



VICTORY TIMES



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Telling the Multi-National Corps - Iraq story

June 23, 2008



**Firefighters,
See Pages 5-6**

Photo by Pfc. Eric J. Martinez, 13th Public Affairs Detachment

Cody Preston, firefighter, South Camp Victory Fire Station, unravels a fire-hose during a routine training exercise Tuesday.



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**Softball opener,
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COMMENTARY

Victory Voices : *What celebrity would you like to meet?*



"Johnny Depp."

Airman 1st Class Angelica Colon, paralegal and IMO, Task Force 134.



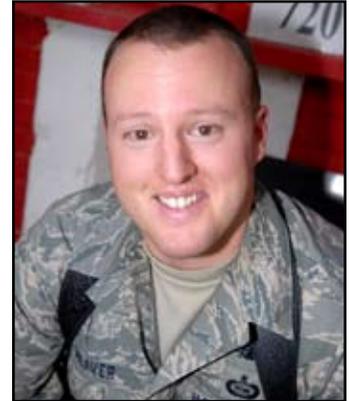
"Some of those golfer guys like Bush Harmon."

Petty Officer 2nd Class Matthew Etters, intel analyst, Multi-National Division – Iraq.



"CeCe Winans. She is a gospel singer."

Cpt. Roslyn Tillman, liaison officer, 3rd Expeditionary Sustainment Command.



"Ryan Reynolds."

Tech. Sgt. Carl Weaver, NCOIC, Documentary Media Exploitation

Chaplain's Corner

Eye-in-sky: God watches over servicemembers

By Chaplain Tom Walcott

MNF-I Operations Chaplain

Flying over our base are a couple of Aerostat balloons. Technologically, they are very similar to the observation balloons used back in WWI. These balloons have highly sophisticated cameras and are used to keep an eye on the perimeter of the base complex.

Unclassified reports say that these cameras can read the license plate number off of cars in downtown Baghdad. The balloons have been

shot at, run into by helicopters and have broken free from their moorings during heavy winds. Capable of watching outside or inside the perimeter, the Aerostat sees all, and knows, like Santa, when soldiers have been "naughty or nice."

When I go back to my trailer at night, I always look up to see if I can see the balloons. Seeing them up there gives me a feeling of comfort, because I know they are keeping a close eye on things.

There are many people who think of God as an all-knowing eye-in-

the-sky, just watching and waiting for them to step out of line so He can punish them. If you think of God that way, it can be a frightening thought. That, however, is not the picture of God that scripture gives.

Psalms 139, one of my favorite Psalms, says that yes, God sees all and knows all.

"O LORD, you have searched me and you know me. You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar. You discern my going out and my ly-

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Servicemembers bring smiles to children's faces

Story and photo by
Pfc. Eric J. Martinez

*13th Public Affairs
Detachment*

Servicemembers have made it their mission to mentor children that live around Victory Base Complex. These servicemembers are using the guidance and knowledge they gained in the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts to enrich the lives of Iraqi children.

This group of volunteers with the Victory Base Council are working to start and support scouting in the areas around VBC.

"Starting Camp Victory's scout troop has involved a whole host of things," said Lt. Cmdr. Eric Fretz, chief of future operations, C-6, Multi-National Corps-Iraq. "We have worked hard to get volunteers, arrange dinner meetings and meetings with the Green Zone Council."

The Victory Base Council is following the model that its counterpart in the International Zone have started. The Green Zone Council was established by volunteers in 2004.

"It's too hard for us to



Senior Chief Katherine Filter, administrative officer, Task Force Iron Shield, helps the girls in the Victory Base Council scout troop make bracelets on June 13.

travel to the Green Zone to participate in their program, so we decided to duplicate what they have already done here," Fretz said.

The troop has held two official meetings. Each time they gather, the objective is for the children to have fun by doing team building activities, tying knots, building fires and at the same time, move toward organizing them into an actual scout troop.

"We are building up this

program with the Iraqis so that they can build the program for themselves," Fretz said. "We picked one of the children to be the troop leader, and eventually we will further organize them into smaller groups."

During the initial meeting with Iraqi officials the council didn't expect to have any girls in the troop. After seeing the female mentors, slowly girls showed up.

"I didn't expect to have any girls show up," said

Warrant Officer Denise Gilbert, information systems technician, C-2, MNC-I.

The council may have initially got together to teach the children, but it is also helping the volunteers.

"Working with the children makes it a little easier to be away from my daughter," Gilbert said. "It makes my time here go by faster."

For more information about the VBC's scouting organization visit www.victorybasecouncil.org.

CHAPLAIN, Page 3

ing down; you are familiar with all my ways."

The author goes on to say that wherever I go, be it the U.S., Germany, on a ship at sea, in an airplane flying over the ocean, or even in Iraq, God not only knows, but He is there.

"Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence? If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there. If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea, even there your hand will

guide me, your right hand will hold me fast. "

Unlike our eye in the sky over here, not even dust keeps us out of God's view. Is that a cause of fear? Not according to the writer of the Psalm. He celebrates, not only here but throughout the Psalms that God is with him whenever and wherever he goes. Not to punish or scold, but to guide and protect.

I like having an eye in the sky watching over me here in Baghdad. The balloon is good, and I am thankful for it, but God's watchful care and provision is even better, and I am very thankful for it.

Firefighters protect servicemembers



Josh Buonadonna, firefighter, South Camp Victory Fire Station, instructs Master Sgt. Joseph McLean, operations noncommissioned officer in-charge, on the proper use of a fire extinguisher during a fire warden and fire extinguisher safety class Wednesday.



Cody Peterson and Gary Knutson, firefighters, South Camp Victory Fire Station, work to steady the fire hose during training Tuesday.

**Story and photos by
Pfc. Eric J. Martinez**
13th Public Affairs Detachment

The firefighters of the South Victory Fire Station stand ready to respond to any fire emergency on Victory Base Complex. They also train personnel on the risks of electrical fires and on the proper use of a fire extinguisher.

These civilian firefighters are from all over the United States and are stationed here for 12 months.

Fire warden and extinguisher safety class

Members when things get hot



Large, Multi-National Corps-Iraq, Joint Combat Cam-



Michael Smith, firefighter, South Camp Victory Fire Station, uses a K-12 saw to cut into a burn barrel during routine training Tuesday.

covers the proper storage, ratings, external conditions, and use a burn pit to give the participants an actual fire to put out.

The class also uses electrical equipment that has been found in actual workplaces and housing trailers during routine inspections, and sometimes after fires to illustrate how unsafe the electrical conditions in Iraq can be.

The fire station will exchange damaged or under-pressured fire extinguishers, as well as old or defective smoke detectors for new ones.

The fire warden and extinguisher safety class is held every Wednesday at 10:00 a.m.

Get to know a Soldier...



Interview and photo by
Cpl. Frances Goch
MNC-1 PAO

**Sgt. Tanishka
Manuel-Wharton**

Unit: MNC-1

Job title:
Protocol NCO

Age: 25

Time in Service:
5 years

Family: Mother,
grandmother
and brother.

Hobbies: "Sports
and dancing."

**Person you most
admire:** "My mother."

Why you joined: "To
take care of my mother."

**If you weren't in the
military you would be:**
"A corrections officer."

**One thing you'd
change about**

the Army: "The
double standard."

**One thing you'd
never change**

about the Army:
"Combat training."

Describe your job

in one sentence:
"Preparing for general

officer events."

**Unusual fact
about you:** "I don't
like steak."

Goals: "Obtain a higher
level of education."

**Something you wish
everyone would
do:** "Follow the
rules and regulations
regardless of rank."

Words of wisdom:
"Respect goes up and
down the chain."

**The best thing about
being deployed:**

"The money."
Most exciting

**thing you've ever
done:** "Jumped
out of a plane."

**Best Basic Combat
Training memory:**
"Dumping everything
out of my bag."



It's all fun and games until someone gets hurt



By Jesse Martin
Corps Safety Office

Most of us have suffered a sports injury, or we know someone who has. It is not surprising that active people suffer these injuries, because recreational and competitive sports have an inherent risk of injury.

Knee, ankle, shoulder, and back injuries are the most common. While many of these injuries can be treated with rest and topical treatment, the more serious injuries, or moderate injuries that do not receive proper medical attention, could require surgery.

Sports injuries are one of the leading accidental injuries sustained in this theater. There have been 32 including reported sports injuries and one death reported as of January 2008.

You can minimize your risk of sports-related injury in the following ways:

- Do a total body warm-up and stretch routine at least 5 – 10 minutes before the event.

- Train for the event prior to participating. Gradually increase time and intensity, especially when participating in activities such as 5K and 10K runs, basketball, softball, soccer, etc.

- Remove rings, earrings and necklaces before participating.

- Listen to your body. Don't overdo it. Allow injuries to heal.

- Dress properly for the event. Wear protective gear when appropriate.

- Cross-train to gain whole-body strength, endurance, and flexibility.

- Get enough rest.

- Drink appropriate quantities of water before, during, and after participating in sports.

In order to remain "Army Strong" we must strive to be free of unnecessary injuries that may take us out of the fight.

SAFETY SECTOR SAFETY SECTOR SAFETY SECTOR SAFETY SECTOR

Announcements

Navy Advancement Program

The Navy's Combat Meritorious Advancement Program has been created to advance sailors in paygrades E1-E5 in recognition of uncommon valor and extraordinary deeds demonstrated while engaged in, or in direct support of combat operations. The Combat Meritorious Advancement Program is effective immediately. Recommendations for advancement under this program are submitted based on actual action/performance in combat.

CISSP Exams offered

Posting of Certified Information System Security Professional (CISSP) Examination for interested military of civilian personnel. POC is Capt. Richard Y. Kofie, 822-5108.

Story ideas for Victory Times

Do you know of a good story on Camp Victory that you think should be covered for the Victory Times? Please submit your

ideas to Staff. Sgt. Joy Pariente at joy.pariante@iraq.centcom.mil. Please include any interesting facts about the topic and point of contact information.

Army Reserve Reenlistment

Reenlistment bonuses are excluded from federal taxes in theater. Building 123 located next to MWR 124 at Camp Victory is the Army Reserve Career Counselor's office. Points of contact are Sgt. 1st Class Pedro Aleman Jr., 318-822-4622; Sgt. 1st Class Merle Swecker, 318-822-8453; Sgt. 1st Class Jose Torres, 318-822-8464. If you have any questions call or e-mail your local career counselors.

Texas Hold'em

Every Monday night at Morale, Welfare and Recreation Bld. 124 there are Texas Hold'em Tournaments starting at 8 p.m. Every week prizes such as t-shirts, hats, poker books and coins are given to the top players.

Participate in largest reenlistment ever

The Multi-National Force-Iraq and Multi-National Corps-Iraq will host the largest mass reenlistment ceremony ever. The ceremony will be on July 4, 2008 in the Al Faw Palace Rotunda, Camp Victory, Iraq. All active duty and reserve component Soldiers, airmen, Marines, sailors and Coast Guardsmen are welcome to participate.

Gen. David Petraeus, MNF-I commanding general, will host this event by giving remarks and administering the oath.

Each reenlistee will receive a flag, which has flown over Al Faw Palace, with a Flag certificate, signed by both Petraeus and Command Sgt. Maj. Marvin Hill, MNF-I command sergeant major, their choice of either the MNF-I commander or command sergeant major coin, and an individual photo with the commanding general as a token of appreciation for their continued service.

The point of contact for the ceremony is Sgt. Maj. Yolanda Brock at 318-822-2846.

Camp Victory Bible Studies

Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.	Sun.
Women's Bible Study 7 p.m. Bldg 24F	Smoke & Joe Bible Study 12 p.m. Victory Chapel Porch	Young Adult Bible Study 5:30 p.m. Victory Chapel	Men's Bible Study 6:30 p.m. Bldg 24F	Foundations Bible Study, Mini Chapel 6:30 p.m.	SeventhDay Adventist 10 a.m. Victory Chapel	Men of the Bible Study 5 p.m. MLB Room, Oasis DFAC

Do you have an announcement about an event of interest to the Camp Victory community? Contact Spc. Samuel J. Phillips at samuel.phillips1@iraq.centcom.mil with the information. Information for community announcements needs to be submitted at least two weeks prior to the event to allow for timely publication.

Operating Hours

Coalition Cafe
Breakfast 5:30 - 8:30 a.m.
Lunch 11:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Dinner 5 - 8 p.m.
Midnight Dining 11 p.m. - 1 a.m.
Sports Oasis
Breakfast 5:30 - 8:30 a.m.
Lunch 11:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Dinner 5 - 9 p.m.
Education Center
8 a.m.-midnight
Camp Liberty Post Exchange
8 a.m. - 10 p.m.
Fitness Center
Open 24 Hours
Victory Main Post Office
Monday-Friday 7 a.m.-5 p.m.
Saturday 8 a.m.-5 p.m.
Sunday 9 a.m.-3 p.m.
MNC-I STB Mailroom
9 a.m. - noon
5 - 7 p.m.
Al Faw Palace Post Office
Wednesday and Sunday
1-6 p.m.
Golby Troop Medical Clinic
Sick Call
Monday - Friday 7:30 a.m. - noon
Saturday & Sunday 9 a.m. - noon
Dental Sick Call
Monday - Friday 7:30 - 10:30 a.m.
Saturday 9 - 10:30 a.m.
Mental Health Clinic
Monday - Friday 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Saturday 9 a.m. - noon
Post-Deployment Health Briefings
Monday, Wednesday and Friday 1 p.m.
Pharmacy
Monday - Friday 7:30 a.m. - noon;
1 - 4:30 p.m.
Saturday & Sunday 9 a.m. - noon
Legal Assistance/Claims
Saturday-Monday 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Worship Hours

Victory Chapel (Bldg. 31)
Sunday
7 a.m. Collective Protestant
8:45 a.m. Collective Protestant
10 a.m. Catholic Confession
10:30 a.m. Catholic Mass
noon Gospel Protestant
2 p.m. Latter Day Saints
4 p.m. Episcopal/Lutheran
6:30 p.m. Contemporary Protestant
Saturday
11 a.m. Seventh Day Adventist
8 p.m. Catholic Mass
Mini Chapel (Bldg. 24F)
Sunday
8:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy
9:30 a.m. Breaking of Bread
3 p.m. Church of Christ
7:30 p.m. Latter Day Saints
7 p.m. Knights of Columbus
Tuesday-Friday
11:30 p.m. Daily Mass
Friday
6:30 p.m. Jewish Service
Warrior Chapel (Camp Liberty)
Friday
6:30 p.m. Victory Base Open Circle

AFN Freedom Radio

Al Asad 107.3 Kirkush..... 107.3
Ali Base 107.3 Mosul 105.1
Ar Ramadi.. 107.3 Q-West 93.3
Baghdad ... 107.3 Taji 107.3
Balad 107.3 Tal Afar..... 107.3
Fallujah 105.1 Taqqadum.. 107.3
Kirkuk..... 107.3 Tikrit..... 100.1

All stations are FM

Sam McQuade softball tournament in full swing



Photo by Sarah Hostetler

Command Sgt. Maj. Marvin L. Hill, command sergeant major, Multi-National Forces-Iraq, throws one of the first pitches of the 2nd Annual Sam McQuade Charity Softball Tournament, Baghdad Division, on Camp Victory June 13.

**Story by
Pfc. Eric J. Martinez**

*13th Public Affairs
Detachment*

The Sam McQuade Charity Softball Tournament, Baghdad Division, opener was held on Camp Victory Friday.

Sam McQuade Sr. founded the tournament in 1976 to help with the financial challenges faced by local charities that helped special needs children. The tournament has grown into the largest slow-pitch softball tournament in the United States.

The first pitch of the tournament was thrown by Maj. Gen. Michael Oates, commanding general, Multi-National Division-Center and was followed by a pitch from Command Sgt. Maj. Marvin L. Hill, command sergeant major, Multi-National Forces-Iraq.

The Baghdad Division of the Sam McQuade Charity Softball Tournament, now in its second year, is held

in conjunction with the tournament in Bismarck, N.D. and personnel throughout Victory Base Complex showed up to Castle Field in support of the event.

"I'm just here for fun," said Sgt. Manuel Rivenbark, cargo specialist, 29th Transportation Battalion. "It's a good chance to get away from loading planes and moving supplies."

"Servicemembers love softball. They play it six to seven months of the year," said Robert Cook, MWR technician. "As long as they want to support events like this, we'll keep having them."

The Sam McQuade Charity Softball Tournament is scheduled to be held over the weekend of June 29 in the states. On Camp Victory two games will be played each night until the championship scheduled for June 29.

"We will be ending our tournament the same day as the North Dakota tournament, but our championship game will take place nine hours earlier," Cook said.

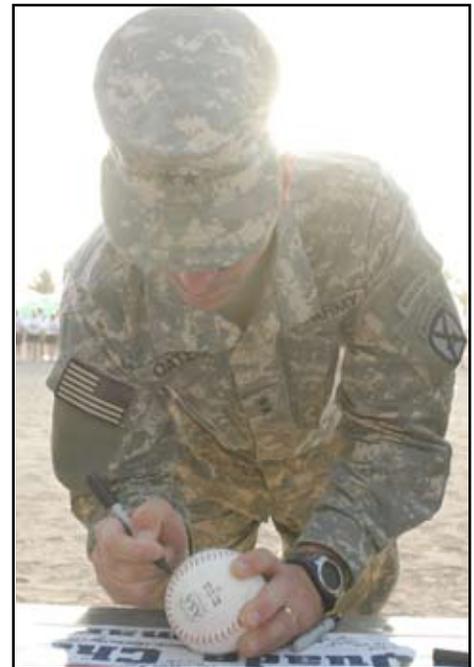


Photo by Pfc. Eric J. Martinez

Maj. Gen. Michael Oates, commanding general, Multi-National Division-Center signs one of three balls that were thrown as opening pitches during the 2nd Annual Sam McQuade Charity Softball Tournament, Baghdad Division, on Camp Victory June 13.