

The Daily Roar

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MULTI-NATIONAL DIVISION – BAGHDAD

SEPTEMBER 5, 2008

Iron Eagle guards keep Soldiers safe, protect force

by Sgt. Jason Dangel

CAB PAO, 4th Inf. Div.

CAMP TAJI, Iraq – Like many of the various Coalition Forces camps and forward operating bases throughout Iraq, Camp Taji is more of the same: corrugated steel housing units, sandbags, rocks, dirt and overly decorated dining facilities aimed to remind the troopers of home.

However, beyond the safety of the camp's barbed wire perimeter, the sounds of daily commuters and the ever-increasing hustle and bustle of Iraq's citizens still provide a dwindling enemy plenty of places to hide.

Despite the increased security gains of the recovering country over the past year, leaders from the Combat Aviation Brigade, 4th Infantry Division, Multi-National Division – Baghdad, aren't taking anything for granted when it comes to the safety of their Soldiers and force protection.

"Force protection is the element within any organization that can directly influence whether a mission can or cannot be done," explained Capt. Federico Llanos, brigade force protection officer, who is from Puerto Rico.

"As the force protection officer for the brigade it is my job to iden-

tify vulnerabilities within our compound and develop counter measures, or courses of action, to correct the vulnerabilities and to predict any enemy activity that might affect our mission."

An important part of the force protection mission lies directly on the shoulders of many of the junior enlisted Soldiers of the brigade, who are tasked to provide perimeter security around the camp.

For weeks at a time, Soldiers from across

the brigade gear up and, regardless of their military occupational specialty, operate fortified guard towers directly adjacent to the brigade's main operating areas.

Their mission may seem simple; however, one act of complacency can mean the difference between life and death.

"They provide 24/7 coverage of any movement, and when I say any movement, it can be something as simple as a civilian, or multiple civilians, walking around the base – local national traffic – basically anything out of the ordinary that may cause concern," said Llanos.

The Soldiers aren't just guards, they are the essentially the eyes of the brigade. Anytime a Soldier sees any type of suspicious activity outside the base, he or she must report it directly to the CAB's Area Defense Operations Center.

The ADOC monitors all radio traffic between the towers and proceeds to take the best course of action, depending on what type of incident is reported.

Working in conjunction with Camp Taji's Base Defense Operations Center, which monitors the security of the entire military complex, they decide whether or not to send combat units out



by Sgt. Jason Dangel, CAB PAO, 4th Inf. Div.

First Sgt. Paul Coleman ensures Spc. Dianne Demeuse clears her weapon properly after the conclusion of her guard shift Sept. 4.

See Protect Pg. 2

Team STEEL spends time with children

by Capt. Clint Rusch

3rd BCT PAO, 4th Inf. Div.

BEIDHA'A, Iraq—After an hour-long meeting at the Al-Quds Iraqi Police station in northern Beidha'a neighborhood of Baghdad, the platoon leader wasn't worried about his men being irritable or rude to the children that gathered near them at a local falafel stand.

"They're good guys, and they know that even though it's tough, (they) gotta do what's right. It might only be a minute or two with that kid, but he's gonna remember it for his whole life," said 2nd Lt. Matt Joseph, of St. Louis, who serves with Company C, 1st Combined Arms Battalion, 68th Armor Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, Multi-National Division – Baghdad.

Joseph and Capt. Todd Looney, his commander, of Irving, Texas, spent the meeting with the Al-Quds Police Chief, Major Ahmed, discussing the potential of bringing on additional policemen to assist with security in the district.

As Looney negotiated the purchase of two dozen falafels, enough to feed all of Joseph's Blue Platoon, Joseph and his men provided security while interacting with the locals.

"For some reason," Joseph said, "the kids always gravitate toward Garcia."

Spc. Daniel Garcia, who ordinarily serves as Joseph's tank loader, but with Team STEEL's move to a wheeled fleet of vehicles and increased dismounted patrols, serves as Joseph's personal security detachment, was surrounded by several children, all asking the traditional question of Iraqi youths, "Mista, chocolata?"

Garcia, originally from East Los Angeles, Calif., laughed at one youngster who refused to give up his search for chocolate, going from Soldier to Soldier.

"I'll give you a 'flight,' but I don't have any chocolate," Garcia

said as the child ran toward him, hand out for a treat.

After some translation difficulties, the child identified himself as Yusef and indicated that he lived across the street. Garcia explained to him, having to use his hands to show Yusef how, that he should interlock his fingers and hold his hands, palms down. When Yusef complied, the Soldier immediately boosted him into the air, bringing cheers and laughs from all the children who surrounded him.

"It's nice, you know, to get to hang out a little with these kids ... not have them always see us as the guys inside the trucks," Garcia said. "The LT talks a lot about how we just have a second to show them who we are. I hope I showed that kid a good side today."



by Capt. Clint Rusch, 3rd BCT PAO, 4th Inf. Div.

Spc. Daniel Garcia lifts an Iraqi boy for a 'flight' during a patrol in the northern Baghdad neighborhood of Beidha'a Aug. 19.

Eyes of brigade protect Soldiers, civilians

from Protect Pg. 1

side the gate to deter any threat posed by the enemy, Llanos said.

The combat units are typically referred to as quick reaction forces, which, when called upon, can usually respond to enemy activity in minutes.

To ensure the Soldiers manning the towers remain on their toes, supervisors routinely check the defensive positions, noting all possible deficiencies along the way.

"There are thousands of Soldiers who sleep here every night, and they expect the guards to protect them and take care of them," said Sgt. Carlos Torres, an area defense sergeant of the guard, who is from Puerto Rico.

"It is my job to ensure the Soldiers have all the equipment necessary to protect the Soldiers of this brigade," he continued.

Torres, who worked as a helicopter me-

chanic with the 2nd Battalion, 4th Aviation Regiment, before the brigade deployed, volunteered his services to the ADOC to become one of the primary guard supervisors for the duration of the CAB's time in Iraq.

"I think every job in the Army is important," he said. "Every job has its place in the overall mission. This job in particular is extremely important because we're talking about lives here."

"My job is interesting and keeps me busy all the time. I feel like I am really contributing to the mission when I do this. It makes me feel good to know that people feel safe and we provide that service for them."

As for the Soldiers who are tasked with guard duty, they understand the importance of the mission and most look at it as an honor.

"Our duty is important for many reasons. We have fellow Soldiers that we are protecting here on the camp. We are their first line of defense," said Spc. Eric Be-

moll, helicopter maintainer, Co. D, 1st Bn., 4th Avn. Regt., who is from Las Vegas.

"It is a mission that has to be done. We protect our own here."

Since the time of the unit's last deployment to Camp Taji in 2006, considerable improvements have been made to ensure the safety of both the Soldiers guarding the base and the personnel working inside the fence.

Previously, the guards worked out of towers with little or no protection, but new defensive positions have since been replaced with heavily fortified concrete towers, which are virtually impenetrable to enemy attacks.

Improvements on the base itself, which have occurred more recently under the direction of Llanos and the brigade command, include further fortification and security of the camp's airfield and various commands and control centers.

Business owners network at 9 Nissan Trade Show

by Sgt. Grant Okubo

4th BCT, 10th Mtn. Div. (L)

FOB RUSTAMIYAH, Iraq – In a display of a return to normalcy in eastern Baghdad, more than 90 organizations gathered Aug. 29-30 at the Palestine Hotel in Rusafa for the 9 Nissan District Business Trade Show.

Participants included non-government organizations and more than 80 businesses that set up booths to display their products and services and to network with other local business owners.

Exhibitors represented businesses in the fields of retail sales, construction and durable and industrial goods. In addition to the exhibits, members of the 9 Nissan District Council, community leaders and members of the Baghdad-2 embedded Provincial Reconstruction Team conducted a meeting during the second day of the event.

The trade show is the third of its kind conducted in the 4th Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division (Light), Multi-National Division – Baghdad operational environment. The other two economic events benefitted businesses in the Rusafa and Karadah districts of eastern Baghdad.

The ePRT and the Patriot Brigade supported the trade show to sponsor the Iraqi-American Chamber of Commerce and Industry, which put

together the event, said Conrad Tribble, team chief of the Baghdad-2 e-PRT. The significance of the trade show is that it is a way for businesses to come together in a forum not normally available to them, explained the Los Angeles native.

“Trade shows aren’t something you see often here, but it gets them out of their areas,” commented Tribble. “They start to see other suppliers, other competitors and other business contacts they can network with.”

These are opportunities that companies in the United States often have to see how things are going, and now Iraqi businesses have them too, added Tribble.

“This is an opportunity for

them to hear from their government – what their government is doing on reconstruction,” expressed Tribble. “It’s an opportunity for them to talk to each other and find contacts and develop suppliers, customers and so forth.”

Speaking with several local business owners, Tribble said he has found that the businesses have grown during the past year, with the organizations hiring more people, doing more work and getting more contracts.

“That’s a good sign because it shows us that when you get security in place, which was done largely in this district, then lots of things can happen on the economic side,” said

Tribble, who added that there is still a long way to go for businesses in 9 Nissan, but there is a lot of room to grow and plenty of time to do it.

Another positive and significant sign, he added, is conducting an event such as the trade show without security being an issue.

“This has been a very successful event,” touted Tribble. “Just the fact that you have so many different businesses, government contacts (and) people off the street coming together, sort of wandering through, looking at what is going on with the business community at 9 Nissan.

“Obviously, it is one small part of a lot of different things that have to happen for the economy to grow, but this kind of event is the kind of thing that we can sponsor that we can help put on – and that is a good thing,” continued Tribble. “It’s part of our contribution to help the Iraqi economy step up.”

May Mohammed, human resources manager with IACCI, said she was very pleased with the turnout, especially on the first day when she estimated about 1,000 visitors attended the trade show. The local community in 9 Nissan is looking forward to development opportunities, as past regimes largely have ignored this area, she said.



by Sgt. Grant Okubo, 4th BCT, 10th Mtn. Div. (L)

Conrad Tribble (seated right center) meets with members of the 9 district council and community leaders during the 9 Nissan District Business Trade Show at the Palestine Hotel in Karadah Aug. 30.

Safety Sense

Gator Operation Safety Tips-

Ensure all operators are properly trained and licensed IAW AR 600-55 and AR 385-10.

Drivers must conduct a proper PMCS.

Drivers and passengers will wear a Kevlar helmet or ACH, protective eyewear, and seatbelts (no exceptions).

Secure secondary loads and remember, no passengers in cargo area.

Follow the rules of the road and maintain appropriate spacing with other vehicles.

Ensure your speed is appropriate for conditions.



David Letterman's Top Ten Things A Drill Instructor Would Never Say

10. "Screw the O400 crap -- I'm getting up at noon"
(Staff Sergeant Ameer Prude)
9. "I'd be lost without my yoga"
(Staff Sergeant Dean Clark)
8. "For a zestier tuna salad, add a pinch of dill"
(Staff Sergeant Michael Reed)
7. "I'm yelling because I have self-esteem issues"
(Staff Sergeant Arnold Rendon)
6. "Dude, you're getting a Dell"
(Sergeant Brandey Catledge)
5. "Marine, you have the piercing blue eyes of a young Paul Newman"
(Gunnery Sergeant Christopher Cornell)
4. "With Pert Plus, I just wash...and go"
(Staff Sergeant William Bolette)
3. "When are the Tony Awards?"
(Staff Sergeant Rafael Rodriguez)
2. "Dr. Phil has changed my life"
(Gunnery Sergeant Adam Moore)
1. "I still live with my parents"
(Sergeant Louis Starnes)



by Spc. DaleAnne Maxwell, MND-B

Player of the day

Today's player of the day honor goes to Sgt. Eli Esparza, a native of Beeville, Texas, for his outstanding job as the Fire and Effect Cell Battle Noncommissioned Officer. Esparza tracks the daily average of 400 fire finder radar acquisitions. He acts as the first line of defense against indirect fire attacks. Esparza's actions help protect our Soldiers as well as Iraqi citizens. He is a valuable member of the Multi-National Division – Baghdad team and is without a doubt today's player of the day.

This day in history

1774: Delegates from all of the 13 American colonies except Georgia meet as the First Continental Congress convenes in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

1877: Oglala Sioux leader Crazy Horse is killed by a U.S. Soldier while in custody, allegedly after he resists his confinement.

Daily Iron Games

The objective of the game is to fill all the blank squares in a game with the correct numbers. There are three very simple constraints to follow:

								3
	2	4		6				
8		7			1			5
				7	2	3		9
	7							1
9		1	3	4				
	3		4			2		8
				9		6	4	
5								

- **Every row of 9 numbers must include all digits 1 through 9 in any order.**
 - **Every column of 9 numbers must include all digits 1 through 9 in any order.**
 - **Every 3 by 3 subsection of the 9 by 9 square must include all digits 1 through 9.**
- Every Sudoku game begins with a number of squares already filled in, and the difficulty of each game is largely a function of how many squares are filled in. The more squares that are known, the easier it is to figure out which numbers go in the open squares. As you fill in squares correctly, options for the remaining squares are narrowed and it becomes easier to fill them in.

Thursday's Crossword challenge results

		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8														
9	F	E	R	R	E	T	11	D	I	E	T	E	D										
		12	N	O	R	T	H	C	A	N	T	O	N										
13	H	O	M	E	I			14	M	E	R	M	A	N									
			C	P	C				P	O			C										
15	T	H	E	R	M	A	L		16	U	S	H	E	R									
									17	M	P												
18	B	R	U	S	H		20	F	A	R	E	A	21	S	T								
									22	W	S	C		W									
23	L	E	24	H	I	G	H					26	T	27	H	U	D						
									28	F	A	B	R	I	C	A	29	T	I	O	N		
30	C	E	L	L	A	R											31	R	A	V	A	G	E
									32	R	E	E	D				33	A	P	E	X		

Pvt. Murphy

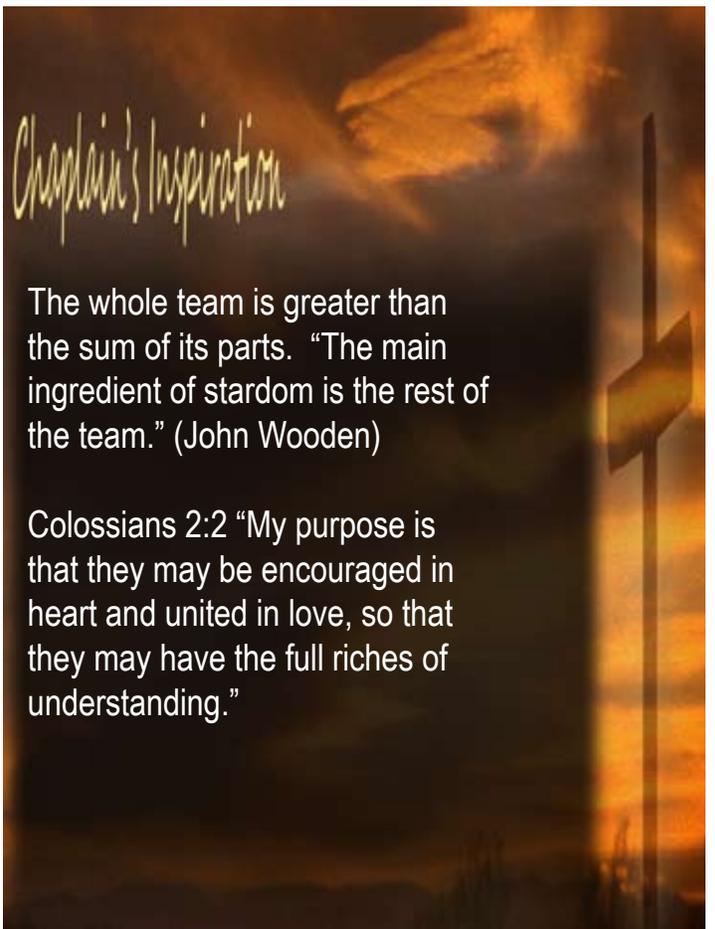
by Mark Baker



Chaplain's Inspiration

The whole team is greater than the sum of its parts. "The main ingredient of stardom is the rest of the team." (John Wooden)

Colossians 2:2 "My purpose is that they may be encouraged in heart and united in love, so that they may have the full riches of understanding."



Safety Bulletin

MRAP Operational Safety
OIF SB-023

Because of the vehicles size, weight, and configuration; MRAP operations must be carefully planned, especially when off primary or improved roads. Additional mitigation measures need to be applied as described in the operators manual.

- Personnel must be trained and know the vehicle limitations. The vehicle can weigh up to 49,000 pounds, it has a higher center of gravity, is almost 14 feet tall and 8 or more feet wide.
- Leaders and Crews must understand road constraints. Some of the bridges and roads, especially canal roads, in our OE were not designed for heavy vehicles nor will they hold up under these loads. Leaders must assess all areas for maneuverability and suitability. Most importantly personnel must remain clear of roadway edges.
- There are no "Safe" dirt or canal roads; no matter how many times you have traveled them. They are even more unstable during and after periods of rain.
- Operators and TICs must know and follow standards and work as a team, they are responsible for all personnel in and around the vehicle.
- Crews sit higher with a different visual perspective than most personnel are used to. Crews must scan in front of the area to be traveled, and then know where the vehicle is riding on the surface.
- Seatbelts and harnesses are mandatory and cargo must be secured, this is an ongoing issue regardless of the vehicle.
- Operate vehicle at slower speeds on narrow / steep roadways. These slower speeds will provide more time during an emergency and cause the emergency to be less violent.
- Due to the weight of the vehicle, crews must be prepared for longer stopping distances. This vehicle will not stop on a dime.
- Due to the higher center of gravity and weight all turns must be taken slower than in smaller vehicles.
- Use Composite Risk Management -- Continuously.
- Practice escape and rescue procedures through primary and alternate exits. It will take 4-6 men to open the doors when the vehicle is on its side. Never put locks on door exteriors.
- Train on the HEAT rollover trainers (6 in MND-B O/E) to prepare for rollover emergencies.

RESOURCES:

- Operators Manual (TM 9-2355-106-10) lists many warning and cautions, they must be followed.
- Normal Bridge Data -- Portal/Special Staff/ENG/Assured Mobility, does not include canal crossovers.
- Safety Material -- Portal/Special Staff/Safety, a good starting point.
- HEAT Trainer Locations -- Portal/K3/Training.



Safety Bulletin

Daily Laugh

Things to do at Wal-Mart

- Take shopping carts for the express purpose of filling them and stranding them at strategic locations.
- Ride those little electronic cars at the front of the store.
- Set all the alarm clocks to go off at ten minute intervals throughout the day.
- Start playing football -- see how many people you can get to join in.
- Try on bras over top of your clothes.
- Make a trail of orange juice on the ground, leading to the restrooms.
- While walking around the store, sing in your loudest voice possible "Sex and Candy"
- Walk up to an employee and tell him in an official tone, "I think we've got a Code 3 in Housewares," and see what happens.
- Tune all the radios to a polka station, then turn them all off and turn the volumes to "10."
- Play with the automatic doors.
- Walk up to complete strangers and say, "Hi! I haven't seen you in so long!..." etc. See if they play along to avoid embarrassment.
- Put pairs of women's panties on your head and walk around the store casually.


Hometown Briefs


Study on moving trains is delayed

The Gazette

 A final report on the feasibility of moving interstate coal trains from the Front Range to the eastern plains will be delayed until early next year, in part so consultants can provide initial results to skeptical elected officials in rural counties.

Moving the more than two dozen coal trains that rumble up and down the Front Range each day heading from coal fields in Wyoming to coal plants in Texas would be the first crucial step in creating passenger rail service, officials say.

Although the proposal has met with support among Front Range residents who attended a series of meetings this spring, that hasn't been the case on the eastern plains. Some counties' elected officials have passed resolutions opposing the relocation of the rails, while others say they want more information before supporting the idea. A group composed mostly of farmers and ranchers also have formed a 75-member coalition, Citizens Against Rail Relocation, to oppose the idea.

The Colorado Department of Transportation is overseeing the \$1.75 million study. Originally, it was to be released late this fall. Instead, said CDOT project manager Tammy Lang, the study will be released Jan. 31, after consultants hold a series of meetings with county officials in September and a number of open houses with the public in October.

Critics on the eastern plains say they don't see how relocating coal trains will benefit them or their communities. And farmers and ranchers fear they will be required to sell their land through eminent domain or have to live with pastures being cut up by tracks.

Pecos punished for policy violation

The Killeen Daily Herald

 Pecos High School was put on probation for one year and publicly reprimanded Wednesday after officials determined the school violated Texas' new steroids testing policies.

University Interscholastic League spokeswoman Kim Rogers said someone at the school violated confidentiality rules that are supposed to prevent athletes from knowing they are about to be tested. She said she had no specifics on who was involved or how the rules were broken.

UIL rules allow only a handful of administrators to know about 48 hours in advance that testers from the National Center for Drug Free Sport are coming to a campus.

Rogers said testing was conducted at the school without a problem, but could not provide further details.

Pecos officials declined to appear at a UIL disciplinary meeting Wednesday, Rogers said. The school had notified the UIL it would not challenge the punishment.

Messages left with Pecos Principal Cindy Duke and other school officials were not immediately returned Wednesday.

Texas started the nation's largest steroids testing program earlier this year.

Figured released in July showed that only two of the first 10,000 students tested were found to be using steroids. The students who tested positive weren't identified by name, school or sport. Four tests came back unresolved and three students refused to be tested. One athlete left the testing area without cause or approval, and 18 missed the mandatory testing without an excused absence.

Downturn batters isle businesses

The Honolulu Star Bulletin

 Hawaii businesses' optimism level for the state's economic future is the lowest in a decade, according to a survey released today by the Business Banking Council.

The state's business community, which posted second-quarter decreases in employment, gross revenue and profits before taxes, continues grappling with the effects of rising fuel and commodity costs, falling tourism and a faltering U.S. economy.

Nearly half of tourism-related businesses have seen a decline in gross revenue and profits, and nearly a quarter have reduced their work force.

Optimism for Hawaii's economy has fallen to its lowest level since 1998, and the outlook for the future remains bleak as the state's sluggish key visitor industry and a faltering national economy have taken their toll across industries.

Also, more businesses have reported that they have experienced a decline in gross income and in profits before taxes, and have elected to reduce their work force, according to a semiannual survey released today by the Business Banking Council.

These were clear signs in the survey that the business community is feeling the impact of the recent wave of economic stressors - including the departures of Aloha and ATA airlines - and rising fuel costs that are affecting the price of just about everything Hawaii residents purchase. Results of the survey, which focused this year on the state's visitor industry, were slated to be released today during a news conference at Embassy Suites in Waikiki.

It's a wet day, but a better day in La.

The Town Talk

 What a difference three years can make. The state's planning, execution and follow-through related to Hurricane Gustav have been strong and effective. What a contrast to 2005.

Recall just three years ago when, on Aug. 29, 2005, Hurricane Katrina shattered all records for hurricane damage in the United States. Katrina tore up the Gulf Coast and flooded low-lying New Orleans in a natural disaster made exponentially worse by the poor performance of several specific people and agencies, starting with New Orleans Mayor C. Ray Nagin and then-Gov. Kathleen Blanco.

Others share in the blame, but the problems were rooted inside the state.

When Hurricane Rita landed its knockout punch Sept. 24, 2005 -- less than a month after Katrina hit -- the state of Louisiana was back on its heels, dazed and confused. It would have been pronounced dead had it not been for the collective muscle and sheer willpower of the private and nonprofit sectors.

Nagin got re-elected as mayor of the city that sets the lowest standard for political corruption. The callous neglect that pervades all things related to government in New Orleans and Orleans Parish is breathtaking in its breadth and depth. Nagin's re-election surprised no one within the parish. Only the rest of the world was stunned.

Blanco struggled with the logistics of a recovery effort that had no blueprint and less leadership. She was exhausted when she finished her single term in office, and was happy to leave in January.


Hometown Briefs

Air Force calls off plans for training site
The Tennessean


The Air Force said Wednesday it has canceled plans for a new combat training site and 800 permanent jobs that bases in Tennessee, Georgia and Louisiana were competing for.

The Air Force instead will use existing training sites to teach airmen combat and survival skills in addition to basic training.

Air Force spokeswoman Vicki Stein said that a review since an Air Force leadership shakeup in June led to cancellation of the plan for a new site.

The three finalists for the site were Arnold Air Force Base near Tullahoma; Moody Air Force Base at Valdosta, Ga.; and Barksdale Air Force Base at Bossier City, La.

An e-mail statement from Stein said Air Force leaders decided “the best way forward for our airmen and the combatant commanders is to optimize our existing training venues. Therefore, a new training venue is not required.”

As proposed, the new site was to train more than 14,400 airmen each year and create 800 permanent jobs. Stein said she could not immediately provide information on any projected cost savings from the decision.

The Air Force statement said that since the Common Battlefield Airmen Training program concept began in 2001, existing training has been enhanced. The statement said existing venues, such as the Expeditionary Center at McGuire AFB in Pemberton, N.J., can “fulfill expeditionary and combatant commander requirements.”

In June, Defense Secretary Robert Gates fired Air Force Secretary Michael Wynne and the Air Force chief of staff, Gen. Michael Moseley. Gates has said the shake up was due to nuclear mission performance failures.

The new chief of staff is Air Force Gen. Norton Schwartz and Michael Donley is acting Air Force secretary.

Berlin to tighten data protection law
The Local


German ministers agreed on Thursday to update data protection laws for the digital age in the wake of scandals showing how easily personal details can be bought on the internet.

The new dangers were brought home in mid-August when a former call centre worker handed authorities a CD containing the bank details of 17,000 people that he said his employer had procured from a lottery firm.

The whistle-blower, Detlef Tiegel, boasted that he had the details of 1.5 million others, and after a series of similar revelations it became clear that what the 36-year-old had revealed was only the tip of the iceberg.

To test how easy it was to procure personal details, German officials started scouring the internet. In only a few days they managed to buy six million items of personal data - for just €850 (\$1,230).

The resulting uproar prompted Interior Minister Wolfgang Schäuble to call Thursday’s crisis meeting in Berlin on how to update data-protection regulations and reassure consumers that their details were safe.

Those attending included Economy Minister Michael Glos, Justice Minister Brigitte Zypries and Consumer Affairs Minister Horst Seehofer, as well as data protection commissioner Peter Schaar and representatives from Germany’s states.

Kansas sending more aid to Gulf Coast
The Capital-Journal


Kansas is sending more support to the Gulf Coast for the response and recovery efforts in the aftermath of Hurricane Gustav, even as Hurricane Hanna moves steadily in its wake.

Twelve Incident Management Team (IMT) personnel left today for Louisiana to work in the State Emergency Operations Center in Baton Rouge, said the Kansas Adjutant General’s Department.

The personnel come from the Kansas Highway Patrol, local county emergency management offices, a community college and local fire and police departments.

“We appreciate these Kansans who have volunteered to help our state with emergencies and are now using their expertise in disaster response to help those in other states,” said Gov. Kathleen Sebelius.”

Veterans work on voter registration
The Montgomery Advertiser


Veterans fought wars so Americans would have the right to vote. That’s why the state’s top election official wants them to help Alabamians to exercise that right.

Secretary of State Beth Chapman created the Veterans Who Vote program with help from the Veterans of Foreign Wars department in Alabama. The program aims to recruit veterans to register voters, work at the polls and be poll watchers during the November general election.

“Veterans are the very people that have ensured our vote and protected that right and they would make excellent poll workers and poll watchers,” Chapman said. “We thought it would be good to have them since they have the time and would be motivated to make sure Alabama has fair and open elections.”

She is also using the national Armed Forces Voters Week, this week, to remind veterans, military members and overseas citizens to register to vote early and check absentee deadlines for the upcoming presidential election.

Meteorological tower discussed
The Benton County Daily Record


The Benton County Planning Board met Wednesday night and discussed the tactical planning of a new meteorological tower off Sibley Road in Sulphur Springs.

Trade Wind Energy plans to erect the 200-foot tower in order to study wind direction, speed and temperature in Benton County, and the company is very optimistic about being able to use wind power in the county, said Aaron Weigel, a development manager for the company.

“This is the best wind Arkansas has, so Benton County could see a lot of development if Benton County is as progressive about renewable energy as they say,” Weigel said.

After placing the tower, area winds will be studied for a period of five years by Trade Wind Energy. After the testing period, Trade Wind will then evaluate putting a wind turbine in place, Weigel said.

“It could be an amazing piece of technology for the area,” Weigel said.

The project will appear before the Benton County Planning Board, where it will be subject to public comment before undergoing a review for final approval.

Sports

Quarterback Daunte Culpepper retires from NFL

The Associated Press

MIAMI - Daunte Culpepper summed up his thoughts Thursday in two words, which ushered in the start of a new era for the former Pro Bowl quarterback. "Farewell NFL," he wrote. With that, a career once filled with such promise came to a most unceremonious end.

Culpepper, who starred for the Minnesota Vikings before a major knee injury in 2005 curtailed his career, announced his retirement in an e-mail Thursday morning, saying he's simply grown tired of fighting for one more opportunity.

The 31-year-old was the Vikings' first-round draft choice in 1999, became their full-time starter a year later, and teamed with Randy Moss to pile up yards and touchdowns at an impressive rate.

But he hurt his right knee in October 2005, never played for the Vikings again,

and never seemed to return to his past level, either.

"When free agency began this year, I had a new sense of excitement about continuing to rebuild my career in the same way that I had rebuilt my knee after my catastrophic injury in 2005," Culpepper said. "Unfortunately, what I found out was that the league did not share any of the optimism about me as an unrestricted free agent that I expected. In fact, there was an overwhelming sense that there was no room for me among this year's group of quarterbacks."

The Miami Dolphins acquired him in 2006 in exchange for a second-round pick, but Culpepper played only four games before being shut down because of continued knee problems. He was sacked 21 times in those four games, and his brief stint with Miami had two compelling images:

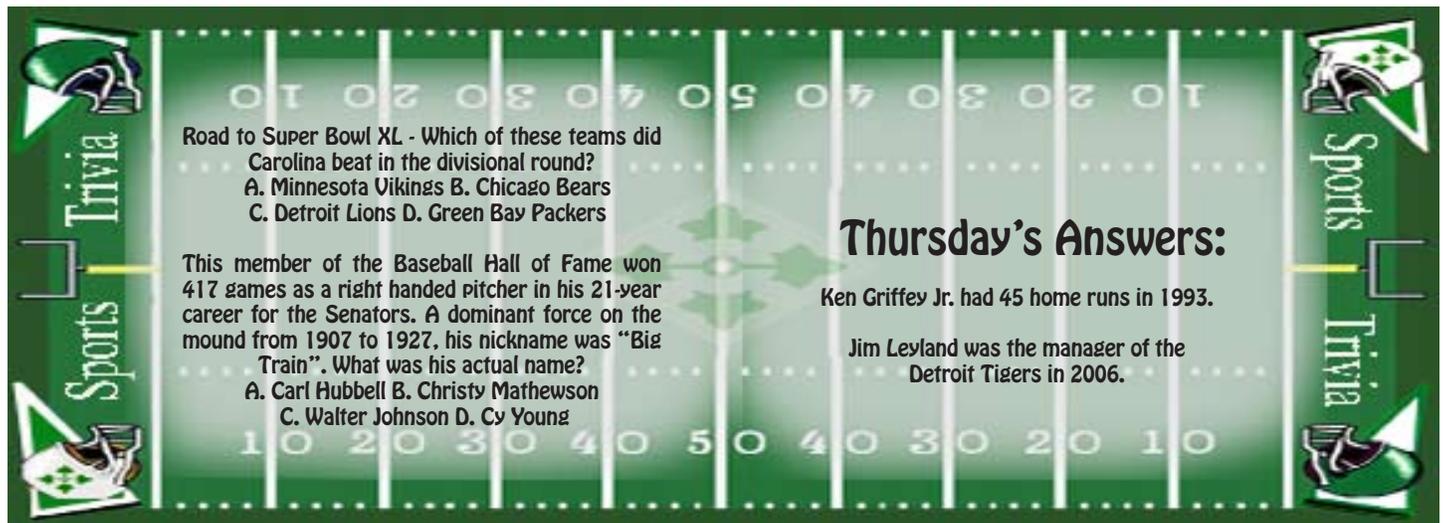
- Getting sacked seven times in his first

home game, where fans booed him by half-time.

- Walking off the field during mini-camp in June 2007 because the Dolphins wouldn't let him play, and flanked by a team security official.

"Now that dream to get back on the field and prove everybody wrong is behind him," said Dolphins defensive lineman Vonnie Holliday, who talked to Culpepper about his ongoing comeback quest this summer. "It has to be tough. ... When he was healthy, he was definitely one of the best."

Last season, the Oakland Raiders took a shot on Culpepper, and he made five starts there, albeit only getting five touchdown passes in those games. And over the past few months, he tried to get any opportunity around the league, even saying just last week that he'd be willing to be Aaron Rodgers' backup in Green Bay.



Trivia

Road to Super Bowl XL - Which of these teams did Carolina beat in the divisional round?
A. Minnesota Vikings B. Chicago Bears
C. Detroit Lions D. Green Bay Packers

Sports

This member of the Baseball Hall of Fame won 417 games as a right handed pitcher in his 21-year career for the Senators. A dominant force on the mound from 1907 to 1927, his nickname was "Big Train". What was his actual name?
A. Carl Hubbell B. Christy Mathewson
C. Walter Johnson D. Cy Young

Trivia

Sports

Thursday's Answers:

Ken Griffey Jr. had 45 home runs in 1993.

Jim Leyland was the manager of the Detroit Tigers in 2006.



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