



Marine PSD ensures road to success is clear

Story and photo by Marine

Cpl. Jessica Kent

MNC-I PAO

Dangers such as improvised explosive devices and small-arms fire may challenge any vehicle that travels the trash-lined, war-torn streets of Baghdad.

These dangers, while taken into consideration, do not deter Coalition Forces from accomplishing their mission. Servicemembers push forward with the best training and military equipment available to them.

For the Marines of a small protective services detail who conduct route reconnaissance missions, the dangers have been a reality. Explosions have echoed throughout the city; rounds have flown across the side streets.

"I've seen and heard a few IED explosions and witnessed one firefight," said Marine Sgt. Raymond J. Prieto, lead blocking vehicle driver, Multi-National Force-Iraq. "There are a lot of dangers out there, from IEDs to snipers, but that's part of the job that we do."

Like many Soldiers who know the dangers but face them without wavering, Marines of the PSD team travel these streets to protect Coalition Forces in the area.

"My primary goal is to identify choke points and potential avenues of egress if we are forced to deviate from our primary route," said Marine Staff Sgt. Marc A. Courtney, PSD gunner, MNF-I. "We follow the Multi-National Corps-Iraq standard operating procedure and report to higher when we find obstacles and threats."

Because travel in an urban environment

includes heavy traffic and road closures, it can seem overwhelming at first.

"You pick out specific buildings and identify other landmarks to orient yourself," said Courtney. "As you continually travel the routes and see these landmarks, it becomes easier to navigate."

One purpose of reconnaissance is to gain an understanding of how alternate routes affect the primary. This mission enables servicemembers to see the entire picture and anticipate challenges before they arise.

"The environment we are in is fluid," said Marine Staff Sgt. Ryan A. Kohrig, PSD chief, MNF-I. "A team must be

and gunner.

"It's imperative that while you train for your position, you also switch up positions with other team members and learn their skill sets. This makes you more experienced and allows for you to appreciate what they contribute," said Courtney. "Also, if a team member goes down, you have to fill that breach. There is no time for second guessing."

Cross-training on frequent missions also allows the Marines to build camaraderie and anticipate how each person will react to a threat.

"The more you work together, the more you become aware of how the other members of the team will react to a particular situation," said Courtney. "This allows for greater reaction time when hell is raining down on you."

Reconnaissance missions require the Marines to work together to tackle additional workloads and challenges because the team is small.

"The team must function as one; since we are a small team, we don't have the luxury of manpower or firepower," said Marine Staff Sgt. Anthony S. Molnar, administration noncommissioned officer and PSD gunner, MNF-I. "There are fewer of us to do the same

job other PSD teams do with twice the manpower, and we each have more responsibilities while on the road."

As a gunner, Molnar enjoys doing his part to safeguard the team. Since his first convoy, which took place 45 minutes

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Marine Staff Sgt. Anthony S. Molnar, administration noncommissioned officer and PSD gunner, Multi-National Force Iraq, stands behind his weapon prior to a route reconnaissance mission.

flexible and proficient in tactics to overcome diversity and change."

Cross-training is one way to overcome diversity, allowing each team member to learn various skills during convoys. This training includes the positions of lead blocking vehicle driver, radio operator

In today's *Victory Times*:

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Chaplain's Corner

A Faded Photo

By Chaplain Charles Herring
MNC-I Chaplain Office

"I have broken the bars of your yoke and made you walk erect," **Leviticus 26:13**

I carry a faded wallet size photo of 2nd Lt. Joseph D. Herring, my Dad, in my smart book of notes, meetings and checklists. Every time I open the notebook I am reminded of my Dad's service during World War II. I am reminded of the young Armenian nurse he met in the hospital and soon married. I am reminded of an entire generation of young men and women who have made it possible for me to kneel at my bunk and pray, to be an active participant in the political selection process by my individual vote, and to raise my family as I follow my faith and personal conscience. All this would not be possible without freedom.

Freedom. Treasured freedom. "From every mountain side, let freedom ring."

"Free at last, free at last. Thank God almighty, I'm free at last!" "...with liberty and justice for all." "...o'er the land of the free and the home of the brave." Freedom, liberty, justice. All these are highly valued in my life. A member of my family has been in the Armed Forces from the Revolutionary War, the War of 1812, the Civil War, World

Wars I and II, Korea, Vietnam, Desert Storm, Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom. Countless lives have been given first to win and then to protect my freedom.

Though I sometimes act as if freedom was an invention of American ingenuity, I find it is also an important Biblical concept. Saint John writes, "And you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." (John 8:32) To the Corinthian church, Saint Paul writes, "Where the spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom." (2 Corinthians 3:17) The Galatian church received a letter from Saint Paul where he wrote, "For freedom Christ has set us free." (Galatians 5:1)

I will confess that I was convinced that freedom comes from God and that I have a God given right to life as a free person, slave to none, bound by nothing. Yet, I live in bondage of one sort or another. I am bound by my past, with unresolved pain from failing to live up to the unrealistic expectations placed upon me by others and even myself. I am bound by fear of change in a world that changes.

This morning, I seek my Heavenly Father's counsel and ask myself, "Charlie, what binds you? What are the idols in your life that restrict your freedom? What infringes upon your freedom to live life to the fullest?" Heavenly Father, help me surrender to you the yoke that binds me and let me walk today knowing that if Jesus makes me free, I am, in the words of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., "Free at last, free at last. Thank God almighty, I'm free at last."

Camp Victory Three-day Forecast

Wednesday



Sunny
High: 69 F
Low: 46 F

Thursday



Sunny
High: 70 F
Low: 46 F

Friday



Sunny
High: 69 F
Low: 46 F




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SWIFT SUPPORT FIRST TO PAY 15TH FINANCE BATTALION – SILVER EAGLES

Making the most of your time in Iraq

Story and photos by
Pfc. Jason C. Adolphson
 16th MP BDE PAO

A 365-day countdown begins for many servicemembers awaiting their return home at the beginning of a deployment. As time progresses, for some, the only change is the number of days left in the yearlong countdown. Others may explore the area and change their countdowns to mark the hours to each upcoming day in the passing weeks.

It's understandable that the same routine, day in and day out, can leave servicemembers focused on the idea of returning to their worlds of options and opportunities. However, the truth of the matter is there are several things to do on Camp Victory. In fact, there is something to do every night of the week.

It can all start on Wednesday at building 31, Victory Chapel. Inside, one might find himself homeless, exceedingly wealthy, warped into the 17th century, or even in a form other than human. These are acts of the Victory Storytellers drama troupe, who meet at 6:30 p.m. weekly. This gives Soldiers an opportunity to open their minds and explore new worlds. Dedication an hour a week to escape reality has helped many Soldiers to cope during their deployments, said Spc. Joseph Rochel, retired director of Storytellers.



Sgt. Darlene Jacobs (left) shows her disappointment when she loses her crown to Pfc. Victoria Grijalva (center) during a skit performed at a Storytellers session.

After clearing the mind and loosening up from drama class, Thursday will be waiting for servicemembers to get in line. But this isn't just any line. It's line dancing and

servicemembers move to the groove of the dosie doe. It's a time to enjoy and enhance one's talents, whereas classes are formed to teach the art of country dancing at 8:00 p.m. in building 124, Morale, Welfare and Recreation Center. By 9:00 p.m. the party



It's a full house during country night at building 124, Morale, Welfare and Recreation Center as servicemembers and civilian workers crowded the dance floor.

is started, and everyone is granted the opportunity to put their moves to use.

As servicemembers adapt to the two previous nights of performing influences, they can learn the fiery skill that originated from eclectic worldly styles. Friday, at 8:00 p.m., MWR's Area 51 has salsa dance lessons that will throw a little flavor into anyone's week. Once again, 9:00 p.m. marks the time to put that newfound arrhythmic knowledge to use.

Whether participating in the arts is for a good time or to become a well-rounded performer, three consecutive days of proactive entertainment can be quite wearing on the body. Luckily, Saturday is a first-run movie night at MWR's Area 51. A first-run movie is a film that recently stopped being shown at movie theaters in the states, but has yet to be released on video to the public.

Featured first-run films are shown in a relaxing theater like setting. The atmosphere includes stadium seating, which accommodates 32 guests, and has a large viewing display. High fidelity

speakers deliver a clear and powerful sound that brings justice to the grand wall-sized view. To further enhance the theater-like atmosphere, popcorn is available to the attending crowd.

Activities for the next three days in the week can be arranged in any order seen fit. While there are no scheduled slots for activities, there's still a wide variety of things to do. Nevertheless, the next day to look forward to in the week is Sunday. It is typically known as the first day in the week, or the day of rest. Keeping this day on its easy pace might not be such a bad idea.

Although the order of unscheduled activities can be switched around, Sunday will be library day, for the sake of ensuring some anticipation for each day of the week. Both MWR locations on Camp Victory have thousands of books available for one's reading pleasure. So many types of books are accessible that there's bound to be something of interest for everyone.

Servicemembers can also form a reading group in order to gather socially. Reading groups often elect one reader to recite the pages in a book during each sitting. Finishing the book will come after a few weeks, and meanwhile the suspense of the book's outcome can be a great topic for conversation at the coffee shop.

Moving along, there's no need to have a 'case of the Monday's,' considering all of the days in the week during a deployment can seem to run together. However, some cultures still tend to acknowledge Monday as the beginning of the work cycle.

There's no better way to get pumped up for the week than getting a hefty boost of adrenaline, said Army Pfc. Tommy Landrum. "I like to run at the gym, and as soon as I wind down from being tired, I hit the treadmill again for the ultimate runners high," Landrum added.

While exercising, neurotransmitter levels increase in the blood system and give the body an extra jolt that can last

See **TIME**, page 5

Military History

with Lt. Tom Lewis, Australian Forces

Following last issue's column about World War I aircraft being a small factor in tipping the balance to the Allies, a reader asked why the war was so "bogged down" for years, and whether it was due to "idiotic generals" not seeing the right way ahead. It's a good question and a situation that is often misunderstood.

Far from being idiots, many of the generals of the WWI European campaign were victims of their time. It's easy to look back and say they should have been able to see that tanks would be a breakthrough weapon, that machineguns would be a war winner, or aviation could change the ground war. Similarly derided are depictions of officers carrying nothing but a riding crop as they urged their men "over the top," or rendered drunk before they advanced. All of these stories have a little bit of truth but much falsehood and misunderstanding about them.

- Machine guns were not an especially proven weapon for the type of trench warfare erupting in 1915. They were cumbersome, expensive and time-consuming to produce. They were prone to jamming and overheating, and needed especially trained personnel. Nevertheless, two per battalion were often deployed in armies, and their use as an enfilade weapon was beginning to be understood.

- What was understood was the efficiency of the bolt-action rifle. In skilled hands, the Germans and British were well drilled with this weapon. It was capable of 20 aimed, far-reaching shots a minute; a far cry from the single-shot weapons which had dominated the battlefield for the last few hundred years. In the face of such opposition, infantry did what was necessary; they dug trenches.

- It was thought that artillery could break the stalemate of trench warfare. In fact, faced with a formidable line of Soldiers, every commanding officer knew that the tactic was to outflank the enemy. But the opposition knew that too; they simply extended their lines. So one might attack instead at the weakest point. This was indeed tried a few times, and when the lines were thrown back, the answering tactic was to apply more force – more troops. They too were bloodily repulsed. Artillery, using a bombardment, might destroy the enemy's trenches, so you could advance. But the enemy dug deeper dugouts. The "creeping barrage" was tried, where the artillery – accurate enough to do this – laid down fire in front of your advancing infantry line. But this failed too. When the artillery lifted, as it finally had to, the enemy emerged from those deep dugouts and manned their parapets.

- Aircraft were frail creatures in 1914. As the war progressed, they were used usefully for reconnaissance, spotting for the artillery, and gathering much-needed photographs of enemy positions. A few pilots took up weapons to shoot at the enemy's aircraft doing the same task. Machineguns were employed, tactics developed, and dogfighting began. The concept of bombing the enemy, and eventually trench-strafting, was also developed, but none of these new measures were decisive or capable of breaking the block. Weapons such as chemical warfare were tried and found to be wanting. Similarly at sea, submarines did not prove decisive, and faced with an enemy that blockaded them in their ports, the Germans were not able to exert any leverage at sea.

- A few instances of troops mutinying did arise, for example in the Nivelle offensive in 1917, and in the case of Russian troops joining the revolution taking place in their homeland. But instances such as troops kicking a soccer ball ahead of them, and officers carrying riding crops, were more the case of morale-raising measures to show how effective a bombardment and barrage had been anything else. Life for soldiers in WWI Europe was led by realism, not romance.

While pictures of generals like Haig show him as well dressed, aristocratic looking, and commanding from a chateau behind the lines, the reality of the situation was that he was later derided for such appearances by a class-ridden British public. Unfortunately, commanding troops in such WWI battles meant committing them to situations where the expectation of many casualties was routine. But the strategic aim, and victory, might well be achieved by pouring in a lot of men. And by war's end, the Allies had won despite the allegations of blundering. Unfortunately, many politically-biased historians prefer the clichéd "lions led by donkeys" approach to studying WWI leadership. The reality was that both leaders and led were embroiled in a huge fight which necessarily entailed huge numbers of casualties.

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MARINES

after he entered Iraq, he has been protecting his team. While a vehicle commander sits inside the vehicle, the gunner is on his feet, searching for danger on the streets ahead.

"When you are in the turret you have a birds-eye view of everything that is going on around you," he said. "You can smell what's in the air and hear what's going on outside the

vehicle."

Although the streets of Baghdad can be dangerous, Kohrig said his team will continue to face the dangers unwaveringly, reporting any obstacle that could slow Coalition Forces.

"It is an honor serving with true professionals that are dedicated to maintaining high standards for themselves and the Corps," said Kohrig. "Their sense for mission accomplishment is priority; I could not have been entrusted with better Marines."

SAINT THOMAS THE APOSTLE'S ROUNDTABLE

K of C

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COLORADO SPRINGS CHAPTER 11634

Knights of Columbus
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On Sunday, 3rd of October
8 p.m.
At Victory Chapel
Camp Victory

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Victory Times

Iraq liberation anniversary

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TIME

for up to 24 hours. These are the primary neurotransmitters that help keep the mind balanced and free of stress. It's been said that if exercise was a drug, it would be the most powerful medication on earth. This makes Monday's evening activity an extra trip to the gym.

Tuesday is the final day in this scenario of nonstop fun. This can be the day to see the sights, take pictures, and discover new things about the area. "The thing I would regret most about this deployment would be to come all this way and having nothing to look back on," said Sgt. Gabby Adams. To ensure that doesn't happen she takes pictures that will define memories to all of her experiences in Iraq.

"Attending new social settings can open doors to meeting new people and open your eyes to new activities," said Pfc. Vicky Grijalva. In what Grijalva thought was an opportunity to sing at karaoke (which has since changed its location to Camp Liberty)

turned out to be an evening where she was introduced to the on base Polynesian style dance troupe.

Grijalva now attends their meetings and is working toward being a part of upcoming public performances. Several members of the group who have almost completed their time here said staying dedicated to an activity has caused their deployment to fly by quickly.

Many servicemembers speak of fond memories involving their military tours and experiences around the world. Combat zones aren't typically the topic of those conversations.

This deployment is full of opportunities. Servicemembers can return home with newfound skills or talents; most of which can be acquired while having a good time. Self improvement is something that can be put to use throughout many of life's most treasured moments. Rather than focusing on the number of days left until it's time to return home, servicemembers can have a great time, and before they know it they will be with their loved ones sharing all of their fantastic experiences.

Going Home Soon?

You will need to complete a Post-Deployment Health Assessment (PDHA) prior.

WHO: Personnel involved in OIF, those units and personnel de-mobilizing or REFRAD to home station within 30 days of your TOA

WHAT: Complete the Post-Deployment Health Assessment (PDHA)

WHERE: Golby Clinic TMC, 1171st ASMC, Trailer Four 120T5, Camp Victory

WHEN: Walk-ins - Monday - Friday - 1 p.m. Sharp
Units (more than five) - **MUST** Pre-Schedule for date and times

WHY: DOD Mandated to receive briefing
Length: One Hour

CONTACT: CPT Gray
PHONE: 318 - 822 - 5402 morning only



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Lunch 11:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.
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Midnight Dining 11 p.m. - 1 a.m.

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Breakfast 5:30 - 8:30 a.m.
Lunch 11:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Dinner 5 - 9 p.m.

Shoppette

Open 24 Hours

Camp Liberty Post Exchange

Everyday 8 a.m. - 10 p.m.

Fitness Center

Open 24 Hours

MNC-I STB Mailroom

Monday - Sunday

9 a.m. - noon

5 p.m. - 7 p.m.

Golby Troop Medical Clinic

Sick Call Hours:

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.

Combat Stress Clinic:

Monday - Friday 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Saturday 9 a.m. - noon

Post Deployment Health Briefings:

Monday - Friday 1 p.m.

Pharmacy:

Monday - Friday 7:30 a.m. - noon, 1 - 4:30 p.m.

Saturday & Sunday 7:30 a.m. - noon

Legal Assistance/Claims

Saturday - Thursday 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Friday 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Personnel Service Support Centers

Monday - Saturday 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Sunday 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

ID Cards

Monday - Friday

9 a.m. - 5 p.m.



Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Baghdad Branch

Many of you observed Marines outside stores and at sporting events in the fall, collecting toys for needy children near Christmas time. Take a look at the pictures. If you or your family and friends wish to donate to needy Iraqi children, toys may be mailed to the address below. Donations may also be dropped off at Building 35, Victory Base South (just outside the Palace). Toys for children of all ages will be gladly accepted!



Please send donations to:
Col. Robert Whitters
MNF-I / Coalition Operations
Victory Base South
APO AE 09342-1400

Submit letters from home

Is your loved one deployed in support of Multi-National Corps-Iraq? Would you like to write him or her a message in the Victory Times? Send messages, three to four lines of text to curtis.squires@iraq.centcom.mil. Ensure to include Soldiers name, rank, and unit.

Victory Times welcomes columns, commentaries, articles and letters from our readers. Send submissions or comments to jason.baker@iraq.centcom.mil.

We reserve the right to edit for security, accuracy, propriety, policy, clarity and space.

WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Victory Chapel (Bldg. 31)

Friday:
Jumu'ah (Islamic Prayer) 1 pm

Sunday:
0700 Traditional Protestant Worship
0845 Traditional Protestant Worship
1000 Roman Catholic Confession
1030 Roman Catholic Mass
1200 Gospel Protestant Service
1400 Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints Service
1600 Episcopal / Lutheran Worship
1800 Contemporary Protestant Service
2000 Knights of Columbus, 1st/3rd

Saturday:
1000 Seventh-day Adventist Bible Study
1100 Seventh-day Adventist Service
2000 Roman Catholic Mass

Mini Chapel (Bldg. 2)
Monday - Friday
Roman Catholic Service 4 pm
Friday
Jewish Service 6:30 pm
Sunday
Church of Christ 3 pm
Latter Day Saints Service 7:30 pm

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