

Iraqi National Guard Battalion Raises Iraq's Flag



Members of the 302nd Iraqi National Guard (ING) Battalion and Soldiers from the 3rd Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, salute to the Iraqi National Anthem during the flag raising ceremony marking the country's sovereignty and a changing of the guards July 1 at Assassin Gate in the International Zone, Baghdad, Iraq. The ING members raised the Iraqi flag on four sides of the giant archways.

By Spc. Bryan Kinkade
1st Cavalry Division PAO

615th ASB Repairmen Keep 1st Cavalry Communicating

By Sgt. Merrion LaSonde
122nd MPAD

CAMP COOKE- *Several heavy thumps of incoming rounds thunder in the distance. "Corporal, get on the radio and find out what is going on over there," an officer ordered. "I can't raise anyone, sir. The radio must be broken."*

In modern-day warfare, battles are fought as much by computers, phones and radios as they are by ground troops, rifles and explosive ordnance. Keeping the 4th Brigade Combat Team's communication and electronic equipment in good working order falls to an 11-man team of repair technicians.

"We have, what I think, is one of the most important jobs in the Army," said Spc. Mike Wiley, a computer automations repair technician with the Communications and Electronics shop, Bravo Company, 615th Aviation Support Battalion, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division. "If people can't communicate, they can't work."

Given the hot, dusty environment, their small unit size and that they provide all communications repair support for the 4BCT as well as the Division Support Command, the 615th has a seemingly

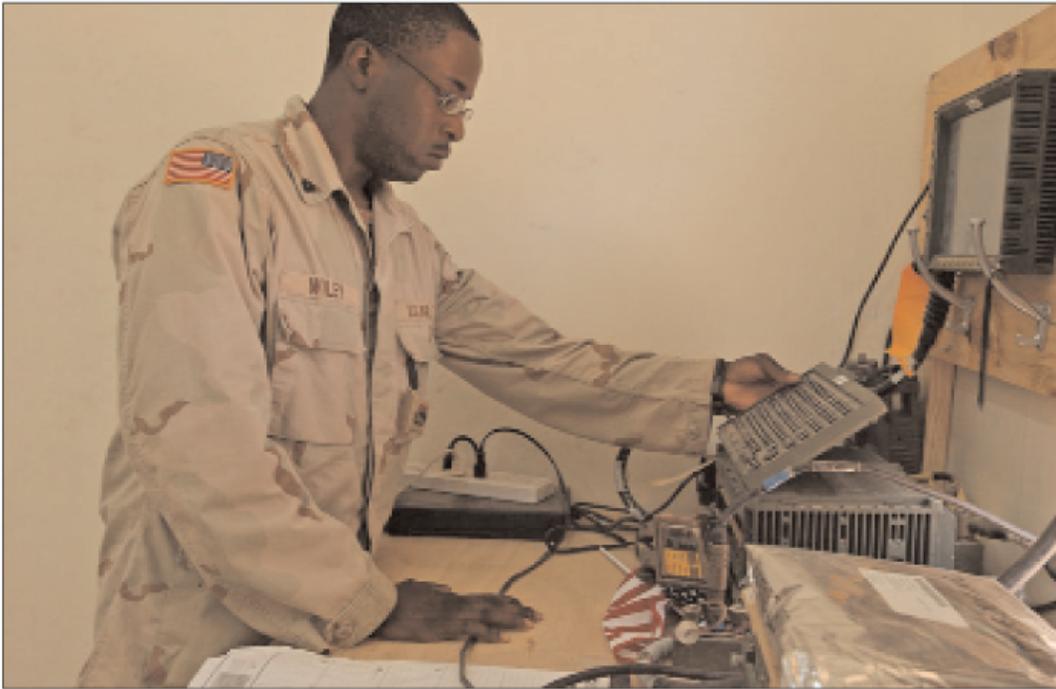


By Sgt. Merrion LaSonde, 122nd MPAD

Pfc. Ryan Scully, a special electronics repair technician, Communications and Electronics shop, Bravo Company, 615th Aviation Support Battalion, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, examines a pair of night vision goggles turned in for repair.

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Stellar Performers Provide Quick Turn-Around



By Sgt. Merrion LaSonde, 122nd MPAD

Spc. Mike Wiley, a computer automations repair technician with the Communications and Electronics shop, Bravo Company, 615th Aviation Support Battalion, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, begins the troubleshooting process on a Force XXI Battle Command Brigade and Below (FBCB2) system, a vehicle mounted battle-tracking computer.

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insurmountable task.

“We support all the ground maintenance for Camp Cooke,” explained Warrant Officer Larry Melvin, officer in charge of the 615th. “We repair SINC-GARS (single channel ground to air radio system), NVGs

(night vision goggles), phones, switchboards, power supplies, and what we call computer-off-shelf equipment.”

The Force XXI Battle Command Brigade and Below (FBCB2) systems, the vehicle mounted battle-tracking computers, also fall under the

615th’s area of responsibility. “That computer system gives you hazards, known enemy locations as well friendly’s,” said Melvin. “You can touch a point on the screen and get whatever information you need. Without the FBCB2, you are navigating by map and

PLGR (precision light weight GPS receiver).”

Melvin went on to explain that all equipment repair requests come into their shop with a high priority level. “We are required to turn it around operational within 72 hours. I have a group of stellar performers. Like any other Soldier, they get the job done. I have a take-charge shop foreman and non-commissioned officer in charge—they take care of business.”

“For the time we have been here (three months), we have repaired over 400 pieces of equipment,” said Staff Sergeant Richard Fairley, shop foreman and Mt. Olive, Miss. native. “We are the only unit in theater that is able to repair communications security equipment. We are the only unit able to repair the ANCDs (automated net control device).”

The volume of work caused by the extreme conditions and the stress of short turn around repair times has provided a unique opportunity for the junior enlisted troops.

“I like the section I’m in; that is what makes me like my

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Friday

High: 108
Low: 81



Saturday

High: 108
Low: 82



Sunday

High: 109
Low: 84



Weather information provided by 1CD Staff Weather Office (SWO)

Iraqi Word of the Day

road

Ta-reeq / darub

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Sr. Operations Officer Bids (Temporary) Farewell to 1CD

Lt. Col. Paul Funk, 1st Cavalry Division's senior officer in charge of operations, training and plans, smiles as Maj. Gen. Peter Chiarelli, commanding general of the division, pins him with an award during his farewell and awards ceremony at division headquarters on Camp Victory North in Baghdad. He has spent the last four years with the First Team and will be returning to Texas where he will attend the University of Texas as a fellow of the United States Army's War College in preparation to take command of the 1st Cav. Div.'s 1st Brigade Combat Team, scheduled for the summer of 2005. Funk was awarded the Bronze Star Medal and the Legion of Merit Medal.



By Sgt. Christina Rockhill, 1st Cavalry Division PAO

July 4th Events
Camp Victory North

0600 Fun Run (Start at MWR)
0700 Volleyball, Basketball & Horseshoes Competitions (MWR & 2BCT Courts)
1000 Playstation 2, Spades & Dominoes Competitions (MWR)
1900 Combat Patch & Awards Ceremony (PX Stage)
2000 MWR Concert (PX Stage)

Call DNVT 531-9956 to sign up for the Fun Run & sign up for other competitions at MWR by July 3

Diversity Helps Shop Run Smoothly

Continued from Page 2
job," said 19-year-old Pfc. Ryan Scully, a special electronics repair technician from Phoenix, Az. "The NCOs are knowledgeable, open-minded and give good training."

The training the Soldiers of the 615th bring to the repair table is made up of five different military occupational specialties. The small team is made up of radio repairmen, special electronics device repair technicians, communication systems maintainers, wire systems installation/repair technicians and computer systems repair technicians.

"We are really diverse," said Melvin. "We stress cross

training. It makes the whole shop run smoother when everybody can do everybody else's job."

Picking up a set of NVGs from the worktable, Scully explained to Wiley the necessary troubleshooting steps to identify the problem. The light banter and easygoing manner with which the team members treat each other is indicative of their level of camaraderie.

"We are a tight knit group," said Fairley. "We are like family. We try to keep each other's spirits up because it's not always about the mission—it is also about taking care of the Soldiers."



Today in Cav History July 2

1966 - Operation
HENRY CLAY begins.

Today in History

July 2

► From historychannel.com
1881 Only four months into his administration, President James A. Garfield is shot as he walks through a railroad waiting room in Washington, D.C. (On Sept. 19, 1881, after 80 days, President Garfield died of blood poisoning.)

1934 Fox Film Corp. strikes a new contract with child star Shirley Temple. Temple was six years old at the time.

1937 The Lockheed aircraft carrying American aviator Amelia Earhart and navigator Frederick Noonan is reported missing near Howland Island in the Pacific. The pair were attempting to fly around the world when they lost their bearing during the most challenging leg of the global journey, in the center of the Pacific Ocean.

1964 In a nationally televised White House ceremony, U.S. President Lyndon B. Johnson signs into law the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

1992 Original corvette engineer Zora Arkus Dunlov drove the one-millionth Chevrolet Corvette off the assembly line in Bowling Green, Ky.

Local Economy Falls Victim to the Rain

► From *Killeen Daily Herald*

KILLEEN, Texas- Recent rains have hit the city of Killeen in the pocketbook.

Two weeks of nearly continuous rain have put a damper on local sporting events and water sales — and both have dealt a blow to city revenue.

Organizers last week canceled a state softball tournament, which would have brought about 15 teams to stay in local hotels and eat in area restaurants.

Without a complete billing cycle for the month of June, any losses in the city's hotel-motel tax are hard to quantify, said Killeen Finance Director Connie Green.

While the city can't immediately put its arms around any tourism losses, the missed revenue from water sales is more easily calculated.

At the end of May, the city noted a 1.8 percent decrease in year-to-date water sales. The decrease means a \$102,000 revenue loss for the year.

If the city does not meet its budget, it may have an effect on rates next year.

But while water usage is down, the heavy rainfall has also caused sewage treatment

Texas Rangers, Killeen SWAT Arrest One of Texas' Most Wanted

► From *Killeen Daily Herald*

KILLEEN, Texas- One of Texas' 10 most wanted fugitives was in Bell County Jail Monday after he was arrested in Killeen.

Terry Lynn Fields, 33, of Hamilton was arrested shortly after 10 p.m. Saturday at the Tour Inn at 605 E. Veterans Memorial Blvd. in downtown Killeen, said Carroll Smith, the Killeen Police Department spokeswoman.

"The Texas Rangers received a tip that Fields was



Killeen Daily Herald

Killeen Parks and Recreation worker Marcus Snell pushes water off one of the softball fields at the Killeen Athletic Center on Wednesday. The department had to cancel a state softball tournament that involved 16 teams, just one example of how the weather has affected the local economy.

prices to escalate.

"There is just more water running through the plant," Green said.

KCEN-TV Meteorologist Mike Cameron said the Central Texas area has received more rain in the past six months than it normally gets in a year.

Cameron said 31 inches per year is considered normal. Official measurements showed that Waco inched past that total Tuesday.

"For the past 14 or 15

days, we've had measurable rain every day," Cameron said.

As the clouds loom overhead, Killeen Parks and Recreation workers pump water from fields at the city's softball complex, hoping next week's events, including games with the women's Olympic team and a national tournament will run as scheduled.

Parks and Recreation Supervisor Glen Morrison said the department is doing its best to work around the rain.

located in Killeen," said Precinct 4 Justice of the Peace Garland K. Potvin, noting the arrest was executed by Texas Rangers Jesse Ramos and Marcus Hilton with the assistance of Killeen Special Weapons and Tactics Team.

Potvin arraigned Fields on warrants for hot checks and parole violation.

"But he's wanted on several other warrants that will be dealt with when they extradite him back to Hamilton County," said Potvin.



Texas Department of Public Safety

Terry Lynn Fields, one of Texas' 10 most wanted fugitives, was arrested in Killeen June 26.

Copperas Cove Native Playing Effectively for Phoenix

▶ From *Killeen Daily Herald*
 SAN ANTONIO- The WNBA's Phoenix Mercury has spent most of Carrie Graf's inaugural season as head coach battling it out in the middle of the pack, but even with a mediocre season on the books thus far, the Australian native has not regretted her decision to relocate from Sydney to Phoenix.

Despite being one game under .500 (6-7) coming into its matchup with San Antonio on Tuesday night, the Mercury was only 2½ games out of first place in their division compared to an 2-11 record and being 9½ games back at the same time last year.

Perhaps, more important, however, the immediate future of the seven-year-old WNBA franchise looks brighter than ever.

When Phoenix picked uber-guard Diana Taurasi with the first pick in the draft, after she led the University of Connecticut to its third consecutive national championship, they expected her to contribute

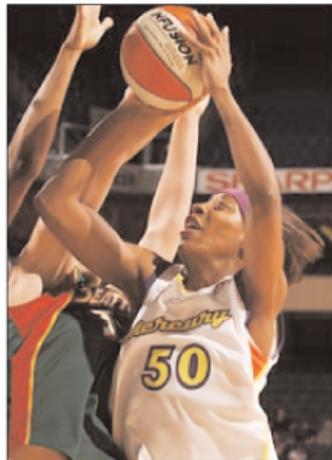
immediately. Taurasi became an instant team leader and has led the team in scoring this year with 18.1 points per game.

What the Mercury may have not anticipated is lightning striking twice in the same draft. But after picking up Purdue star and Copperas Cove native Shereka Wright via trade after the Detroit Shock selected her with the 13th overall pick, it appears Phoenix may have done what most teams can only dream of by picking up two solid franchise building blocks in the same season.

Wright is not exactly a star yet, but she has paid immediate dividends for the team, averaging 4.1 points per game and 1.3 boards per game in about 12 minutes of action a night.

She is ranked second among rookies in 3-point field goal percentage, and in the top five in free-throw percentage (.750).

If the forward's constant smile is any indication, she is having as much fun in her first season as anyone else on the squad, but Wright has not forgotten about the people who



WNBA Photos

Copperas Cove native Shereka Wright is helping her Phoenix Mercury teammates during her rookie season.

helped her to realize her dream.

Once the season is over and she has some free time on her hands, she plans to make frequent stops, where it all started for her, in Copperas Cove.

"I plan to do something back in Cove because it's been a steppingstone for me. It's where I started my career," said Wright. "I definitely plan on going back and doing something in the community."



scores as of July 1
7:30 p.m. PDT

AMERICAN LEAGUE

Baltimore 3
Kansas City 2

Cleveland 7 (10 innings)
Detroit 6

Chicago 2
Minnesota 1

Toronto 14
Tampa Bay 0

Oakland 7
Anaheim 3

Seattle 8
Texas 4

Boston
@ New York

NATIONAL LEAGUE

New York 7
Cincinnati 6

Chicago 5 (10 innings)
Houston 4

Milwaukee 10
Colorado 9

Philadelphia 10
Montreal 5

Atlanta 9
Florida 1

San Francisco
@ Los Angeles

San Diego
@ Arizona



TV GUIDE	AFN ATLANTIC	AFN PACIFIC	AFN Sports	AFN Spectrum
6 p.m.	Ozzy & Drix/ As Told By Ginger	Tonight Show with Jay Leno/ The Late Show with David Letterman	SportsCenter 5:30 p.m. Totally NASCAR 6:30 p.m.	The X-Files
7 p.m.	Jeopardy/ Headline News	Access Hollywood 7:30 p.m.	SportsCenter	The Wild Thornberrys/ Spongebob Squarepants
8 p.m.	ESPNNews/ Headline News	Independence Day	Wimbledon Tennis Tournament - Mens' Semifinals	The Simpsons/ Happy Days
9 p.m.	The Simpsons/ Malcolm in the Middle			The Dead Zone
10 p.m.	The Apprentice	Batman: Mask of the Phantasm 10:30 p.m.		Boston Public