



VICTORY TIMES



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Telling the Multi-National Corps - Iraq story

October 27, 2008



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

Cruz Jones, master supply technician, Honeywell, and Spc. Gerald Vissepo, orderly room clerk, 4th Infantry Division, perform a plena style dance Oct. 14 in the Al Faw Palace rotunda during the final Hispanic Heritage Month performance.

Kazakhstani, Georgian troops end mission in Iraq



Capt. Mzia Sutaberidze, 1st Georgian Bde., logistics officer and officer-in-charge, and her senior-enlisted soldier case their colors during an end-of-mission ceremony on Forward Operating Base Delta Oct. 20.



Maj. Gen. Paul E. Lefebvre, Multi-National Corps - Iraq deputy commanding general, presents Sgt. Erlan Dusetov, Warrant Officer Amantay Ismuhambetov and 1st Lt. Akylbek Mazhimbekov with their Army Achievement Medals .

Story and photos by Multi-National Division - Center

Another two valuable members of the coalition effort in Iraq marked the end of their time serving with U.S. forces. The remaining 30 soldiers of Georgia's 1st Infantry Brigade and troops from Kazakhstan cased their colors with a ceremony at Forward Operating Base Delta Oct. 20.

"For the time they've been here, tasks were completed fully and well," said Capt. Mzia Sutaberidze, 1st Georgian Bde., logistics officer and officer-in-charge of the remaining contingency. Nearly 1,600 Georgians left FOB Delta in August to support combat operations in Georgia.

Other leaders stood up to offer the Georgians praise. "We thank the Coalition forces, especially Georgian troops, who participated in liberating Iraq from the Baath Party and criminal Saddam (Hussein)," said Wasit Deputy Governor for Administration Yousif Reja.

Kazakhstani soldiers have been serving in Wasit since early 2003. "Since the first day, (our) soldiers have been meritoriously carrying out their mission," said Lt. Gen. Bulat Sembinov, Kazakhstan Deputy Minister of Defense.

During their five years in Iraq, Kazakhstani soldiers performed a variety

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Troops' chance to submit absentee ballots nearing end

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

“The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude.” –Amendment XV, Section 1 of the U.S. Constitution.

Deployed servicemembers have that same right to cast their votes by using absentee ballots from their home states.

“Servicemembers should have requested the absentee ballots using a Standard Form 86 through the county in the state they are going to vote,” said Capt. Amy Stanley, S1, Task Force Dragon, Multi-National Corps – Iraq. “They should have already gotten their ballots through the mail. If they haven’t, then they should be using the federal write in absentee, which is the Standard Form 186 in lieu of their absentee ballots.”

Ballots are arriving at Victory Base Complex, being filled out and sent back by servicemembers and American civilians serving here.

“We get a pretty big stack on a daily basis that we bring in and push out,” said Staff Sgt. Ronald Garcia, noncommissioned officer in charge, postal operations, MNC-I.

With election day drawing near, servicemembers need to finish their absentee ballots and send them back to the states.

“For the military as a whole, this is the last week to send in your absentee ballot,” Stanley said. “It does depend on the state. Some states want it by a certain date, while others want it post-marked by a certain date.”

The government makes sure every vote is accounted for.

“There are things in place in each state to

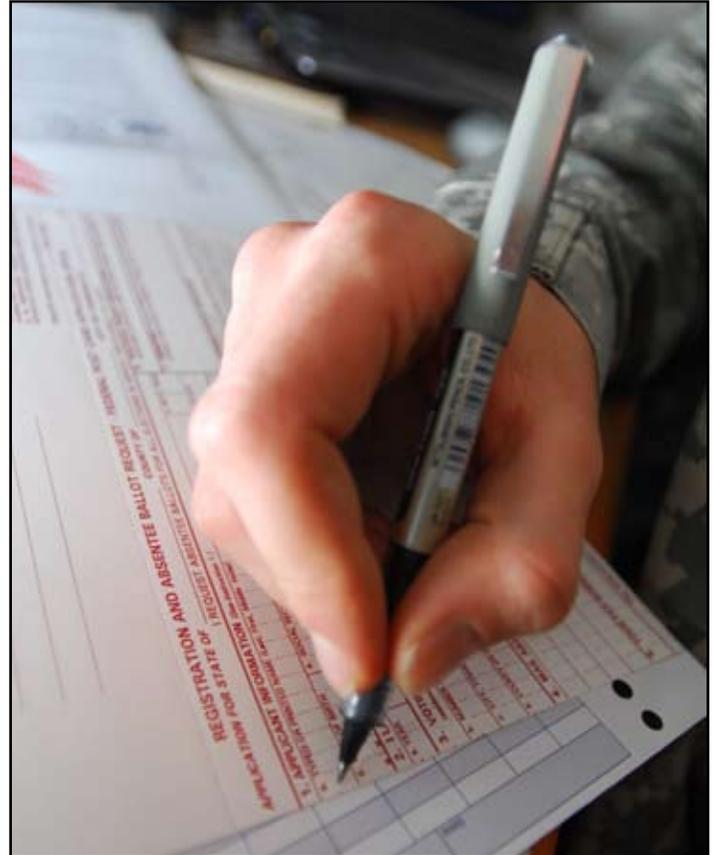


Photo illustration by Pfc. Eric J. Martinez, 13th Public Affairs Detachment

make sure absentee vote ballots are brought to the appropriate location and are counted correctly,” Stanley said.

“It is a lot of work,” Garcia said. “We are held to a higher standard to make sure every individual receives his balloting materials in order to vote.”

With election day

approaching, the U.S. military is about to find out who will be its new commander-in-chief, which provides servicemembers an opportunity rare to most Americans.

“A lot of Americans don’t get a say in who their boss is, but in the military, you do when you vote,” Stanley said.

DEPARTURE from, Page 2

of different missions. A Reverse Osmosis Water Purification Unit provided more than 6,000 cubic meters of clean water for Iraqi citizens and Coalition forces at and in the surrounding areas of Patrol Base Murray.

An explosive ordnance disposal

platoon destroyed more than 4 million pieces of ordnance. A medical section of the EOD platoon provided care to more than 5,000 Iraqi civilians.

“Never forget what you have accomplished here. Years from now,

you will be able to look back and know you were part of something great, something that shaped the world for future generations,” said Marine Maj. Gen. Paul E. Lefebvre, Multi-National Corps – Iraq deputy commanding general.

Servicemembers, civilians celebrate H



Sgt. 1st Class Roboam Felix, career counselor, Task Force Thunderbird, plays the guitar while slides depicting scenic photos of Hispanic countries play Oct. 14 in the Al Faw Palace rotunda.



Lt. Cmdr. Daniel Caballero, operational security office, information operations, Multi-National Corps - Iraq, and Veronica Leyva, senior security coordinator, Kellogg, Brown and Root, perform a Puerto Rican bomba dance Oct. 14 in the Al Faw Palace rotunda.

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

Personnel from across Victory Base Complex gathered to observe the closing ceremony for Hispanic Heritage Month Oct 14 in the Al Faw Palace rotunda.

The ceremony continued to share the diversity of Hispanic culture by highlighting cultural and traditional dances



Sgt. Dante Steel, administration specialist, Multi-National Corps - Iraq, performs a salsa dance during the closing ceremony

Hispanic cultures with music and dance

performed by dancers who regularly attend salsa nights.

“At least 50 percent of the VBC Salsa Dancers have never set foot on a dance floor until just a few months ago and here they are today performing for all of you,” said Lt. Col. Alberto C. Rosende, S3, Headquarters, 926th Engineer Brigade. “Ian [Ian Carr, operations cell chief, Aegis, and a salsa instructor] choreographed a majority of the dances

you experienced tonight along with our various input.”

“We demonstrated quite a bit from different cultures, from the Caribbean to Central America,” Carr said “If we had more time we would have even thrown in the tango.”

Cultural observances help service-members relate to one another through celebration.

“Cultural events like this one dem-

onstrate that our strength comes from all over the world and not just one area or group of people,” said Lt. Cmdr Daniel Caballero, operational security officer, Multi-National Corps-Iraq, and a salsa dancer. “Learning about other cultures gives you an awareness of where others come from, their mindset and their heritage.”

Caballero also stressed why dancing is an important theme in Hispanic heritage.

“Dancing is a huge part of Hispanic culture as well as food and language, but dancing is what keeps us together. It doesn’t matter where you are in the world, everyone understands salsa,” said Caballero. “It allows people to forget their differences and celebrate through music and dance.”

The ceremony also included food and a slideshow containing scenic photographs of Hispanic countries.



Members of the VBC Salsa Dancers stand with a certificate of appreciation given by Brig. Gen. Joseph Carvalho, surgeon, Multi-National Corps - Iraq and Multi-National Force - Iraq.

Multi-National Force-Iraq, and Spc. Maureen Walz, cable systems installer, 44th Signal Battalion, performed for Multi-National Corp-Iraq’s Hispanic Heritage Month Oct. 14 in the Al Faw Palace rotunda.

Get to know a Soldier...

Interview and photo by
Staff Sgt.
Jason R. Krawczyk

Spc. Maureen Walz

Unit: 44th Signal Battalion

Job title: Cable systems installer

Age: 22

Time in service: 3 years

Family: "Mother, father, five younger brothers."

Hobbies: "Softball and salsa/swing dancing."

Person you admire the

most: "My parents and Colin Powell."

Why you joined: "September 11, 2001."

If you weren't in the military you would be:

"Working toward a degree at college."

One thing you'd change about the Army: "The Army is getting too soft."

One thing you'd never change about the Army: "The bond among Soldiers."

Describe your job in one sentence: "Laborious."

Unusual facts about you: "I believe in the supernatural."

Goals: "Become a sergeant, finish college and help children in need."

Something you wish everyone would do: "Be respectful to others and lend a hand to someone in need."

Words of wisdom: "Keep your chin up."

The best thing about being deployed: "The experience and the Iraqi kids."

Most exiting thing you have ever done: "Bungee



jumped in Spain."

Best basic training

memory: "On the first day, standing in front of our building, a Soldier got so nervous they threw up all over the Drill sergeant's boots."



Safety precautions vital in workplace



By Jesse Martin

Corps Safety Office

Many personal injuries in this theater of operation can be prevented. What may look like an obvious hazard to some may be overlooked by others, until someone gets hurt. Work environments should be analyzed and assessed, and problems within the environment should be fixed.

Leaders, managers and supervisors should conduct an assessment of their work areas at least monthly. With employee safety in mind, you should check all walking surfaces in and around your organization, looking for trip hazards such as holes in the floors or side walks, broken stairs, curbs and poorly lit

areas where personnel normal walk.

Some problems in your work environment require you to block an area off until the problem can be fixed. Instead of letting someone get hurt, submit a work order to your Mayor Cell.

Electrical outlets should be inspected for obvious damage or burns, or overloading. These faulty power sources should be replaced if found.

Fire and emergency exit plans should be reviewed. Picture where each person works and how that person would exit the building. Ensure doors and aisle ways are not blocked and each person is aware of a pre-planned escape route and assembly area. Broken lights and doors that may

prevent proper exiting of the facility should be replaced.

To keep employees safe, leaders should ensure they are using proper personal protective equipment when the job requires it, such as gloves, eye/hearing protection, steel-toed boots, reflective vest, hard hats and face shields.

Some other tips for keeping personnel in the workplace safe include replacing broken chairs or other furniture, designating a smoking area and making sure it is used, and looking at your parking areas and ensuring the designated area doesn't conflict with normal personnel and vehicle traffic. Prioritize the listed hazards and report these findings to the Mayor Cell or other appropriate agencies for repair.

Announcements

Legal Services

Cooley Law School is offering servicemembers 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 Briefings are at the Victory Chapel, Monday at 3 p.m., Wednesday at 9:30 a.m., Saturday at 3 p.m. All servicemembers going on leave or redeploying must attend this briefing.

ISC (2) Exams offered

CAP, SSCP, CISSP, ISSAP, ISSMP, and ISSEP exams are being offered for interested military and civilian personnel. Contact Michael Kahler at 435-2265.

Toastmasters

Improve your public speaking skills while having fun with creative, goal-oriented people. No speaking experience necessary. Capt. Armin Reyes 485-3968 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 October edition of the newscast will feature stories on the Task Force 62nd Medical Brigade transfer of authority, 9/11 memorial 5k run and the Armenian end of mission ceremony, 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 | 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) | 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 Bible Study (Victory Mayor's Cell) | 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:
485-3743

Victory Base Complex holds first-ever bicycle race

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

Servicemembers and civilians pedaled their way into history during Victory Base Complex's first-ever bike race held on Camp Victory Oct. 19.

The Lost Lake Bike Race was hosted by a group of cycling enthusiasts who wanted to share their sport. Bikes ranged from professional models shipped from home to mountain bikes purchased in country at the Post Exchange.

Col. Michael Thomas, foreign policy executive officer, command group, Multi-National Corps-Iraq organized the race with the help of the Victory Base Complex Cycling Club and Camp Victory Morale, Welfare and Recreation representatives.

"I've put on several races back in the states and this is probably one of the best venues to have a race like this," Thomas said. "We had a closed, 1.6 mile loop around Lost Lake, beautiful weather, a lot of great participants and motivation."

Capt. Michael Frese, chaplain, 44th Expeditionary Signal Battalion,



Lt. Col. Robert Cornes, deputy chief of staff of operations, 44th Medical Command; Maj. Kurt Rowland, 4th Infantry Division; and Chief Warrant Officer Howard Pepper, 503rd Maintenance Company, lead the way Oct. 19 in the 45 and below age group during the first-ever bike race held on Victory Base Complex.

completed the five laps first in the 34 and younger category. Terrell Herbert, civilian contractor, Multi-National Force-Iraq, completed his four laps first in the 45 and older age group. Lt. Col. Robert Cornes, deputy chief of staff of operations, 44th Medical Command, finished his laps around Lost Lake first in the 45 and younger age group.

"It was a great event for first time bicycle riders and avid bicycle riders to come out and compete in a in a venue you don't normally see," said

Cornes. "I didn't bring my bike at first, but when I got here I saw the race flyers, the groups of people that were riding and that the roads supported it. I had a friend take [my bike] down to the local bike shop so they could mail it to me a week-and-a-half ago."

The race wasn't just about competing or gathering together, but showed the changing environment in Iraq.

"One of the most important things is that having a bike race like this, as well as some of the

runs, like the [Baghdad] Army 10 Miler that had 1200 runners, is that it demonstrates that the security situation in Iraq has improved over the last 12 to 18 months," Thomas said. "It is safe enough and secure enough for us to conduct events like this that add some sense of normalcy to what is otherwise a pretty tough deployment."

The Victory Base Complex Cycling Club holds Friday training rides as well as Sunday leisure rides starting at 5:45 a.m. at Warrior Park.