



COALITION CHRONICLE

Volume 4, Issue 12 December 2009

**Iraqi Navy Welcomes
Patrol Ship Nasir**

**U.S. servicemembers
become U.S. citizens
on Veterans Day**

**"The Terminator"
Returns as Promised**



On Veterans Day, Nov. 11, **157 servicemembers** became America's newest citizens in a ceremony at Al Faw Palace in Baghdad, Iraq. (U.S. Army photo by Lee Craker)



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Kid's Day provides entertainment and education



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Iraqi, U.S. forces partner to build better security



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Marine Corps celebrates 234th birthday

COALITION CHRONICLE

*The Official Magazine of
Multi-National Corps – Iraq*

**December 2009
Volume 4, Issue 12**

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Servicemembers take Oath of Citizenship on Veterans Day



U.S. servicemembers stand at attention, waiting to take their oaths of allegiance during a citizenship ceremony at Camp Victory's Al Faw Palace, Nov. 11. Five 30th Heavy Brigade Combat Team Soldiers were among the 157 receiving their citizenship.

Story and photos by
Spc. Kelly LeCompte
30th HBCT, MND-B Public Affairs

Five Soldiers serving in Iraq with the North Carolina National Guard's 30th Heavy Brigade Combat Team, became U.S. citizens during a naturalization ceremony at Camp Victory's Al Faw Palace, Nov. 11.

The ceremony, held on Veterans Day, was a fitting salute the Soldiers' service to their country.

Spc. Lourival Ledo Jr., originally of Brazil; Spc. Josue Reyes, originally of Costa Rica; Spc. David Toe, originally of Liberia; and Spc. Angelica Rangel and Spc. Heriberto Mendoza-Cardenas, both originally of Mexico, all took part in the ceremony.

"It's an honor and a privilege, to call you a fellow

Spc. Angelica Rangel, holding her flag and certificate of naturalization, shows off a coin of recognition to her battalion commander, Lt. Col. Barry Hull, after her citizenship ceremony at Camp Victory's Al Faw Palace, Nov. 11.



citizen of the United States of America," President Barack Obama said in a video message. "This is now officially your country; your home to protect, to defend and to serve through active and engaged citizenship."

"It's great," said Rangel, who is the first person in her family of five siblings, to become a U.S. citizen. "It was a good ceremony and a good experience. It definitely feels like it's our day, especially being Veterans Day."

"It's a perfect day; I think it's perfectly fitting," said Rangel's battalion commander, Lt. Col. Barry Hull. "Rangel's an outstanding Soldier...I think she represents the best that our country has to offer. [She] recognized the value that our nation has to offer people, and recognized that it's worth defending," Hull said.

"It's a milestone," said Ledo, who has now been in the military for five years. "To be part, not only of the 30th Brigade, but now be part of the history and be part of the citizens who serve proudly from this country."



Spc. Josue Reyes (center), of the 30th Heavy Brigade Combat Team, recites the Pledge of Allegiance with fellow service members during a citizenship ceremony at Camp Victory's Al Faw Palace, on Veterans Day.

Keeping a promise he made to troops in 2003, California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger returned to Iraq Nov. 16, to “pump up” with them at the gym and deliver a message of thanks for their continued sacrifice and service, as well as the sacrifices their families have continued to make.

“I was here in 2003 and, before I left, I said ‘I’ll be back.’ The Terminator always keeps his promise,” Schwarzenegger said to a crowd of nearly 400 Servicemembers and civilians at Camp Victory’s Sports Oasis dining facility.

While speaking in the DFAC, he reminded Servicemembers to not get discouraged when questioning their purpose for being here; he also praised them for their continued dedication to the mission.

“I have asked myself many times on the way up why am I doing five, six, seven hours of training every day? Why am I on this strict diet?,” he said. “But you know, in the end, you’ve got to fight through it and inspire each other because you’re not here for nothing.”

In addition to talking about the importance of not giving up, Schwarzenegger talked about what it

meant to him to be a United States citizen, which resonated with some Servicemembers in the crowd.

“Being a naturalized citizen, I certainly appreciated his message about why our country is the best country in the world,” said Maj. Richard Skultety, the joint fires and effects battle major with Multi-National Corps-Iraq. “That people seeking a better way of life, liberty and freedom can legally come to the U.S., work hard, persevere, become contributing citizens and prosper, just as he has done.”

Schwarzenegger spoke for nearly 30 minutes before making his way through a packed aisle to shake hands, hand out cigars and snap photos with excited troops and civilians.

“Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines always appreciate the presence of a distinguished visitor such as Governor Schwarzenegger, taking time out of their very busy schedules to bond with us,” said Skultety.

Bright and early the following morning, Schwarzenegger joined

Schwarzenegger Makes Good on the Promise Made in 2003

... “I’ll be back!”

Story by Sgt. Lindsey Bradford
MNC-I Public Affairs

gym enthusiasts at Camp Victory’s Sgt. 1st Class Paul Smith gym.

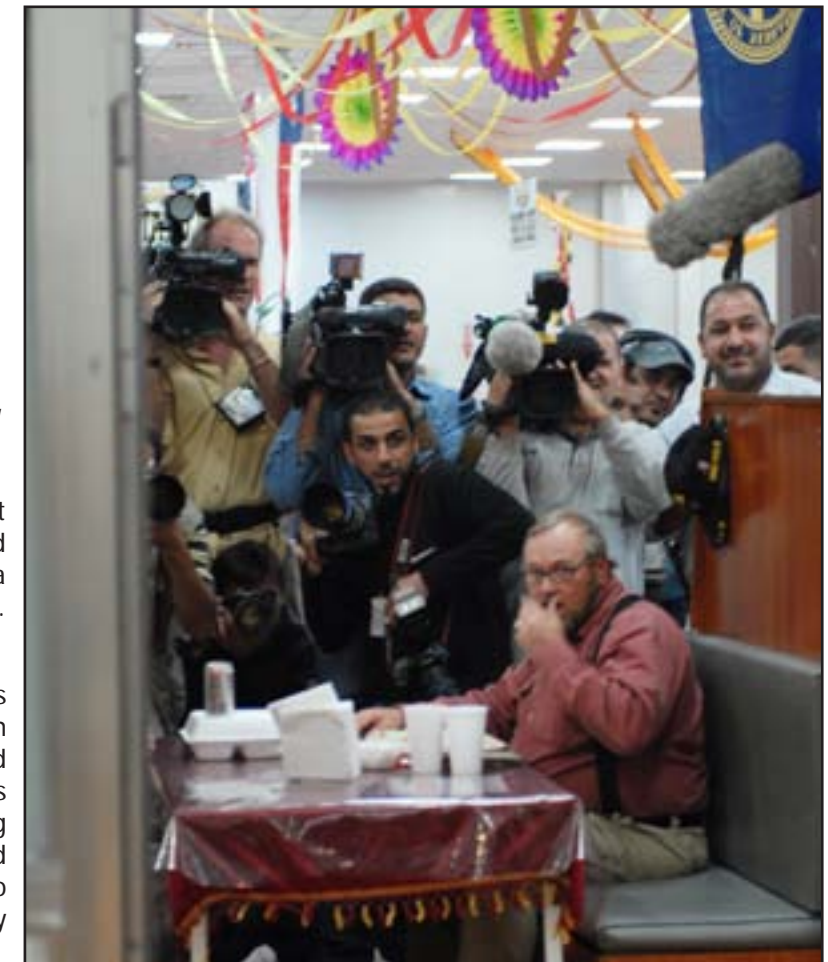
“You’ve got to pump up those muscles,” he said, while spotting a Soldier who was bench pressing 225-pound weights.

Schwarzenegger is a 13-time world body building champion and is known for his role as “The Terminator.” He was elected governor of California in 2003. Before this visit to Iraq, the governor was in the Middle East to discuss renewable energy matters and security.

“I said to myself, well, it’s obvious when you are that close to Iraq you go and visit your Soldiers and the great men and women who are serving this country,” Schwarzenegger said.

Right: **An unsuspecting civilian contractor** is caught between a horde of reporters, photographers and videographers, and the focus of their attention, California governor Arnold Schwarzenegger. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Lindsey Bradford)

Below: **California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger** takes a moment to pose with Soldiers in Baghdad during an unannounced visit, Nov. 16. Before departing at the end of his initial visit in 2003, “The Terminator” delivered his famous line - “I’ll be back.” In a packed Camp Victory dining facility, the governor made good on that promise, and thanked nearly 400 troops for their continued dedication to the mission here in Iraq. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Lindsey Bradford)



California Gov. Scharzenegger talks with Spc. Ferrell Mapp, a resident of Richmond, Calif., and a member of the California National Guard, 49th Military Police Brigade, during a breakfast event held at Camp Victory, Nov. 17, as Brig. Gen. Donald Currier, commander of the 49th, looks on. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Kenneth Bince)



Iraqi children have fun and learn healthy habits

Story and photo by Sgt. John Stimac
139th MPAD, 13th ESC Public Affairs

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq – Roughly 100 Iraqi children participated in Iraqi Kids Day, Nov. 21 at the H6 recreation center on Joint Base Balad, Iraq.

The focus of the event was on personal hygiene issues, such as frequent hand washing and brushing teeth after meals. The children were treated to a magic show, a puppet show on personal hygiene and time with mentors to play indoor and outdoor games.

Capt. Elizabeth A. Hoettels, a civil military affairs officer with the 332nd Expeditionary Medical Group,

their friends. Kids like to show their friends new things they learn.”

Sgt. Matthew Carpenter, a chaplain assistant with the 90th Sustainment Brigade and Portales, N.M., native,, said if the class can get five to 10 kids out of 100 to learn about hygiene-related behavior it is a success, because they can teach others.

“I love spending time with the children,” he said. “This is my second time with the same child and he remembered me from last time. Zakaria didn’t have a

mentor and I asked if I could mentor him again.”

Through an interpreter, Zakaria said Carpenter is “a really nice guy, he is helpful and is always happy.”

“Events like these let the local communities around us see why we are here and what we are doing here,” said 1st Lt. Troy Novak, executive officer for the 332nd Expeditionary Medical Group.

He said the event puts a face to people on both sides of the fence as service members and local nationals interact with one another.

Future kid’s day events are already being planned.

Hoettels said this was the first time girls could come to the base with chaperones and midwives.

“There were 40 girls here today and it was absolutely thrilling that they have come to participate,” she said.

Novak, an East Grand Forks, Minn., native, said a kid’s day exclusively for females is scheduled Dec. 12 and another kid’s day is scheduled during the holidays.

“Hopefully, these kids will look back and say they remembered when the Americans were here and I shook their hands and played games with them,” he said. “I’d like to think that they will remember that instance and that it was a positive experience for them.”



Sgt. Matthew Carpenter, a chaplain assistant for the 90th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and a Portales, N.M., native, shares a laugh with Zakaria, a child at Iraqi Kid’s Day Nov. 21 at Joint Base Balad, Iraq. Carpenter was Zakaria’s mentor at an all day event that focused on children’s hygiene.

said she planned the health-based program using available resources and volunteers and to provide community public health and education for the children.

Prevention is the key, according to Hoettels.

“If we can teach them something as simple as washing their hands every time, we can possibly prevent them from spreading diseases,” she said. “Simple things like that they can do at home and then go back and show

US/ISF Team-up Helps Maintain Both Forces

Story by 2nd Lt. Brandon Duncan
MND-S Public Affairs

Sgt. Jimmy Hibbler, (second from left) a Bradley Fighting Vehicle Systems Maintainer assigned to Co. E, 121st Brigade Support Battalion from Caruthersville, Mo., poses for a picture with Iraqi Army soldiers after over-watching an oil change and basic services. (Courtesy photo)



As U.S. forces in Iraq prepare for their eventual withdrawal from the country, the fruit of their partnership with Iraqi forces is beginning to ripen.

The mechanics of “Enforcer” (E) Company, 121st Brigade Support Battalion work alongside their Iraqi counterparts from the Headquarters Support Company and all five Iraqi army brigades that 4th Battalion, 6th Infantry Regiment is partnered with.

“A” Combat Readiness Team works with the Iraqi maintenance personnel on a regular basis.

“The partnership is working pretty

well. The mechanics all have a good working relationship,” said Staff Sgt. Ed Brown, CRT team chief, from Pennsylvania. “The Iraqis are pretty good mechanics, and they appreciate the help that they receive from our Soldiers.”

Sgt. 1st Class Gary Parks, maintenance control sergeant from Louisville, Ky., said the planning can be a challenge, and the CRT has worked long hours with the Iraqis. Still, the interaction has been rewarding.

“[The partnership] offers a great opportunity for the Soldiers

to interact; not only through our cultures, but also through our work ethic,” said Parks.

Vehicle mechanics Sgt. Jimmy Hibbler from Caruthersville, Mo., and Spc. Clayton Fesender from Longwood, Fla., were called upon to provide assistance with a humvee oil change and some other basic services.

“The Iraqis are good people,” said Hibbler. “Sometimes it is difficult to communicate with them, but they are easy-going and easy to work with.”

“Enforcer” is currently working on a more in-depth joint training schedule with their counterparts from Sparrowhawk, an Iraqi training base nearby. The company is looking forward to doing more training and establishing stronger relationships to help them and their Iraqi partners be successful now and in the future.

Staff Sgt. Ed Brown, a Bradley Fighting Vehicle Systems Maintainer assigned to Co. E, 121st Brigade Support Battalion from Pennsylvania, references a TM during joint maintenance training with ISF. (Courtesy photo)



IRAQI ARMY, U.S. FORCES WORK TO BUILD BETTER SECURITY

*Story and photos by Spc. Anthony Jones
145th MPAD, MND-N Public Affairs*

DIYALA, Iraq – The Iraqi Army, with the help of U.S. Soldiers and contractors, placed two large concrete towers and several concrete blast walls near the Diyala province, Nov. 14.

“The towers will go a long way in helping the Iraqi Army provide better security for the Iraqi citizens,” said 1st Lt. Jacob Magill, a platoon leader with Company B, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Infantry Regiment, 3rd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division.

The first of the two towers was erected near the village of al Sada, where al- Qaeda has been moving, according to 1st Lt. Haider Maher Ali, executive officer for 3rd Company, 3rd Battalion, 20th Brigade, 5th Iraqi Army Division.

“We are placing these towers here in order to control the northern sector and deter al-Qaeda movement in the area,” said Maher Ali, who added that he joined the IA to help build a better Iraq and make it a peaceful area.

The tower had to be erected on site, and was delivered and constructed by civilian contractors from Kellogg, Brown and Root with the aid of an Iraqi contractor and a large crane to lift the heavy sections of tower and the multiple blast walls placed around the tower.

“Working with the Iraqi contractor and IA shows our commitment to the security agreement,” Magill said. “It

was also good for the Iraqi citizens to see the Iraqi civilian crane operator working with the Iraqi Army, working with the U.S. forces and showing a good, combined operation on all fronts.”

After the first tower and blast walls were in place, Maher Ali, who personally led the placement of the tower and accompanying walls, ensured his Soldiers would be able to utilize the tower for its intended purpose.

Once the first tower was placed the U.S. forces escorted the contractors through the desert to the second site where it could be used for over watch.

“We will work with U.S. forces as one team to help make this area safe and to secure the people from the bad people whether it be al-Qaeda or any terrorist organization as we build a new Iraq,” said Maher Ali.

Iraqi, U.S. Soldiers and civilian contractors complete an observation station that stands as an imposing warning to al-Qaeda or violent forces.





A U.S. Soldier from Alpha Company, 252nd Combined Arms Battalion, 30th Heavy Brigade Combat Team, shines his laser into a dwelling during a patrol in Al Muradiyah, near Baghdad, Iraq, Nov. 11. (U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Michael Wykes)



Lt. Col. Mark Bieger (center left), the 4th Battalion, 9th Infantry Regiment commander, stands with Spc. Peter Jank, a Chicago, Ill. native, while Bruce Campbell and Jeffrey Donovan, cast members from the television show "Burn Notice", hold the U.S. flag, Nov. 12, at Joint Security Station Nasir Wa Salam, Iraq. Bieger reenlisted Jank while the two actors assisted. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Luisito Brooks)



Local Iraqi police learn how to properly dust for fingerprints during a week-long class at the Provincial Government Center, in Ramadi, Iraq, Nov. 18. U.S. Soldiers from 2nd Battalion, 504th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division, teach the local police, investigation methods to catch criminals. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Michael Zimmerman)

American and Iraqi Soldiers mount a Marine helicopter during joint air assault training between Iraqi commandos and scouts of 1st Iraqi Army Division and paratroopers of 2nd Battalion, 504th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 1st Brigade, 82nd Airborne Division (Advise and Assist Brigade), Nov. 15, at Camp Ramadi, Iraq. The goals of the training were familiarization with the aircraft and to decide on standard procedures for any possible future operations. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Michael J. MacLeod)



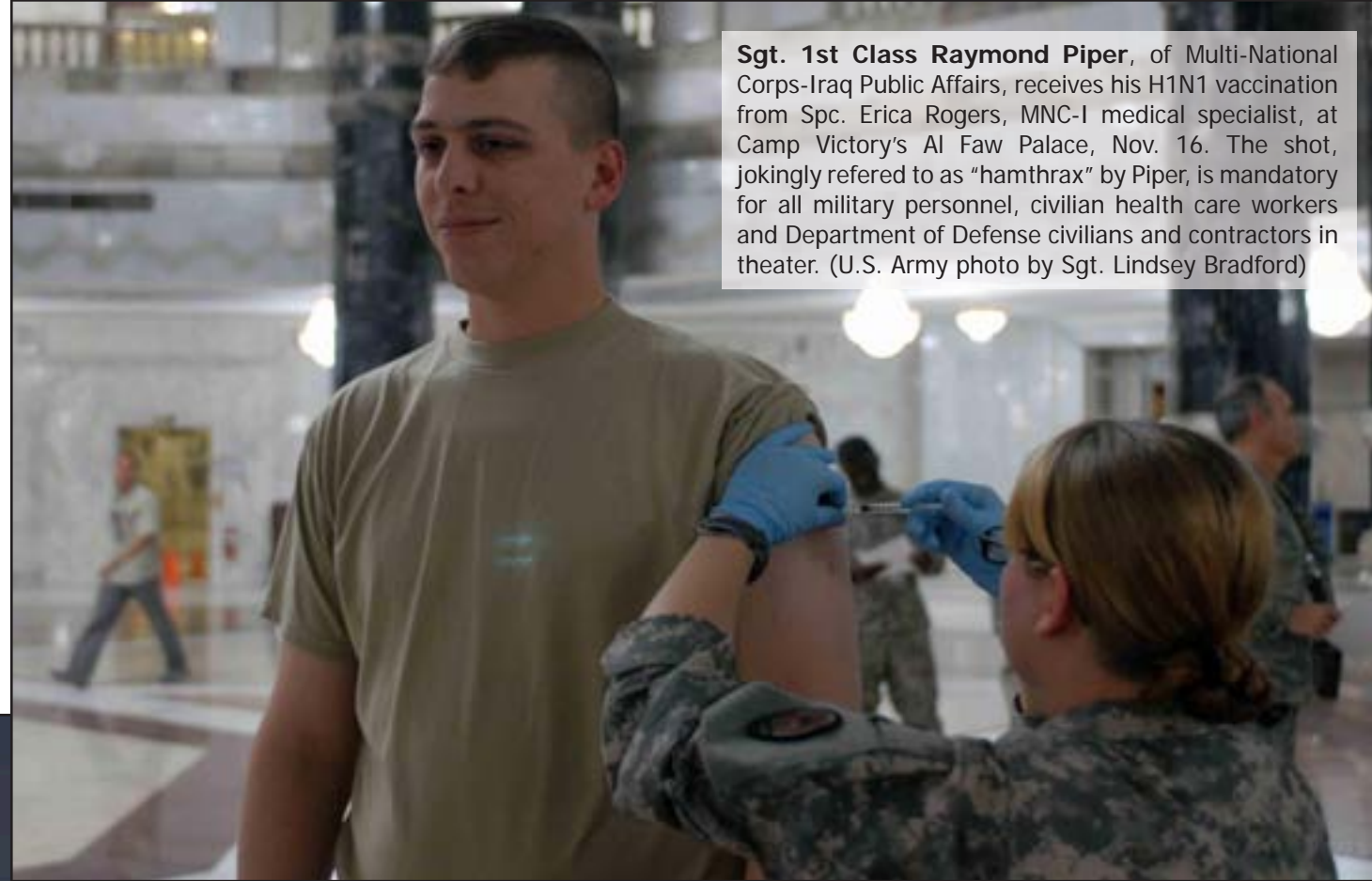
U.S. Army Spc. Robert Marlette, of Canton, Ill., assigned to Alpha Distribution Company, 215th Brigade Support Battalion, 1st Cavalry Division, organizes his personal items, as he prepares for a customs inspection at Forward Operating Base Marez, in northern Iraq, Nov. 3. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Carmichael Yopez)



Below: **Treach**, of the hip-hop group **Naughty by Nature** (wearing towel), performs for and with U.S. Soldiers during the last stop of their USO sponsored Iraq and Kuwait tour, at Contingency Operating Base Speicher, Nov. 8. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Steven King)



Sgt. 1st Class Raymond Piper, of Multi-National Corps-Iraq Public Affairs, receives his H1N1 vaccination from Spc. Erica Rogers, MNC-I medical specialist, at Camp Victory's Al Faw Palace, Nov. 16. The shot, jokingly referred to as "hamthrax" by Piper, is mandatory for all military personnel, civilian health care workers and Department of Defense civilians and contractors in theater. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Lindsey Bradford)



Soldiers from the 16th Engineer Brigade practice their "trash talk" at Camp Liberty, Nov. 16, in preparation for one of the biggest night of the year in college football: University of Michigan v. Ohio State University. (U.S. Army photo by 1st Lt. Aaron Testa)



1st Lt. Carl Runner, a Diboll, Texas, native, teaches a "secret handshake" to a young student during a visit to the al-Abbas School in Taji, Nov. 11. Runner and his Soldiers partnered with the Iraqi army during the visit to provide school supplies and to assess area security. (U.S. Army photo by Pfc. Adam Halleck)

Below: **Iraqi Army Brigadier General Fiasal** from the 5-2 Federal Police Brigade Pins the rank of Sgt. on to U.S. Army Spc. Joseph Summerlin from 30th Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 5-2 Federal Police Training Team. The ceremony is being held at the 5-2 FPTT head quarters on FOB Falcon Baghdad, Iraq. (U.S. Navy photo by MC1 Shawn D. Gentile)



Navy Diver 1st Class Daniel Muhlbach completes his final pre-dive checks before diving to secure a set of lifting wires to a sunken barge. A team from Mobile Diving and Salvage Unit 2 in Umm Qasar, Iraq, worked in partnership with Navy Advisory Training Team and a local Iraqi Navy Dive Team on an operation to remove a sunken barge from Iraqi waterways. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Matthew Bash)



Sgt. Amber Red Bear, from Pine Ridge, S.D., a chemical equipment repairer in Company E, 1st Battalion, 227th Aviation Regiment, 1st Air Cavalry Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, speaks about her tribe, the Lakota Indians, at a Native American Heritage Month event, Nov. 27, at the Taji Ministry Center. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Alun Thomas)

Air Force Leads Al Asad Airfield Operations

AL ASAD AIR BASE, Iraq – Members of the 532nd Expeditionary Operations Support Squadron took Senior Airfield Authority from their Marine and Navy counterparts at Al Asad, Nov. 1.

SAA responsibilities entail the management of runways, associated taxi ways, parking ramps, land and surrounding facilities.

According to Staff Sgt. Robert Hughes, 532nd EOSS non-commissioned officer in charge of airfield management operations, the Air Force is unique because of its specific mission with airfields. Tech. Sgt. James Gross, 532nd EOSS deputy airfield manager, added that the Air Force took over SAA responsibilities because, “that’s what Airmen do, it’s our core competency.

“Our career field is considered the gold standard for managing airfields,” said Gross, deployed from Keesler Air Force Base, Miss., and a native of New Bedford, Mass. “When it was decided that the Air Force would take over SAA at Al Asad, airfield management was one of the core functions that had to be brought to the base. We help to ensure that the Air Force could offer the safest possible operating environment for U.S. and coalition aircraft to operate from.”

While the Air Force may have set the standard, Hughes says he feels he has gained knowledge from his sister services.

“I’ve learned a lot,” said the native of Colmesneil, Texas, who is de-

ployed from Altus AFB, Okla. “They do a lot of things the same way except they use their terms. Instead of airfield, they’d call it a ‘deck.’ We’d have to use their terminology in order to contact the Navy’s battle command group and the Marines’ higher headquarters that we had to



Air Force Staff Sgt. Robert Hughes (left), noncommissioned officer in charge of airfield management operations, and **Tech. Sgt. James Gross**, deputy airfield manager, both assigned to the 532nd Expeditionary Operations Support Squadron, photograph damage to the runway, Nov. 12. (U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Johnny L. Saldivar)

coordinate with. It takes a little while to learn their terminology.”

At Al Asad, Hughes’ job taskings are unique, as other airfields he’s worked were completely under control when he arrived on station.

“For my first time to be involved with a team that is taking over or set-

ting up an airfield, I think it’s a great learning experience for me,” he said. “I’m actually putting my training to use instead of going to another base where I already know the job and I’m just working it -- I’m actually building it here. At my previous job, I modified what the previous NCOIC had done, so I took their place and kept running what they already had. Here, I’m over the office operation and I write checklists and operating instructions for managing the airfield. We do so much it’s hard to list everything at one time.”

While the 532nd EOSS may not be front and center in combat, their role is just as crucial.

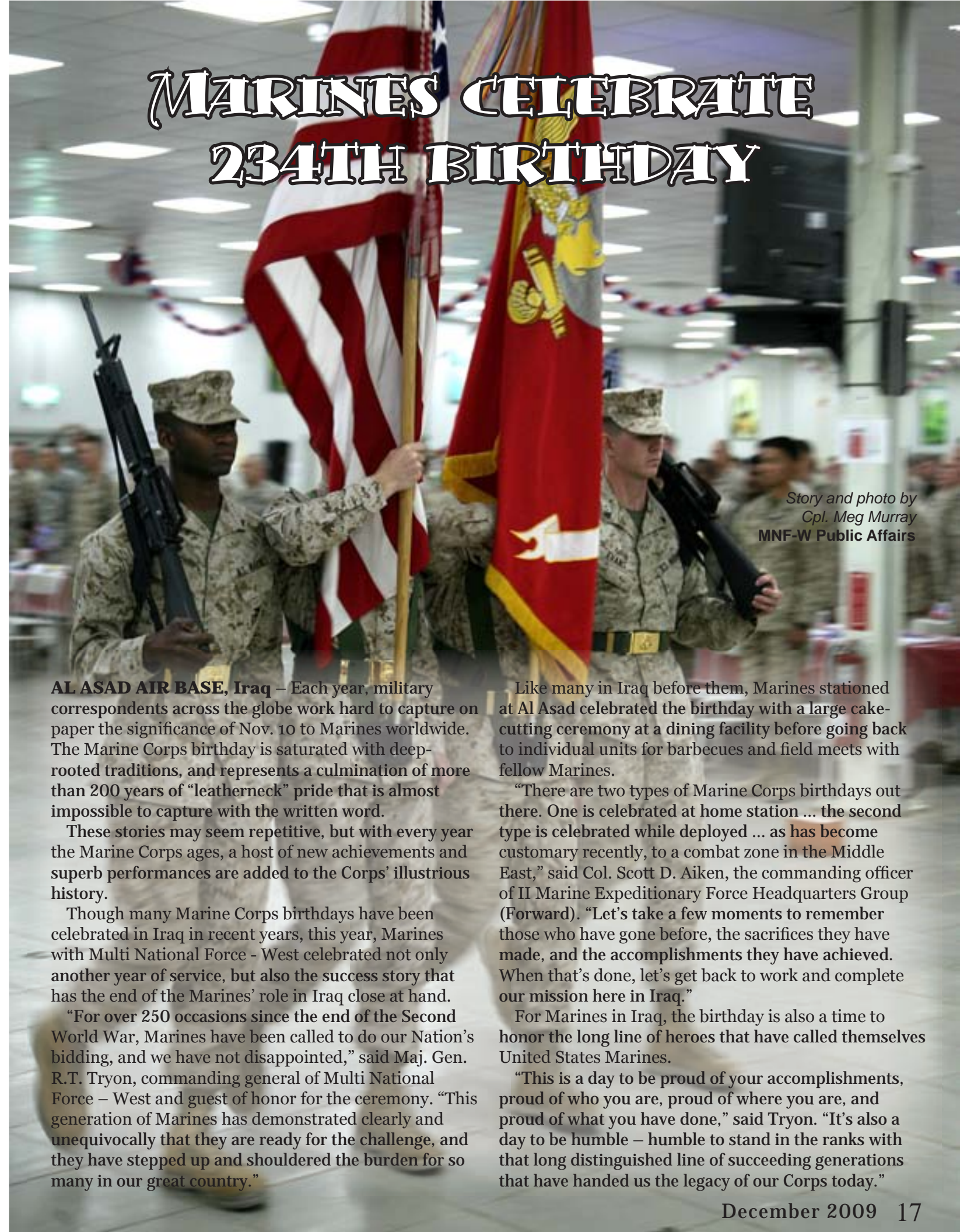
“Our job doesn’t require us to go outside the wire and fight with the insurgents like the Marines do,” Gross said, “but, if we didn’t do our job correctly, when that helicopter comes in that’s taking some of those wounded Marines out of the fight,” it might not be able to land safely.

“One pebble can cause serious damage to an aircraft,” he continued. “With our experience, we’re able to contribute a lot to the fight by minimizing poten-

tial damage to aircraft. We do that by ensuring the airfield continues to maintain a safe flying environment for both fixed and rotary winged aircraft. It’s more of a product of the schooling we go through and the attention to detail that the Air Force expects from us.”

*Story by Senior Airman Alyssa Miles
AFCENT, Baghdad Media Outreach Team*

MARINES CELEBRATE 234TH BIRTHDAY



*Story and photo by
Cpl. Meg Murray
MNF-W Public Affairs*

AL ASAD AIR BASE, Iraq – Each year, military correspondents across the globe work hard to capture on paper the significance of Nov. 10 to Marines worldwide. The Marine Corps birthday is saturated with deep-rooted traditions, and represents a culmination of more than 200 years of “leatherneck” pride that is almost impossible to capture with the written word.

These stories may seem repetitive, but with every year the Marine Corps ages, a host of new achievements and superb performances are added to the Corps’ illustrious history.

Though many Marine Corps birthdays have been celebrated in Iraq in recent years, this year, Marines with Multi National Force - West celebrated not only another year of service, but also the success story that has the end of the Marines’ role in Iraq close at hand.

“For over 250 occasions since the end of the Second World War, Marines have been called to do our Nation’s bidding, and we have not disappointed,” said Maj. Gen. R.T. Tryon, commanding general of Multi National Force – West and guest of honor for the ceremony. “This generation of Marines has demonstrated clearly and unequivocally that they are ready for the challenge, and they have stepped up and shouldered the burden for so many in our great country.”

Like many in Iraq before them, Marines stationed at Al Asad celebrated the birthday with a large cake-cutting ceremony at a dining facility before going back to individual units for barbecues and field meets with fellow Marines.

“There are two types of Marine Corps birthdays out there. One is celebrated at home station ... the second type is celebrated while deployed ... as has become customary recently, to a combat zone in the Middle East,” said Col. Scott D. Aiken, the commanding officer of II Marine Expeditionary Force Headquarters Group (Forward). “Let’s take a few moments to remember those who have gone before, the sacrifices they have made, and the accomplishments they have achieved. When that’s done, let’s get back to work and complete our mission here in Iraq.”

For Marines in Iraq, the birthday is also a time to honor the long line of heroes that have called themselves United States Marines.

“This is a day to be proud of your accomplishments, proud of who you are, proud of where you are, and proud of what you have done,” said Tryon. “It’s also a day to be humble – humble to stand in the ranks with that long distinguished line of succeeding generations that have handed us the legacy of our Corps today.”

Iraqi Navy Celebrates the Arrival of the Patrol Ship Nasir



The **Iraqi Patrol Ship Nasir** arrives at its homeport of Umm Qasar after a 5000-mile trip from the Fincantieri Shipyard in La Spezia, Italy.



Basra Governor Shaltagh Abboud was the guest of honor at the ceremony heralding the arrival of Patrol Ship Nasir.

UMM QASAR, Iraq - The Iraqi Navy welcomed Patrol Ship Nasir to its new homeport in a ceremony, Nov. 12. The Nasir is the second of four ships contracted from the Fincantieri Shipyard in La Spezia, Italy. The Iraqi-manned ship departed Italy, Oct. 15, completing the more than 5,000-mile journey in approximately one month.

The ceremony included a naval review of the Nasir and several other Iraqi ships and boats, as well as a demonstration of boarding tactics and synchronized diving. U.S. Army Brig. Gen. James M. McDonald, deputy commanding general, Multi-National Security Transition Command – Iraq, spoke briefly at the event and highlighted the importance of the Nasir in

protecting Iraq's coasts.

"Iraq is in charge of its security," McDonald said. MNSTC-I's Iraq Advisory and Training Team - Navy continues to help train and advise the Iraqi naval force. MNSTC-I's goal is to assist Iraq in developing a capable and responsive force for conducting maritime security operations in the region.

With more than 75 percent of the country's gross domestic product coming from revenues generated by its offshore oil platforms, Iraq has a keen interest in protecting and controlling its territorial waters.

The ceremony ended with a tour of the Nasir for assembled guests and a brief cruise in the Shatt al-Arab waterway.



*Story and photos by
Lt. Ryan Schumacher
MNSTC-I Public Affairs*

7th Iraqi Army Division Leads Advances in Riot Control

Story and photo by
Cpl. Joshua Murray
MNF-W Public Affairs



Soldiers from the 7th Iraqi Army Division drive back a mob during a riot control training exercise aboard Camp Mejid, Iraq, Nov. 11. IA soldiers from many units of the division attended the training and will return to their respective units to teach fellow soldiers about nonlethal weapons and riot control.

CAMP MEJID, Iraq – In an instant, an assembly of hostile pedestrians can flood the streets of a city with one mission – to make their point known by force. Small business owners' livelihoods can be pillaged and burnt to the ground. Innocents might be battered bloody and even killed. Millions of dollars of property may be destroyed and lives changed forever. But the 7th Iraqi Army Division won't allow it on their turf.

This type of situation is just what 7th IA Div. trained for with Weapons Company, 3rd Battalion, 24th Marine Regiment, and Military Transition Team 7 aboard Camp Mejid, Iraq, Nov. 1-11. IA soldiers trained to use a variety of nonlethal weapons, hand to hand submission techniques and tactics for disbanding groups involved in incidents ranging from civil demonstrations to violent confrontations.

"This course is basically an instructor trainer course, where we teach a select number of Iraqis, officers and soldiers, from around the division," said Staff Sgt. Thomas Sanford, military police advisor, MiTT-7. "Now they can actually respond with a riot team of soldiers, who are trained to talk a crowd down, disperse the crowd and use nonlethal munitions and batons."

Marines bashed into Iraqi riot shields, trying to break their defensive line, but the soldiers held their ground and kept the rioters from advancing. The IA soldiers ensured their own safety using riot shield techniques and prevented rioters' volatile attacks with swift baton strikes.

"We've taught them to use nonlethal batons, how to disarm people and how to attack," explained Lance Cpl. Shawn Stacey, supply clerk, 3rd Bn., 24th Marines. "We want the Iraqi army to learn how to handle people without hurting them, and that's what we're trying to instill in them."

Not all of the IA soldiers in the division attended the training, so those who did are tasked with teaching the skills they learned to the entire division in due time.

"This is mandated by the 7th Div. commanding general for them to ultimately teach the rest of the division about civil disturbances, protests, crowd dispersion and negotiations," mentioned Sanford. He also noted that the success of the course depended upon the Iraqi leadership who headed the training with minimal Marine assistance.

As the IA continues to progress in military operations other than war, the national elections draw near. This historic event is one reason why the training is top priority.

"With the elections approaching, this is a big mark in our proficiency level," IA 2nd Lt. Ahmed Muhey El-Deen Al-Juburi, through an interpreter. "I am ready to be an instructor for a platoon or even a company and make them proficient in everything I've learned here."

In the event that a serious riot breaks out for any reason, the 7th IA Div. will be trained, ready to respond with confidence, and able to restore peace in their city streets.

IN MEMORIAM

NAMES OF SERVICEMEMBERS WHO DIED BETWEEN NOVEMBER 1 AND
NOVEMBER 30, 2009 WHILE SERVING IN OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM

**GREATER LOVE HATH NO MAN THAN THIS: THAT A MAN LAY
DOWN HIS LIFE FOR HIS FRIENDS.**

JOHN 15:13

November 2

Spc. Jonathon M. Sylvestre, 21

November 4

Spc. Tony Carrasco Jr., 25
Staff Sgt. Amy C. Tirador, 29

November 8

Chief Warrant Officer
Mathew C. Heffelfinger, 29
Chief Warrant Officer
Earl R. Scott III, 24

November 9

Staff Sgt. Stephen L. Murphy, 36

November 16

Staff Sgt. Ryan L. Zorn, 35

November 19

Petty Officer 2nd Class
Brian M. Patton, 37

November 22

Sgt. Briand T. Williams, 25

November 27

Pfc. Michael A. Rogers, 23

November 29

Pfc. Derrick D. Gwaltney, 21



Iraqi Police officers participate in graduation ceremonies at the Baghdad Police College, near Baghdad, Iraq, Nov. 9. The graduation marked the historic first ever class of female officers to graduate the rigorous 9-month Officer Training course. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Edwin L. Wriston)