

# ANACONDA TIMES

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Proudly serving Logistics Support Area Anaconda

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## Redistribution made easier in theater

By Pfc. Abel Trevino  
Staff writer

LSA Anaconda is home to the Retrograde Forward Distribution Point, the only facility in Iraq that collects excess supplies and parts then redistributes them to those units in need.

"There is a retrograde redistribution [facility] in Kuwait, but this is the only one in Iraq," said Capt. Louisa Bargeron, commander of the 424th Quartermaster Company.

This retention warehouse is the first of its kind in Iraq. The redistribution facility on post receives shipments of supplies, categorizes them and stores them until a unit requests the supplies, at which point they are shipped out.

"All the excess serviceable retrograde in theater, comes

to [this warehouse] and we put everything here and store it and, as it's needed, we issue it out to customers in Iraq. Normally, what happens is the items go down to Kuwait and if somebody needs it they order it and it comes all the way back up here, so [this facility] cuts back on transportation and it's right here in theater if somebody else needs it," said Warrant Officer Donnet Gilbert, assistant accountable officer for the RFDP.

The warehouse works in conjunction with the Supply Support Activity ordering system.

"The basic concept is that we're a retention warehouse," Bargeron said. "Instead of the units ordering new parts, their supply [requests] have been redirected to this warehouse so if we have the parts we'll send them."

By sending parts already in theater, the retention program has saved time, money and lives.

"Not only have we saved the theater about \$30 mil-

lion, but we also reduce customer wait time dramatically," Bargeron said. "It saves money, it puts less lives out on the road, because you don't have as many convoys traveling back and forth on the road, nor do you have the huge customer wait time for parts back from the states."

Success of the program can be seen in the amount of business completed by the facility.

"In the early part of June, they come up with the idea to open up the RFDP and on July 26, we opened for business. Within that time, we have almost 7,000 lines of different classes of supplies here and we've issued out over 5,000 lines already," Gilbert said.

The items the warehouse relies on are excess items that units have or left behind when they redeployed to their home stations.

"The units that were here for (Operation Iraqi see REDISTRIBUTION, page 4

## Transitions part-time to full-time Soldier

By Master Sgt. Candace Nattiel  
CDC 13th COSCOM Career Counselor

Enlisted Reserve and National Guard component Soldiers interested in applying for enlistment into the regular Army must meet all eligibility criteria as outlined in Army regulation 601-210 and AR 601-280.

Requests for enlistment into the regular Army cannot be submitted until a reserve component Soldier is within 90 days of demobilization or 90 days of redeployment.

These requests must be on a DA Form 4187 submitted through the Soldiers assigned home unit with recommendations of a least lieutenant colonel or higher. Soldiers need to include the following with these requests:

- Current ERB/2A
- Latest physical
- Copy of orders placing soldier on active duty
- All DD 214s and/ or NGB Form 22

If a Soldier's request is favorably considered the Soldier will be granted a conditional release to enlist in the regular Army. The Department of the Army will then determine rank and military occupational specialty along with assignment for the Soldier.

The Soldier will be enlisted into the regular Army and transferred to the nearest reception station for further assignment processing with a report date not earlier than 30 days from demobilization.

Soldiers should understand that rank and MOS determination is in accordance with the Army's needs and they may find it more advantageous to see a local recruiter upon return to home station.

This information is in accordance with AR 601-210 and Retention Management Branch Policy Message 03-15 dated April 3, 2003.

Call DNV 302-529-8015 for more information.

## Army hands hospital reins to Air Force

By Staff Sgt. Ryan Hansen  
332nd AEW Public Affairs

Air Force medics officially took over the reins of LSA Anaconda's hospital Sept. 20 from Army medics in a transfer of authority ceremony.

The 332nd Expeditionary Medical Group now runs the Air Force Theater Hospital, formerly known as the 31st Combat Support Hospital, which provides all emergency medical needs for any service members in the area of responsibility.

"I am greatly privileged to be here at this moment in history where an Army medical unit figuratively hands over the front door keys to an impressive field hospital to their Air Force medical colleagues," said Col. Gregory Wickern, 332nd EMDG commander. "Thank you for what you have done and what you now leave in our care."

The 31st CSH ran the base hospital since deploying in January. The Army medics have played a crucial role in providing care during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

"I take pride in the performance of this hospital in the most intense combat casualty care environment since the Vietnam war," said Army Col. Stephen Hetz, outgoing 31st Combat Support Hospital commander. "History will show the Soldiers of the 31st CSH have



Photo by Airman 1st Class Joshua Jasper

Col. Gregory Wickern, 332nd Expeditionary Medical Group commander, addresses the crowd at the transfer of authority ceremony Sept. 20.

given the world's finest care in the history of warfare.

"To my Air Force colleagues," the colonel continued, "we leave in your capable hands the mission of being the gateway for our sick and wounded Soldiers, Sailors, Marines and Airmen who put their lives at risk everyday for freedom."

Although relatively new to Air Force medicine, the 332nd EMDG is breaking ground as largest deployed Air Force medical unit since the Vietnam conflict.

"Men and women of the 31st CSH [LSA Anaconda], you've set the bar high, so high in fact that some might wonder if we're prepared for the challenge," Wickern

said. "My answer to that concern is simple, HOOAAH!"

Air Force medics have been working hand-in-hand with Army medics the past two weeks in preparation of the transfer. However, roughly 30 Army medics will continue on in support of the hospital, along with 20 Australian personnel making this a true coalition effort.

"This mission goes on whether we're coming in or going out," said Army Brig. Gen. James Reynolds, 2nd Medical Brigade commander, who was the transfer of authority reviewing officer. "But I'm expecting a smooth transition and I know (the Air Force) has already picked up the ball and is running with it."

# Army Ten-Miler shadow to kick off

By Sgt. Ann Venturato  
Assistant editor

Service members all around Iraq and Kuwait will be pounding the pavement to get ready for the second annual LSA Anaconda Army Ten-Miler Oct. 24.

The race is open to all service members as well as civilians who want to participate. Registration begins Oct. 1, said Maj. Willie Rios, race coordinator. Interested runners can sign up at registration booths that will be set up in Dining Facility 1 and Dining Facility 4. Runners will even be able to register for the race by e-mail or they can also register the night prior to the race during the pre-race dinner, Rios said.

The pre-race dinner, which is a tradition of the Army Ten-Miler, will be held at Dining Facility 1 so runners can feast on pasta to energize for the race.

Like the Association of the United States Army, race it shadows, the LSA Anaconda Ten-Miler will award trophies the top three runners in each age group. All runners who finish the race will receive a commemorative race medal. Race t-shirts will be available for purchase as well.

Those who are interested in the race but don't want to run the

full 10 miles can get a team together to run the four-person relay event. Each runner on the team will run two and a half miles.

The race will begin at 7 a.m. Oct. 24 with participants lining up at the starting line in front of the outdoor pool.

"The race will begin and end at the stadium here," Rios said. "The route for the race intertwines throughout a lot of the post."

On race day, the running route will be blocked off and a vehicle will lead the field of runners to keep them safe from traffic, he added.

"Our goal is to get about 2,000 participants," Rios said. When 3rd Corps Support Command hosted the race last year, about 1,500 runners participated. We are continuing the tradition of holding a shadow Ten-Miler at Anaconda, he added.

This race helps build esprit-de-corps and team work. It is a chance for service members to do something that people are doing back in the United States as well.

"Soldiers love a challenge and this race provides Soldiers with another challenge," Rios said.

Units across Anaconda have contributed to the challenge of making the race a success. Planning for the race began in March and is in full swing as the race date approaches.

All the coordination will pay off when all the runners are racing down the streets of LSA Anaconda.

## No questions asked, no harm done

A Texas state flag is missing. The flag was located in the 961st Quartermaster Company area on New York Street directly across the street from the outdoor swimming pool and stadium.

The flag was being flown in Iraq for an elementary school in Texas. Those school children agreed to send the unit a U.S. flag in return for the state flag.

If the person(s) who took the flag would please return it to the tactical operations center in building 4131, it would be greatly appreciated.

1st Sgt. Frank Casares

## Incident #2

On Sept. 5, between 4 - 7 a.m., another Texas flag was stolen from building 4131 located on New York Street — directly across from the outdoor swimming pool.

The flag was on the building's rooftop flagpole. This particular flag was on loan from the city of McAllen, Texas; home to the 961st Quartermaster Company.

McAllen city officials asked that their flag be flown in Iraq in support of the troops serving here and returned to the mayor and city upon redeployment. This state flag was for display in the city hall office.

1st Sgt. Frank Casares

# Camp bus line develops color-coded system

By Pfc. Abel Trevino  
Staff writer

For those traveling around LSA Anaconda, taking the bus is an alternative method to walking.

"The bus is available to everyone, so if you needed to get to somewhere, to the [post exchange], to the theater, the bus is a good way to get there," said Jack Davis, fleet manager for the buses.

Buses on camp run 24 hours a day and bus routes are coordinated by color, with transfer points available all around post.

"There are notices and maps posted at all the bus stops, so all one needs to do is just look up [at the bus stop] and find out where they want to go and which route best suits them and then just get on that bus. There are designated transfer points," Davis said.

The bus changed systems on Sept. 6, going from a North-South based bus line system, to the current color-coded one. Bus routes are now dictated by the colors red, green, blue, orange, brown, purple and black, with two buses running each route every 15-18 minutes during peak traffic. One bus runs each route between midnight

and 6 a.m. Transfer points are scattered throughout the post.

These transfer points, similar to public transportation systems in major cities, are bus stops that multiple lines stop at, which allow bus travelers to change lines easily.

"Once you know the bus system, it's easy to use," said Spc. Nathan Lucatorta, 29th Signal Battalion. "It's a quick and convenient way to get to my destination."

Other Soldiers concur with the ease of use, after familiarization with the new system.

"We got lost a little bit, but after a few days we got used to it," said Spc. Christopher Smith, a passenger from the 208th Transportation Company.

For people traveling around the post, the bus system beats the elements.

"The bus makes life a lot easier, with the weather and the heat," said traveler rider John Sanford.

For most commuters, distance between destinations is the main reason they ride the bus.

"If I come to the [post exchange] I take the bus. I live over in [tent city]," said Air Force Staff Sgt. Leah Gordon.

For those not living at LSA Anaconda, the bus system provides a convenient way to

travel around post.

"This isn't our [forward operating base]," said Sgt. James L. Galaz, a visitor from Camp Speicher. "We just asked the bus driver where things are and he helps us get there."

The new color-coordinated bus lines are designed to streamline bus traffic and create an easier to use method for the riders. Although in its fledgling stages, it is based on a method used in major cities around the world for mass transit.

## Bus route main transfer points

There are 14 major transfer points for the bus lines at the following locations:

TMP	Orange/Black
SSSC	Green/Red
DFAC 2	Green/Red
corner of Sustainer and Penn	Orange/Green/Blue/Red
post office	Orange/Green/Blue/Red/Black
camp hospital	Orange/Red
Mayor's Cell/theater/pool	Orange/Red
post exchange	Orange/Green/Blue/Red
DFAC 3	Orange/Green/Blue/Red
DFAC 1	Orange/Green/Blue/Red/Black
main laundry facility	Blue/Black
DFAC 4	Brown/Purple/Black
David Letterman and Victory Loop	Brown/Purple/Black
PAX Terminal	Green/Red/Black

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# Pentagon hosts salute to Hispanic World War II veterans

By Kathleen T. Rhem  
*American Forces Press Service*

WASHINGTON — Today's generation of Hispanic-Americans owes much to the brave veterans who went before them for paving their way and setting a standard, several Defense Department officials said Sept. 15 to kick off Hispanic American Heritage Month.

ceremony. Another Air Force official, Michael Montelongo, assistant secretary for financial management and comptroller, said today's Americans have "these heroes, these warriors, these patriots" to thank for the liberties and freedoms enjoyed here today.

"You've paved the way for today's heroes — heroes of Iraqi Freedom, heroes of Enduring Freedom, heroes of America," Montelongo told the men,

will be difficult for us to maintain," Sanchez said. "But the young Hispanics of today are working very, very hard to ensure that we don't fail you."

To Andres Gallegos, one veteran present, today's young men and women have already met the standard. Gallegos served in the Army in Europe and the Pacific during World War II. When he spoke today, he said he was taken aback by being called part of the greatest generation.

"The greatest generation? No," he said, to instant applause. "The greatest generation is now."

Several other veterans captivated the crowd with stories of their service. Guy Gabaldon, a former Marine whose Japanese language skills helped him capture at least 1,000 Japanese soldiers during his service in the Pacific, got a great laugh when he said it only took one Japanese person to capture him, as he pointed out his Japanese wife.

But Gabaldon grew serious when telling the story of another Hispanic Marine he met briefly in Japan during World War II. Alfredo — Gabaldon said he never found out his last name — was determined to take out an enemy position in a former Japanese police station. And he did so, although it ended up being a suicide mission.

"He went up over the edge of this gully," Gabaldon said, recalling Alfredo's actions. "We all hollered, 'Get down! Hit the deck, you crazy bastard!' There was nothing he could possibly do.

"He threw his M-1 (rifle) down and grabbed a grenade off his belt, pulled the

pin and held onto the spoon and kept running toward the enemy position," he continued. "They just chopped him down. He fell; the spoon (came) off and blew his arm off. He was dead by then."

Gabaldon said this was typical of the Hispanic Marines he had served with. "He gave his life for two other Marines," Gabaldon said, before apologizing unnecessarily for boring the crowd.

When it was his turn to make remarks, Frank Medina, a former corporal in the Army Air Corps, stood up and said he wanted to "thank the good Lord for making me a Latino." When the cheers quieted down, Medina explained that his ability to speak Spanish had allowed him to communicate with friendly Italians who helped him avoid capture for eight months behind enemy lines.

Medina was an aircrew member on a B-24 that was shot down over Italy. He was the only crewmember to evade capture. "So you see," he said. "There's an advantage to being a Latino."

Ignacio Servin, still trim and wearing his tan uniform, was all business as he explained why he had volunteered to blow up an ammunition-storage site 61 years earlier, an act his commander later said saved the lives of hundreds of Soldiers and Marines.

"I didn't do it with the intention of getting a medal," he said, though the act earned him a Silver Star for gallantry in action. "I did it to show my commanding officer and my fellow Soldiers that Hispanics are brave (and) they're willing to sacrifice their lives for the United States of America."



Photo by Sgt. Adam R. Mancini

World War II Army veteran Ignacio Servin says he volunteered for a dangerous mission to prove to his commander and fellow Soldiers that Hispanics are brave and willing to die for the United States of America. Servin attended a Pentagon ceremony honoring Hispanic World War II veterans Sept. 15 to kick off Hispanic American Heritage Month.

"At a time of great trial, you give the country more strength," Air Force Assistant Secretary for Manpower and Reserve Affairs Michael L. Dominguez said during a ceremony in the Pentagon saluting such veterans. "Your stories and your accomplishments now inspire us ... as we confront this new enemy."

Dominguez directed his comments directly to a group of nine Hispanic World War II veterans in attendance. "The inspiration from your stories and your example guides us and motivates us," he said. "Particularly as we go into this conflict now as a nation, it's (your) strength that gives us power that's unmatched by the enemy and, in fact, incomprehensible to the enemy."

Dominguez's sentiments were repeated in speeches throughout the

who were wearing an assortment of uniform items, medals, patches and caps that made them readily identifiable as veterans.

Army Lt. Gen. Ricardo S. Sanchez, commander of 5th Corps in Germany and former commander of Combined Joint Task Force 7 in Iraq, said the veterans "exemplify the spirit of our heritage."

Hispanic veterans were at the core of some of America's most heroic campaigns and battles, Sanchez, the highest-ranking Hispanic in the U.S. military, said. "Their records are impeccable," he said, adding that honoring them helps set a standard for today's Hispanic youth to live up to.

"As members of this great generation, you have established that standard that

## Pvt. Murphy's Law



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## NATIONAL HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH Sept. 15 through Oct. 15, 2004

This year's celebration theme is:

"Hispanic Americans: Making a Difference in Our Communities and Our Nation."

**SUSTAINER THEATER — OCT. 9, 2004 9 a.m.**

Opening ceremonies by Brig. Gen. James E. Chambers with a slide presentation featuring famous hispanics, history, culture and entertainment

sponsored by LSA ANACONDA and 13th COSCOM



## Left Shoulder Diary I Corps

Compiled from  
Unit History

The I Corps shoulder sleeve insignia is characterized by a black disc, two and one-fourth inches in diameter set in the center of a white circle, two inches in diameter and one-fourth of an inch wide.

The American Expeditionary Forces Adjutant General approved it Dec. 3, 1918. The War Department approved it June 17, 1922.

I Corps was activated at Neufchateau, France Jan. 15, 1918. After carrying all its objectives and taking part in the last major offensive of World War I, the unit was demobilized in March 1919.

Reactivated Nov. 1, 1940, I Corps prepared for action in New Guinea. In the following nine months the corps supervised training and engaged in large-scale maneuvers. In the summer of 1942, I Corps was ordered to Australia, closing into the area at Rockhampton Oct. 17, 1942. Switching from the defensive and thereby ending the threat of an Australian invasion, I Corps began efforts to push back the Japanese.

At the end of World War II, I Corps lead acceptance of the surrender Japan. When the occupational mission was accomplished, troops of the corps turned more to military training and field exercises designed to prepare them for combat.

The unit was formally inactivated in Japan March 28, 1950.

The Korean War broke out three months later and I Corps was reactivated Aug. 2, 1950. The unit led an offensive launched from the Pusan Perimeter. I Corps had driven past Seoul and beyond the 38th Parallel by Oct. 1. On Oct. 29, the corps took the North Korean Capital, and by month's end was only a few miles from the Chinese Border.

Periods of intense fighting continued in Korea until the Armistice was signed. I Corps remained in Korea until 1971.

In the three wars I Corps has been involved in, the unit entered the fighting when things were bad and emerged victorious.

I Corps is the only corps to receive the U.S. Presidential Unit Citation and is the most decorated corps in the active Army, participating in more campaigns than other corps.

I Corps was transferred to Fort Lewis, Wash., Oct. 1, 1981. Designated an early deploying corps for military contingencies in the Pacific, I Corps is now able to deploy on short notice with both Active Army and Reserve Component forces.

The 175th Adjutant General Company (Postal), a I Corps unit, is deployed to LSA Anaconda and work in shifts 24 hours a day to make sure that Soldiers and civilians receive their mail.

## Civilian of the Week

**J**eremy Thomas Nelms recently took over as the Assistant Morale, Welfare and Recreation manager, and he already sees big change.

"In the near future, we have five new facilities coming online here," Nelms said. "The facilities are going to be bigger and nicer. Because of that, we will be able to offer more experiences and more events, which will hopefully make it more enjoyable for the Soldiers. That's the whole reason we're here."

Nelms arrived at LSA Anaconda Aug. 25, and was not originally working at the MWR Recreation Facility.

"Three weeks ago, I started at the gym. With my experience and education background, I moved up rather quickly," he said.

Nelms is a graduate from Texas A&M University, in his hometown of College Station, Texas. At A&M, he earned a degree in sport management and taught sports activities, such as strength training, rock climbing, tumbling, gymnastics and archery, at the same university. A business entrepreneur, he also taught athletic and weight loss seminars for a year.

Nelms' past careers display how he strives for improvement and change.

"It's nice being able to influence and bring ideas to a department that is rapidly growing," the ever-smiling Nelms said.

Nelms insists that he cannot bring about new ideas and improve the existing and upcoming facilities without the assistance of Soldiers.

"I really want to encourage the military, the people we are here to serve, to let us know what they want; to drop by and let us know what we can do better so we can implement as many ideas as we are capable of doing," he said. "We really just want all the Soldiers to come in and have fun."

Soldiers are not the only ones who enjoy the spoils of Nelms' labor.

"I like [my job], I like it a lot. What's the worst part of my job? I don't know; I really like it. I'm having a blast," Nelms said.

Despite the enjoyment that he is having here, Nelms misses his family and his girlfriend back in the



Jeremy Thomas Nelms

United States.

"I love them and [they should] keep looking to God every day for his strength and direction," he said.

Nelms plans on making the most of his stay on the post and sees it as a tremendous opportunity to get involved and make a difference in the lives of those stationed here.

REDISTRIBUTION, from page 1

Freedom I), they had a lot of excess items that they ordered that came in that they didn't use or that came in after they left so [the parts] just stayed here in theater and that goes for the units that are here right now. A lot of things that are here and aren't being used are just sitting around in [containers]. All the excess [supplies] are being directed to us and we put [them] on our system so that [they] get visibility, so people in the theater and outside the theater can see what we have. If they can't get it



Photo by Pfc. Abel Trevino

**Soldiers unload supplies from one of the containers that house parts the facility distributes throughout Iraq.**

from someplace, if their [supply supporting activity] can't support them, then we'll support them. We'll direct it out there," Gilbert said.

The ability to direct parts on such a large scale is a result of a diligent tracking system.

"Theater wide, anything that leaves this yard can be tracked. We load the manifest with all kinds of data and details. Now the theater has a way to track the items. Traditionally, what has happened in the past is units would requisition [parts] and items would go out, and then it'd be kind of like a stalemate. They'd get stuck in Kuwait or in Germany for weeks or months. Supply would not have an opportunity to really see where these items were getting held up. Units would wait for these items that would never come," Bargeron said. "The fact that we can send these items out with as much detail for the theater to track is another [advancement]."

The detailed tasking requires the constant attention of a small but dedicated crew.

"For such a big operation, we only have 30 Soldiers that are here and they pretty much work 24 hours. We have a 24-hour operation," Gilbert said. "The Soldiers go above and beyond trying to process the items and input [the information] so the items will be able to go out."

The operation has been open for six weeks and has supported troops throughout the theater by quickly dispensing needed supplies faster than the normal course of requisitioning.

# Diverse unit provides personnel, mail services

By Pfc. Leah R. Burton  
Staff writer

Starting with several units from three different components, six different states, and military occupational specialties ranging from personnel to mechanics, the 138th Personnel Services Battalion had the challenge of becoming one team under the difficult circumstances of deployment.

Through team-building exercises, they formed into one cohesive unit and were able to provide the personnel support services and postal operations necessary to the morale of the troops at LSA Anaconda.

"Our battalion truly represents an Army of One," said Lt. Col. Colette A. Johnson, 138th PSB commander. "We are just one big melting pot."

When the National Guard and Reserve units mobilized and the active duty units received deployment orders, they all trained separately at their respective home stations or mobilization sites. None of the Soldiers from the different states knew each other upon arriving at LSA Anaconda.

"We had organizational days. We did a battalion run together. We did the Myers-Briggs personality test, so that everyone could learn a little bit about each other," Johnson said.

Elements of the 138th PSB are dispersed throughout the theater of operations.

Soldiers from Headquarters, 993rd Adjutant General Company (Postal) from Springfield, Ill., 1st Platoon, 449th Adjutant General Company Postal from North Carolina, and 2nd Platoon, 471st Adjutant General Company (Postal) from Des Moines, Iowa, are providing personnel services and postal operations at Camp Cooke.

Some Soldiers from the various 138th PSB units are sprinkled throughout Baghdad and Qatar, as well.

The crew here is responsible for all the personnel actions for the Soldiers of LSA Anaconda, except for the 1st Infantry Division that is the responsibility of the 38th Personnel Services Battalion.

The Soldiers process identification cards and tags, emergency leave, promotions and awards. They also update officer and enlisted record briefs.

In addition to personnel actions, units under the command of the 138th PSB run the postal operations on post from receiving the mail and sorting it by unit or organization to inspecting and shipping Soldiers' letters and packages out of theater.

In the time that they've been here, the 138th PSB and its subordinate units have processed more than 37,000 personnel services support actions, helped more than 51,000 customers and processed more than 5 million pounds of mail.

In the coming months, the Soldiers expect to see a drastic increase in all personnel and mail services.

"We have to be very studious and be sure we keep a good count of the ballots that are coming into theater and going out," Johnson said. "We have the holiday season, which is going to be tremendous. A lot of people are going to be receiving packages from their loved ones from the states, so our business will probably double, maybe even triple during the months of November, December and January, just from the holiday mail."

In addition to the election season and Christmas, transfers of authority have started, increasing the number of promotions and awards.

"With TOAs taking place, there will be a lot of people that have been walking around without their ID cards and tags. When they find out that they need them to fly home, they'll be rushing to the [personnel services



Photos by Pfc. Leah R. Burton

**Sgt. Jose Ortiz-Bello, promotions section sergeant, looks for promotion packets for Soldiers in the 4th Corps Material Management Center.**



**Pfc. Javier Zayas, human resources specialist from the 510th Personnel Services Battalion, makes a new set of identification tags for a customer.**

detachment]. Do it now, because you don't want to run into a backlog," Johnson said.

Soldiers should also make sure they turn in a Department of the Army form 3955, Change of address and directory card to their unit mail clerk prior to redeploying. Family members should stop sending mail about three weeks before the date a Soldier is set to depart.

The battalion includes B and C Detachments, 510th Personnel Services Battalion from Mannheim, Germany, Headquarters and 2nd Platoon, 175th Adjutant General

Company (Postal) from Fort Lewis, Wash., 3rd Platoon, 313th Adjutant General Company (Postal) from Puerto Rico, 1st and 2nd Platoons, 350th Adjutant General Company (Postal) from Texas, Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 138th Personnel Services Battalion from Indianapolis, Ind., and 2nd Platoon, 449th Adjutant General Company (Postal) from North Carolina.

Call DNVT 527-4223 for personnel information or DNVT 520-0675 for postal information.

## 9/11 Ride Foundation honors Marines, Soldiers in New York City with ride, t-shirts

The roar of hundreds of motorcycle engines growled down Avenue of the Americas in New York City as bike after bike turned onto 6th Avenue. On the sidewalk nearby, a pipes band bellowed a rousing rendition of The Marines' Hymn over the roar of the motors. The lights of Radio City Music Hall welcomed riders from all over the east coast to "the city that never sleeps."

Members America's 9/11 Ride Foundation, Inc. rode hundreds of miles during their annual ride to New York City last month. At the end of their trip, they honored Marines from Camp Lejeune, N.C., and soldiers from Ft. Hood, Texas, with a presentation of more than 2,000 t-shirts Aug. 21, 2004.

"I've never seen anything like this in my entire life," said Marine 1st Lt. Christina Henry, Deployment Support Unit, 2nd Supply Battalion. "There's almost 2,000 bikes riding down Avenue of the Americas in New York City," she said. "Everyone on the street just stops to watch."

America's 9/11 Ride Foundation is a non-profit organization that supports those who put their lives on the line daily as emergency workers. Based in Leesburg, Va., the foundation annually hosts the largest fully-dressed, police-escorted ride to all

three of the 9/11 terrorist attack sites.

"We started out in Sommerset," said former Marine Sgt. Dawn Towler, who participated in the ride. Sommerset, Pa., was where Flight 93 crashed on Sept. 11, 2001. The riders then traveled from Sommerset to Washington, D.C., the next day and to New York City two days later. For many of the riders, it was an emotional journey.

"During certain parts of the ride, there wasn't a dry eye," said Chris Gadway, from Huntingtown, Md. "In Sommerset, there was a church built near the crash site," said the Huntington firefighter. "And when we rode by the church, there was a priest outside throwing drops of Holy Water on us," he said. "That was something else."

"I almost burst into tears coming up Interstate 95," said Retired Marine Master Sgt. Charles Towler. "There were five Virginia state troopers lined up along the highway in their dress uniform," he said. "They saluted the whole time we were riding past them."

During their journey, the foundation members collected signatures for more than 2,000 "Memory Never Forgotten" t-shirts.

"We got about 2400 shirts,"

said Dawn. "All along the way, they were out in the (hotel) lobbies for us to sign," said the Lancaster, Pa., native. "It felt good to sign one for the troops."

The foundation donated those shirts to Marines and soldiers currently stationed overseas in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. They will ship from the United States to the Middle East from the service members' home units in North Carolina and Texas.

"We're the ones ... sending these shirts out," said Henry. "Since we're a deployment support unit, everything that goes to our unit (in Iraq) comes from our warehouse."

Both services are confident their counterparts will appreciate the donations overseas.

"When you're over there, the little things people do for you make a big difference," said Lance Cpl. Chris Swank, warehouse chief for 2nd Supply Bn. "And this is huge."

"(The foundation is) recognizing the sacrifices the soldiers make every day," said Army 1st Lt. Susan Bartlett, Rear Detachment Commander, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Cavalry Division. "It means a lot to them that people recognize their hard work."

Even after a three-day motorcycle ride, the foundation mem-



Photo by Cpl. Beth Zimmerman

**Members of America's 9/11 Ride Foundation, Inc. roar down 6th Avenue in New York City Aug. 21, 2004. Thousands of motorcycle riders participated in America's 9/11 Ride, which is an annual event that included visits to each of the three terrorist attacks sites during a three-day ride. The riders ended in Manhattan, where they presented t-shirts to Marines from Camp Lejeune, N.C., and soldiers from Ft. Hood, Texas.**

bers glowed with genuine pride for the Marines and Soldiers they came to honor.

"Words cannot describe..." Gadway started to say about the troops overseas. He paused to search for worthy words. "You can't say enough to thank the people who are serving our country now."

It's been said actions speak louder than words. So instead of sending a verbal thanks, the 9/11 Foundation riders donated t-

shirts and rode hundreds of miles to show their support for the men and women deployed to locations overseas.

"When the whole line of bikes was all of the sudden coming down 6th Avenue," said Swank, "it was breathtaking."

"It really sunk in hard about how people actually come together to remember the people that risk their lives to support this country."

*Marine Corps Public Affairs*

## Naval astronaut candidate visits NASA Goddard Flight Center

Cmdr. Chris Cassidy, a Navy SEAL (Sea, Air, Land) and one of NASA's newest astronaut candidates, visited NASA Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, Md., Sept. 15.

Cassidy, and other astronaut candidates, visited the center to receive briefings on the current Goddard program and project activities, and to tour on-site research and development facilities.

"These are the astronauts who will lead us through the next steps in the new exploration vision," said NASA Administrator Sean O'Keefe during a May announcement naming the newest class members. "The class is made up of pilots and engineers who will help us develop the next generation vehicle, scientists who will do research to help humans live and travel in space, and three

new educator astronauts to help ensure that a new generation is ready for the challenges of explorations."

Cassidy was proud to be selected.

"I was getting ready to make the phone call," he said, "and the phone rang, and caller ID said it was from Houston." After the phone call in which Cassidy accepted the Astronaut Candidate program offer, he was "high-fiving my wife and kids."

"We're technically astronaut candidates," said Cassidy. "For the next year and a half, we go through a series of training. Learning to fly the T-38, visiting all the NASA Centers. Further into the year, we'll learn about shuttle systems and space station systems, and at some point when we finish the curriculum, we'll go from being astronaut candidates to astronauts."

After becoming astronauts, the class will then be assigned individual technical assignments in support capacity in Houston. The astronauts will then carry out those assignments for a number of years, all in supporting roles to ongoing missions.

"Quite honestly, it will be a few years



before class gets the opportunity to fly in space," Cassidy said.

Cassidy said that his experience as a SEAL platoon commander will help him in his endeavor to become an astronaut.

"Comfort with stressful situations and able to think through problems, and just calmly and methodically approach any diversity that happens on our mission," he said.

Among the 14 candidates, 11 are American and three are Japanese. Of the American 11, three are from the U.S. military. Maj. James P. Dutton from the Air Force, and the Marine Corps boasts Maj. Randy Bresnik as an astronaut candidate.

*Navy News Service*

## AFPC helps evacuation

As Hurricane Frances blew through Florida, 45th Space Wing officials at Patrick Air Force Base, Fla., relied upon the assistance of Airmen at the personnel readiness center here to keep track of evacuated people.

Once the evacuation was announced Sept. 2, the center's Airmen prepared for 24-hour operations to respond to callers. Although calls have tapered off since the passing of the hurricane, Airmen will continue to man phones until no longer needed.

"With an estimated 15,000-plus military and civilian evacuees departing for more secure locations, the (readiness center) expected a heavy call volume," said Master Sgt. Eric Barnes, NOCIC of the deployed operations section at the Air Force Personnel Center here. "All told, (the readiness center) received about 600 telephone calls (Sept. 2) until (Sept. 6)."

Besides receiving information from the evacuees, the readiness center's Airmen updated callers on the status of operations, weather and other situations at Patrick Air Force Base.

"We received many calls from people eager to return home, assess their damage and begin cleanup actions," Barnes said.

*Air Force News Service*



## ESPN broadcasts SportsCenter live from Kuwait, Soldiers prepare for show in hurry

ESPN brought SportsCenter to Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, for a week of live broadcasts beginning Sept. 11 to chronicle the lives of deployed American troops.

A flurry of last-minute activity was needed to prepare the set, in a warehouse at Camp Arifjan, for the live broadcasts.

Soldiers hurriedly added sandbags to a bunker, while several others made last-minute adjustments to the camouflage netting covering a tent. As the project neared completion, a sergeant major and a few officers stood in the middle of it all plotting the next move.

A week earlier, the building housing the tent and bunker was a half-empty warehouse containing nothing but a few hundred vacant bunk beds. Now it's the provisional home to one of cable television's most popular shows.

The announcement in late August by ESPN officials to bring SportsCenter to Kuwait put network employees in a crunch for time, shortening a shipping process that usually takes a couple months into only two-and-a-half weeks, Mike Armatta, ESPN technical manager, said.

The first pieces of equipment began arriving at the show's temporary studio at Camp Arifjan's building 511 Sept. 4, with the set-up process scheduled to begin the following day. The arrivals, however, merely marked the start of a days-long waiting game with Kuwaiti customs.

The network had to clear through customs a collection of cameras, monitors, lights and other equipment brought in from several countries in more than 800 boxes with a combined weight of nearly 22 tons.

Little by little, equipment trickled in, but construction on the set could not begin until an instrumental piece—the truss system—arrived. The system is the infrastructure of the set. It hangs from the ceiling and holds the combination of lights, cables and projectors needed to put on a live show. Without it, the set would have to wait.

As crew members waited, service members and civilians from various units and organizations sprung into action, helping transform the sprawling warehouse into something a little more broadcast friendly. Troops and civilians used a mix of elbow grease and creativity to meet ESPN's needs and solve problems on the spot.

"To save money, we tried to utilize as many military resources and supplies as we had," Army Maj. Larry Crowl, operations and plans officer for the Coalition Forces Land Component Command Public Affairs Office, said.

The work varied in scale and scope and included everything from arranging for high-speed Internet and phone service, to making sure ESPN would have enough electricity to power its army of equipment.

Using items from closed-down camps and Patriot missile sites around Kuwait, workers with Arifjan's Direc-



Photo by Spc. Curt Cashour

**Blitz Lighting, Sound and Video employee Ross Baker rigs cables for a projector ESPN is using for its live SportsCenter broadcasts from Camp Arifjan, Kuwait.**

torate of Public Works outfitted the building with a completely new electrical system, said Al Cottone, DPW's electrical engineering technician.

"It's basically like building a power cell to run the equivalent of a city block in a week's time," said Army Sgt. Stephen Miller, DPW's lead electrician.

In case of a power outage, Cottone and Miller have two massive 400-kilowatt generators on standby. According to Miller's estimates, the two generators are capable of providing enough electricity to power approximately 26 large Army tents.

Meanwhile, members of the Army's 854th Engineer Detachment worked to customize four modified shipping containers into rooms for tasks such as editing and applying graphics. The Soldiers even outfitted the containers with air conditioners to cool those working in them and their equipment.

About 9 p.m. Sept. 7, the truss system finally arrived. Crew members from ESPN and three companies the network hired to assist with technical operations, Vertigo

Rigging, Charter Broadcast and Blitz Lighting, Sound and Video, worked until about 2 a.m. the next morning mounting the system and rigging it with the four projectors and 140 different lights to be used during the broadcasts.

By the time network satellites beamed the first live images of Camp Arifjan back to the United States Sept. 11, more than 250 service members and civilian employees from various units and organizations had assisted ESPN and its crew with nearly every aspect of the visit.

The cooperation of the troops seemed to impress many among the ESPN crew, including Mike McQuade, SportsCenter's senior coordinating producer.

"In many instances we pay to broadcast from places and don't get the kind of cooperation we've gotten here," he said.

Crowl cited a simple reason for all the activity and support.

"Why are we putting in all this work? Because we're not only Soldiers, we're sports fans," he said.

*Army News Service*

## Enterprise's tiger teams begin reconstruction on vessel, complete tasks with pride, selflessness

*USS Enterprise* began its Extended Selected Restricted Availability (ESRA) period at Northrop Grumman Newport News shipyard Sept. 10, after crew members formed "tiger teams."

The tiger teams were formed as part of the ship's efforts to maximize the use of personnel and increase cost effectiveness during the yard period, when a vessel is on downtime for repairs.

"A tiger team is basically a special projects team set up to accomplish various jobs," said Lt. James Feeley, habitation schedul-

ing officer during the ESRA. "We have teams for painting, lagging, non-tight doors, racks and lockers, heads, and a decking team which basically does the tiling for the spaces."

According to Feeley, using the *Enterprise's* own personnel to complete the smaller renovation tasks needed is a fiscally smart move for both the carrier and the Navy.

"We want to utilize the ship's force," said Feeley. "We've got the ability. We've got the members to do the jobs. We're looking at this as a simple materials expenditure issue. It's more of a cost

savings for the Navy."

A quick walk across the deckplates reveals plenty of work already under way, with more to follow.

"Preparation work and tear-outs have been ongoing since we got into the shipyard," said Feeley. "The teams and individual assignments were done before we came back from the pre-planning. We've met with the teams and identified the beginning jobs."

"Right now, we're gathering all the tools we'll need for the jobs," said Aviation Boatswain's Mate (Handling) 1st Class (AW)

Early Mosley, door rehabilitation tiger team leading petty officer. "We're going to use wrenches, drills, rubber mallets and things like that. Once we have all the tools together, we'll be able to get the job rolling."

This will be the first experience for many members of the tiger teams, not only in a shipyard environment, but also doing tiling or lagging work. To prepare the Sailors for their new responsibilities, each team received training and guidance on their job.

Because the workload for a handful of teams is significant, it has become the responsibility of

each workcenter to prepare each job for the tiger teams. Tiger team Sailors are directly responsible for the overall quality of their work, and in the long run, for the material condition of their ship.

"*Enterprise* Sailors are able to rehab their own workspaces and living areas," said Feeley. "In terms of a positive outlook, our Sailors will take pride in ownership."

"This experience makes better Sailors," added Mosley. "It gives them a bigger and better view of the ship as a whole and not just their parent divisions."

*Navy News Service*



Weekley puts on his scuba diving gear along the shore of the Tigris River.



Spc. Andy Weekley, 86th Dive Detachment diver, checks out the water before getting set to dive down into the Tigris River to remove sediment from the four intake valves that go to a nearby water treatment plant.



Staff Sgt. Wolly Christesen, a dive team member, assists in the dredging mission by holding part of the hose for divers below the water.



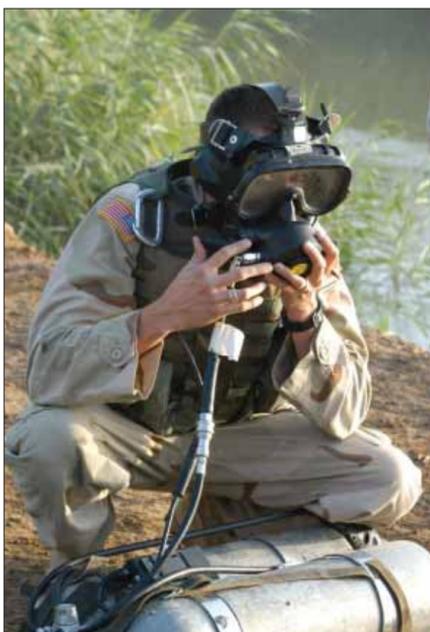
Weekley checks out the sediment on his gloves as he comes onto shore after a dive.



The divers go through a final equipment check before they dive into the water.



The dredge used to remove sediment.



Spc. Jeff Johnson, a dive team member, assembles the equipment for the divers.

# Divers help to improve water supply

By Sgt. Ann Venturato  
Assistant editor

Divers from the 86th Dive Detachment took the plunge into the Tigris River on the morning of Sept. 6 to remove sediment from four intake valves at a nearby water treatment plant.

The objective was to increase the water flow to the plant that provides water to LSA Anaconda and the surrounding communities.

The intake valves get built up with sediment regularly and the pump station has had a hard time in the past keeping the intake valves free of sediment.

"Right now we know there is about 15 feet of sediment piled up over the intake valves," said Lt. Eric Marshall, 86th Dive Detachment dive officer.

Before entering the water to remove the sediment, the dive team assembled the dive and dredging equipment for the mission.

The divers used the dredging equipment to create a vacuum to help suction the sediment away from the intake valves.

Members of the dive team positioned

themselves in the safety boat to help relay information between the divers and other team members on shore.

By 8 a.m. the first diver was in the water and getting ready to remove sediment from the intake valves.

A guide rope was tied to a pipe to help guide the divers to the location of the intake valves.

On initial decent, the divers found that only one intake valve was partially visible while the others were covered with sediment from the river bottom.

"We have six days to complete the mission but hopefully we can finish in a couple of days," said Spc. Andy Weekley, 86th Dive Detachment diver.

The divers continued their dredging mission for three more days and were able to clear a lot of mud from the intake valves.

The dredging mission is only the first part of a three-part mission to improve the water quality for LSA Anaconda and the surrounding communities.

The second phase is the surveying and the third phase is the construction of intake valve

screens, Marshall said.

The screening device will be put in place to help keep the sediment from the intake valve.

The mission started off with having the divers come out and get water samples from the river, Marshall said. The Corps of Engineers was looking to provide running water to all of LSA Anaconda from the pump station and they wanted to get the water samples to make sure there were no contaminants in the water.

It was while taking the water samples that they noticed that three of the four intake valves were completely covered and needed to be dredged before a screening device is put in place, Marshall added.

So in the water the divers went to complete their first dredging mission here. Their primary mission is usually equipment and body recovery.

Although their dredging mission is done, Marshall said the divers still need one more day to take measurements of the intake valves to build the intake valve screens that will be the last pieces to put in place to protect the water supply.



Dive team members prepare the oxygen tanks.



Spc. Tyler Dodd brings the hose for dredging down to the shore.

## Movie Schedule

# Sustainer Reel Time Theater

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

**Sept. 26**

3 p.m. Resident Evil: Apocalypse  
6 p.m. I, Robot  
9 p.m. The Bourne Supremacy

**Sept. 27**

3 p.m. I, Robot  
6 p.m. Catwoman  
9 p.m. Harold & Kumar Go  
To White Castle

**Sept. 28**

3 p.m. Resident Evil: Apocalypse  
6 p.m. Harold & Kumar Go  
To White Castle  
9 p.m. I, Robot

**Sept. 29**

3 p.m. I, Robot  
6 p.m. Resident Evil: Apocalypse  
9 p.m. Harold & Kumar Go  
To White Castle

**Sept. 30**

3 p.m. Harold & Kumar Go  
To White Castle  
6 p.m. I, Robot  
9 p.m. Resident Evil: Apocalypse

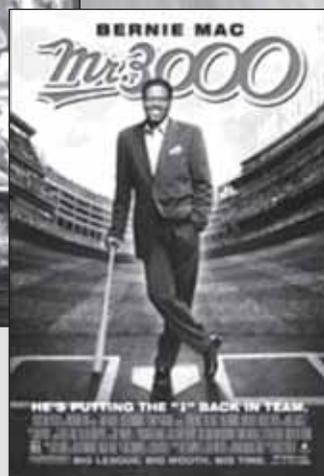
**Oct. 1**

3 p.m. Mr. 3000  
6 p.m. The Village  
9 p.m. Mr. 3000

**Oct. 2**

3 p.m. Ella Enchanted  
6 p.m. The Manchurian Candidate  
9 p.m. Sky Captain And The World

Ella Enchanted



Mr. 3000

## Weekly Religious Schedule

**Roman Catholic Mass**

Sunday 8:30 a.m. 185th Task Force Tent  
Sunday 11 a.m. Anaconda Provider Chapel  
Sunday noon 31st Combat Support Hospital  
Monday 9 a.m. PPI Dining Facility  
Monday 7 p.m. PPI Dining Facility  
Saturday 7 p.m. Eden Chapel (bldg. 4148)

**Church of Christ**

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

**Protestant-Praise and Worship**

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

**Protestant-Liturgical**

Saturday 7 p.m. Tuskegee Chapel

**Protestant-Gospel**

11:30 Sustainer Indoor Theater  
7 p.m. Eden Chapel (bldg. 4148)

**Lutheran**

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

**Protestant-Contemporary**

Sunday 7 a.m. Sustainer Indoor Theater  
Sunday 9 a.m. Tuskegee Chapel  
Sunday 5:30 p.m. Tuskegee Chapel

**Protestant-Traditional**

Sunday 9 a.m. Eden Chapel (bldg. 4148)  
Sunday 9:30 a.m. 31st Combat Support Hospital  
Sunday 9:30 a.m. Anaconda Provider Chapel  
Sunday 10:30 a.m. Sapper Chapel (bldg. 4091)  
Sunday 11 a.m. Eden Chapel (bldg. 4148)  
Sunday 11 a.m. 185th Aviation Group Chapel

**Islamic Prayer**

Friday 1:30 p.m. Anaconda Provider Chapel

**Christian Orthodox**

Sunday 11 a.m. 185th Task Force Tent

**Latter Day Saints**

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

**Jewish Prayer**

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

## Movie Synopsis for Sept. 26- Oct. 2

**Mr. 3000**

PG-13, Comedy, 103 min  
Bernie Mac, Angela Bassett, Brian J. White

Stan Ross, an arrogant and jaded baseball star—who is revered by many, but liked by few—retires from the sport, as soon as he achieves his 3,000th base hit. His goal was to earn his place within the elite group of players, who have achieved that distinction, and he did it—or so he thought. Now, however, after three of those hits have been disqualified, the Hall of Famer is forced to return to the game, and play once again for his former team, the Milwaukee Brewers, in order to re-set his now tarnished record and earn those three hits. Along the way, he discovers that the experience renews his love for the sport, and reminds him what it was like at the very beginning of his career, as he finds himself imparting some of this knowledge to an enthusiastic, young rookie whom he mentors.

**Ella Enchanted**

PG, Comedy, 101 min  
Anne Hathaway, Hugh Dancy, Cary Elwes

Adapted from author Gail Carson Levine's award-winning children's book of the same name, the Miramax-financed modern fantasy Ella Enchanted is directed by Tommy O'Haver and stars The Princess Diaries alumna Anne Hathaway. Ella (Hathaway) lives in a magical world in which each child, at the moment of their birth, is given a virtuous "gift" from a fairy godmother. Ella's so-called gift, however, is obedience. This birthright proves itself to be quite the curse once Ella finds herself in the hands of several unscrupulous characters whom she quite literally cannot disobey. Determined to gain control of her life and decisions, Ella sets off on a journey she hopes will end with the lifting of the curse in question. Ella's adventures turn out to be necessary obstacles in the path toward finding herself, and maybe even true love along the way.

**Resident Evil: Apocalypse**

R, Horror, 94min  
Milla Jovovich, Sienna Guillory, Oded Fehr

She thought they were contained. She thought she was free. She was wrong. Milla Jovovich returns as Alice, who awakens from a terrible sleep to find that the bloodthirsty Undead have been unleashed on the city. Alice, along with an elite team, begins to wage a battle to survive and escape before the Umbrella Corporation erases its experiment. All the while, a secret weapon code-named Nemesis has been experimentally altered with greater modifications than Alice and has been programmed to track and destroy them — if the relentless, ravenous Undead don't get to the group first. The group seeks help from Dr. Charles Ashford (JARED HARRIS), a leading scientist, to escape from the city safely. Alice and her team will need all of their strengths and skills to fight the battle of their lives against the mindless evil that has infected the city and the powerful forces that unleashed it on mankind.

**Harold and Kumar Go to White Castle**

R, Comedy, 88 min  
John Cho, Kal Penn, Paula Garcés

Harold and Kumar Go to White Castle follows the life-changing (and mind-altering) journey of Korean investment banker Harold (John Cho) and American medical-school candidate Kumar (Kal Penn). Both underdogs, Harold and Kumar decide to spend what would have been an otherwise uneventful Friday night satisfying an oddly intense urge for White Castle hamburgers. However, finding a suitable White Castle proves difficult task, and the two friends wind up on an epic road trip of deep thoughts, deeper inhaling, and enough half-baked, politically incorrect philosophizing to outweigh a White Castle value meal. The movie is filled with celebrity cameos from teen-movie stalwarts like Anthony Anderson and Jamie Kennedy.

# Stars for Stripes brings Chely Wright to Iraq



Photo by Sgt. Ann Venturato

Wright performs in the Sustainer Theater to a packed house Sept. 17.



Photo by Sgt. Ann Venturato

Country artist Wright is a strong advocate of troops in service to their country.

By Donna Miles

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — Country music star Chely Wright of “Single White Female” fame went to Iraq with her band to boost the troops’ morale with some foot-stomping entertainment.

Wright’s five-concert series, slated to run from Sept. 13 to Wednesday, was sponsored by Stars for Stripes, a nonprofit group committed to providing quality entertainment to deployed troops — particularly those in remote outposts not typically visited during USO tours.

But chief executive officer Judy Seale said the upcoming Chely Wright concert represents a big step forward for the program. Wright performed with her full band and stage equipment that was rented in Kuwait, bringing full-production-value music to the troops.

Seale said the concerts are as meaningful to her and the performers as their audiences. “It’s a way to give back and say ‘thank you’ to the people who are allowing me to live the way I live,” she said. And although she knows the concerts “are good for the troops,” Seale said “it’s the artists whose lives are forever changed.”

Among the program’s top billings is Wright, a member of the Stars for Stripes board, who has a long tradition of military service. Her brother, Marine Corps Gunnery Sgt. Christopher Wright, recently returned from Iraq.

Wright said she was taught from a very young age “to do my part to show my appreciation to those who served or are serving” in the U.S. military. Her childhood lessons have evolved into an unabashed love for the troops — a love she never fails to exhibit when she steps onstage.

“I’m not a Democrat or a Republican. I’m an American,” Wright told a crowd at a Labor Day weekend concert in Annapolis, Md. “And whether you’re for Kerry or for Bush, what’s important is that you show your support for our troops.”

Wright traveled to the area a day early for the concert, at Seale’s urging, so she could visit wounded troops at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C., and the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, Md.

“It was unreal. I can’t put into words what an experience that was,” Wright told the crowd in Annapolis, as she described meeting with troops who had lost arms, legs, even eyesight in Iraq and Afghanistan. “I asked one of them where he wanted to do his convalescent leave and he told me, ‘Baghdad, ma’am.’ That pretty much says it all, doesn’t it?” she asked.

The upcoming trip to Iraq will be Wright’s second with Stars for Stripes, which she called “an efficient, professional and classy vehicle for entertainers of all types to ‘give back.’”

Wright said her motivation for performing for the troops is “selfish” in nature. “It simply makes me feel good, fills up my heart, inspires me, galvanizes my appreciation for life and freedom, and it just makes me feel like I’m doing something valuable,” she said.

But the country diva said she gets a special kick — and a lot of pride — when a service member comes up to her at a show in the United States and says, “Hey, I saw your show in South Korea. Thank you for coming all that way to bring a little bit of home to us.”

The highlight of her career, she said, was being named “Woman of the Year” by the American Legion Auxiliary in 2003.

“Although I feel I don’t deserve that distinctions, I cherish the acknowledgement,” Wright said.



Photo by Staff Sgt. David E. Gillespie

Performer Chely Wright visits Al bu Hassan village on her trip to LSA Anaconda. Wright is an active participant of Operation Iraqi Children, a program that raises funds to help improve the young lives here Sept. 17.

## Country singer visits remote locations for Operation Iraqi children

By Sgt. Ann Venturato  
Assistant editor

Country performer Chely Wright along with Soldiers from LSA Anaconda delivered toys and school supplies to Al bu Hassan children at the Al-Salam elementary school Sept. 17.

Although school was not in session in deference to religious observances, children along with their parents showed up to receive gifts that were being handed out.

“I got to see some Iraqi kids and give them some toys and toothbrushes,” said Wright, who spent a little time getting to know the children that she met.

The toys and school supplies distribution was part of Operation Iraqi Children, a humanitarian mission to help the Iraqi people.

“We have to continue to help these people build schools and teach the young children,” Wright said.

After spending the morning showing her support for the Iraqi children, that evening Wright

showed her support for service members here. She sang for a packed audience at the Sustainer Indoor Theater.

“I would like to say that I want to give unselfishly to the troops, but honestly it does more for my heart than it probably does for [troop entertainment] to come here,” Wright said.

The Wright concert was part of a tour sponsored by Stars for Stripes that provides free concerts for service members in far-flung reaches of the world.

# Soldiers work hard, make a difference on, off post



Photo by Pvt. Chelsea Mack

Task Force Tacoma Soldiers socialize with Iraqi children after a recent water drop mission in which the Soldiers delivered water to the villages surrounding LSA Anaconda.



Photo by Capt. Anne Marie Peacock

Iraqi children surround Task Force Tacoma Soldiers in search of candy.

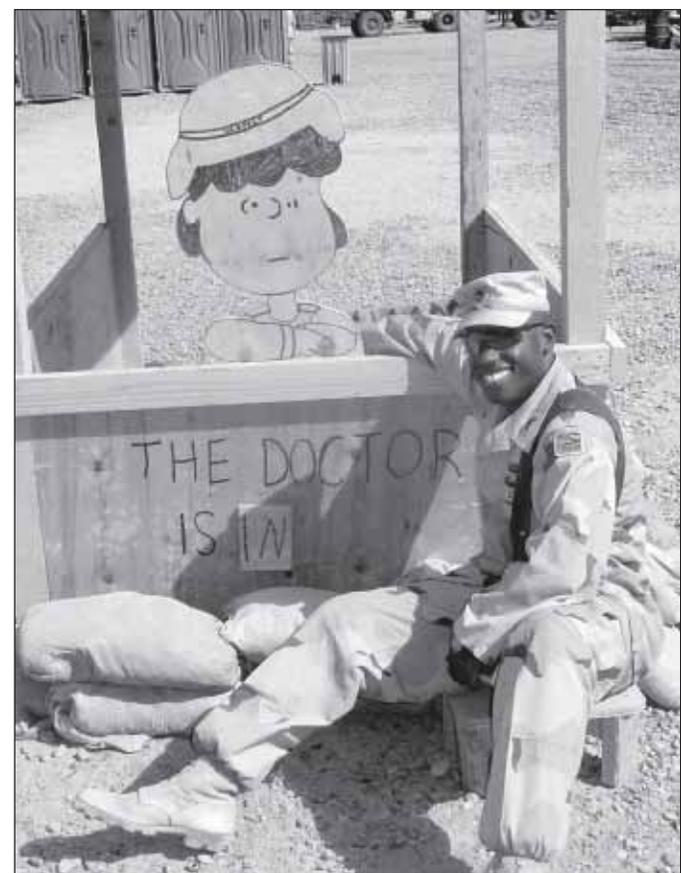


Photo by Pvt. Chelsea Mack

Maj. Bradley Hodge of 81st Brigade Combat Team gets some advice from Lucy.



Photo by 1st Sgt. Kevin Brooker

81st Brigade Combat Team soldiers provide a dismounted security patrol during an explosive ordnance disposal mission.



Photo by 1st Sgt. Kevin Brooker

81st Brigade Combat Team Quick Reaction Force soldiers pull security during a recent explosive ordnance mission.

# Basic respect is a two-way street

By Sgt. Ann Venturato  
Assistant editor

The basics of dignity and esteem are for all people on LSA Anaconda and not just for Soldiers; when it comes to respect it is a two-way street.

"Respect for others is basically, you treat them the way you wish you were treated or would want to be treated," said Sgt. Anthony Sims, G-4 engineer clerk, 13th COSCOM, as he escorted a group of local national employees. "Basically you don't go around degrading someone else if you don't want to be degraded yourself."

Soldiers need to understand that they will have an impact on other people. It's a personal choice as to whether that impact is positive or negative, said Sgt. 1st Class Jason Porter, equal opportunity advisor for the 13th COSCOM.

"Soldiers also need to remember that they (local nationals) are here to help us defend. They are also risking their lives," said Porter.

Every life here is important and the cultural diversity of others should be accepted for its uniqueness.

"These people may be different from us, with cultures and languages other than ours, but different is not bad, just different. We should learn from those around us and be willing to accept people for what they are," said Command Sgt. Maj. Daniel Elder, 13th COSCOM command sergeant major.

Just because their culture is different, there is no reason for Soldiers to just walk by and ignore a local national or civilian employee. Soldiers should give everyone the basic common courtesy of good morning and good night.

Everyone will get along a lot better if everyone respects each other, Sims said.

There is nothing wrong with having a conversation with a local national or civilian employee. Being polite is one way to show someone else you respect them. By engaging in general conversations with local nationals and civilians here, Soldiers are making them feel more accepting of us and our presence in Iraq, Porter said.

"They (Soldiers) shouldn't discriminate against their culture," Porter said, "Their culture is something that is important to them and [it] should be [respected]."

Be curious and ask questions of someone else's culture. Most likely, they will share information with you if they believe you are truly interested, Porter said.

A little knowledge of someone else's culture can help you see the world through their eyes in a different perspective.

"It is okay to go ahead and learn their language and customs. It helps you out so you don't go about offending them by accident," Sims said, "A lot of times people do things in joking that actually can offend someone very seriously."

Cultural differences can seem odd, but attempts at understanding someone else's culture are more productive than ridiculing them.

"Because when you make fun of someone's culture, that is their heritage and you are not respecting their culture when you do that," Porter said.

Soldiers should also avoid any gestures that would attempt to demean another person, Porter said.

Soldiers who goes about demeaning others are just demeaning themselves.

"You have to be careful of what you do and what you say," said Sims, "A lot of these guys speak English or at least understand enough of the language."

Soldiers need to respect local nationals and civilians just as much as they respect their fellow Soldiers.

"Treat them with the same dignity and respect that you want and your day will go by a whole lot easier. You won't

have a whole lot of issues," Sims said.

A good tip for Soldiers to remember when it comes to respecting different people is to get an overall view of customs, courtesy and religion of that person's culture so that they will have an idea about how to avoid disrespecting people of a different background.

Respect their culture and they will respect yours.



## JDOC opening

From left, Maj. Gen. Walter Natynczyk, deputy commander of MNC-I, Brig. Gen. James Chambers, 13th COSCOM commander, Brig. Gen. Blair Hansen, 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing commander, Brig. Gen. Oscar Hilman, 81st Brigade Combat Team commander, and Lt. Col. Joe Massen, Joint Defense Operations Center officer in charge symbolically cut the ribbon to the new JDOC Sept. 16

Photo by Sgt. Ann Venturato

## Question of the Week

# What job in theater would you like to do?



**Spc. Erika Velazquez**  
181st Support Battalion

"I would be a mechanic because I enjoy fixing other people's humvees, so they can get back on the road again."



**Sgt. Gloria Payne**  
Corps Distribution Center

"Finance, so I could make sure Soldiers get paid in a timely matter."



**Spc. Henry Smith**  
223rd Transportation Company

"Journalism, I like to write, and since I've got here, I find myself taking pictures."



**Pfc. Jose Egia**  
81st Brigade Combat Team

"Infantry, that's actually what I signed up to do."



**Spc. Ana Guzman**  
181st Support Battalion

"Medic, so I can help people."

# MWR Complex Schedule

Sept. 26  
Gospel 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.,  
Spoken word 7 p.m. to 8 p.m.,  
Karaoke 8 p.m. to midnight, and

Sept. 27  
Jazz and Old School  
8 p.m. to midnight.

Sept. 28  
Rock 8 p.m. to midnight.  
Chess tournament 7 p.m.

Sept. 29  
Country 8 p.m. to midnight.

Sept. 30  
Tejano and Hispanic  
8 p.m. to midnight.

Oct. 1  
Rhythm and Blues  
8 p.m. to midnight,

Oct. 2  
Salsa and Latino 8 p.m. to midnight.

## Hispanic Night

Come learn to  
dance every  
Thursday in  
September at  
the *MWR Sports  
Lounge* 8 p.m.  
to midnight.  
Sponsored by  
the 961st  
Quartermaster  
Company.

**Country Night**  
Help bring a little  
country to LSA  
Anaconda and enjoy  
some line dancing  
Wednesday nights,  
8 p.m.  
Bring your  
dancing boots.

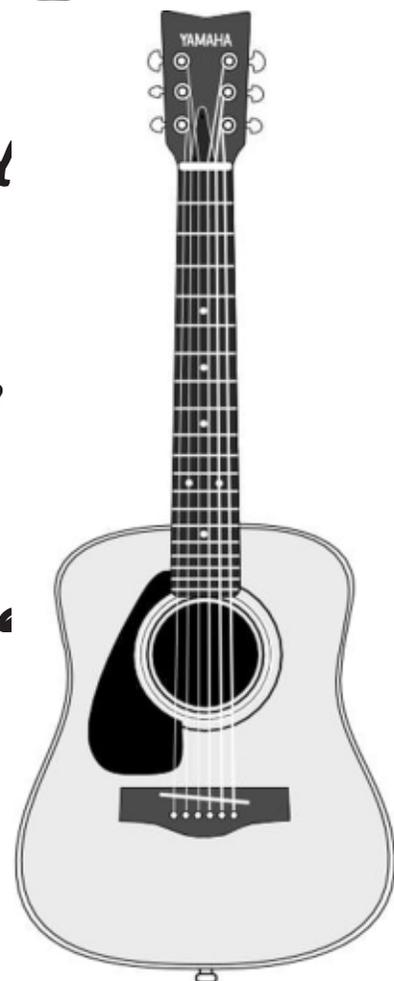


## Chess Champions

Do you think you  
are the next  
Bobby Fischer?  
If so, check out the  
chess tournament  
at the  
MWR Sports Lounge  
Sept. 28, 7 p.m.  
All you have to do  
is arrive.  
You may be the best  
here.

## Rock the Night Away

*If you like bands like  
Pearl Jam, Nirvana and  
Alice in Chains, join  
other fans of Alternative  
Rock Tuesday nights,  
8 p.m. to midnight at the  
MWR Lounge. Let DJ  
Cobra take you to the  
next level of rock.*



# 8-ball Tournament helps relieve stress

Spc. Steven J. Schneider  
Staff writer

The 8-ball Tournament at the Morale Welfare and Recreation Complex Sept. 19 gave troops and civilians alike a chance to show their skills, compete and have fun.

More than 20 people packed the tent, using the double elimination tournament as a chance to unwind after the sometimes-stressful work schedule here.

"This is so stress relieving," said Spc. Bobby Boyd, 1st Battalion, 244th Command Aviation. "Pool, even back in the rear for me, is just so stress relieving."

Other Soldiers agreed the competition gave them a chance to relax.

"Events like these probably help keep our morale up," said Sgt. David Lemke, 299th Forward Support Battalion.

Lack of practice was one of the reasons many competitors struggled in the opening round, but most of them said they enjoyed having the opportunity to compete.

Boyd was nervous at the beginning because he hadn't the chance to play in such along time.

"I was kind of talking to everybody to keep my mind off things and to try to stay calm," he said.

But Soldiers weren't the only ones having fun. Civilians like Eoin Rooney, car salesman here, also enjoyed the play.

"I normally play snooker, but I haven't played in a couple years," Rooney said. "It was good to be able to come out here and win a round."

Rooney defeated Lemke early on in the tournament two games to one in the best-of-three play.

"He should have beaten me," Rooney said of his opponent sinking his final shot on the 8-ball in the wrong pocket. "I hung on to the end."



Sgt. Dave Lemke shoots with a closed bridge.

The tournament went on late into the night with ups and downs for players, but one thing is for sure – they all had fun.

"It went well," said Erica Lemons, MWR coordinator, about the pool. "I saw a lot of Soldiers had their game faces on, but they had fun."

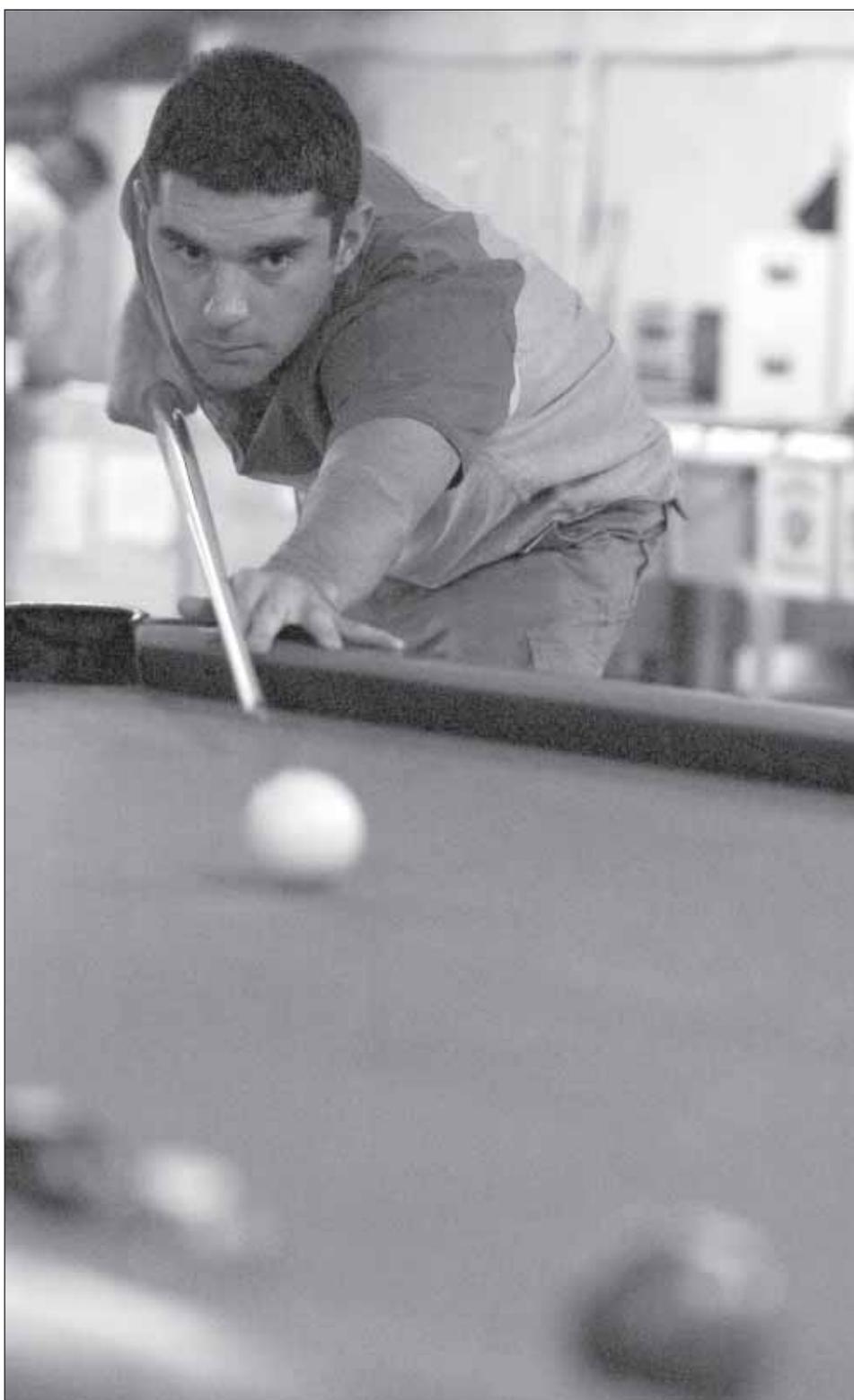
In the end, only one could win, Spc. Melvin Graham, 1171st Transportation Company. Graham dominated the tournament, never losing a match.

The formal competition is just part of the fun equipment such as pool tables have brought to the residence of LSA Anaconda.

"It's the most popular of all our tournaments," Lemons said about the 8-ball tournament. "The pool tables are one of the most treasured assets. Next month, we will be having 9-ball tournaments since so many people requested it."

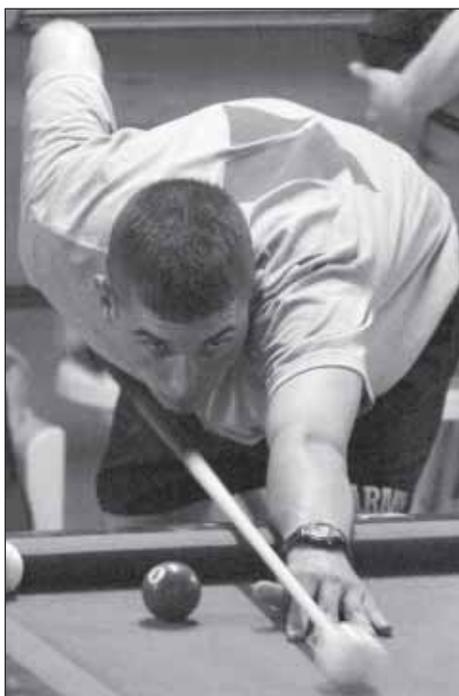
This tournament was just one of many held once a month at the MWR facility. They also run foosball, dart, spades, dominoes, chess and pingpong tournaments.

Beginning next month, night and day tournaments will be held for all events with a championship showdown between the winners of each tournament at the end of the month.

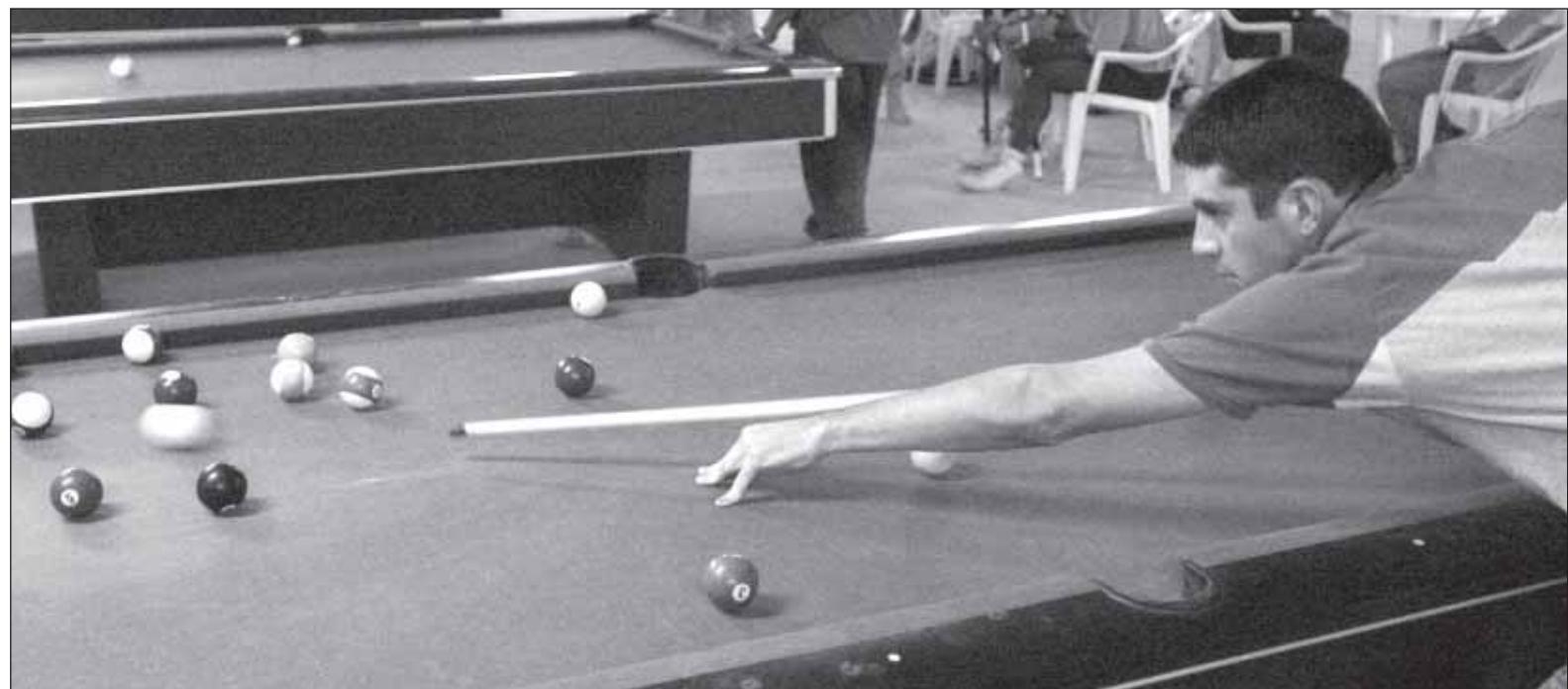


Photos by Spc. Steven J. Schneider

Eoin Rooney, car salesman at LSA Anaconda, fires and misses aiming for the six ball in the corner pocket. Rooney one his first match of 8-ball Tournament play two games to one More than 20 people arrived to take part in the monthly Morale Welfare and Recreation 8-ball Tournament Sept. 19.



Spc. Chris Coleman lines his shot up.



Eoin Rooney, car salesman at LSA Anaconda, skids the cue ball through trying to sink his shot.



Pvt. Mark Bullock removes an oil cap from the driver's hatch of a Bradley fighting vehicle to locate an oil leak.

Photo by Pfc. Leah R. Burton



Iraqi National Guardsmen train daily on force protection measures.

Photo by Pfc. Leah R. Burton



Sgt. 1st Class Douglas Clayton makes his Humvee look less like a military vehicle for night operations.

Photo by Spc. Steven J. Scheider



Spc. Anthony Hughes spends the morning filling sandbags.

Photo by Spc. Steven J. Scheider

September wrap-up  
**Through  
 the Lens**



Sgt. Michael Mouzone disconnects power to tents no longer in use.

Photo by Spc. Steven J. Scheider



Traffic signs on LSA Anaconda keep vehicles rolling safely on LSA Anaconda.

Photo by Pfc. Abel Trevino