



DANGER FORWARD



May 24, 2010 | Issue 17

Wounded Warriors carry on

By Sgt. Francis Horton
367th MPAD, USD-S PAO

COB BASRA – A tall figure came down the ramp of an Air Force C-130 at the Basra International Airport. He hesitated, shuffled, and then a helping hand reached out to steady him. A quick hop and the first of the wounded warriors touched down in Basra.

The Soldier is a participant in Operation Proper Exit, a program created by the Troops First Foundation, an organization founded in 2008 by Rick Kell and CBS Golf analyst David Faraday.

“We started the foundation to focus on wellness and quality of life issues for wounded warriors and their families,” Kell said.

Operation Proper Exit is an initiative that brings troops wounded in battle back to Iraq to see the country and how it has changed. In the volatile years of the Iraq war, many troops wondered if Iraq would ever improve.

“We wanted to create programs with relevance, but not duplicated by other organizations,” Kell said.

When veterans were asked what kind of programs they would like, many said they wanted a chance to see Iraq again to gain a semblance of closure.



Photo by Sgt. Francis Horton

The wounded warriors participating in Operation Proper Exit, a part of the Troops First Foundation, pose with their sponsors and Iraqi Naval commanders at Umm Qasr May 13.

Working with the USO, Kell coordinated flights and locations for the veterans to visit. The command groups around Iraq have been very supportive of the initiative and welcoming of the wounded warriors who have been willing to return, he said.

“It’s another world,” said Staff Sgt. Jason Kokotkiewicz, who is now on the temporary disability retired list, affectionately known as “Koko” by the other wounded troops who have come back to Iraq on this trip. “It doesn’t feel like the

same country.”

Kokotkiewicz, from Greenfield, Ind., was wounded while serving with the 2nd Battalion, 152nd Regiment, 38th Infantry Division. During a firefight at an Iraqi police station located on Main Supply Route Mobile near Fallujah, he was hit in the head by a rocket-propelled grenade.

“I left Iraq thinking it would never change,” he said.

This sentiment has been echoed by

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Danger Six sends

Everywhere I go I receive positive indications all U.S. Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines operating in United States Division–South are performing marvelously in the advise and assist role we’ve asked you to execute and in the ongoing removal of excess equipment. As temperatures begin to rise and we push into the long summer months, I caution you to prevent complacency from creeping in and replacing the motivation that has clearly had a positive influence on our Iraqi partners. Your contributions to train the Iraqi Security Forces, support provincial reconstruction, and transition responsibility to our counterparts while at the same time reducing equipment and bases is evident and greatly appreciated.

As the Iraqi Security Forces continue to apply pressure on violent extremist networks, your support and mentorship in the targeting process has provided an unmistakable and lasting effect on our Iraqi partners. They lead the charge to remove extremists and criminals from the streets and uphold the rule of law, but the Iraqis still desire your knowledge and professional assistance to further build their confidence. The effect you’re having limits our enemy’s ability to increase violence, but we must remain aware of our environment at all times. Hazards lurk behind every corner.

I’ve said before, Iraq’s young democracy is most vulnerable during these months leading up to the seating of the new government. As the Iraqi political process takes shape, now more than ever, we must remain close to our partners and continue to provide support as they work to stabilize their democratic process.

So far with our support the government of Iraq has successfully maintained the drumbeat of national unity. Our continued perseverance to work through the nine provincial reconstruction teams in USD-S to improve economic growth and governance will soon pay off; perhaps not while we’re still here, but you’re laying the foundation for economic progress that must occur for Iraq to thrive as a stable country that can take care of itself.

Remain connected, remain resolute and remain alert to the environment in which you’re operating. Believe me, you’re doing the Iraqis and our country a tremendous service. A unified and a democratic Iraq offers great potential for the security and stability of the entire region. Know that your day-to-day work really does make a difference. Every member of this team matters, and we are all counting on you.

NO MISSION TOO DIFFICULT. NO SACRIFICE TOO GREAT. DUTY FIRST!



Vincent K. Brooks
Major General, U.S. Army
Commanding



Major General
Vincent K. Brooks



Command Sergeant Major
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DANGER FORWARD

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Maintaining fitness is a safe plan

Marc Greene

USD-S Safety & Occupational Health Manager

There are many motivations for maintaining physical fitness, but one you might not readily think of is improving your ability to work safely.

Physical fitness gives us the strength, endurance and flexibility to deal with the things we encounter in our lives each day. It keeps our heart and lungs functioning well so they can supply us with the oxygen we need and maintains our muscular strength, helping us avoid injuries. Maintaining fitness can increase energy and endurance to allow us to remain alert to possible dangers on – or off – the job.

Even if you work at a physically demanding job, it is important to have a regular exercise program. A job changing engines or kicking in doors may leave you tired, but it will still not provide all of the right kinds of exercises to maintain good fitness.

Granted, probably the last thing you want to do at the end of a twelve-hour shift is to work some more, but in the long-run, exercise can help you to work better and even more safely.

It can be a real trick to fit exercise into a schedule which is already too busy, but it can be done. The best way is to work exercise into your daily routine.

- Walk or bicycle to or from work. Take a bottle of water and skip the bus.
- Do stretching exercises and warm-up exercises wherever you work before your shift.
- Use breaks to stretch and flex your body; it will help you avoid stiffness and repetitive strain injuries.
- On your lunch break, fit in a quick walk, run, or other workout.
- When you go on R&R and when you go home at the end

of your deployment, make exercise part of your daily life by having some active fun with friends and family.

- Get involved in sports or workouts on two or three weekday evenings – or mornings depending on your schedule. Basketball, softball, volleyball or any other sport that gets you moving is good.

- Get in the habit of being active. If you find yourself in your room exercising nothing but your two index fingers and thumbs playing video games, get up and do something. You'll be surprised how good it feels!

One of the best exercises ever invented for keeping weight off is the "Push Away". It's done by pushing away from the table. Watch the intake. If you are putting more in than you are working off, it causes the old first sergeant to get red in the face, and that's not good for anyone's safety.

Some of the benefits of exercise include strength and more flexibility. You'll probably have a more healthy appetite and sleep better. You might just generally feel better. And a big plus will be more points for promotion because you scored a 300 on your PT test. Best of all, your better physical condition can give you an extra edge in avoiding accidents and injuries.

This and other great information to help with risk mitigation can be found at:

<http://1idportal.1id.army.smil.mil/SpecialStaff/DivisionSafety/Shared%20Documents/Forms/AllItems.aspx>

And there is always great information and help for your safety problems at: <http://bronet/dss/safety/default.aspx>

Do you or a "friend" have a story about how safe habits saved you, or how a lack of them made for a close call? Send it to marc.greene@us.army.mil with your email and snail mail addresses. If your story is picked, we'll send you some cool safety incentives.



This week in Army history

This week in Big Red One history

May 28, 1918: The 1st Infantry Division's 28th Infantry Regiment, under Major-General Robert Lee Bullard, captured the village of Cantigny from the German 18th Army, the first U.S. offensive victory of the war.

This week in OIF history

May 25, 2007: Four months after the announcement of the troop surge, Congress passed H.R. 2206, which was signed into law by the president. Within the \$120 billion war-spending bill are 18 benchmarks to grade Iraqi government progress toward stability.

This week in 17th Fires Brigade history

May 26, 1917: Captain David L. Stone and his staff arrived at the site of Camp Lewis – present day Joint Base Lewis-McChord, the present-day home of the 17th Fires Brigade – and a few days later construction began. In 90 days, Stone had supervised the construction of 757 buildings and 422 other structures, all lighted and heated for 60,000 men. The first recruits moved into their new barracks September 5.

Iraqi, US forces help recover Black Hawk

By Maj. Alan S. Brown

3rd BCT, 4th Inf Div

COB ADDER – A joint team of Iraqi Police from the 6th Emergency Response Unit and Soldiers from 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, secured and recovered a disabled U.S. helicopter May 16., after it was forced to make an emergency landing the day before.

The helicopter, a UH-60 Black Hawk assigned to the Company B, 2nd Battalion, 285th Aviation Regiment, stationed at Contingency Operating Base Adder, was on a routine passenger flight from Tallil Air Base to Contingency Operating Site Garry Owen when it was forced to land due to a mechanical problem.

The aircraft's crew safely set the helicopter down in a patch of farmland about 30 miles northeast of Nasiriyah, Iraq. The landing was non combat-related, and no Soldiers or civilians were injured.

A quick reaction force from Battery B, 3rd Battalion, 29th Field Artillery Regiment, 3rd BCT, 4th Inf. Div., stationed at

Joint Security Station Jenkins, was alerted of the "downed" aircraft and scrambled to prepare their equipment and rehearse their battle drills, said Capt. Michael Scott, commander, Btry B, of Manassas, Va.

Scott said he was pleased with how his unit reacted after receiving the mission, noting that it took his quick reaction force only five minutes to load the two CH-47 Chinooks and depart for the landing site.

"As the Chinooks lifted off, I was running through all the contingencies in my head and trying to come up with what I needed to do first once we hit the LZ," said Staff Sgt. Wesley Sturdivant, cannon crew member from Colorado Springs, Colo.

Within an hour and a half of the disabled Black Hawk's landing, the 19-Soldier QRF arrived at the site and secured the area, said 1st Lt. Joseph Gratton, of Cincinnati, Ohio, 3rd platoon leader and QRF officer-in-charge for the mission.

At the request of U.S. forces in Dhi Qar, the Iraqi Police dispatched a team from the 6th ERU from Nasiriyah to assist in securing the landing site during the recovery.

The Iraqi forces arrived in 12 police vehicles just after 9 p.m., and immediately offered Gratton their help, he said. After Gratton asked for their assistance with perimeter security, he was quickly impressed by their professionalism.

"Once they got set in their security, they stayed at their positions the entire night," he said.

Having recently arrived in Iraq to assume the advise and assist mission, members of Gratton's "Black Platoon" were pleased by the eager assistance from their Iraqi partners.

"It was great to see such a combined effort and the IP's willingness to help with the security of our aircraft," said Sturdivant. "The IP leadership said that the Black Hawk was sort of like their Black Hawk now and they weren't going to let anything happen to it."

The highlight for the U.S. Soldiers was the surprise feast provided by the local

village shaykh in the middle of the night. The shaykh brought 50 chickens and two newly-slaughtered lambs to feed both the Iraqi and U.S. forces. Several hours later, he brought out eggs, cheese and bread for breakfast, said Gratton.

"The best part of the entire mission was the impromptu feast. I never expected to be eating lamb with a bunch of IP's at the downed aircraft location," said Sgt. Ralph Froelich, cannon crew member of Abingdon, Ill.

At nearly midnight, a Down Aircraft Recovery Team arrived to assess the extent of the helicopter's mechanical problem.

"A DART usually includes a maintenance test pilot and other maintenance personnel who assess the damage to the aircraft," said Maj. Cameron Cashman, brigade aviation officer, 3rd BCT. "They will figure out if the aircraft can be fixed at its current location, needs to be slung-loaded out or be destroyed in place."

By 10 a.m. the next morning, the aircraft recovery team had repaired the Black Hawk and had begun flying it back to Tallil AB.

According to Gratton, the Iraqi police didn't leave the site to go back to Nasiriyah until the last helicopter had departed with the remaining Soldiers and equipment.

For the soldiers of Black Platoon, the whole experience served as a tremendous morale booster they will remember for a long time, said Gratton.

"I knew this was something new and didn't really know what to expect at the downed helicopter's position," said Spc. Chad Weber, cannon crew member, from Lubbock, Texas. All of the Soldiers in Black Platoon handled the initial mission changes well and everyone stayed calm and focused on the mission, he said.

For more from 3rd BCT, visit <http://www.facebook.com/3bct4id>



A Dhi Qar provincial police officer from the 6th ERU stands guard as part of a joint U.S. and Iraqi recovery operation for a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter that was forced to land because of mechanical problem May 15.

Photo by Spc. Robert Sheets

English class crosses cultural divide

By Staff Sgt. Christopher Carney
367th MPAD, USD-S

COB BASRA – What started as a class helping women employees of the Basra International Airport polish their English speaking and reading skills has quickly grown into a forum where women can freely discuss a variety of issues in a comfortable environment.

Capt. Tisha Bridge, 1st Infantry Division physician's assistant, and Spc. Aisha Bannat, an analyst with Division Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion, 1st Inf. Div., meet regularly with the workers, whose jobs at the airport necessitate good English skills.

"The classes began about two months ago with the initial intent to help the women employees with their English," said Bridge, a Sackets Harbor, N.Y. native.

A class held May 5 demonstrated some of the difficulties of cross-cultural relations, but also showed the genuine caring and interest of both the Iraqi students and the Soldier instructors that has been created over the past two months.

The class included vocabulary words and discussion questions on nutrition and health. The women also discussed what they like to do in their free time and where they would like to travel to if given the opportunity.

The students listened intently to things the instructors said and took the opportunity to practice the English they know, asking Bannat for assistance when they did not know the right words.

When the class first began, Bridge, a physician's assistant, incorporated common medical terms into the language lessons. The classes then grew into a way for the women to ask health questions they had about themselves and their family. This initial breakthrough still continues, even during lessons on other subjects. The class provides an environment in which the women feel open enough to discuss many topics.

"It helps them, I don't think they have a lot of exposure to doctors or medical guidance," Bridge said.

While the health care situation is improving in Iraq, access to routine medi-

cal care can be difficult due to the ratio of doctors to patients, a situation that can be compounded for women who traditionally are hesitant to see a male doctor.

"They had a lot of little questions about high blood pressure, diabetes, insomnia. Some of the women don't have access to the internet and those questions would go unanswered," Bridge said.

Providing advice to the students while improving their English is a rewarding experience, Bridge said.

Being able to answer the women's questions has also helped build a rapport with the women, and the classes have taken on an atmosphere more like a gathering of friends.

Bannat, who is originally from Egypt but whose hometown is New York City, shares duties as an instructor and translator.

"I feel that for all the struggles we go through to get the class going, that they still get some things out of it," Bannat said.

"I do see a lot of progress in their English, their attitude and they definitely learn about important health information. These women are very maternal, humble and hospitable. I'm glad to work with them any day of the week," she said.

Bannat is very engaged in the class, and the women look to her for specific words or phrases they need help with.

"I don't like to think of myself as a translator because I don't actually translate so much to them; I do teach them to read the words and understand the meaning," Bannat said. "They learn a few words here and there and I force them to use it."

She also feels a special closeness with the class because of her heritage, she said.

"We're helping these women with something they actually need. We also bring to them a bit of our culture and a bit of theirs. I can relate to both sides because of my background and upbringing,



Photo by Staff Sgt. Christopher Carney

Capt. Tisha Bridge, 1st Inf. Div. physician's assistant, and Spc. Aisha Bannat, an Analyst with DHHB, 1st Inf. Div., give a beginning English class to female employees of Basra International Airport May 5. The classes teach language skills but also give the women an opportunity to discuss medical issues or concerns with Bridge.

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Kalsu World Cup

By Sgt. Ben Hutto

3rd HBCT, 3rd Inf Div PAO

COS KALSU – Few things bring people together quite like friendly competition, nor remind them so well of how much more their common interests matter than their differences.

In this spirit, the 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, sponsored an eight-team Armed Forces Day soccer tournament at Contingency Operating Site Kalsu, May 14 and 15.

The two-day event had players from seven countries competing against one another: Uganda, Kenya, Iraq, the U.S., Nepal, the U.K. and Bosnia.

“This was our own World Cup event,” said Col. Pete Jones, commander of the 3rd HBCT. “These players, pulled together by the conveyance of forces in Babil Province, are proving that the language of sports and competition doesn’t have boundaries, and we have more in common with each other than we realize.”

Teams representing the 3rd HBCT, the Babil Police, Babil University, the 31st and 33rd Iraqi Army Brigades, the Sabre International security company, and KBR, competed against one another in 100-degree weather to win the 3rd HBCT Armed Forces Day trophy.

During a tournament which featured

seven competitive matches, Babil University defeated the 33rd Iraqi Army Brigade in the final game to win the coveted prize.

“I think this was a very good idea,” said 1st Lt. Thameem Mard, the physical fitness trainer for the 33rd IA Brigade. “We know this is the first time this event has happened, but we all hope it won’t be the last.”

Mard’s unit had very little time to prepare for the tournament, but he said they still liked the idea of competing in it.

“Our missions only left us four days to prepare, but we play all the time for fun,” he said. “Everyone was very excited to come over here and play.”

Although the U.S. team lost on the second day of the event, many of the Soldiers that participated were glad they were able to take part in the tournament.

“When I was deployed to Iraq in 2003, I never thought I’d be playing a game of soccer with Iraqis,” said Sgt. 1st Class Pablo Palomar, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Brigade Special Troops Battalion.

“Hopefully there will be more events like this to show the progress we have made here,” he said. “Stories like this give everyone back home a better idea of what is going on here now.”

Palomar, a native of San Antonio, was proud of how he and his teammates played



Photo by Sgt. Ben Hutto

Ali Zuhair, the captain of the Babil University Soccer Team, holds the Armed Forces Day soccer tournament trophy over his head at COS Kalsu May 15. Zuhair’s team won the eight-team tournament, which was sponsored by the 3rd HBCT, 3rd Inf. Div., after two days of competition, in which players from seven separate countries competed against one another.

together.

“I think we showed that no matter what we are doing, the Army is always one team,” he said. “We were from different sections and units, but we didn’t have to talk to each other much while we were playing. We knew what the other guy was going to do. You could say we were an ‘Army of one’ playing together.”

For Cpl. Matthew Reed, HHC, BSTB, the tournament was a unique experience he wouldn’t trade for the world.

“Last deployment, we were so busy, we would have never had time to do anything like this,” he said. “Being able to come together with the Iraqis is what it is all about. I’m glad we got to show everyone that we can work together and play together.”

Reed, a native of Gulfport, Miss., said the only thing he would change about the event is where his team finished.

“Of course, we really wanted to win,” he said. “I would really love the chance to do this again. The teams we played had a lot of endurance, but I’d like another chance to compete and win.”



Photo by Sgt. Ben Hutto

During a second-round game of the Armed Forces Day soccer tournament at COS Kalsu, Soldiers assigned to the 3rd HBCT, 3rd Inf. Div., attempt to defend a free kick attempt by the Babil University soccer team, May 14. The second round of the eight-team tournament, sponsored by the 3rd HBCT, featured three competitive games that were covered by the Iraqi Al Hurra news channel.

For more from 3rd BCT, visit <http://www.facebook.com/3bct31d>

Remembering a fallen comrade

By Staff Sgt. Natalie Hedrick
3rd HBCT, 3rd Inf Div PAO

COS KALSU – Soldiers of the 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, gathered at the chapel at Contingency Operating Site Kalsu May 8 to remember their fallen comrade, Sgt. Anthony O’Neal Magee.

Magee, Company A, 2nd Battalion, 69th Armor Regiment, 3rd HBCT, survived three days before passing away April 27 from wounds suffered during an indirect fire attack on COS Kalsu.

According to Col. Robert Ashe, commander of 2nd Bn., 69th AR, after being wounded, Magee was moved to safety by another injured Soldier. Immediately, other Soldiers came to help, using the shirts off their backs as bandages.

Tireless efforts were taken to save his life at the COS Kalsu aid station, the hospital in Balad, Iraq, and finally the hospital in Germany where he passed. Magee’s final act was to serve as an organ donor.

At the memorial service, Ashe said the actions of all involved gave Magee’s family time to say their final goodbyes. He is survived by his wife Courtney, his son Cameron, and his parents, Tony and Patricia Da-



The honor guard at a memorial service held in honor of Sgt. Anthony O’Neal Magee, Co. A, 2nd Bn., 69th AR, 3rd HBCT, fires volleys May 8 at COS Kalsu.

Photo by Staff Sgt. Natalie Hedrick

vis.

Two of his many friends, Spc. Bryan Hammers and Pfc. Ronald Simpson, brought the spirit of Magee alive as they took the audience through a journey of his life as they knew him.

“He would not have wanted me to stand here today and dwell on the negativity of the situation,” Hammers said. “If Magee were here today, I guarantee you his exact words would be, ‘Quit crying about it; life’s too short.’”

Simpson further confirmed Magee’s upbeat and hearted spirit.

“Anthony Magee would not want us to sit here and mourn over his death,” he said. “He would rather see us celebrate the life he lived. If it were up to him, he’d have a 48-hour party.”

The room broke out in laughter as his two comrades described special moments they shared with their friend.

“Magee’s favorite thing to do was get into a combatives match with someone...heck, anyone,” Hammers said. “I can still hear him as I’m sure many of you have heard him say before, ‘Keep talking. Say something. I’ll ball you up.’”

The audience nodded as Simpson illustrated scenes almost all of them had witnessed.

“What I remember about Sgt. Magee is frequently catching him flexing his mus-

cles,” he said. “You would be sitting at the computer and just randomly out of nowhere he’s sneaking up behind you trying to put you in a head lock.”

Hammers reminded the audience of Magee’s love for life and intolerance for negativity.

“He was one of those people that you just wanted to be around,” he said, “always positive and never minded lending a hand. No matter what the situation, his response was, ‘I got you man.’”

As a Soldier, Capt. Timothy Sikora, Co. A commander, remembered Magee as a dedicated company supply sergeant.

“If he had the supplies, he gave them to his fellow Soldiers all the way down to the last one out of his pocket,” he said.

Ashe remembered Magee as a Soldier whose impact on those around him was far-reaching. With a contagious smile and the attitude to live every day to the fullest, he was a guy who others sought out in hard times for a quick pick-up.

While Magee’s spirit lingered in the aisles of the chapel and in the hearts of those he influenced, Simpson took a moment to talk to his fallen friend.

“We love you,” he said. “We miss you. Rest in peace brother.”



Photo by Staff Sgt. Natalie Hedrick

A photo of Sgt. Anthony O’Neal Magee, Co. A, 2nd Bn., 69th AR, 3rd HBCT, rests at the base of the memorial stand at the service held in his remembrance May 8, at COS Kalsu.

For more from 3rd HBCT, visit www.facebook.com/3hbct3id

Descendant of Revolutionary War hero in Iraq

By Sgt. Neil W. McCabe
367th MPAD, USD-S PAO

COB BASRA – The struggles of the Iraqi people to build a functioning democracy have been compared to the efforts of the American people during the War for Independence and the founding of the United States.

This connection is especially strong for a military police Soldier serving in Basra, Spc. Scott D. Warren, who said he is a direct descendant of a Revolutionary War hero, Maj. Gen. Joseph Warren.

A resident of Schenectady, N.Y., and a corrections deputy for Schenectady County, Warren deployed to Iraq in August 2009 with the New York National Guard's 206th MP Company from Albany, he said.

The military police officer, who spent six months as a member of the Quick Reaction Force at the Basra Operations Command before his reassignment to Contingency Operating Base Basra as a humvee driver, said he is happy he shares a family resemblance with the general, but he only mentioned it once in school.

"One time, in the first or second grade, we were reading a book about Paul Revere," he said.

"At one point in the story, Revere is ordered by Joseph Warren to ride out to Lexington and Concord to let people know the British were coming," he said.

"I told my teacher that he was my great, great, great, great-grandfather—she went with it—but, I don't think she believed me," he said.

In the weeks after Lexington and Concord, the British grew concerned as the Americans sought high ground overlooking the British positions in Boston, such as two hills in Charlestown: Bunker and Breed.

Although he was the senior officer present, Warren, a widower with four children, volunteered to join the defense of the new American positions as a private on the line June 17, 1775, the day British Naval artillery and infantry combined to dislodge the rebels from their redoubts. It was six days after his 34th birthday.

Despite being outnumbered, the Americans repulsed the first two assaults. But,



Photo Sgt. Neil W. McCabe

Her Majesty's Consul-General to Southern Iraq, the Hon. Alice Walpole, a descendant of the brother of the British Prime Minister Sir Robert Walpole, who argued for ruling the American colonies with a light touch, stands with Spc. Scott D. Warren, a resident of Schenectady, N. Y., during his March 11 visit to the British Consulate at COB Basra. Warren is a direct descendant of Maj. Gen. Joseph Warren, the Revolutionary War hero killed at the Battle of Breed Hill.

late in the battle, as ammunition ran out, the decision was made to retreat.

Warren, armed with his musket as a club and his ceremonial general's sword, stayed with the rearguard protecting the American retreat.

He was mortally shot by British troops in their third and final assault.

"My Warren grandparents always told me stories about Joseph Warren, and all the people he was friends with, such as Paul Revere, George Washington, John Hancock and Sam and John Adams," said Warren.

Another close friend of Warren's, Benedict Arnold, in an act of loyalty to his fallen comrade, successfully petitioned the Continental Congress to recognize his Massachusetts commission and grant his orphans payments at half a major general's salary until the youngest reached 21.

After the British left Boston in the spring of 1776, the body was recovered for a proper burial by his brother and Revere, who identified the body by dental work the silversmith had done on his late friend, said Jeffrey R. Croteau, the manager of Library and Archives at the Museum of Our National Heritage located in Lexington, Mass.

"There's certainly no way of knowing what bright future Warren might have had, but his star was certainly rising when he

was killed," Croteau said.

In the years after the 1770 Boston massacre, Warren devoted himself to the revolutionary cause, Croteau said. At the time of his death he was the president of the Massachusetts Provincial Congress and the as a Freemason served as the Grand Master of the Massachusetts Provincial Grand Lodge.

"If he hadn't been killed at the battle of Breed Hill, he would have been as well known as Paul Revere or Sam Adams," said Maj. Terry J. Hawn, the commander of the 48th Military History Detachment, assigned to the U.S. Division South command group at COB Basra.

"Because he died early in the Revolution, he was forgotten a little bit," Hawn said.

Hawn said he has read up on Warren and admires the sacrifices he made as an established doctor in Boston who completely committed himself to the American cause in the early days of the revolution.

"He was one of the rabble-rousers," he said.

In another twist of fate, the modern-day Warren had the opportunity to meet a descendent of the brother of 18th-century British Prime Minister Sir Robert Walpole, who argued for ruling the American

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Riverines turn over helm, prepare for home

By Spc. Samantha Johnson
367th MPAD, USD-S PAO

COB BASRA – All hands were on deck as the Sailors of Riverine Squadron (RIVRON) 3 prepared to depart Iraq, May 15, 2010, and with the ringing of four bells, the Sailors of RIVRON 1 took charge at a transfer of authority ceremony at Contingency Operating Base Basra.

Cmdr. Bryan Cochran, an Atlanta native and commanding officer of RIVRON 3, based in Yorktown, Va., commended his men on a job well-done.

“Take some well-earned time off, recharge your batteries and come back ready to tackle the next training cycle,” he said.

During this most recent deployment, RIVRON 3 worked closely with elements of the Iraqi Army and Coastal Border Guard, preparing them to take over security of Iraq’s southern waterways. With 275 waterborne patrols and 250 convoys under their belts, they go home feeling their mission was a success.

RIVRON 3 fell under Task Force Thunderbolt, led by the 17th Fires Brigade out of Fort Lewis, Wash., and Cochran praised the 17th FiB commander, Col. Steven L. Bullimore, a native of Missouri, during his speech.

“Thank you for your leadership, your mentorship, and your friendship,” Cochran said. “We were proud to be part of the Thunderbolt team.”



Photo by Spc. Samantha Johnson

The 1st Infantry Division band plays during the transfer of authority ceremony from RIVRON 3 to RIVRON 1, May 15 at COB Basra, while the RIVRON commanders, Cmdr. Craig Hill, from Bowie, Md., RIVRON 1 (second from left on stage) Cmdr. Bryan Cochran, from Atlanta, RIVRON 3, and 17th FiB commander, Col. Steven L. Bullimore, from Missouri, under whom the Riverines fall in Basra, salute the colors.

In his closing statements, Cochran told the incoming commander of RIVRON 1, Cmdr. Craig Hill from Bowie, Md., “You guys are coming in here with passion and fire to do the job. I know you will be successful and take RIVRON operations to the next level.”

Hill and his men, based in Little Creek, Va., hit the ground running.

“RIVRON 1, we dominate the waters.

Our time is now. Let’s get to work,” Hill said in remarks to his men. “HOOYAH Riverines!”

With 205 troops, this is RIVRON 1’s third time to Iraq, but it’s a first for them in Basra.

They have a lot they hope to accomplish on their six-month deployment.

“My first and foremost goal is to bring everybody home safely,” said Hill. “I would also like to turn over the rivers of Basra to the Iraqi’s.”

As the ceremony went on, Cochran and Hill stood before Bullimore and gave their final salutes in the transfer of authority, called a “watch turnover.”

Chaplain (Lt.) Jeff Augustin, RIVRON 3 chaplain, gave the final benediction as guests and Sailors bowed their heads in a prayer.

Twelve bells later and with the departing from the stage by Bullimore, Hill and Cochran, the transfer of authority to the Sailors of RIVRON 1 was complete.



Photo by Spc. Samantha Johnson

Sailors from RIVRON 3 bow their heads for the benediction during the transfer of authority ceremony from RIVRON 3 to RIVRON 1 at COB Basra May 15.

For more from USD-S PAO, visit www.facebook.com/1stInfantryDivision

LIFE, from page 1

many of the troops who have returned. So far, 38 wounded service members have come back to Iraq, some of them a second or third time as sponsors, Kell said.

However, the country has experienced marked improvements since their previous tours in Iraq.

Places that once were hotbeds of violence are now peaceful, and local residents are friendlier toward U.S. forces. Much of the combat in the country has died down, and bases in Iraq have more of a formal, garrison feel rather than that of wartime outposts.

While in the Basra Province, the warriors were flown to the Port of Umm Qasr to meet the U.S. forces and British Royal Commandos stationed there, as well as to see firsthand how the Iraqi Navy has developed. They were given a tour of the base and taken onboard the Iraqi Navy's ships.

All of the visiting veterans were paired with Soldiers currently deployed to Basra to help with their needs.

"I figured it would be a good learning experience," said Sgt. Louis Lamar, a telephone control specialist with Division Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion, 1st Infantry Division.

The Birmingham, Ala. native said he received an email from his command asking for volunteers, and saw an opportunity to help. He was paired with Staff Sgt. Brian Beem, a native of Hopewell Junction, N.Y., who lost his leg to an improvised explosive device in Baghdad while with the 5th Squadron, 1st Cavalry Regiment.

As a soldier currently serving in Iraq, Lamar sees this as a chance for the wounded warriors to see their sacrifices were not in vain.

"They have a lot of heart," he said.

Lamar plans to keep in touch with Beem through email and Facebook.

While all of these wounded veterans have found the courage to return to places that violently changed their lives, one is turning his experience into an opportunity to help others.

"It took a long time for me to realize that my life had changed," said Capt. Dennis Skelton, a member of the Office of Warrior and Family Support at the Pentagon and native of Elk Point, S.D.



Photo by Sgt. Francis Horton
Capt. Dennis Skelton of Elk Point, S.D. (center), discusses the capabilities of the Iraqi Navy's ships with Ali Mossay, a gunner with the Iraqi Navy, at the Port of Umm Qasr May 13. Skelton, a member of the Office of Warrior and Family Support at the Pentagon, was in Umm Qasr as a participant in Operation Proper Exit, a part of the Troops First Foundation.

Skelton was hit in the chest with an RPG, which disintegrated, injuring his arms, legs and face. It took nearly two years of surgeries to get him to where he is today, he said.

Despite the challenges, Skelton chose to remain in the Army.

In spring of 2005, he began working on reintegrating himself into the role of a Soldier.

Too many times, Skelton saw service members pushed out of the military because of their wounds, he said, and felt it was unnecessary.

"Just because they lost a limb or they may be blind, they still have heart, they still have intellect and they still have their will, and that is something we need," Skelton said.

Skelton now works under Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Adm. Michael Mullen in a position designed to help service members reintegrate into their lives at home.

"A lot of our returning service members are having difficulty finding jobs or acquiring the best healthcare out there, especially our wounded warriors," Skelton said.

While this initiative has helped some of the wounded troops, many military personnel still need help.

As of May 13, some 37,641 service members have been wounded in action during Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom, according to a casualty list published by the website de-

fense.gov. Most of these wounded have returned to duty within 72 hours.

However, the physical wounds are not the only issues deployed troops face. Post Traumatic Stress Disorder has been a major problem for veterans. According to a survey done by the Rand Group, one-in-five Soldiers comes home from Iraq or Afghanistan with PTSD or severe depression.

It is no secret that suicide rates in the military have risen sharply in the last few years. The Defense Department has offered classes and initiatives on how to recognize and help service members who may be in need.

In 2006, Skelton traveled to the Pentagon to assist in the creation of warrior transition units and other initiatives to take care of wounded warriors and their families, he said.

"Right now we're really concentrated on the transition period. When the warriors come back home and take off the uniform, there's a gap in this country and it's growing," Skelton said.

As things move forward in Afghanistan and wind-down in Iraq, the military has learned to change, but there is plenty more learning that needs to be done.

"I wanted to help the Army evolve to the point where it's no longer a weapon system that's the most important feature, but it's us, as human beings, as warriors," Skelton said.

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ENGLISH, from page 5

and can dissolve culture misunderstandings on both sides. There are not a lot of Arab females in the U.S. Army, so I think it empowers them to see that one of their own is doing that,” Bannat said.

Nadal, a student in the class, has worked for the airport since 1986. Her job requires her to read parts manuals in English and she said the class is very beneficial.

“The good thing in this class is the conversations between me and the teacher, to know that I’m speaking English well or not, because some words I don’t know well,” Nadal said.

Nadal also said that just having the opportunity to use the English that the women know helps them because some of the women are a little shy or embarrassed to try their English out, fearing that it is

not good enough. However, as she passed around home-cooked desserts to everyone in attendance, Nadal admitted that being shy is not a problem from which she suffers.

As the class ended, everyone said goodbye and the woman were told to think up new topics or lessons to learn for the next class. It was clear that finding things to talk about would not be a problem for the class.

No matter the reach of the class’ impact, its importance is clear to Bridge.

“[It shows] that the Americans are ready to help them and to share with them. Even if it makes an impact with just them or their family, then all of the time was worth it,” Bridge said.

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Photo by Staff Sgt. Christopher Carney
Capt. Tisha Bridge, 1st Inf. Div. physician’s assistant, and Spc. Aisha Bannat, an analyst with DHHB, 1st Inf. Div., give a beginning English class to female employees of BIA May 5.

WAR, from page 8

colonies with a light touch.

Serving as Her Majesty’s Consul-General to Southern Iraq in Basra, the Hon. Alice Walpole met with Warren at the British Consulate on Contingency Operating Base Basra.

“In my job, I often hear comments - some of them supportive, some envious, some sneering - about the “special relationship” that exists between Britain and the United States,” said Walpole.

“My own view is that it is indeed a very special, and precious, relationship, and I

hope that it will endure over the coming centuries, even as our countries continue to develop into splendid multicultural communities far distant from those little bands of essentially Englishmen facing each other across the Atlantic in the late 18th Century,” she said.

Today’s Warren said he feels a connection between the early days of the United States and the struggle of the Iraqi people to build their own democracy.

“I’ve been out there with them on both QRF and with the Police Transition Team; they are always smiling and going out of

their way to be friendly,” he said.

His sentiments were echoed by 1st Infantry Division and United States Division-South Command Sgt. Major Jim Champagne,

“As the Iraqi’s are forming their new government, we as Americans must remember that over 236 years ago, our Continental Congress endured the same fate,” Champagne said. “Dr. Joseph Warren co-wrote the ‘Suffolk Resolves’ with Samuel Adams in 1774. In the Suffolk Resolves Warren and Adams stated, ‘On the fortitude, on the wisdom and on the exertions of this important day, is suspended the fate of this new world, and of unborn millions.’”

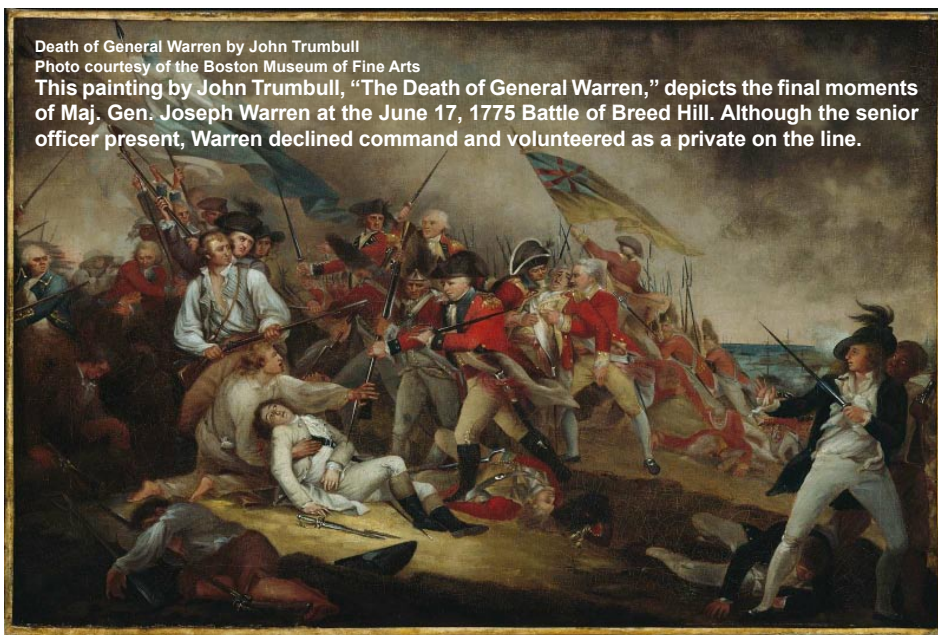
Champagne went on to point out how the recent national elections in Iraq and the important decisions made there will also determine the future fate of unborn millions.

“For present day Spc. Warren, the circle of a family legacy has come full turn,” he said. “Warren’s selfless-service, like his forefather Dr. Joseph Warren, is allowing the Iraqis the ability to choose their freedoms.”

Warren’s thoughts on the subject echo those of thousands of veterans and their families.

“I really hope it works out for them,” Warren said, “so our coming out here was worth it.”

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Death of General Warren by John Trumbull
 Photo courtesy of the Boston Museum of Fine Arts
 This painting by John Trumbull, “The Death of General Warren,” depicts the final moments of Maj. Gen. Joseph Warren at the June 17, 1775 Battle of Breed Hill. Although the senior officer present, Warren declined command and volunteered as a private on the line.

Trained EMTs take next step

By Uriah A. Kiser

News and Messenger staff writer

Nokesville, Va. – For 15 Emergency Medical Technicians, saving a life begins in a Nokesville classroom.

The students are learning advanced life saving procedures at the Prince William County Public Safety Center.

All of them are already level one EMTs who have worked in the field identifying ailments and providing proper care before the patient gets to the hospital.

And the next step in their career is learning what causes people to get sick.

“If somebody is having a heart attack, the basic life support provider will look at them and note that they’re having chest pains, they’re sweating, they feel weak, they’re having trouble breathing... but the advanced life support provider understands why the person is having chest pains, why they’re feeling weak... what biochemical things are going on inside the body to make that hap-pen,” said Advanced Life Support training specialist Steve McGraw.

A former Washington university professor who got tired of commuting from Lake Ridge, he now teaches in Nokesville.

Most of the students are career or volunteer members of the Prince William County Fire and Rescue Department. Most are getting paid to take the class, but the course is rigid and encompassing.

Each day students come to class, they are expected in the gym by 7 a.m. An hour later, it’s time for lecture, and during the afternoon students work in study groups.

When not in class, you can find them working in clinical rotations, in operating rooms, emergency centers, clinics and intensive care units. Because all have been previously certified an EMT, the experience levels in the class vary between one and 20 years, said McGraw.

John Nevell, a student, said EMS workers provide a key role in helping save lives.



Photo by Jeff Mankie, News & Messenger

Nokesville, Va. -Lt. Matt Child talks about the SIM baby used for medical training at the Public Safety Training Academy in Nokesville on Thursday.

“There are a lot more EMS calls that you would think, and coming here to this class helps us put a finer point on our skills that we already have,” said the Prince William EMT.

Other students said it’s important to be dedicated, to have love for the job and to maintain the perseverance to move forward and learn new skills.

“Once they complete the class, they come to me,” said EMS internship coordinator Paul Smiljanich.

While with Smiljanich, they will work in an ambulance for the next 2½ months, putting their acquired skills to use.

In the field, if someone dials 911 for a broken ankle, and that person begins to show signs of another ailment such as shortness of breath, an ALS medic is called to the scene. Cases of serious car crashes, shoot-ins, stabbings, heart at-

tacks, just to name a few, require an ALS medic, said Smiljanich.

Matt Child, head of EMS Quality Assurance, makes sure the EMTs take their skills and use them in the right ways.

In one recent case, a medic unit was called to a doctor’s office after a man’s heart stopped beating.

“The doctor’s office called 911, communications provided information to the doctor’s office, the ambulance showed up, got the patient into the medic unit, and he arrested again,” said Child.

The medics shocked the patient once more, then got him to the hospital, he said.

“The patient walked out of the hospital 48 hours later; after, for all intents and purposes, being de-ad twice,” said Child.

Manassas, Va., is the hometown of Capt. Michael Scott, featured in a story on page 4

AROUND THE COB

Danger Forward

May 24, Issue 17

Legal

(VOIP 858-4098)

Legal Assistance Office

Mon. – Fri.
0800-1800
Sat.
0800-1700

Trial Defense Services

Mon. – Sat.
0900-1130
1300-1700

USO

Every day

Closes 0600
Re-opens 1000

Religious Services

(COB Basra Chapel)

Protestant Sundays

Contemporary Worship

1000

General Protestant

1130

Gospel Worship

1400

Liturgical Protestant

1700

Roman Catholic

Sunday Mass

0830

Saturday Vigil Mass

2000

Mon-Fri Mass

1130

Jewish

Friday
1800

LDS

(COB Basra Town Hall)

Sundays
0900-1000

Chaplain Programs

Bible Studies

Regular

(HHB 17th FiB Conf Rm)
Wednesdays
2000

Gospel of John

(RIVRON MWR - Camp
Alpha)

Wednesdays
1800

New Believers

(COB Basra Chapel)
Thursdays
2000

Fellowship

Men's Fellowship

(HHB 17th FiB Conf Rm)
Mondays
1900

The Truth Project

(308th MWR tent)
Wednesdays
1900

AA

(COB Basra Chapel)
Thursday
2000

Wild at Heart

(HHB 17th FiB Conf Rm)
Fridays
1900

Holy Joe's Coffee

Mon.-Sat.
0600 - 2200

Special Events This Week

1st ID Band

(Echoes Restaurant)
Every Saturday
1900

Basra Amateur Body- building Competition

(MWR Stage)
May 29
1900

Memorial Day Tribute in film

(Holy Joes)
May 29
0900 til 2200
"Lest We Forget our
Own"

Asian-Pacific-Ameri- can Heritage Month Observance

May 27
(COB Basra Town Hall)
"Enjoy a beautiful event
and enjoy samples of
Asian dishes and sweets"

Line Dancing Lessons

(Holy Joes)
Every Sunday
1900-2200

Times & programs

Fire Warden and Fire Extinguisher classes

(Fire Station 1, across
from D-Main)
Wednesday @ 1000
- All unit Fire Wardens
are required to sub-
mit the USF-I Task
Force Safe Fire Safety
Checklist to the fire
chief monthly. This
form can be taken to
either fire station or
emailed to Mike White,
mwhite@sallyport-
global.com. For an
electronic copy, email
Mike White.

- Fire extinguisher ex-
change and re-service
program: Expelled
or unserviceable
extinguishers can be
brought to either fire
station for exchange
or reservice. We also
have a limited number
of extinguishers to
hand out.

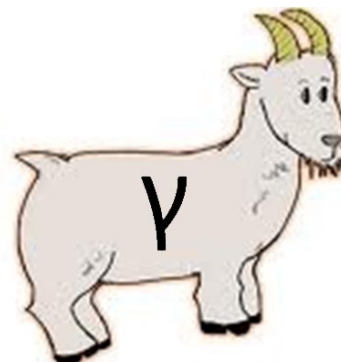


Until Every One Comes Home.™

The COB Basra USO needs volunteers

Talk to any USO staff member today to find out how you can help to make our COB even better!

Big Red One Puzzle of the Week



Hint for this week: It floats!

Each week, look for a new brain teaser here, with the answer in the following week's Danger Forward.

Solution for last week: Roman numerals

Brought to you by the 1st Inf. Div. ORSA Cell

A look around USD-S



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Christopher DeHart, 12th CAB
Charlene Maneafaiga places a necklace, called an "ula nifo," on one of the dancers May 4, 2010, before their practice in preparation for the big celebration May 15 at Memorial Hall on Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq. The ula nifo is a traditional Samoan necklace; 'ula' meaning 'necklace' and 'nifo' meaning 'tooth'.

Have a photo from around USD-S? Email it, along with the photographer's name, rank and unit, the date and place it was taken, and a short description, to benjamin.kibbey@iraq.centcom.mil, and you could have it featured here and receive a coin from DCSM Jim Champagne.

Sudoku

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

For solutions visit: www.puzzles.ca/sudoku_puzzles/sudoku_hard_003.html