



VICTORY TIMES



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Telling the Multi-National Corps - Iraq story

October 6, 2008

Breaking fast,
See Pages 4 and 5



Photo by Staff Sgt. Jason R. Krawczyk, MNC-I PAO

Lt. Gen. Lloyd J. Austin III, commanding general, Multi-National Corps – Iraq, samples Iraqi cuisine at the Blackhawk Conference Center in the International Zone Sept. 25. Austin and other MNC-I leaders gathered with Iraqi security personnel to dine together following a day of fasting. Fasting is part of the body and soul cleansing process that accompanies the Muslim holiday of Ramadan, which is observed throughout the month of September.



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COMMENTARY

Victory Voices : *What would make the Victory Times better?*



"More articles about how Iraq is progressing."
Spc. Matthew Cunningham,
information management,
C5, Multi-National Corps
- Iraq



"Community blurbs in the online version."
Master Sgt. Tammy Taylor,
superintendent, strength
reporting, MNC-I



"More human interest stories on servicemembers here."
Lt. Col. Guy Edmondson,
West Liberty Mayor,
2145th Garrison Support
Unit



"News stories from the states about things here."
Tech Sgt. Matthew Cobough,
administration NCO,
Secretary Combined Joint
Staff

Chaplain's Corner

Clear communication important in all aspects of life

By Chaplain Tom Walcott
MNF-I Chaplain

The cleaning crew in the building where I work does not have secret clearances, so they have to be escorted wherever they go in the office areas. On the doors leading into our office area is a sign that reads, "Access restricted to cleaning personnel. Escort required."

What I assume the sign means to state is that cleaning personnel are only allowed in this space if they are accompanied by an escort. What the sign actually says is that only cleaning per-

sonnel are allowed in the work-space and an escort is required.

Since communication is so crucial to so many areas of life, it is important that we are clear and say what we mean to say. I have seen many times what happens when people don't communicate clearly. There are people here really struggling because they are not communicating well with their spouses back home. Sometimes, out of frustration from being separated they, or their spouses, say hurtful things they don't really mean.

Those of us who supervise others need to be sure we are communicat-

ing clearly, too. Maybe the reason a job was not performed to our satisfaction was that we were not clear about our expectations. And if our leadership style is to yell at people and use abusive language, maybe we need some lessons in leadership.

A phrase I learned a long time ago is, "Say what you mean, mean what you say, but don't say it mean." As you talk with those around you this week, say what you mean, be honest, tell people how you feel and select your words carefully. You can express frustration and disappointment without hurting others.



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MNC-I's senior enlisted leader shares thoughts

By Staff Sgt. Joy Pariente

13th Public Affairs Detachment

Command Sgt. Maj. Joseph R. Allen is the command sergeant major of Multi-National Corps - Iraq and XVIII Airborne Corps. Recently, Staff Sgt. Joy Pariente sat down and asked him questions pertaining to progress within the Corps and Iraq, and to the job deployed troops and leaders are doing.

What do you think of the progress that has been made in Iraq since the Corps arrival?

“Every unit that comes in has the goal to improve on what the last one left behind. III Corps did a great job and our mission was to pick up where they left off and continue to improve the foxhole. I think that is exactly what we have done during our first seven months in Iraq.

Without question, the surge was significant because it helped to bring down the attack levels in Baghdad and in the north and allowed the government of Iraq to take needed actions to move the country forward. When XVIII Airborne Corps arrived in February, we began the redeployment process for the surge brigades with the last one departing in June. But, as we were reducing the size of the force, we were also expanding our footprint. Operations from Basra, Sadr City, Amarah, Mosul and currently Diyala set the conditions and tone for continued success.

I believe our success is a direct result of the great staff and planners we have and General Austin (Lt. Gen. Lloyd J. Austin III, commanding general, MNC-I) having the ability and forwarding thinking to move units in and around the battlefield. And it's the Soldiers out there executing every single



day non-stop...not complaining, just getting at it every day that is making a difference. Having said that, we cannot sit back on our laurels...there is still a lot of hard work to be done, but I know we will accomplish the mission in typical airborne fashion...to standard.”

What do you think of the job NCOs are doing here in Iraq?

“The backbone of our military has always been our great non-commissioned officers' corps and it is no different in Iraq. In fact, the responsibilities placed upon our junior NCOs today are greater than it has ever been in any time in our military history. Our NCOs are leading patrols and are in the towns and villages interacting with the people every day and its this contact with the everyday Iraqi citizen that is truly making a difference. We place tremendous responsibility on our NCOs. This war has been fought, for the most part, by our sergeants and Soldiers. They're the ones carrying the heavy rucksack.

They're the ones carrying this fight and as the senior non-commissioned officer of the Corps, I could not be more proud of our NCOs and the future of the NCO corps.”

And what about the junior enlisted troops?

“Our young Soldiers are some of the brightest and very best I have seen in my 30 year career. I had the opportunity to participate in a forum discuss at one of the Forward Operating Bases and was shocked at the depth and level of questions these young Soldiers were asking of me. These were questions many sergeants wouldn't ask and certainly not something I would have asked as a young Soldier. These are truly some of the smartest guys and gals out there. If you're a leader today, you will be challenged by our youngsters and that is okay, because it makes us better and is what separates us from every other army in the world.”

What would you like for the Families at home to know?

“We recognize their sacrifices. We understand the impact of multiple deployments and how hard these deployments can be on each Family member, but that we are committed to doing our very best to take care of them in our absence. A lot of times we talk about selfless service and people automatically assume we're talking about Soldiers, but it goes for Families too. Husbands and wives and kids are dealing with a lot. People sometimes overlook their struggle and the sacrifices they make too. General Austin, our staff and I recognize these hardships, and our goal

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MNC-I leadership joins Iraqi sec



Photo by Staff Sgt. Joy Pariante, 13th Public Affairs Detachment

An Iraqi caterer grills kabobs at the Blackhawk Conference Center in the International Zone Sept. 25. Multi-National Corps – Iraq leadership met with Iraqi security personnel to break their daily Ramadan fast.

By Staff Sgt. Joy Pariante
13th Public Affairs Detachment

Multi-National Corps – Iraq leadership gathered with key Iraqi security personnel for an Iftar meal Sept. 25 at the Blackhawk Conference Center in the International Zone.

The Iraqi people are currently celebrating Ramadan and the Iftar, or “break fast” is their dinner after a day’s fasting. “[Iftar] shows an accomplishment or milestone after spending the day fighting all the desires inside,” said Saad Al Asadi, cultural advisor, Information Operations. “It’s celebrating the end of a day successfully resisting.”



Lt. Gen. Lloyd J. Austin III, commanding general, Multi-National Corps at an Iftar dinner at the Blackhawk Conference Center in the International Zone.

Personnel including Lt. Gen. Lloyd J. Austin III, commanding general, MNC-I and Dr. Muwafaq al-Rubaie, Iraqi National Security Advisor, broke the fast with yogurt and dates and then dined on traditional Iraqi foods. “There’s the desire to show our cultural understanding of the Iraqis and we wanted to bring together everyone who’s helped make improvements in Iraq and let them get to know each other better,” said Ryan Bond, strategic consultant, Commander’s Initiative Group, MNC-I.

Security personnel in breaking fast



Photo by Staff Sgt. Jason R. Krawczyk, MNC-I PAO

... Iraq, greets Dr. Muwafaq al-Rubaie, Iraqi National Security Advisor, ...
 ...onal Zone Sept. 25.

“It’s important to recognize our Iraqi partners and their holidays and show that we understand their culture and honor their holidays like they honor ours,” said Col. John D. Harding, director, Commander’s Initiative Group, MNC-I.

Also in attendance were Dr. Safa al Sheikh, deputy Iraqi National Security Advisor, Gen. Babakir al Zebari, chief of staff, Joint Headquarters Command, Maj. Gen. Richard Barrons, deputy commanding general, ISF, MNC-I and Brig. Gen. Mi-



Photo by Staff Sgt. Jason R. Krawczyk, MNC-I PAO

Zouhair Albitar, linguist, C3, Multi-National Corps – Iraq translates for Maj. Gen. Richard Barrons, deputy commanding general, ISF, MNC-I during an Iftar dinner at the Blackhawk Conference Center in the International Zone Sept. 25. Iftar is the meal that breaks the daily fasting during Ramadan.

chael Ferriter, deputy commanding general, operations, MNC-I. Everyone involved with the dinner was chosen on the basis of their involvement with security development in Iraq. “Guests were chosen based on security, these are the people involved with the security of the nation along with General Austin and MNC-I,” Harding said.

Guests had the opportunity to socialize and converse about the issues in Iraq outside the traditional office setting. “It’s a good opportunity to build the relationship between us and them and discuss the road ahead in Iraq,” Al Asadi said. “It’s a very good event to solve differences and it shows a working friendship. We are here as a family.”

FEATURES

INTERVIEW, from Page 3

is to get everyone home safely and as soon as possible. I don't want us to spend one day out here that we don't have to. If anybody deserves a salute, it's our Families back home. They're carrying a heavy rucksack as well and in many cases are the real unsung heroes."

What's been the biggest challenge for the Corps so far?

"We don't worry about challenges, but rather look at them as opportunities instead. We focus on getting over those obstacles and getting the mission done. We have challenges every day, but we have the right folks in the right places coming up with the right solutions. General Austin was very smart

when he picked the very best staff. It shows every day. We treat all challenges the same; we attack and overcome them."

What are you most proud of so far?

"The Team! We knew we had a good team before we deployed and I see this every day. We knew we were good, and we have exceeded every expectation. Our expectations of our performance were high, but we've outperformed even our own expectations."

Finally, what would you like Soldiers in the field to remember?

After serving 12 to 15 months

downrange, they get home, move back in to the barracks and return to loved ones. If you feel stressed, wherever you can go to get counseling, go there. Whether it's the chaplain, combat stress or someone you trust...talk to someone. Soldiers should also keep in mind that there's no stigma attached to seeking help and it won't affect your career. Everyone deals with stress and everyone is under a significant amount of stress during deployment; from the most junior Soldier to the most senior leader. Soldiers should never worry about their career or standing in a unit to be negatively effected because they went for help, regardless of rank or duty position to get help if they need it.



Safety paramount in forklift operations



By Jesse Martin

Corps Safety Office

Forklifts and industrial powered trucks are extremely vital pieces of machinery, but can be very dangerous if the proper precautions are not taken during their operation. These machines will allow one person to do, in a day, what would normally take weeks.

When you see a forklift in operation, stay out of the way. Always yield to the forklift driver and give him or her plenty of room to conduct business. If you see a forklift operating in an unsafe manner, report it to the local Mayor cell.

Forklifts and industrial powered

trucks are important and very useful pieces of equipment when moving pallets or large objects, but the federal government requires that all lift truck operators be trained and authorized by their organizations. OSHA federal regulation CFR1910.178 states, "Only trained and authorized operators shall be permitted to operate a powered industrial truck."

An operator must always operate a forklift in a safe and professional manner. These machines have wheels and are powered by gas or electricity, and have large forks on them that can slide under large loads.

The modern forklift is an amazing piece of machinery, but conduct-

ing operations with them safely and properly is paramount. When operating a forklift, use a dismounted ground guide and/or vehicle escot, travel with forks in a downward position when without a load, wear a seatbelt and conduct preventive checks before and after operations.

Ground guides should never stand directly in front of forklift and should use proper hand and arm signals.

A supervisor must ensure the driver have been trained in accordance with the OSHA federal regulation. Operators must re-certify training every two years.

Most importantly, whenever potential danger is spotted, operations must be stopped immediately.

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

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 Brief-

ings 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.

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.

Toastmasters

Improve your public speaking skills while having fun with creative – goal oriented people. No speaking experience necessary. Capt. Armin Reyes 318-822-7627 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 September 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

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	Taqqadum.. 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

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

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

Rugby competition brings coalition forces together

Story and photos by
Pfc. Eric J. Glassey

13th Public Affairs Detachment

Coalition forces and personnel on Victory Base Complex came together at the Liberty Morale, Welfare and Recreation field Sept. 28 for a tournament of touch rugby.

The Tongan Warriors, members of the Royal Tongan Marines, were victorious over 11 other teams in the competition.

More important than who won the tournament, however, was its cause.

“The goal is to promote the sport of rugby and cohesion between the forces,” said 1st Sgt. Thomas Jones, Company C, Special Troops Battalion, 4th Infantry Division.



Chad Brading, security contractor, Aegis Defense Services and a member of the Aegis Baghdad Rugby Club, catches the ball during the International Touch Rugby Competition at Camp Liberty MWR Fields Sept. 27.



The Tongan Warriors gather together Sept. 28 after winning a touch rugby tournament held at the Camp Liberty Morale, Welfare and Recreation field to promote appreciation of the sport.

Members of the Royal Tongan Marines, U.S. military members, security contractors from New Zealand and various other areas were involved in the tournament. “We can work hard and play hard together. It has worked out great. The goal is to keep this tradition going. Start having monthly tournaments. This is just the beginning.”

“It is good to meet different nationalities and hopefully expand the game,” said Fred Ripo, fuel specialist, DynCorp.

“It is good because of all the nationalities,” said Paul Lawrenson, a private security contractor and member of Aegis Baghdad Rugby Club. “Rugby dominates in Europe and it gives a chance for all the nationalities to get involved.”

“We would like to get kids out of their rooms and come out here and play,” Jones said. “We have kids who never played rugby be-

fore come out here and enjoy it.”

Due to personnel needing to stay physically healthy and mission capable, the usually violent game of rugby was turned down to touch.

“We are playing a touch version of rugby,” Jones said. “Normally it is a fifteen man tackle. A more violent sport. Here it is more of a conditioning.”

Approximately 120 people showed up in 12 teams with each team only allowed six players on the field at a time.

“We are all playing with six personnel on each side,” Jones said. “Most of the personnel here are pretty experienced and have played touch rugby before.”

Rugby games will continue to be hosted at the Victory and Liberty fields with captains’ meetings at the beginning of each month to discuss how their teams are developing. There will be a tournament each month.