



VICTORY TIMES



Vol. II, Issue 75

Telling the Multi-National Corps - Iraq story

September 29, 2008



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

Maj. Gen. David Clary, director, Combined Forces Air Component and commander, Air Component Coordination Element, Multi-National Force - Iraq, and the most senior Air Force officer on Camp Victory; Airman 1st Class Jeveret Powell, intelligence analyst, interrogation operations and the youngest airmen on Camp Victory; and Lt. Col. Chuck Schmitz, chief, Foreign Disclosure Office and the oldest Air Force officer on Camp Victory cut the cake in celebration of the 61st Air Force birthday at MWR 124 Sept. 17.

COMMENTARY

Victory Voices : *What was your favorite candy as a kid?*



"Skittles. I liked all the different flavors."

Capt. Jeremy Bolin,
infrastructure analyst,
C5 assessments, Multi-
National Corps - Iraq



"Pop rocks. You could get five packs for 25 cents."

Staff Sgt.
Derek Thompson,
nightshift NCOIC,
Joint Operations Center,
MNC-I



"Starbursts."

Flight Sgt. Norman
Howie,
frequency management
officer, coalition forces,
C6, MNC-I



"Jolly rancher, green apple. They were sweet and sour."

Karen Scott,
equipping liaison officer,
C3 force modernization,
MNC-I

Chaplain's Corner

Learning from new culture can bring change

By Chaplain Peter Baktis
18th Military Police Brigade

On Oct. 6, the Orthodox Church commemorates the life of St. Innocent, Enlightener of the Aleuts and Apostle to the Americas. He was born Aug. 26, 1797 in the village of Anginsk in the Irkutsk region. He began his missionary service in 1823 and labored for 45 years in Kamchatka, the Aleutian Islands, North America Yakutsk and the Khabarov frontier.

St. Innocent spent many hours studying the languages, customs

and habits of the people among whom he preached. In fact, he gave the Aleutian people their current written language. The gospel he translated sits in the American Bible Society in New York City.

What is the similarity of St. Innocent's life and work to ours? First of all, St. Innocent worked in foreign and dangerous lands. He was a stranger to the people, the culture and their language. Although he was a missionary, his focus was to help bring a connectedness to isolated people, primarily because they did not have a means of

written communication. He accomplished by observation and emergence into their world. He needed to fully understand not only their customs and language, but their world view.

Prior to deployment, we all went through cultural awareness training, but how many of us can say that that training helped us to fully understand the world view of the Iraqi people? Do we have a full understanding of their history, culture and language? Have we truly set aside our preconceived notions and are willing to

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Task Force SAFE ensuring safety of troops, civilians

Story by Spc.
Christopher M. Gaylord
*13th Public
Affairs Detachment*

While deployed to Iraq, one of the most serious non-combat dangers servicemembers and civilians face is fire and electrical hazards.

Carelessness when dealing with electrical appliances, transformers and power strips can lead to injury or, in some cases death, but a newly created Multi-National Force – Iraq team, called Task Force Safety Actions for Fire and Electricity, has set off on a mission to keep servicemembers and civilians safe from such hazards.

“What we’re finding out here in theater is that we’re having many fires; about four fires a day,” said Maj. Gen. Timothy McHale, CJ1/4/8, MNF-I. “These fires are caused by overloading circuits, constant running of electrical equipment, ballasts burning out, putting clothes on top of wires or running wires underneath beds creating hazards that start fires.”

“We’re looking at electrical and fire safety, and we formed a team here a couple of months ago, and our focus is



Photo illustration by Spc. Christopher M. Gaylord, 13th Public Affairs Detachment

to minimize fires and electrical incidents in theater,” McHale said.

Task Force SAFE consists of separate facilities, awareness, and standards and policies sections which focus on making certain the approximately 86,000 facilities in theater are safe in regards to fire and electrical codes.

“Our facilities team is looking at all the facilities in country to ensure that they meet the appropriate electrical safety standards,” McHale said. “Our standards and policies section oversees the actions we’re taking to make sure we have the right standards for fire prevention and electrical standards in country.”

To help prevent electrical hazards in the workplace, MNF-I is training more professionals to ensure facilities are safe. “We’re getting master electricians in the facilities to make sure they are properly wired and safely grounded and bonded,” McHale said.

MNF-I is also hiring more quality assurance professionals, and TF SAFE has developed a seven-day course to make sure they are familiar with the electrical and fire hazards in Iraq and can appropriately inspect and repair electrical systems in the places where we live and work, McHale said.

The technical course will include ballast train-

ing, proper grounding and bonding techniques, and written and oral exams.

“As we get more master electricians and fire protection specialists here over the next couple of months, we will be inspecting and repairing, and creating this electrical and fire safety culture,” McHale said.

The TF SAFE team is doing much to improve living and working conditions to provide a safe environment, but perhaps the most important part of its mission falls in the hands of the awareness section.

“The awareness team is working very hard at making all the Soldiers, sail-

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Servicemembers celebrate 61



Tech. Sgt. Dave Foster, bass player, Air Force Central Command band, plays at the 61st Air Force birthday ceremony at Al Faw Palace Sept. 17.



Maj. Gen. David Clary, director, Combined Forces Air Component and commander, Air Component Coordination Element, Multi-National Force – Iraq, gives a speech during the 61st Air Force birthday ceremony.

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

The Air Force hosted several events in celebration of its 61st birthday. There was a celebration at Al Faw Palace followed with a barbecue at MWR 124 Sept. 17. In addition, servicemembers participated in a 10k run at Sather Air Force Base Sept. 20.

“It was great to see so many mem-

bers from our sister services and members of the coalition forces attend the events and enjoy themselves,” said Chief Master Sgt. Brenda Blonigen, first sergeant and senior enlisted leader, Air Component Coordination Element.

The official cake cutting was de-

layed until night fall so members of the Iraqi air force could enjoy the food and celebration during their month of Ramadan.

“I welcome our Iraqi guests here tonight as we celebrate our 61st birthday,” said Maj. Gen. David Clary, director, Combined Forces Air Component and commander, Air Component Coordination Element, Multi-National Force – Iraq. “In time they will be celebrating their own air force birthday.”

A special appearance was made by the Air Force Central Command band during the week of celebrations. They played at several locations in the Victory Base Complex area including



A large cake sits on a table before being cut in celebration of the 61st Air Force birthday at MWR 124 Sept. 17.

years of Air Force excellence



es Air Component and commander, Air Component Coordination Element, Multi-National Force
e birthday celebration at Al Faw Palace Sept. 17.



Chaplain Warren Watties, JOC Chaplain and Gospel pastor, Multi-National Corps – Iraq plays volleyball during the celebration of the 61st Air Force birthday at MWR 124 Sept. 17.

the Sports Oasis and Sather dining facilities, Al Faw Palace and the MWR Stage.

“Being in Iraq during the Air Force’s birthday is certainly a very meaningful thing,” Blonigen said. “Here at Victory Base Complex and the surrounding areas airmen are working very close with Soldiers, sailors, Marines, civilians and coalition members. They are a big part of the Air Force’s history in the making. It is a time that airmen will be able to reflect on in their future and talk with their children and grandchildren. The airmen are making history and it’s a wonderful thing of which to be a part.”

“In this day when a powerful counterattack is America’s only real answer to aggression, there can be no question that we need the world’s first Air Force. It is only through the global, flashing mobility of the Air Force that we can hold our counterattack poised...we feel, with deep conviction, that the destiny of the United States rests on the continued development of our Air Force,” said W. Stuart Symington, first secretary of the Air Force.

On Sept. 18, 1947, the Air Force was formed as a separate and equal service like the Army and Navy. The U.S. military purchased its first air-

craft, the Military Flyer, in 1909 and air elements were part of the Aeronautical Section, Signal Corps. There were several title changes before becoming United States Army Air Forces, in World War II, where the value of air power was proven.

“The Air Force has historically celebrated milestone birthdays, the 40th, 50th and 60th,” Blonigen said. “We are, and should be celebrating every year because every year we make impacting contributions to the war on terrorism and the defense of the United States. I think it’s important for us to reflect upon our past and know about our proud heritage.”

FEATURES

CHAPLAIN, *From Page 2*

enter into the unknown? This is what St. Innocent did. He was able to build trust and bring about

change. Like him, many of us are in a foreign and unknown place, we need to take his example

to learn and never stop learning. This is the lesson I draw from the life of St. Innocent.

SAFE, *From Page 3*

ors, airmen, Marines and civilians over here are aware of the hazards and how to prevent fire and electrical hazards in theater,” McHale said.

As part of the awareness campaign, television and radio spots have run on American Forces Network, the MNF-I commanding general and command sergeant major have made public service announcements, leaders are being informed of common risks, and posters and flyers are being distributed, McHale said.

Awareness of fire and electrical hazards on Victory Base Complex has significantly increased since TF SAFE’s initiative began.

“I really believe that the word is

getting out, that people are identifying hazards and are taking corrective action, and that’s what we need people to do,” McHale said. “People are talking about fire and electrical safety a lot and they have their eyes open, and they’re reporting issues out there.”

Not only are civilian and military personnel getting the word out to their peers and down their chains of command, but safety inspections and training are becoming more common.

“Inspections and training are being done,” McHale said. “Unit fire marshals and unit safety officers are training people on this. This is the kind of safety culture we need.”

Though safety conditions on VBC are greatly improving, most incidents are the result of carelessness, and therefore servicemembers and civilians alike must exercise precaution to prevent electrical hazards.

“Everybody is a safety officer, and every individual is responsible for his own actions,” McHale said. “It’s an individual’s responsibility to know his equipment is safe, that he’s not overloading his power strips, that he’s not keeping his lights on and his air conditioner going and televisions on.”

“One death due to a fire electrical accident is one too many,” McHale said. “The awareness campaign, I believe, is working very well.”



Negligent discharges serious, but preventable



By **Jesse Martin**

Corps Safety Office

Everyone should be concerned about weapon safety. A round fired from any weapon can go anywhere. Once out of the barrel, that round’s destination is unknown.

The most prevalent mistakes that lead to negligent discharges are horseplay, improper clearing procedures, incorrect weapon status, failure to keep the weapon on safe and your finger off the trigger when there’s no intent to fire, and lack of muzzle awareness. In many cases,

the basic fundamentals of weapons handling were ignored or forgotten, due to indiscipline, overconfidence and/or complacency. This is a mistake you cannot afford to make.

Reinforcement training emphasizes important rules such as muzzle awareness, trigger finger position and step by step clearing procedures. Weapons handling is a perishable skill and needs consistent reinforcement. For anyone who carries a weapon, this is a skill that must be maintained.

To prevent negligent discharges, you should treat every weapon as if it’s loaded, adhere to weapons clear-

ing procedures, train for proficiency, always point your weapon in a safe direction, keep the weapon on safe, supervise weapons clearing and make on-the-spot corrections to anyone clearing a weapon improperly.

It is critical that everyone is proficient in proper weapons clearing procedures.

In this theater of operation, we have had too many negligent discharges. We must improve our weapons clearing procedures and supervision. All servicemembers have a responsibility to set the example. The bottom line is, negligent discharges are preventable.

Announcements

Legal Services

Cooley Law School is offering service-members free legal consultations via video-conference with an attorney regarding answers to civilian legal matters from 8-11 p.m. the first Wednesday of each month. For more information contact Kathryn D. Hudacek at khudacek@freedomcalls.org or (973) 290-7886.

Degree for logistics personnel

Logistics personnel can become certified in the field of Property and Asset Management from the National Property Management Association completely online and receive 10% off the tuition by being a member of the NPMA. Contact Monty A. Spicer, 256-217-2291 for more information.

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.

R&R Briefings

Reunion and Suicide Intervention Briefings are at the Victory Chapel, Monday at 3 p.m., Wednesday at 9:30 a.m., Saturday at 3 p.m. All servicemembers who are going on leave or redeploying must attend this briefing.

Toastmasters

Improve your public speaking skills while having fun with creative – goal oriented people. No speaking experience necessary. Contact Capt. Armin Reyes at 822-7627 or armin.reyes@iraq.centcom.mil.

The Corps Report

The "Corps Report" is a 15 minute monthly television newscast highlighting the stories and events happening in the Multi-National Corps-Iraq area of operations. The program airs Sunday at 8:15 pm and Monday at 11:15 a.m. on the Pentagon Channel here in Baghdad. The August edition of the newscast will feature stories on new tigers at the Baghdad Zoo, National Airborne Day, the MNC-I naturalization ceremony and equal opportunity conference to name just a few. Be sure and catch the latest edition of "The Corps Report" and contact the broadcast team at MNC-I if you have a story idea at 485-4652.

AFN Freedom Radio

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|----------------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| Al Asad 107.3 | Fallujah 105.1 | Taji 107.3 |
| Ali Base 107.3 | Kirkuk..... 107.3 | Tal Afar..... 107.3 |
| Ar Ramadi.. 107.3 | Kirkush..... 107.3 | Taqquadum.. 107.3 |
| Baghdad 107.3 | Mosul..... 105.1 | Tikrit..... 100.1 |
| Balad 107.3 | Q-West 93.3 | All stations are FM |

Camp Victory Bible Studies

| Mon. | Tues. | Wed. | Thurs. | Fri. | Sat. | Sun. |
|---|---|---|---|--|---|------|
| Women's Bible Study 7 p.m. Bldg 24F; Gospel Protestant Bible Study 7 p.m. Hope Chapel | Women's Bible Study 7 p.m. Bldg 24F 7:30 p.m. Purpose Driven Life Bible Study (Victory Mayor's Cell, Black Forge Conference Room) | Young Adult Bible Study 5:30 p.m. Hope Chapel | Men's Bible Study 7 p.m. Victory Chapel; Spanish Bible Study 7 p.m. Bldg 24F 7:30 Book of Matthew Bible Study (Victory Mayor's Cell, Black Forge Conference Room) | Foundations Bible Study, Mini Chapel 6:30 p.m. | SeventhDay Adventist 10 a.m. Victory Chapel | |

Do you have an announcement about an event of interest to the Camp Victory community? Contact Spc. Christopher M. Gaylord at chris.gaylord@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

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| 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-Sunday 7:30 a.m.-5:30 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

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|---|
| Victory Chapel (Bldg. 31) Thursday 7:30 p.m..... Latter Day Saints Seminary |
| Friday 6:30 p.m..... Jewish Shabbat Service |
| Saturday 11 a.m..... Seventh Day Adventist Service 8 p.m. Catholic Mass |
| Sunday 7 a.m..... Liturgical Protestant Service 2 p.m..... Latter Day Saints Service 4 p.m..... Episcopal/Lutheran Service |
| Mini Chapel (Bldg. 24F) Tuesday 7:30 p.m..... Latter Day Saints Service |
| Wednesday 7 p.m..... Men's Fellowship |
| Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 11:30 p.m..... Roman Catholic Mass |
| Friday 1 p.m..... Muslim Prayer Service 8 p.m..... Women's Fellowship |
| Sunday 8 a.m..... Eastern Orthodox Service 10 a.m..... Protestant Sunday School 3 p.m..... Church of Christ Service 7:30 p.m..... Latter Day Saints Service |
| Hope Chapel (Bldg 24B) Monday 12 p.m..... Charismatic Prayer Meeting |
| Sunday 8:30 a.m..... Collective Protestant Service 10 a.m..... Roman Catholic Mass 12 p.m..... Gospel Service 6:30 p.m..... Contemporary Protestant Service |
| Warrior Chapel (Camp Liberty) Friday 6:30 p.m..... Victory Base Open Circle |

MNC-I Chaplain's Office:
822-7358

Troops, civilians honor Sept. 11 victims during run

**Story and photos by
Spc. Christopher M. Gaylord
13th Public Affairs Detachment**

Approximately 600 servicemembers and civilians across Victory Base Complex paid tribute to the fallen victims of the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks by participating in a 5k run around Lost Lake Sept. 21.

The event was organized by Capt. Wilem Wong, action officer (elections and literacy), C-9 governance, Multi-National Corps-Iraq and a police officer with the New York Police Department. Wong sought to honor fellow fallen law enforcement and first responders with this run.

“The run was to recognize the law enforcement and first responders who responded during nine-eleven,” Wong said. “When you’re a police officer, you have a tie to other brothers and sisters in blue.”

For many deployed troops, some of whom are also police officers back home, the opportunity to reflect on the events of Sept. 11 was a strong reminder of exactly why they serve their country.

“People think it’s just a run, but it’s the little things like this, just coming out to a run, that remind you why you’re here,” said 2nd Lt. Chris Haag, platoon leader, 535th Expeditionary Sustainment Command and the top finisher for the run, with a time of 17 minutes, 49 seconds. “I see the camaraderie. We’re all in this together.”

The run was sponsored by the American Legion in New York, which donated 800 t-shirts for participants, to show its support for deployed military members. The shirts



Servicemembers and civilians sprint down Sanchez Road Sept. 21 as they come to the end of a 5k run held to memorialize the victims of the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks.



From left: Petty Officer 3rd Class Cecilia Mitchell, the top female finisher; 2nd Lt. Kathryn Bulger, the second female finisher; Richard Zielinski, the second male finisher; and 2nd Lt. Chris Haag, the top male and overall finisher of a 5k run Sept. 21 to honor the fallen victims of the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks, stand together on Victory Stage.

also served to raise troops’ awareness of the organization, which provides veterans assistance and benefits, Wong said.

Aside from a little morning exercise, participants came together for one very important thing: to honor

fellow men and women who have given the ultimate sacrifice in defense of our freedom.

“I felt honored to put this together,” Wong said. “I was able to give something back to Camp Victory and the community at large.”