morale of the troops in Vietnam, just as it had during the Korean War and previous conflicts. In response to a request made by the military, the Red Cross sent teams of young female college graduates to Southeast Asia to conduct audience-participation recreation programs for men stationed in isolated sections of the region.

"When I interviewed for Red Cross, it was decided that I was qualified for supplemental recreation overseas," said Wren. "The girls and I were called 'Doughnut Dollies,' which was quite a term of affection. I'm proud of that name."

Wren received several weeks of training in Atlanta before flying to Vietnam in November of 1968. It was her first time flying.

Wren spent seven months supporting soldiers in Cam Ranh Bay and another 5 months in Bien Hoa, Vietnam. She and the other Doughnut Dollies would go out in teams of two with audience-participation games that they had created or borrowed. In the recreational centers, they set up theme parties, ping pong tournaments and scavenger hunts.

"One of the most dangerous places we traveled to was just outside of the Cambodian border," she said. "We went out in the field to deliver mail and gifts. Within an hour of us leaving, the camp was overrun. We found out later that they lost one-third of the service members there."

While Wren was in Vietnam, the Red Cross also lost one woman named Hannah Crews.

"Hannah was going to a social gathering with an MP friend of hers," said Wren. "The Jeep hit a large bump and she was thrown out. She had a seizure, lived for two weeks, then had another seizure and died. It hit us all very hard. At that time, we were all between 22 and 25 years old, and didn't have any closure on this subject."

The closure, said Wren, came in 1993, when the Women Veterans Parade Group had the Women Veterans of Vietnam memorial in Washington D.C. Hannah's father came to meet the Doughnut Dollies, helping them through unshed tears.

Immediately after Vietnam, Wren went to the Ft. Campbell, Kentucky, hospital to take care of fellow veterans. She did hospital service from the early to mid-70s, then spent most of the 80's working for the Red Cross in Germany. From 1991 to 1993, she served in the first Persian Gulf War. Following the Gulf War, she arrived in Landstuhl, Germany, six days before the Sarajevo bombing. She stayed in Germany until 1997, and then served in



Photos by Spc. Blanka Stratford

Before and after: (above) Virginia Wren is currently serving in Operation Iraqi Freedom. She previously served for the Red Cross in the Vietnam War (left).

Korea and Japan until 1999.

"One of the happiest moments in my life occurred right after I arrived in Landstuhl," she said. "I ran into a soldier at the main intersection who recognized me from the 47th Field Hospital in Bahrain. He came up to me and said, 'you were the one who gave me my first birth announcement, and this is my son.'"

Wren said she was absolutely delighted.

Currently, Wren's permanent station is at Cherry Point Marine Corps Air Station, N. Carolina. She is scheduled to stay in Iraq until June 2004 and will then leave for the Azores Islands off the coast of Portugal, having completed more than 35 years of Red Cross service.

"I plan on staying with the Red Cross as long as it remains fun and I can pass the physical," said Wren.

EDITORIAL

Recognizing the potential for success

Commentary by Pfc. Eric Rodriguez
13th COSCOM Public Affairs

Sp. Bryan Montalvo, water treatment specialist for the 316th Quartermaster Company deployed to LSA Anaconda, Iraq, is among a group of Soldiers who are found within every company, battalion, and command within the United States military. It is a group that gives every ounce of effort not because they seek recognition, but because it is in their character to do so.

Now, thanks to the actions of a commander of one unit, Montalvo-along with every other soldier that deserves recognition-is receiving a little more attention in the 13th Corps Support Command Special Troops Battalion.

“What I want to do is give soldiers their snapshot in history” said Lt. Col. Terry Hildner, commander of the 13th Corps Support Command Special Troops Battalion.

“The ‘Hero of the Month’ [program] is intended to recognize Soldiers for their efforts. Most importantly, in the future it gives them an individual sense of importance,” said Terry.

Nearly one year ago, Montalvo rendered first aid to an injured soldier on a convoy near Tikrit. Now, Hildner is recognizing Montalvo for his meritorious actions.

Hildner, along with his staff, implemented a Hero of the Month program, demonstrating a “powerhouse program” to honor Soldiers who have performed superbly under strenuous and many times risky conditions.

According to Hildner, the scope and intensity of the program mainly stems from the idea that Soldiers, in general, work hard to support the ‘big picture.’

“The big picture generally will be accredited to people like Lt. Gen. Sanchez, the CJTF-7 Ground Forces Commander and other notable figures throughout the war,” said Hildner.

Through this program, Hildner and his

“powerhouse staff,” have received the positive reaction that they hoped to receive from the STB soldiers.

“The award means so much to me because I was recommended for it by Spc. Thomas Valle and not anyone else,” said Montalvo. “When LTC Hildner presented me the banner and certificate I finally had something to look back at and feel proud of after all this time.”

In just the few months that the support battalion has assumed its mission at LSA Anaconda, its members have been working diligently to serve the best interest of Soldiers and recognizing them for their hard work.

It is with no doubt that many have come to realize that the command group at the 13th COSCOM and its respective subordinates uphold their strong belief in service to the American Soldier. There are numerous Soldiers like Montalvo whose hard work deserves recognition. Programs like the Hero of the Month makes this kind of recognition possible.



Photo by Pfc. Eric Rodriguez

Sp. Bryan Montalvo, 316th Quartermaster Company, water treatment specialist, standing near his trailer.

An Irish blessing

Always remember to forget
The things that made you sad.
But never forget to remember
The things that made you glad.

Always remember to forget
The friends that proved untrue.
But never forget to remember
Those that have stuck by you.

Always remember to forget
The troubles that passed away.
But never forget to remember
The blessings that come each day.

<http://www.corsinet.com/trivia/irish.html>

Coming soon...



PRC-77 will be arriving to LSA Anaconda in April. Presented by Armed Forces Entertainment.

LIFESTYLES

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March 15, 2004

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

What movies would you like to see playing at the theater?



Spc. Michael Oliver
50th Finance Bn.

"Rambo: First Blood and Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King."



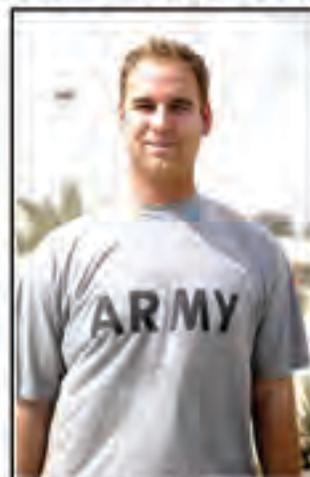
Pvt. Eric Ward
138th PSB

"Spiderman 2. I liked the first one and want to see the second one."



Sgt. Eric Root
82nd Medical Bn.

"I would have to say the Lord of the Rings: the Return of the King. I have seen the first two films and would like to see the third one."



Spc. Greg Hladik
475th Engineer Bn.

"Gladiator and the Passions of the Christ."

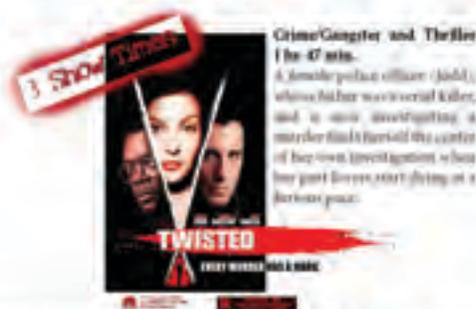


Spc. Marcus Nieves
608th Ordnance Comp.

"Matrix and the Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King."

CAMP ANACONDA THEATER GRAND OPENING

17 MARCH 2004



Crime/Gangster and Thriller
1 hr. 47 min.

A female police officer (Judd), whose father was a serial killer, and is now investigating a murder that forces her to the center of her own investigation when her past comes back biting at a vicious pace.

TICKETS RELEASED THROUGH UNIT CSMS



Spc. Ruthie Bradshaw
4th CMMC

"Rush Hour 2 and the Gladiator."

LIFESTYLES

Billboard Top 20 Albums

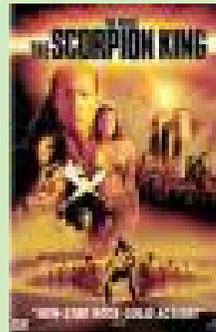
1. Norah Jones, **Feels Like Home**
2. Kanye West, **The College Dropout**
3. Young Gunz, **Tough Luv**
4. Evanescence, **Fallen**
5. Kenny Chesney, **When The Sun Goes Down**
6. Josh Groban., **Closer**
7. OutKast, **Speakerboxxx/The Love Below**
8. Twista, **Kamikaze**
9. Eamon, **I Don't Want You Back**
10. Sheryl Crow, **The Very Best of Sheryl Crow**
11. Maroon5, **Songs About Jane**
12. Trillville/Lil Scrappy, **The King of Crunk**
13. Chingy, **Jackpot**
14. Britney Spears, **In The Zone**
15. Jessica Simpson, **In The Skin**
16. Nickelback, **The Long Road**
17. JC Chasez, **Schizophrenic**
18. Harry Connick, Jr., **Only You**
19. Soundtrack, **The Passion of the Christ**
20. Alicia Keys, **The Diary Of Alicia Keys**



MOVIE REVIEW

By Sgt. Ann Venturato
(films found at AAFES)

The Scorpion King



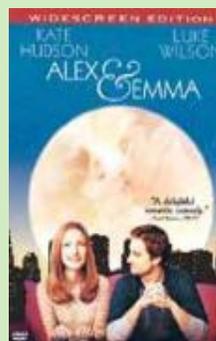
There is nothing like watching a movie where the buff hero (The Rock) rescues a beautiful sorceress (Kelly Hu) from an evil villain, who is set to take over the world. This action packed thriller is also packed with comedy and romance that will have viewers wanting to see the movie more than once.

Runaway Jury

Not exactly John Grisham's book "The Runaway Jury," but this movie does hold to the basic plot that a jury member and his girlfriend plot to take down a big corporation that is all about the money and not about the lives they are killing. The suspense in this movie will leave you guessing about the verdict until the end.



Alex and Emma



Luke Wilson stars as Alex Sheldon, a writer who has thirty days to write his next best seller before two loan sharks come back and kill him. The loan sharks burn his computer as a threat, so Sheldon now has to hire a stenographer named Emma Dinsmore (Kate Hudson) to dictate his book to. It's a dry romantic comedy where (Sheldon writes more fact than fiction in his books).

SPORTS

NBA Conference Standings

Eastern Conference		Western Conference	
Atlantic	Streak	Midwest	Streak
Nets	Lost 1	Timberwolves	Won 1
Knicks	Lost 1	Spurs	Lost 1
Celtics	Won 6	Mavericks	Won 1
76ers	Won 3	Grizzlies	Won 6
Heat	Won 3	Rockets	Won 3
Wizards	Lost 3	Nuggets	Won 1
Magic	Lost 2	Jazz	Won 1
Central	Streak	Pacific	Streak
Pacers	Won 6	Kings	Won 2
Pistons	Won 3	Lakers	Lost 1
Hornets	Lost 2	SuperSonics	Lost 5
Bucks	Lost 3	Trail Blazers	Lost 1
Raptors	Lost 1	Warriors	Lost 6
Cavaliers	Won 4	Clippers	Lost 1
Hawks	Lost 3	Suns	Lost 2
Bulls	Lost 3		

NHL Conference Standings

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

NBA Scoreboard

Nuggets (16-42)	117	Pacers (48-16)	94
Wizards (18-38)	87	Raptors (27-37)	84
Kings (47-16)	96	Supersonics	92
Warriors (25-37)	92	Timberwolves	105
Spurs (42-22)	88	76ers (27-38)	89
Grizzlies (40-24)	94	Bulls (18-45)	81
Knicks (29-36)	84	Magic (18-48)	89
Celtics (29-36)	87	Heat (28-36)	100
Clippers (26-37)	85	Jazz (33-32)	91
Rockets (37-26)	90	Warriors (25-38)	77
Heat (28-37)	84	Caveliers (29-36)	106
Hornets (34-30)	95	Raptors (27-38)	92
Lakers (42-22)	117	Clippers (26-38)	90
Celtics (29-37)	109	Spurs (43-22)	108
Nuggets (34-32)	97	Bulls (18-46)	65
Nets (39-24)	98	Pistons (42-25)	98

NHL Scoreboard

Hurricanes (40-17-8-5)	4	Kings (27-19-16-7)	3
Lightning (22-30-13-4)	2	Coyotes (20-29-16-5)	1
Sabres (31-31-6-1)	6	Oilers (28-27-12-3)	2
Capitals (21-39-8-2)	0	Avalanche (36-17-12-5)	3
Wild (22-26-20-2)	1	Panthers (24-29-14-3)	0
Canucks (36-21-9-4)	1	Maple Leafs (38-20-9-3)	5
Penguins (16-44-6-4)	4	Sharks (33-19-11-6)	3
Stars (35-23-11-0)	0	Wild (22-26-19-2)	4
Flyers (36-17-12-6)	3	Bruins (33-16-14-7)	3
Devils (35-21-11-2)	1	Predators (33-26-8-2)	2
Rangers (25-33-7-5)	2	Blues (32-26-9-2)	3
Thrashers (27-33-7-3)	0	Islanders (30-25-10-4)	2

Notes: The Pistons held their fourth straight opponent under 70. Maple Leafs [Ed Belfour](#) recorded his 72nd career shutout, putting him ahead of [Harry Lumley](#) on the NHL career list.

PHOTOS

Pvt. Murphy



Photo by Pfc. Eric Rodriguez

Sgt. Thomas Montes from the 113th Med. Co., (CSC) washes his clothing, March 12, in preparation for redeployment operations.



Photo by Spc. James Truitt

Soldiers of the 13th COSCOM, CDC, at the indoor pool dedication, March 10. The pool is dedicated to Staff Sgt. Rodger Turner, HHT 1-10 Cav., 4th Infantry Division, who died at LSA Anaconda Feb. 1.



Photo by Spc. Blanka Stratford

General Paul J. Kern, Commanding General, U.S. Army Materiel Command, visited LSA Anaconda, Iraq, March 8, to speak to Soldiers and civilians alike, addressing issues ranging from current operations to general well being. Pictured is Gen. Kern speaking to Pfc. Diana Rodriguez, 4th CMMC, 13th COSCOM during his visit.