



VICTORY TIMES



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Telling the Multi-National Corps - Iraq story

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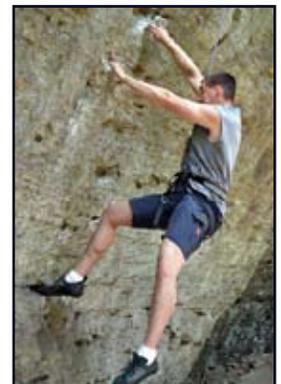
**Motorpool,
See Pages 5-6**

Photo by Spc. Samuel J. Phillips, MNC-I PAO

Tony Eugene Branham, civilian general mechanic, Task Force Dragon motorpool, reinstalls a turbo charger after taking it out to replace the vehicle's fuel injector Wednesday.



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Comfort food from home feeds motivation

By Pfc. Eric J. Martinez

13th Public Affairs Detachment

Military dining facilities try their hardest to satisfy the broad tastes of servicemembers, and to keep them motivated. Even though food service providers work really hard it's impossible for them to get everything just right.

A jar of salsa from my favorite restaurant in New Mexico is sometimes the only thing that motivates me to get through the day.

I may be in Iraq, but I have a reminder of home, the sweet taste

of my jar of salsa. It took three months for the jar to arrive, and while waiting I had to work my way through jars of what amounts to just tomato paste to me.

Just waiting for the right jar of salsa to arrive was something that brightened my day.

I've even only been motivated to get out of bed so that I can come to the office and make my nose run and tongue burn with its gloriously satisfying flavor. The tastes automatically take me back to New Mexico, and put me with my family and friends.

It's important to find things here that keep you connected

with home. A casual phone call or email is good, but having comfort food from home can add to your happiness.

Others in my unit have had cookies, candy, cheese and tons of beef jerky sent as reminders of home. These treats not only added to the individual's happiness but to others as well.

The culture, love and friendships of New Mexico are something that I can't find in Iraq. There is one condiment that can sum it all up for me, and if you find have some kind of food you love I adamantly suggest receiving and sharing it.

Chaplain's Corner

Keep eyes open on road to relationships

By Chaplain Stephen Pera

Garrison Chaplain

Those of us who have been on deployments know, have heard, read about or have experienced the strain deployments can put on spousal relationships. Chaplains and others have tried to support couples through the strain of deployment. But what can we say to single Soldiers, who still have to negotiate their way to finding a life partner?

For many people today, develop-

ing a relationship with a person of the opposite sex is simultaneously a quest for sexual activity. My point in this article is not to moralize about this, but to observe this as a fact and as a factor in forming relationships.

Being sexually involved with another person is an intense bonding experience. Is that a wise thing to do with someone you don't know very well and with whom you have not established the basis for a relationship?

People are normally drawn into a relationship on the basis of an emotional feeling of love. Love is

blind, we say. When the relationship is built primarily on the basis of that feeling, it can be like driving blind. You could easily run into something down the road. That isn't to say love isn't important, it definitely is. But it is good to add a little wisdom from the head to the tugging of the heart. How does one do this?

First, get to know the other person. Learn that person's values and character. Learn about the influences that have shaped this person. Once you begin to know a person, you be-

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Medical team evaluates healthcare equipment

Story and photo by
Staff Sgt. Joy Pariente

13th Public Affairs Detachment

A Joint Medical Technology Assessment and Review Team is currently in Iraq evaluating the equipment being used at Level III healthcare facilities in Iraq, Afghanistan and Kuwait.

A Level III healthcare facility is one which is responsible for evacuating patients from supported divisional and nondivisional units and providing resuscitative and hospital care.

The JMTART team's role is to ensure these facilities are getting the best equipment possible to accomplish their missions, said Chief Warrant Officer Kevin T. Curry, JMTART team leader. "We need to ensure the right mix of equipment in to these facilities to enhance patient care," said Maj. Carmen Bell, laboratory officer, JMTART.

Areas of focus for the JMTART's evaluation are laboratory, operating room and imaging operations. The team is comprised of subject matter experts from the U.S. Army Medical Materiel Agency and the Air Force. Col. James Breitwieser and Col. William Boisvert are consultants to the Surgeon General in radiology and laboratory management, respectively. Lt. Col. Prospero Donan's background is in operating room nursing and Bell's background is in laboratory operations. Elizabeth Poole is the information technology assessor. Curry and Air Force

Chief Master Sgt. Tracy Wilhelm are biomedical maintenance technicians.

The JMTART was sent by U.S. Army Central Command to assist Army medicine in transitioning from an expeditionary force to a sustainment mission. They were brought out to offer an unbiased opinion on current capabilities and technical requirements and what it would take to transition the medical mission into the sustainment realm, he said.

"We're trying to identify what mission we need to be doing and find what technology and equipment we need to do it," he said. "In order to be able to provide quality care, the doctors and clinicians have the right equipment to do their job."

Curry sent out a questionnaire in March to gather as much information as possible on the capabilities and issues of healthcare centers overseas. The actual trip, Curry said, is to fill in the gaps and information and get a first hand look at the equipment and the quality of care.

While the team has only visited its first combat support hospital, Ibn Sina in the International Zone, it already has two significant issues its hoping to address while its here. The issues are standardization of the equipment acquisition system and getting a lifecycle management program in place which is specifically tailored for Iraq.

Bell said Army medicine has adapted well to the challenges of Iraq. However, Curry noted, the equipment longevity changes due to the heat and dust in this environment. A lifecycle manage-



Chief Warrant Officer Kevin T. Curry, Joint Medical Technology Assessment and Review Team leader, evaluates medical imaging equipment at the 86th Combat Support Hospital June 20.

ment program will ensure equipment is replaced before it is beyond repair or obsolete, Curry said. "We need to practice proactive logistics, not reactive," he said.

The team will spend the next few weeks in Iraq, Afghanistan and Kuwait evaluating nine combat support hospitals. When it arrives home, the team will report its recommendations to CENTCOM to help healthcare providers in deployed areas to continue providing the best care possible to their patients.

CHAPLAIN, *From Page 2*

gin to form a trust picture of that person. When you first meet someone, your trust begins at close to zero. As you begin to learn things about that person it may increase.

Over time, if you find that you can trust the other person, then you will more and more rely on him or her. Commanders learn to rely on their staffs, and they learn who are their most reliable staff personnel. Your reliance on another person shouldn't move ahead of your trust, and your trust shouldn't move ahead of your knowledge of that other person.

Once you really know another person, have found that you can trust that person and rely on that person, you may be ready for a commitment. It will be important to talk about and understand what kind of a commitment you have and what kind of a commitment you are prepared to make to each other.

Approaching building a relationship by using your head as well as your heart can prepare you for a bright future. It can mean that you not only will find the right person, but that you will be the right person.

Task Force Dragon motorpool keeps



Spc. Tony Dutra, light-wheeled vehicle mechanic, Task Force Dragon, inspects a gear hub for cracks or any type of failures, during a routine inspection of one of the many vehicles that the TF Dragon mechanics service.



Vehicles sit in the Task Force Dragon motorpool with details of both Multi-National Corps-Iraq and Multi-National Force Iraq.



Staff Sgt. Alexander Frederick, light-wheeled vehicle mechanic, is shown removing a hub back plate. Alexander will create a new hub back plate.

Keeps servicemembers rolling along



waiting for their monthly services and emergency repairs. The TF Dragon motorpool services all of the vehicles for the personal security Multi-National Force-Iraq.



The mechanic, Task Force Dragon, scrapes the old seal and applies a new seal using silicone when he reassembles the hub.

**Story and photo by
Spc. Samuel J. Phillips**
MNC-I PAO

With no more than 19 mechanics and a handful of civilian contractors, the Task Force Dragon motorpool is responsible for keeping both Multi-National Corps - Iraq and Multi-National Force - Iraq on the road.

"We support the PSD (personal security detail) mission," said Sgt. First Class Joseph Manning, battalion motor sergeant, TF Dragon, "we ensure that their trucks are all in working order."

Manning said that the most important thing is that the PSD teams have one less thing to worry about. "If things go wrong they should not have to worry about whether or not their trucks are going to be able to get them out of it."

The motorpool has a couple different

ways of making sure all of their vehicles are in proper working order, said Staff Sgt. Alexander Frederick, light-wheeled vehicle mechanic, TF Dragon. First, every two weeks each of the vehicles are brought in for quality assurance and quality control inspections. Second, each vehicle goes through a more intensive inspection and services each month.

Some of the common problems the mechanics run into are air conditioning units going out, clogged fuel injectors and clogged intakes. "It's your normal mechanical problems. They are just made worse by the environment and amount of use out here," said Manning.

The additional wear on the vehicles doesn't keep the TF Dragon motorpool from accomplishing its mission. "We are always at the ready for any mission," said Manning, "we never know when five or even 20 trucks might come rolling in."

Get to know a Soldier...



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

Pfc. Adam Jankowski

Unit: MNC-1
Job title: CIDNE
Operator / COP
webmaster

Age: 27
Time in Service: 2 years
Family: Wife and
twins, boy and girl.
Hobbies: "Video
games, role-playing
games and reading."
Person you most

admire: "My
grandfather."
Why you joined:
"To gain discipline in
everything I set out to do."
**If you weren't in the
military you would be:**
"Living in Wisconsin
working a crap job."
**One thing you'd
change about the
Army:** "Nothing."
**One thing you'd never
change about the
Army:** "Everything."
**Describe your job in one
sentence:** "Webmaster."
Unusual fact about you:

"The right side of my skull
is lower than the left side."
Goals: "Be a good Soldier,
an awesome dad and open
my own gaming store."
**Something you wish
everyone would do:** "Play
Dungeons and Dragons."
Words of wisdom:
"Do I dare disturb the
universe' T.S. Elliot."
**The best thing about
being deployed:** "Ask me
again in six months..."
**Most exciting thing
you've ever done:** "Sat
next to my wife during
the birth of our children."

**Best Basic Combat
Training memory:**
"Waking up under
a layer of frost after
sleeping outside in a
sleeping bag in the
middle of winter."



Use caution on battlefield, at home



By Jesse Martin
Corps Safety Office

Why should anyone survive his time deployed defending the Nation in a time of War, only to return home and have a serious accident or die while riding a motorcycle, swimming in the lake, rock climbing, cliff diving, or drinking alcohol? Yet, it happens all the time. These activities offer great challenges, excitement and can be great fun, but those who participate in them must remember to think, act responsibly and evaluate the inherent risks of the activity they have chosen.

Ultimate responsibility for safety rests upon the individual. It rests upon leaders to lead by example, to mentor and teach. It also rests upon the individuals who work beside you.

We all know that leaders are charged with providing training, direction and supervision so everyone in the organization knows how to make safe responsible decisions. We promote safety in our units, we have meetings about safety, and we give safety awards.

Ultimately, each of us must decide how to act and what to do on our own. When faced with a challenging decision, what factors will you consider? Will you think of the safety of others?

Will you avoid unnecessary risk?

What will you do when your peers are doing the wrong thing and heading for trouble? Will you stand by and watch, will you join in, or will you step in and demonstrate responsible leadership? Will you show care and concern for others? Will you demonstrate compassion?

Once again, the decision ultimately belongs to the individual. Our goal is to teach individuals to make the right decision, using the right tools, thinking before taking action and setting an example for others to follow. We must make safety our first priority in all that we do.

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

All stations are FM

Civilian contractor sings way into 1st place



Photo by Sarah Hostetler

Walt "Baby Love" Horton, civilian contractor, singing "The first time I ever saw your face" which was popularized by Roberta Flack. Horton also handed out stuffed animals to the ladies in the crowd.

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

13th Public Affairs Detachment

Karaoke enthusiasts from all over Victory Base Complex faced off in the final round of MWR 124's karaoke competition June 22.

The overall winner of the three round event was Walt "Baby Love" Horton, civilian contractor, with the song "The first time I ever saw your face" which was popularized by Roberta Flack in 1969.

"Walt was feeling the song and getting the audience involved," said Jose Bribiesas, MWR coordinator. "He sang directly to the judges and the crowd."

Walt joined the competition not only to have fun but also to entertain the audience.

"My fellow competitors were all

awesome," said Horton. "The competition was exciting and was a very good way to entertain the troops."

A crowd of 315 spectators showed up to see the contestants perform. MWR 124 is planning more events like it in the future.

"I wasn't expecting this big of a turnout for the karaoke competition, but because of its success we might even be able to have a battle of the bands or more karaoke competitions like this one." Bribiesas said

"I've been singing my whole life," said Horton. "There is a possibility that I will perform in more competition in the future."

"During the competition everyone felt like they were back home," Bribiesas said "The contestants performed, the audience was relaxing or playing volleyball, and the 10th Mountain Division rock band brought it all together. "

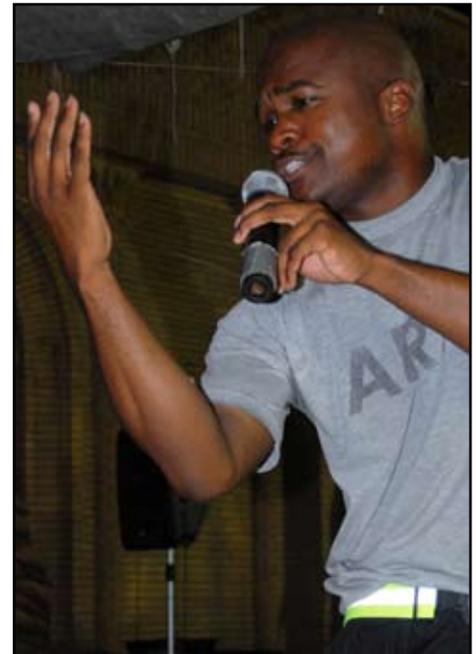


Photo by Sarah Hostetler

Sgt. Eric Gorham, unit supply specialist, 11th Signal Brigade, sings "Sexual healing" by Marvin Gaye.