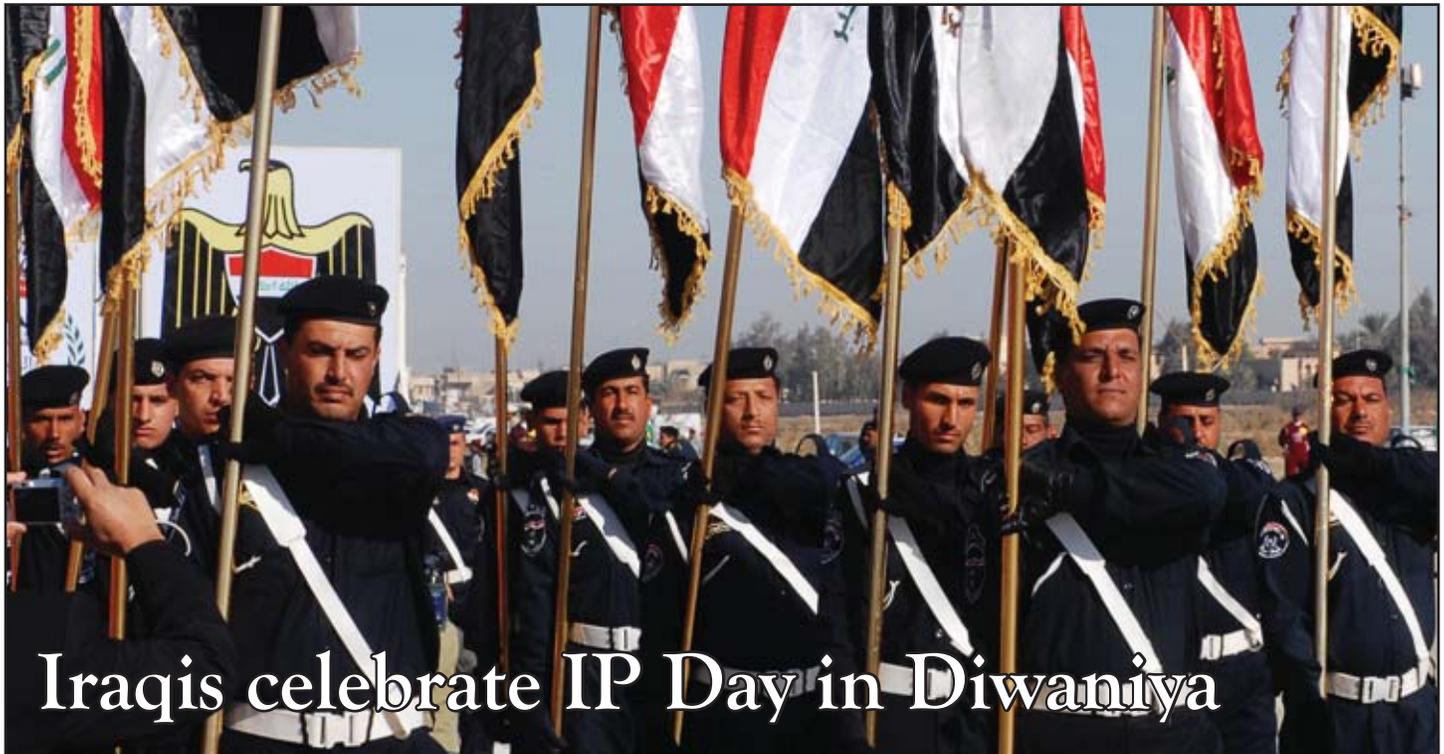




The Mountain View

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January 13, 2009



Iraqis celebrate IP Day in Diwanīya

Photo by Pfc. Seth Barham

Iraqi Police bearing their nation's flags march across the parade field during a celebration of IP Day in downtown Diwanīya Jan. 8.

SGT. RODNEY FOLIENTE
2ND BCT, 4TH INF. DIV.



CAMP ECHO – The city of Diwanīya held a celebration for Iraqi Police Day at the downtown parade field Jan. 8.

The ceremony was hosted by Maj. Gen. Safa Jassim, provincial director of police, with the governor of Diwanīya and provincial council members among the guests of honor in attendance.

“We appreciate the hard work of the Iraqi Police. They do an outstanding job. We congratulate them and honor their anniversary,” said Gov. Hamid al-Khudari, during the ceremony.

Local policemen from the different branches paraded before their audience in marching formations or rode in vehicles, followed by members of

the fire department.

Some of the police elements also put on demonstrations during the ceremony. Members of the Special Weapons and Tactics team demonstrated apprehending a group of criminals who were driving in a vehicle. The Explosive Ordnance Disposal team then demonstrated diffusing an improvised explosive device, followed by a performance by the martial arts team, who also formed a human pyramid, with the Iraqi flag proudly waving at its peak.

Heaters and blankets were also presented to the Family members of fallen policemen, who were honored for paying the ultimate sacrifice in service to their country.

“The IP are progressing. They’re doing very well. They’ve come a tremendous way from what they were

a few years ago especially, but even from a few months ago,” said Lt. Col. Douglas Cardinale, commander, 2nd Combined Arms Battalion, 8th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division. The battalion is currently working to help professionalize the IP.

“The IP are extremely important to the security of Iraq. The IP are the ones that the populace has the most contact with, even more so than the Iraqi Army eventually,” said Cardinale. The current plan will eventually place the IA outside of the city, leaving most of the security responsibility for within the city, he said.

“The IP are what give the populace that security blanket, just like back at home, when you see a Police officer on the street, you know that area is more secure,” said Cardinale.

New bases support new beginning for Iraq

STAFF SGT. AMBER EMERY
MND-C



BAGHDAD – The continuously changing role of Coalition forces in Iraq involves shifting and relocating troops. To date, seven bases have been built in Multi-National Division – Center; six more are currently in progress or will be soon; and five expansion construction efforts have taken place - two more are planned in the near future.

“We build the bases with the intent to pass them on to the Iraqi people in a functional state,” said Maj. Jason Borg, 10th Mountain Division deputy division engineer.

When a U.S. Army unit prepares to relocate from one base to another, everything that is not personnel property of the unit or is needed by other U.S. forces here is left for the Iraqi counterpart taking control of the area with the intent of giving them a functional facility.

“Truly, where were they before? Now, they have a functional base—they have to be at a better state than before receiving it,” said Borg.

The first step to building a new base in Iraq is to decide where the base is going to be located. Usually, these new bases are built in partnership with an Iraqi Army battalion or police station; construction beginning only after permission is received from the Government of Iraq and they are able to confirm the area is not private property.

“If it is private property, then you attempt to find the land owner or you just pick a new site. If you do find the land owner, then you negotiate a lease with them if you still want to build there,” said Borg a native of Renton, Wash.

After the area is established, materials are ordered,



Photo by Captain Stephanie Pegher

Lt. Col. Christopher Lestochi, 54th Engineer Battalion commander, officially kicks off construction of the Echo Link through a ground breaking ceremony.

and Army engineers reconnoiter the site. The size and content of the site is determined by the U.S. Central Command “Sandbook” standards, which states the regulations for all new bases.

“Everything is based on the CENTCOM standards, which states that for the given number of personnel and the given amount of time you are approved to have this for each Soldier,” said Borg. “This also states that however long or enduring that patrol base is planned to be will determine what type of roads they get, how big their Morale, Welfare and Recreation facility will be, what their dining facility will look like, and so forth.”

The process must also include measures to ensure the safety of the new base for its inhabitants. U.S. Army preventive medicine specialists inspect food storage areas, water and vector control.

“My noncommissioned officer and I inspect and determine if the food is stored properly, and is at the correct temperature,” said 1st Lt. Cory Smith, 4th Brigade, 1st Cavalry Regiment preventive

medicine officer and brigade environmental science officer. “We also test the water on the facility to ensure it is potable, if there are any harmful pathogens, and if the water is coming from an approved source.”

Preventive medicine personnel also test the quality of air and have the capabilities to test the soil to determine if it contains volatile organic compounds. Entomological (scientific study of insects) surveys are also performed to determine if the application of insecticides is necessary.

“We also ensure latrines, food areas and living areas are spaced apart according to the Army’s Preventive

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THE Mountain View

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Task Force 449

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A new year, a new Provincial Council

Spc. Tiffany Evans
MND-C



CAMP VICTORY – For the first time in four years, Iraqis will soon vote for a new Provincial Council. A provincial Council is similar to the U.S. Congress and Senate.

Unlike the U.S., Iraqis vote every four years to replace this council and like the U.S. they have no two-term limit. Another difference is Americans vote for their state governors, here the Provincial Council members elect the governors.

Under the June 2008 provincial power laws, the governors and council members appoint provincial police chiefs and other senior security officials in the governorate.

At this time all provinces in the Multi-National Division-Center will be voting for council members. A few provinces outside the MND-C areas, like Kirkuk province, still have unresolved statuses so will not participate in the coming elections.

Throughout Iraq a minimum of 25 percent of available Provincial Council seats are reserved for female candidates, according to the MND-C Governance Section. In areas north of MND-C a minority clause is in effect that guar-

antees seats for minority religions.

One big difference the Iraqis will see in this election is that it is an “Open list” election. The last election was a “Closed list” election. In the closed system voters could only vote for a whole party or coalition and then the party or coalition selected the individual parliamentarian.

In the open system voters may select either a party or an individual candidate, candidates elected from a list will be those that get the most individual votes from among that list.

In 2005 when the first elections were held, the Sunni population boycotted them and the Shi’ites held the majority of seats. During this election the Sunni population is taking part in the election and a shakeup of the council is expected, according to the MND-C Governance Cell.

Soldiers that interact with Iraqis often should take the time to educate themselves on the new laws and who the candidates are in their area. Just like in the U.S., Iraqis discuss their candidates and issues and to be aware will help Soldiers to identify with the citizens in their area of operations.

(Sources Wikipedia, historiae.org, “Iraq’s elections: What’s at Stake?” and the MND-C Governance Cell)

The 10th Mountain Division band In concert

Featuring



Salsa, Merengue
Latin jazz



Jan. 15 at 9 p.m. at the
Camp Liberty MWR C-10

BASES

From previous page

unsanitary living conditions can set up an environment where Soldiers are prone to vector-borne (carried by another organism) diseases, water-borne diseases and the spread of diseases by food contamination.”

A base capable of supporting healthy Soldiers is vital to MND-C’s mission here. The vast desert environment can be difficult to manage without proper preventive measures in place.

“It is important for us to recon these sights and research their history so that we can prepare our troops with proper preventive measures for any type of illness,” said Sgt. Jonathan Agrait, 4th Brig., 1st Cav. Regt. preventive medicine sergeant and native of Houston. “Their health and safety is our number one concern.”

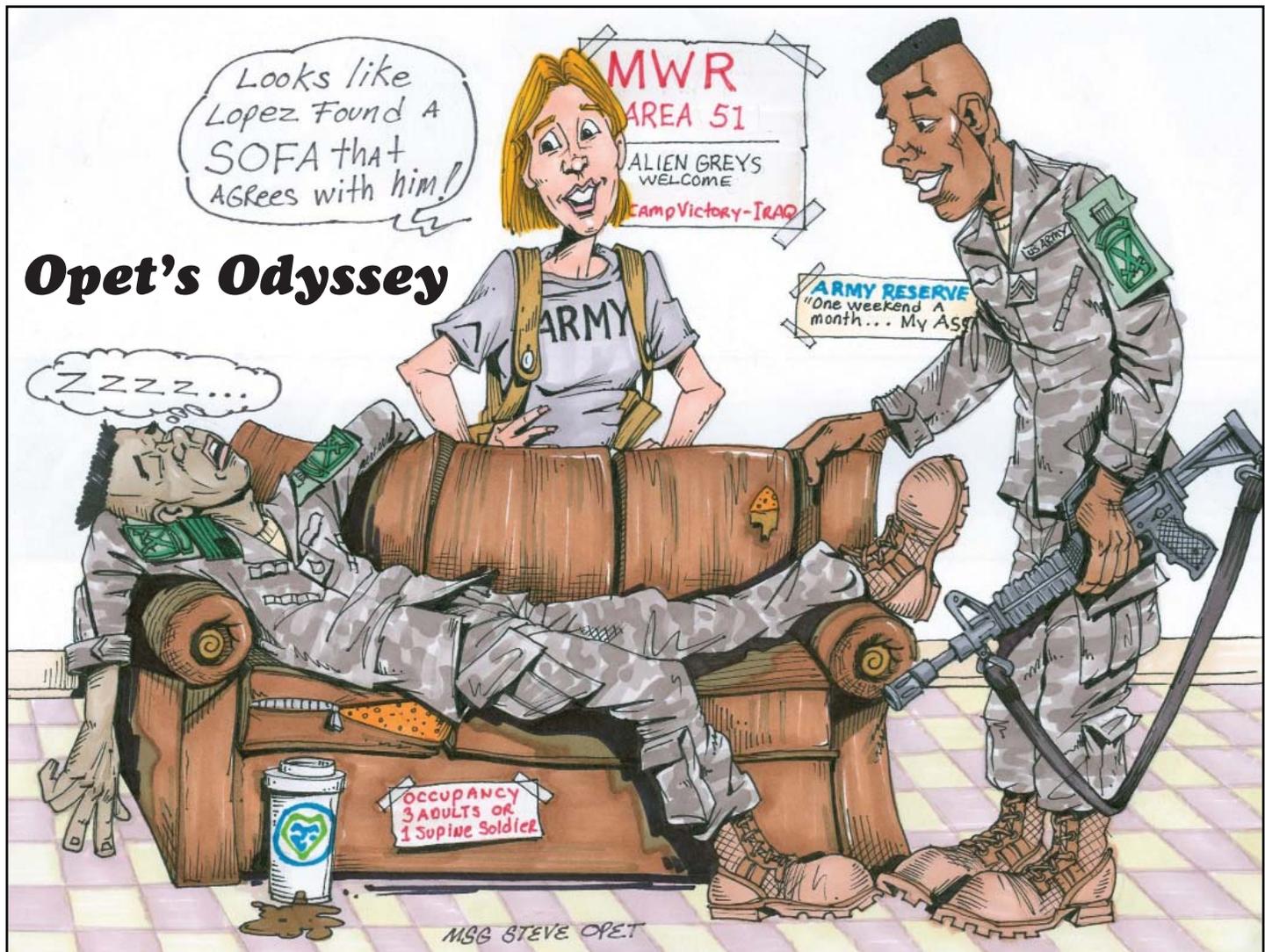
These efforts to provide for Coalition forces will further assist the Iraqi Security Forces as they establish IA posts outside of the cities and the Iraqi Police stabilize the city environment.

(Right) A medic attached to 1st Squadron, 10th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division checks an inventory of medical supplies as they establish the aid station at Forward Operating Base Summers.

Medicine Field Sanitation guidelines,” said Smith, a native of San Diego. “(This is very important because)



Photo by Sgt. Rodney Foliente



Attention DSTB Soldiers: Early shipment of equipment authorized

Organic units of Division Special Troops Battalion, 10th Mountain Division will be allowed to ship excess military equipment to Fort Drum to help Soldiers when transporting bags home for redeployment and create more room in theatre.

Each company is assigned one day per month, January through March and will be authorized to ship no more than five pallets worth of equipment per shipment. One pallet is approximately 40 Tuff boxes, 60 duffels or eight Tri-walls. Equipment does not include civilian or non-military equipment.

Each company needs to provide a list of Soldiers who will be turning in equipment for each month to their company and battalion unit movement officer three days prior to their scheduled ship date in order to determine military transportation support and customs support. Company UMO's need to be present, along with all individual Soldiers shipping equipment home.

Each bag or tuff box will need two completed DA Form 1750s. Equipment will be transported to 258 MCT at Baghdad International Airport at 8:30 a.m. for customs inspection and shipment, but loading begins at 8 a.m. at Audie Murphy LSA. Buses will be available for Soldier transportation. Gear will be stored in the DSTB Motor Pool until Soldiers return to Ft Drum.

Soldiers should be properly prepared for customs inspection. Here are a few tips to help along the process:

- Read the contraband prohibited list to ensure there are no items that may cause delay or refusal of shipment.
- Ensure there is no heavy dust or dry mud on items including the pallet or undersurface of cargo. Boots are the most common items that need to be cleaned again because of excess dirt or mud in the soles.
- Bring a wet towel or spray bottle to clean any items missed prior to inspection.
- If available, bring heavy duty plastic as it may help keep the undersurfaces clean during inspection.
- Have containers unlocked and empty with contents beside the container. This may reduce your inspection time by half.

Timeline for January:

- Jan. 15 – Headquarters Support Company
- Jan. 19 – Headquarters and Headquarters Co.
- Jan. 22 – Network Support Co.
- Jan. 26 – Co. B
- Jan. 29 – Band

Headline Round-up

World News:

Israeli ground forces made their deepest foray yet Sunday into Gaza's most populated area, with tanks rolling into residential neighborhoods and infantry fighting urban warfare in streets and buildings with Hamas militants who kept up their rocketing of southern Israel. An Israeli army spokeswoman said residential neighborhoods in Gaza are riddled with homemade bombs and booby traps, including mannequins placed at apartment entrances to simulate militants and rigged to explode if soldiers approach. Early Monday, Israeli navy gunboats fired more than 25 shells at Gaza City, setting fires and shaking office buildings, including the local bureau of The Associated Press. The military said that in general, the targets are Hamas installations but had no immediate information about the shelling that began just after midnight.

U.S. News:

A weekend winter storm blanketed parts of the Midwest and Northeast with up to a foot of snow, causing a 59-vehicle pileup in New Hampshire. Three buses and two tractor-trailer rigs were among the vehicles that crashed on snowy Interstate 93, sending a dozen people to hospitals the morning of Jan. 11 and temporarily shutting down a stretch of the highway's northbound lanes. None of the injuries were life threatening, but it took emergency crews about an hour to remove one man from a car wedged under the back of a tractor trailer.

Sports News:

There is a home-field advantage in the NFL playoffs after all, and it belongs to the Pittsburgh Steelers. Now they've got to prove it means something against the team they despise like no other, and in the game they lose at home like no one else. The Steelers, owners of the NFL's best home-field record since the 1970 NFL merger, shook off a 7-0 deficit barely two minutes into the game, controlled pint-sized playmaker Darren Sproles and returned some normalcy to the postseason by beating the San Diego Chargers 35-24 in an AFC divisional game Jan. 11.

WHO WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE PLAY IN THE SUPER BOWL?



Photo by Sgt. David Turner

"I'm a Patriots fan myself, but if the Patriots aren't in it, I guess the Steelers are as good as any," said Staff Sgt. Robert Springmann, of Boston, Provost Marshals Office, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 10th Mountain Division.

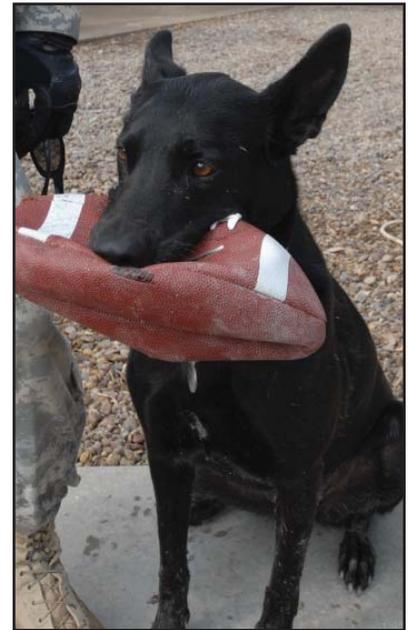


Photo by Sgt. David Turner

"I don't care, as long as I get the game ball," said Sgt. 1st Class Frieda, military working dog, Provost Marshals Office, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 10th Mountain Division.

Quote of the Day

"I trust that everything happens for a reason, even when we're not wise enough to see it." – Oprah Winfrey

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For the answer to today's puzzle, go to:



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