



Electrical safety saves lives

Story by Staff Sgt.
Jeremy D. Crisp
MNC-I PAO

Electricity: hard to imagine a world without it. With it, however, comes a responsibility to handle it properly in order to prevent accidents that can occur from shock, electrocution and fires.

Recent reports highlighting the electrical deaths of 16 servicemembers in Iraq have brought heightened awareness to the risk electricity poses in theater, and senior leaders are stressing the importance of safety in its regard.

Officials with Task Force

Safe, a task force designed to help create awareness among servicemembers in Iraq regarding electrocutions and fires, state that although buildings in Iraq don't meet U.S. electrical code standards, walking into a trailer or building shouldn't be a cause for worry of electrocution.

And while the TF is working with contractors, officials and electricians in order to standardize the electrical code and inspect all of the buildings in which coalition forces reside, it is also stressing the cutting down of complacency and unsafe practices in order to minimize the risk of electrical shock or fires.

"We are wired into an infrastructure that we would consider, by American standards, to be substandard," said Jesse L. Martin, safety director, Multi-National Corps - Iraq, of some of the electrical wiring in buildings and trailers in which troops reside. "Realizing that, [servicemembers] should be extra careful."

Essentially, servicemember practices of overloading power strips in trailers or allowing an overabundance of dust in a room can cause bad connections or sparks which can lead to the worst of situations. That's why the safety office recommends against a myriad of unsafe electrical practices they routinely see troops conducting in living quarters. This includes 'daisy-chaining' electrical equipment, taping electrical cords and having too many appliances plugged into one outlet, to name some.

"Leaders should ensure Soldiers do not plug a bunch of things into one power strip," Martin recommends. "There should be monthly inspections [of rooms], and if something looks wrong, Soldiers and leaders should get an expert to check it. And anytime there is a spark or a small fire, it should be reported."

There are innumerable do's and don'ts when it comes to the realm of staying safe from electricity,



Photos courtesy of MND-C Safety Office

Overloaded power strips are a leading cause of electrical injury and fire in Iraq. Servicemembers need to be safe when it comes to powering their electrical devices.

See **ELECTRIC**, Page 6

Task Force 62nd helps Soldiers stay fit to fight

Story by Capt. William Betts

Task Force 62nd PAO

As part of its ongoing commitment to the health of servicemembers, civilians and contractors in Iraq, Task Force 62nd Medical Brigade hosted its second health fair July 26 at Al Faw Palace with the theme “Keeping in Step With Health.”

While TF 62nd units are known for the lifesaving medical care provided at combat support hospitals and troop medical clinics located around Iraq, Saturday’s health fair was geared towards educating servicemembers about healthy lifestyle choices.

According to Col. Patrick Sargent, commander, TF 62nd Med. Bde., the task force currently has a historically low record disease and non-battle injury rate of 2.5 percent and it strives to reduce that rate and provide a healthy deployment for all our servicemembers.

More than 60 medical professionals from across the task force manned informational booths ranging from behavioral health, heat injuries, sports injuries, dental hygiene, eye health and safety, hearing conservation, smoking cessation, blood pressure checks, blood sugar screenings, religious support team services and nutritional awareness.

“We are here today to inform the

public of who we are, what we do, as well as to provide insight in protecting one’s health,” said Staff Sgt. Brandon Bond, 179th Medical Detachment (Optometry Services). Bond and Capt. Jason Moran, commander, 179th Med. Det., presented attendees with information on the Army Authorized Protective Eye List as well as handing out pocket-sized vision conservation cards that detailed simple steps Soldiers and civilians take to make their computer workstations ergonomically friendly in reducing eye and muscular discomfort.

Blood pressure checks, blood sugar level screenings, and how to deal with stress were popular attractions for those in attendance at the health fair.

One Soldier in particular was popular with all that entered the rotunda. Sgt. 1st. Class Boe, a black Labrador Retriever and therapy working dog with the 98th Combat Stress Control in Tikrit, and her handler, Capt. Cecilia Najera, drew lots of attention.

Boe is one of two Army working dogs deployed to medical facilities in Iraq to help Soldiers deal with the stress of fighting overseas. Whether it is in a one-to-one or group setting, coping with homefront issues, sleep problems, or day-to-day operational stress, the animals help provide emotional comfort through their physical interactions such as playing fetch or simple petting.



The dogs are another method that the CSC teams can use to break down mental health stigma and assist Soldiers in their times of need.

Participants were treated to door prizes as well as gifts that help promote a healthy lifestyle such as pedometers, shoe inserts, toothbrushes, toothpaste and floss, personal safety whistles and a variety of educational material and resources.

“We want to make positive, long lasting changes in the participants which in turn will lead to a much healthier fighting force,” said Lt. Col. Cathleen Burgess, chief, clinical education and training, TF 62nd Med. Bde. “If ten people commit to quit smoking or if fifty leave here today knowing what health assets are available to them here at Victory Base Complex, then it was all worthwhile” Burgess said.



The Victory Times Online is an authorized electronic publication for members of the Department of Defense. Contents of this electronic publication are not necessarily the official views of or endorsed by the U.S. Government or the Department of Defense. The editorial content of this publication is the responsibility of the Public Affairs Office of Multi-National Corps-Iraq.

MNC-I Commanding General: Lt. Gen. Lloyd J. Austin III
MNC-I Public Affairs Officer: Col. Billy J. Buckner
MNC-I PA Sergeant Major: Sgt. Maj. Sharon Opeka
MNC-I Command Info Chief: Staff Sgt. Joy Pariante
Editor: Spc. Samuel J. Phillips
Staff: Staff Sgt. Jeremy D. Crisp, Cpl. Frances L. Goch, Pfc. Eric J. Martinez and Pfc. Eric J. Glassey

The Victory Times online welcomes columns, commentaries, articles and letters from our readers. Send submission or comments to joy.pariante@iraq.centcom.mil. The editorial staff reserves the right to edit for security, accuracy, propriety, policy, clarity and space.



Teams train Iraqi forces in logistics management



Lt. Col. Jimmy Sizemore, C4, Multi-National Corps - Iraq, teaches a class on logistics to members of the newly formed Logistics Training Advisory Teams. These teams will travel around country assisting the Iraqi police and army increase their logistical capabilities.

**Story and photos by Spc.
Derick Call
MNC-I PAO**

Everyday the Iraqi people get closer to self sustainment but one of the biggest challenges still facing the Iraqi military and Iraqi police is logistics. Logistical problems such as maintaining vehicles, ordering replacement parts and issuing supplies have been a challenge to both entities.

According to Lt. Col. Jimmy Sizemore, C4, Multi-National Corps-Iraq, Lt. Gen. Lloyd J. Austin III, commanding general, MNC-I has made logistics training a top priority for both the Iraqi army and police. Sizemore said Austin hopes to establish a new kind of transition team; a team capable of training the Iraqi military in logistics.

The answer was to establish logistic training advisory teams or LTATs.

This is not the first time coalition forces have provided training to Iraqis in the area of logistics, but it is the first time a coalition unit was established with the sole mission of logistical training.

As with any new mission there were unforeseen challenges. That is why Soldiers from the new LTATs flew and convoyed to Taji's Phoenix Academy for classroom training from MNC-I C4.

"We have coalition teams all over Iraq carrying out this mission and they all have different issues," Sizemore said. "That's why we brought them here to talk about how things should work and how things actually do work."

The weeklong class not only focused on the actual mission of

logistics but also gave students an insight into Iraqi culture with a class focused on the religion of Islam. "These things may not seem to be part of the mission but cultural differences can cause big problems and be the difference between success and failure," Sizemore said.

Capt. Audrey Iriberry, a student in the class, said the class was beneficial in many ways. "We are getting all of the LTAT' on the same sheet of music and synchronizing efforts to get the Iraqis closer to self reliance." Iriberry also said people sometimes do not understand logistics is just as important as tactics in terms of getting the Iraqis to be self reliant.

The motto for Army logisticians is "Sustinendum Victoriam," which means sustaining victory. With the new LTAT teams in place, that is exactly what the Iraqis will be able to do.

Military Happenings



Airman takes top songwriting prize

Air Force News Service - Now in its third year, the amateur songwriting contest “Songs from the Soul of Service” is a collaborative effort between the Dallas Songwriter Association and the Defense Department’s America Supports You program.

Judges select winners and runners-up in each of 18 categories, which include country, hip-hop, inspirational, instrumental and pop/rock. They then select three of the category winners for grand prizes.

The top three songs for 2008 are:

-- First Place: “Ask Me To” by Air Force Capt. Steven Wilson, which took top pop/rock honors;

-- Second Place: “If Tomorrow Were a Dream” by Army National Guard Spc. Greg Pritchard, which was the contest’s top country song; and

-- Third Place: “I Can’t Wait to Love You” by Jill Charles, wife of Army Staff Sgt. Robert Charles, the top song in the inspirational category.

A complete list of the winners and runners-up is available at www.songssoulservice.org.

Chiarelli becomes 32nd vice chief of staff

Army News Service - In a Pentagon ceremony Monday afternoon, Secretary of Defense Robert Gates promoted Lt. Gen. Peter W. Chiarelli to four-star general and Army Secretary Pete Geren administered Chiarelli’s oath of office as the Army’s 32nd vice chief of staff.

Gates, who was Chiarelli’s boss in his most recent position as senior military assistant to the secretary of defense since March 2007, called the ceremony “bittersweet,” saying, “I’ll miss him. But I can think of no one better to take the job [as vice].”

Chiarelli has commanded both the 1st Cavalry Division in Iraq and Multi-National Corps - Iraq and has served in the military for 36 years.

‘Spirit of the Navy’ helps recruit at Seattle Seafair

Navy News Service - ‘The Spirit of the Navy’ hydroplane participated in the 59th annual Seattle Seafair Hydroplane Races on Lake Washington Aug. 2-3.

The Navy’s sponsorship of the hydroplane is a valuable recruiting tool.

“Recruiting at Seafair is important because it gets the Navy’s name out there,” said Aviation Boatswain’s Mate (Handling) 2nd Class (AW) Frank Concini, NRD Seattle. “It lets a lot of people recognize that we are out here to support everyone. People see ‘Navy’ on the hydroplane and they want to be a part of that.”

Marine Cadet Program helps inner city kids

Marine Corps News Service - Marines from 2nd Supply Battalion, 2nd Marine Logistics Group, escorted the Marine Cadets of America during a field trip to Camp Lejeune July 28 – Aug. 2.

The trip allowed the cadets to experience the Confidence Course, Marine Corps Martial Arts demonstrations and other Marine Corps training activities.

The Marine Cadets of America was formally recognized in 1985, when it branched off from the Young Marines into a group focused primarily on the Marine Corps traditions and way of life.

Captain Anthony DeBiase, the commanding officer, Marine Cadets of America, Company A, 1st Battalion, said the program helps to keep inner city school kids on the straight and narrow path towards a good and successful life.

August Movie Night in support of Women's Equality Day "Celebrating Women's Equality: the Right to Vote"

Fridays from 6:30 p.m. - 9 p.m.

Al Faw Palace Ballroom

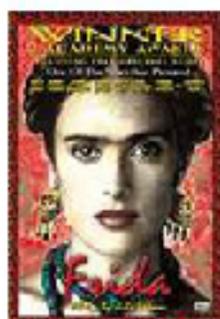
Presented by the MNC-I Equal Opportunity Office



8 Aug 08

The Messenger

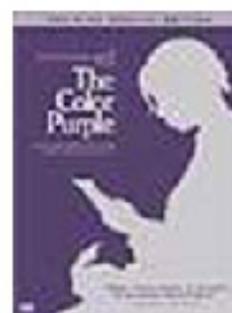
Moral conviction & death of the young French girl made the uncommonly tough and fear-less warrior known as Joan of Arc. Story of her battling the enemies of France as she reports heavenly visions.
Location: Ballroom



15 Aug 08

Frida

A Mexican Painter known for her controversial politics and fierce independence struggles with her art, her family and herself.
Location: Ballroom



22 Aug 08

The Color Purple

The movie focuses on female African American life during the 1930s in the southern U.S. addressing issues in the black female life, including their exceedingly low positions in American social culture.
Location: Ballroom

ELECTRIC, from Page 1

however, the mainstay is that servicemembers need to be aware and “not take any chances with adapting or modifying electrical equipment,” said Martin, a retired Soldier and veteran of eight years in the safety field.

“I have seen where soldiers have used a damaged extension cord, taped it up, and daisy-chained it so they could have additional outlets,” he said. “Unfortunately, this wire became hot, got dirt in it, and then it couldn’t trip the power circuit.”

A fire resulted from this incident, as there have been several trailer fires in the past few years in Iraq, however, preventative measures can be taken to help ensure fires of this kind are kept at a minimum.

Some ways to mitigate risk of electrocution or electrical fire, according to a report from TF Safe, are to:

- * Ensure surge protectors and power strips remain free of dirt and dust.
- * Remove any dam-



Bad electrical connections can allow dust to get into plugs and recepticals. “Any little small thing can cause electrical shock or a possible electrical fire,” said Jesse L. Martin, MNC-I safety director.

aged electrical power strips and surge protectors.

- * Unplug any devices not in use, especially when you leave the room.

- * Do not use partially burned or damaged extension cords.

- * Report any electrical problem to the Mayor’s Cell or your supervisor immediately

Although it is the servicemembers and first-line leaders’ responsibility to do their part preventing electrocutions and fires, Martin said; the command also has a responsibility to make broader fixes and the TF is one step in that direction.

According to officials from the MNC-I staff engineer section, there are “ongoing initiatives to combat the electrical construction issues in theater...”

They outline the ‘way ahead,’ which in part is to: “identify, prioritize [and] correct deficiencies and minimize risk from faulty electric materials, installation and maintenance.”

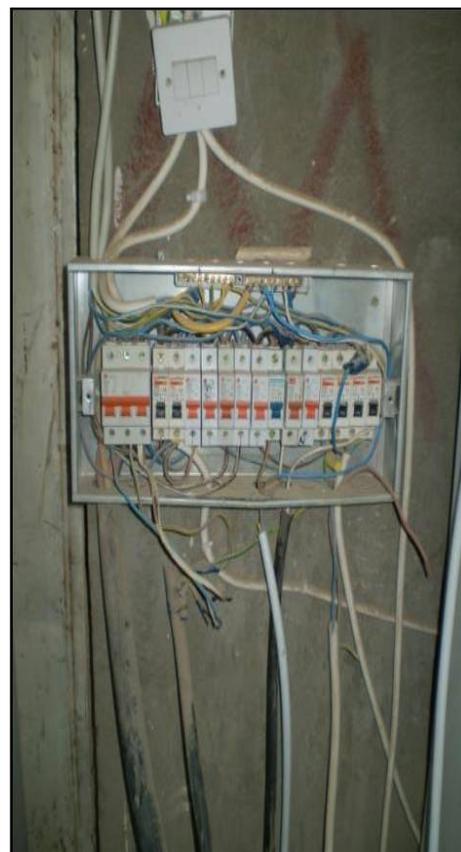
In the meantime, TF Safe stresses that all servicemembers, from the top to the bottom, have a responsibility to each other to prevent electrical shocks and fires.

“We all must do our part to protect the force and eliminate needless accidents,” said Col. John A. Lenk, director, Army Safety Augmentation Detachment, Forces Command, who is also the information manager for the safety and communications team of TF Safe.

For more safety informa-



Any electrical fire, even those deemed just a spark, should be reported to a supervisor or Mayor’s cell, explained Jesse L. Martin, MNC-I safety director.



Although no standard electrical code exists in buildings in which coalition forces reside in Iraq, members of Task Force safe and other officials are working diligently to standardize codes and inspect all buildings.

tion, visit the Army Combat Readiness/Safety Center at <https://crc.army.mil/home/>